

Hills to Hawkesbury

Community News

21st March – 4th April 2025 | Volume 42 – Issue 06
Local Stories, Local People and Local Businesses

FREE



THANK YOU BRUCE, 105

FULL STORY ON PAGE 7

MATT'S SKIP BINS
02 4708 2927
www.mattsskipbins.com.au

PaintX Sydney
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL PAINTING
Affy Elgami
CALL NOW FOR A FREE NO OBLIGATION QUOTE
0423 533 883
TAKE PAIN OUT OF PAINT WITH AFFY & HER TEAM
Lic No: 3895456

Alan Oxford's
PLUMBING & ELECTRICAL
Your Total Trade Solution for Residential, Commercial & Industrial
Plumbing • Electrical • Hot Water
0415 20 33 88

In Vogue BATHROOMS
Your Local Bathroom Expert
HONEST, RELIABLE AND ON-TIME
0433 790 046
www.invoguebathrooms.com.au
Unit 58/5 Gladstone Rd, Castle Hill

HOME MAINTENANCE & CARPENTRY
NO JOB TOO BIG OR TOO SMALL
Dominic
Licensed Builder
0423 844 586
40 years experience
FREE QUOTES

ARBORIST EST. 1956
MCARDLE TREE SERVICES
TREE REMOVAL | PRUNING
STUMP GRINDING | LAND CLEARING
MULCH SALES | FIREWOOD
0414 635 650 info@mcardletrees.com.au

f i

BLIGH VETERINARY SERVICES CENTRE

(02) 4587 7177
693 George St, South Windsor
www.bvsc-sydney.com.au




Bridge across the Hawkesbury River, Windsor, NSW, c.1945. Photograph, E.W. Searle, Courtesy of National Library of Australia.

Never before seen artefacts from the Hawkesbury's past uncovered in new Museum display

This month, Hawkesbury Regional Museum launches *Bridging the Hawkesbury/Dyarubbin: The History of the Windsor Bridge*. This exhibition explores the history and significance of the historic Windsor Bridge, the engineering innovation utilised during its construction and the community's fight to save it.

Recognised as an engineering marvel, the Windsor Bridge, built in 1874, was the oldest bridge crossing the Hawkesbury River/Dyarubbin until its demolition in 2021. The 1870s bridge offered a unique insight into past construction technologies, highlighting the hazardous works associated with its development.

Adding to its fascinating history is the fact the bridge survived more than 100 floods and withstood the evolution of transport from horse-drawn carriages to modern semi-trailers, with some innovative modifications in the 1920s.

Bridging the Hawkesbury/Dyarubbin features never-before seen images and original objects from the bridge, such as a rope ladder dated to 1873 that was uncovered during the bridge's demolition. Also on display is one of three salvaged Lewis bolts, a critical component to the bridge's construction used to provide stability and strength against the powerful currents of the river.

These engineering marvels are intertwined with stories of resilience, community and place. Featured in the exhibition is a painting by local Darug artist Leanne Mulgo Watson, *Ngurra bayalagulang (Meeting place)*, depicting elements of Aboriginal storytelling that highlight the significance of the site long before the bridge was built. This artwork has been purchased by Hawkesbury Regional Museum and will remain in the collection.

Bridging the Hawkesbury/Dyarubbin: The History of the Windsor Bridge is now open to the public daily from 10am – 4pm (except Tuesday) and will be celebrated through an opening event on Saturday 29 March.

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

A Hawkesbury Regional Museum staff member prepares original concrete bricks from the old Windsor bridge for display.



Windsor Bridge 1883, watercolour by W. Andrews. Courtesy of the State Library New South Wales.

OPENING EVENT:

Saturday 29 March, 2pm
Hawkesbury Regional Museum
8 Baker Street, Windsor
Light refreshments provided
Bookings encouraged: <https://bridging-the-hawkesbury-river-dyarubbin.eventbrite.com>



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

www.hillstohawkesbury.com.au | Facebook @hillstohawkesbury



DIANA PATON
PUBLISHER

contribute@
hillstohawkesbury.com.au
0408 011 193



TANYA COOK
ADVERTISING

advertise@
hillstohawkesbury.com.au
0499 040 726



BEV JORDAN
SENIOR JOURNALIST

bev@
hillstohawkesbury.com.au
0439 034 187



IVOR JONES
CONTRIBUTOR

ivor.jones47@
optusnet.com.au



LANCE ZAFE
CONTRIBUTOR

news@
hillstohawkesbury.com.au



GISELA HORNER
EDITORIAL CO-ORDINATOR

contribute@
hillstohawkesbury.com.au

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.



\$200m Rouse Hill Town Centre expansion

Work is set to start on a \$200million expansion of Rouse Hill Town Centre adding more than 50 new shops to the bustling shopping hub.

The GPT Group, owner of the Rouse Hill Town Centre, says the transformation will add more than 10,500sqm of retail space. The work is expected to take 18 months with the opening date for the extension planned for pre-Christmas 2026.

The project is GPT's largest retail development in 10 years, and part of its strategy to leverage strong existing assets and deliver premium experiences to customers.

GPT's Chief Executive Officer, Russell Proutt, said: "The Hills District population is growing at five times the Sydney metro areas, and Rouse Hill Town Centre is the heart of the community. The shopping centre is a standout performer in terms of customer experience and returns, with progressively increasing traffic since it was first developed in 2008. Investing to bring

more choice of fashion, dining and leisure to the district was an easy decision."

The expansion will grow RHTC to over 80,000sqm and will retain the Centre's distinctive indoor-outdoor design, featuring a continuous walking loop for customer convenience, a revitalised Town Green, upgraded amenities, end-of-trip facilities, and 200 additional parking spaces.

GPT's Head of Retail, Chris Barnett, said: "We have seen strong demand from both new and existing retail brands looking to expand in a high-growth, high-spend market. We are proud that our investment is not only delivering an enhanced shopping and lifestyle experience for customers but also contributing to job creation and economic growth."

Rouse Hill Town Centre is among GPT's strongly-performing shopping centre assets, underpinned by the district's population growth and an affluent customer base with incomes 46% above the national average. This expansion fits within GPT's longer-term vision for the precinct, with future development opportunities set to further enhance its role as the number one retail destination in the Hills District.

Construction partner, ADCO Constructions, has commenced pre construction site works, with construction set to start in April 2025.

CHANGES TO NEW HOSPITAL LAND

A challenge over the compensation paid by the State Government for land adjacent to the Fiddler and earmarked for the construction of Rouse Hill Hospital is now before the Land and Environment Court.

A Health Infrastructure spokesperson said: "The new Rouse Hill Hospital will be built on the corner of Commercial Road and Windsor Road. This 2.4-hectare site was acquired by the NSW Government in 2021 and is owned by the Health Administration Corporation.

"The land was acquired in accordance with the Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991 (the Just Terms Act).

"While the land has been acquired, the process for finalising the amount of compensation payable to its former owner is ongoing and is proceeding in accordance with the requirements of the Just Terms Act.

"In accordance with the Just Terms Act, the Valuer-General determined a compensation amount, which the former owner has challenged. That challenge is being heard before the Land and Environment Court, with the next hearing scheduled for August 2025.

"Planning for the New Rouse Hill Hospital project is continuing to progress."



Riverside GARDENS

RETIRE IN STYLE TO NORTH RICHMOND

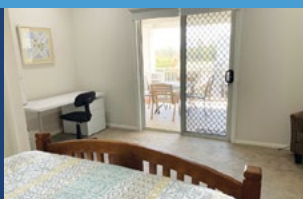
If you are over 55 and looking to relocate to the semi rural area of the Hawkesbury why not consider us? We are a small retirement village offering security, companionship, comfort and independent living. If you live alone and worry about safety and security come and see us.

- Secure gated property
- Security cameras
- Vital Call in every home
- Affordable costs
- Spacious community centre
- 8km from Hawkesbury Hospital
- Walk to shops, health professionals and bus stop
- Nearby scenic walks along the Hawkesbury River foreshore
- Pet friendly



THE VILLAGE CONSISTS OF 48 X 2 AND 3 BEDROOM VILLAS AND 6 X 2 BEDROOM APARTMENTS

**ENQUIRIES
REGARDING RESALES
ALWAYS WELCOME**



Please Phone Patricia for an appointment to inspect

PHONE PATRICIA 0447 334 615 or 4571 4545

Email: pcampbell2@mac.com

34 Beaumont Avenue North Richmond 2754 (opposite Panthers North Richmond)

www.riverside-gardens.com.au

DRINK DRIVERS CAUGHT

A driver involved in a crash in Dural on March 12th was more than three times over the drink drive limit. Hills police responded to calls after a two-vehicle crash on New Line Rd Dural at 11.44pm. Police say that the 32-year-old driver of a white Holden Colorado veered into oncoming traffic, causing a head-on collision with a red Toyota Camry.

Police detected the smell of alcohol and said the Holden driver was unsteady on their feet. A roadside breath test returned a positive reading. A subsequent breath analysis at Castle Hill Police Station recorded a reading of 0.163.

The driver's licence was suspended on the spot and they will face Court at a later date.

Earlier that evening police stopped a 51-year-old female driver on Green Rd, Kellyville at around 9.35pm. Police say the woman was swerving between lanes near Rosebery Rd. She returned a positive roadside breath test. A subsequent breath analysis at Castle Hill Police Station returned a reading of 0.166. Her licence was suspended and she is due to face court on a high range drink driving charge.

MOTORCYCLE CRASH

The Mounties Care CareFlight Helicopter was tasked by NSW Ambulance after a man in his 30s was injured when his motorcycle crashed into a guard rail in St Albans at around 11.45am on Friday, 14 March.

CareFlight's specialist doctor and NSW Ambulance paramedics treated the patient on scene for a broken arm and leg before he was transported by air to Royal North Shore Hospital in a stable condition.

NEW HAWKESBURY EMERGENCY PRECINCT

Concept and landscape designs are now in development for the new Emergency Services Precinct following the approval of the site's Masterplan by both Hawkesbury City Council and the NSW Rural Fire Service.

In partnership with the NSW Government, Council is moving ahead with plans to establish the Hawkesbury Emergency Services Precinct on newly-purchased land at the corner of Kurmond and McKinnons Roads in Wilberforce.

The facility will replace the aging centre at Macquarie Road and incorporate the NSW SES base at Wilberforce.

The concept plans will include the detailed layout for the new Fire Control Centre and preparation of detailed plans to progress the project through the approvals and tender process.

The Fire Control Centre is one component of the overall precinct.

Deputy Mayor Sarah McMahon emphasized the importance of the new centre, particularly

ASSAULT

Police are appealing for public help after a 60-year-old man was assaulted in Fairey Road, South Windsor just after 9.30pm on Saturday, 8th March.

Officers attached to Hawkesbury Police Area Command who attended the scene located a man with facial and head injuries in a car which had a smashed windscreen.

Police were told the man was assaulted while in his vehicle by a number of people who had left the scene.

The 60-year-old was treated by NSW Ambulance paramedics before being taken to a hospital in a critical condition.

A crime scene was established with the victim's vehicle taken for further forensic examinations.

Investigators have established Strike Force Apsley to commence an investigation into the incident.

ILLEGAL CIGARETTES

A stash of \$145,000-worth of cash and cigarettes were discovered in a vehicle stopped by police in Vineyard early on Thursday morning March 13th.

General Duties police attached to Hawkesbury Police Area Command stopped the vehicle at around 12.30am on Windsor Road due to the manner of driving.

Police spoke with the driver and searched the vehicle, uncovering cardboard boxes containing cartons of illicit cigarettes and a large amount of cash. Cash and cigarettes were seized, estimated at a value of \$145K. Police say investigations are continuing.

HUGE VAPE BUST

A large quantity of illegal vapes have been seized from a storage facility in Packard Ave, Castle Hill.

Police responded to reports from a mobile security patrol on Friday March 7th and found the front door of an industrial unit had been completely removed. Inside they found a number of boxes containing illegal vapes. A crime scene warrant was executed. There were 139,760 individual vapes with a potential street value of over \$13 million.

Anyone with information is asked to contact CrimeStoppers on 1800 333 000.

SUSPICIOUS 2015 DEATH

Detectives attached to Hawkesbury Police Area Command have re-initiated Strike Force Levendale to investigate the circumstances surrounding the suspicious death of a 57-year-old Hawkesbury woman 10 years ago.

At about 6pm on Monday, 19 January 2015, emergency services were called to a caravan park on Commercial Road, Vineyard, after reports a woman had been found dead in her home.

Officers from Hawkesbury Local Area Command attended and found Kerry Bromley dead in bed.

Detectives are appealing for public assistance with any information about this investigation.

This appeal is for both local and the extended community. This is due to the historical nature of the investigation, with many people staying within the caravan park.

Anyone who may have any information is urged to contact investigators attached to Strike Force Levendale at Windsor Police Station or Crime Stoppers.

BODY FOUND IN GLENORIE

Strike Force Halderen has been formed to investigate the circumstances surrounding the death of a man whose body was found on a property on Gleness Place, Glenorie on Friday, 14 March 2025.

The man has been confirmed as Johnny Birch, 39, who did not live in the area.

Two men, aged 24 and 34, and a 35-year-old woman, were arrested at the scene and were taken to Castle Hill Police Station but were released the next day.

Detectives attached to The Hills Police Area Command and the State Crime Command's Homicide Squad are awaiting the outcome of a post-mortem examination.

Anyone with information about this incident is urged to contact Crime Stoppers. Information is treated in strict confidence.

Police find their Zen at SENIORS FESTIVAL

Hills police got some balance in their day when they joined local seniors and Tai Chi Master Yunian Wu for a special Tai Chi class as part of The Hills Shire Council's Seniors Festival.

Vulnerable Persons Officer Mick Barnes was one of seven officers from The Hills Police Area Command who joined the a on Wednesday, March 12. He said it was a fantastic opportunity for police to engage with the community in a relaxed setting.

"We loved our workout," he said. "Seniors Festival is a chance to recognise the valuable role of older residents in our community. The Hills PAC police are here to strengthen our relationship with seniors and show our support for their wellbeing."

Local resident Michele Sunnucks attended the Seniors Week session and described it as a wonderful experience.

"It's wonderful to see the community and the police get together in something like this. Especially for the seniors to be able to just have that cross-generational interaction in a fun way, and the police were certainly fully involved with the activities today," she said.

"I love that Council has organised this initiative. It gets a lot of seniors together who didn't know each other beforehand and allows us an opportunity to be able to make new friends."

Hills Shire Mayor Dr Michelle Byrne said: "Seniors make up a significant part of The Hills Shire, with at least 19 per cent of our population aged 60 and over.

They also play a vital in our community, with 77 per cent of our volunteers in this age group. We are incredibly grateful for their contributions and this event is a small way to give back to those who give so much.

"A big thank you to Hills LAC for joining the event, as well as Hills Chinese Association and Tai Chi Master Yunian Wu for their ongoing commitment to this fitness class. I look forward to seeing more people join in the future."

The Hills Shire Council in partnership with Hills Chinese Association is running free weekly Tai Chi classes to foster social connections and support the health of older residents following trail sessions late last year.

The free classes are part of its community program for seniors, aimed at promoting health, well-being, and social connections and was

developed in response to surveys, consultations, and feedback from local residents regarding the activities they would like to see in the Hills.

Recognising the well-documented physical and mental benefits of Tai Chi—such as improved balance, flexibility, relaxation, and overall mobility— Council has made these classes accessible by offering them free of charge. This ensures that all seniors, regardless of their circumstances, can participate.

Since their inception, the Tai Chi classes at Baulkham Hills Community Centre have garnered significant interest and continue to grow. The first class started with just 12 to 15 participants, but now they regularly have at least 25 attendees, with new locals joining and trying out the program.



Respect | Comfort | Support | Quality



Focusing on supporting participants with a quality care service, and supporting all participants to live a happy life.



- Assistance with Travel/Transport
- Household Tasks
- Daily Personal Activities including High Intensity
- Participate Community
- Counselling and Advocacy Support

cstallcares.com.au
cornerstonecare19@gmail.com
 0404 146 144 (English)
 0430 059 966 (Korean)

Cornerstone
All care



InVogue BATHROOMS



Sydney's Most Trusted Bathroom Renovation Specialist

*Great team of tradesmen
Reliable and On-time*

Obligation FREE Measure and Quote

Please call Matt

0433 790 046

www.invoguebathrooms.com.au

Unit 58/5 Gladstone Rd, Castle Hill



At 102 Jack Weller is centre stage

By Bev Jordan

Jack Weller loves a good chat and he has a lot to discuss after 102 years.

The Hills Bowling Club at Baulkham Hills threw a special birthday lunch for their oldest member who was joined by the club's other Life Members on Wednesday, March 12th,

Club President Ken Carroll congratulated Jack on his amazing milestone and was joined by Castle Hill State MP Mark Hodges, who presented Jack with a framed copy of the birthday wishes he delivered in State Parliament. Hills Shire Michelle Byrne attended with Deputy Mayor Cllr Frank de Masi and Cllr Reena Jethi and also congratulated Jack on his milestone.

Jack was born near the wharf in Brougham St at Woolloomooloo but his father's lungs were damaged by mustard gas while serving in World

War I and so the family moved to drier premises at Kurmond when Jack was 3 years old.

His father never really regained his full health and died when Jack was 14. "I had to leave school and go to work because my mum had 5 children to bring up during The Depression," Jack said.

He joined the Department of Agriculture as a messenger boy at 14 and passed the public service exam at the age of 16.

During World War 2 he worked in manufacturing as part of the war effort despite several attempts to enlist. In 1943 he married the love of his life, Violet, who he met at work. They had two children, Paul and Christine, Jack was an expert in metal finishing and

electroplating and was President of the Sydney branch of the American Electroplaters' Society and was on the executive of The Australian Institute of Surface Finishing.

A keen golfer before he became a lawn bowler, Jack actually played against The Baulkham Hills Team with his local Merrylands Club before moving to live in Baulkham Hills.

He is a past secretary of the Parramatta District Lawn Bowls Association and became a Zone selector.

He was 97 when he played his last game of bowls and 102 when he voluntarily relinquished his driving licence.

"I passed my road test and had my licence until I was 103 but I decided to give it in."

His life advice is: "Be responsible for your actions, own them and be accountable."

He says he has been very fortunate to have wonderful family support from his son Paul and his wife Helen and daughter Christine and her husband Ken.

He has five grandchildren, 10 great grandchildren and has welcomed his fifth generation with the birth of great, great grandson, Dalton who is now 7 months old.

For Hills Bowling Club members he is "Gentleman Jack" who has a long lifetime of stories to share... such as witnessing the opening of Sydney Harbour Bridge in 1932 and watching the "spectacular fireworks" and how his team once beat Baulkham Hills Bowling Club's hot four.



Price Range
\$585,000 to \$1,935,000*

Retire with more in Bella Vista

New apartments under construction and ready to move in Spring 2025

Embrace an exceptional lifestyle at **Bella Vista Haven Retirement Living**. The highly anticipated Corymbia Residences will offer a variety of one, two and three-bedroom apartments, a limited collection of penthouses and more resident amenities including an indoor heated pool, library and cinema.

Act now! Join the First Release Club to receive floor plans, inclusions and pricing before the public release. Retire with more at Bella Vista Haven.

Bella Vista Haven
Retirement Living

Register your interest today.
13 28 36 | aveo.com.au/bellavistahaven
📍 **28 Norbrik Dr, Bella Vista**

aveo

*Price correct as at 1 October 2024. Images are for illustrative purposes only. The entry payment and any other amounts payable depend on any available contract option you select. A regular service fee will be payable and you may have to pay a departure fee when you leave the village. Furnishings not included.

BRUCE ROBERTSON, 105

BY BEV JORDAN

There was a queue to congratulate Bruce Robertson, the World War 2 veteran, at his early 105th birthday celebration at Castle Hill RSL on Saturday (March 15th).

Among the top brass eager to shake Bruce's hand was Australia's Deputy Air Commander Susie Barnes who pointed out that Bruce is older than the RAAF itself. He is also several years older than RAAF Richmond, where he was once based, which turns 100 in June this year.

Organised by the Castle Hill sub-branch, the party was attended by veterans, serving officers, politicians and Bruce's family who were joined (among others) by Colonel Michael Miller, the official secretary to the Governor of NSW, David Harris MP NSW Veterans Affairs Minister, Robyn Preston MP shadow minister for Veterans Affairs, Federal MP, Alex Hawke, State MPs Mark Hodges and Ray Williams, Hills Mayor Michelle Byrne and Deputy Mayor Frank de Masi plus the Commanding Officer of 22 Squadron at RAAF Base Richmond Wing Commander Andrew Burke.

The former RAAF wireless operator's story has been well documented and is included in the Australian War Memorial archives but it is one that everyone in the room wanted to hear.

Bruce took a job in a radio sales and repair shop in 1937 in Angel Place in the city after leaving school and joined the militia, serving in the Scottish Regiment.

When he heard war had been declared after Germany had invaded Poland in September 1939 he decided to enlist.

He wanted to join the RAAF rather than the Army because he had fallen in love with airplanes when he was 8-years-old and met aviators Charles Kingsford Smith and Charles Ulm after their trans-Pacific flight.

He stayed in the Scottish Regiment another year before training as an RAAF wireless operator in Sydney. At 2am one morning, while helping to monitor wireless communications, he picked up a Morse code he couldn't transcribe.

In an interview a few years ago he told the Hills to Hawkesbury Community News: "I heard some strange signals in my headset and called the Signals Officer over. He got onto the Direction Finding stations and



got a fix; they confirmed my original suspicion that it was a Japanese transmission in Kani Code."

The messages were being sent from the Japanese mother ship which had just deposited 3 midget submarines in Sydney Harbour.

Bruce was posted to the newly-formed 30 Squadron based at RAAF Richmond as a wireless operator and then headed to New Guinea for two years, where the Bristol Beaufighter bombers were involved in Kokoda, Milne Bay and the Battle of Bismarck Sea. Approximately 7000 Australian soldiers, sailors and airmen died during the New Guinea Campaign.

Bruce often talks about his war service as he feels it is important that people don't forget the sacrifices others made, he also feels school children need to know about Australia's involvement in World War 2 and has made it his mission to talk to school groups and businesses, something he has done for many years.

He was in Sydney when the war was declared over, and joined in celebrations with his new wife Beryl. The couple moved to Castle Hill in 1946 and had two daughters, Judith and Penny, five grandchildren, 8 great grandchildren. His great great grandson Kingsley saw Bruce welcome the fifth generation of his clan three years ago.

NSW Governor Margaret Beazley sent "heartfelt congratulations" for Bruce's birthday but also thanked him for his "service and leadership" as President of the 30 Squadron Beaufighter Association.

There were messages and certificates too from the Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and NSW Premier Chris Minns and personal messages from two former Governor Generals of Australia, General Peter Cosgrove, and General David Hurley.

David Hurley said: "We are so proud of your service to Australia both in uniform and to the community.... You have represented your fellow servicemen and women with great distinction, you have been open about your experiences and have always spoken wisely about the cost of war."

Bruce will be celebrating his actual birthday this Sunday (March 23rd) with his entire family.



Hills to Hawkesbury

TO ADVERTISE HERE
CALL
0499 040 726

Love Shack Bridal



- Wedding Dresses
- Wedding Dresses Alterations
- All Kinds of Alterations

0405 149 577

lsh.bridal@hotmail.com

www.loveshackbridal.com.au



Wentworth Healthcare

Blue Mountains | Hawkesbury | Lithgow | Penrith

Seeking Board Director

Wentworth Healthcare Limited, provider of the Nepean Blue Mountains Primary Health Network, is seeking Expressions of Interest for a Director to join our skills-based Board. We are interested in candidates who have **finance, risk, assurance and compliance skills** and are suitably experienced for a Director position.

For the role criteria and to request an information pack visit **nbmphn.com.au/careers**

More information:

02 4708 8139 or email **director@nbmphn.com.au**

Applications close Sunday 30 March 2025.

We encourage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, women, people from culturally diverse backgrounds and people with disabilities to apply.

out and about
with MICHELLE BYRNE

The Pines 'Roughley House, Dural

Roughley House, home to five generations of the Roughley family, tells their story of hardships of convict living, working the land and their determination to turn their fortunes around as they forged a new life in Australia. Like most families, the Roughley's story is filled with moments of happiness, sadness, tragedy and pain as well as a few larger-than-life characters such as Clive Roughley that add to the story.

The Roughley story begins in England 1817 when Joseph Roughley and his oldest son James were found guilty of stealing 5 pence worth items. For their crime, they were sentenced to seven years' transportation to the NSW colony. Here in Australia, Joseph and James served their time as convict labourers in Parramatta after which James married and set about building the Roughley house which is also referred to as "the Pines" given the many towering pine trees planted over many generations.

The family farmed crops and later citrus fruit which was taken by horse and cart to sell at Haymarket. Hard work, grit and sheer determination paid off and by the time James Roughley II died, the family estate had

expanded to include 5 properties and was valued at more than £2600. The Roughley house remained in the family and was passed down from generation to generation.

Gordon 'Clive Roughley', who was the very last Roughley to remain living at Roughley house. A larger-than-life character, Clive was born in the front room of the house in 1914. He was well known across the district as the "honey and egg man" and was always up for a chat about his family's history of which he was immensely proud as well as his award-winning chickens which earned him many show ribbons.

Sadly, Clive's first wife passed away not long after she and Clive were married. Clive never really recovered from the loss of the love of his life and his second marriage didn't last long. Without any direct heirs to hand the Roughley House to, Clive decided to sell his home to the Hills Shire Council for \$1 on the condition that the property would be open to the public and that the house would remain a time capsule of colonial life and the Roughley's family story. As part of the agreement, Clive was able to live

in his family home and was looked after by Council until his passing in 2002.

Today, stepping into the Roughley House, which the Roughley lived in for over 126 years, is like stepping into a living time capsule that expands 5 generations. It is much more than furniture and artefacts. Each generation has left its own mark on the house, with each room telling its own story of early colonial life to more modern times as well as reflecting life in the very early days of the Hills District. Many of the pine trees planted by the family remain and the property covers wonderful views towards the mountains.

For more information on Roughley House and opportunities to visit including events such as Jazz in the Pines go to www.thehills.nsw.gov.au/Venues/Parks-Recreation/Parks-Recreation-Directory/Roughley-House-The-Pines-and-Visitor-Interpretation-Centre

Support the Local
— ANZAC COMMITTEE —

RAISING MONEY FOR INSURANCES AND TRAFFIC CONTROL COSTS



TRIVIA

— HERITAGE VALLEY CAFE —

TUESDAY 1ST APRIL

— 11am Arrival to 2:30pm —

\$60PP	LUNCH	PRIZES
Grab a table of friends for a fun day	Alternative Drop plus Tea and Coffee	Trivia and Chocolate Wheel

Take Away lunch available for \$35

BOOK NOW | HERITAGE VALLEY CAFE | BYO ALCOHOL
12/5557 Old Northern Road, Wisemans Ferry 2775



OPEN DAY at BELLA VISTA FARM - 6th APRIL

Enjoy Open Day at the Farm on Sunday, 6th April from 9am to 2pm. The Mayor Dr Michelle Byrne will be there hosting the event at Bella Vista Farm. Soak up heritage with a tour of the homestead for a gold coin donation.

Other activities to enjoy will be cookie decorating, face painting, a roving Easter Bunny, petting Zoo, a water station (bring your own water bottles), coffee van – hot beverages available to purchase, library caddy & craft activity, Stronger Together Foundation.

The famous farm's Sausage Sizzle (\$3.50) and Devonshire tea (\$7) and the popular Trash and treasure stall will all be open to serve you. Beautiful music will be playing in the garden by members of Hills Symphony Shire Orchestra.

Enjoy a wonderful family day at Bella Vista Farm, cnr. Elizabeth Macarthur Drive and Norwest Boulevard, Bella Vista.



HIDDEN IN THE HILLS BY LACHLAN TURNER

FIVE CORNERS

On a recent visit to the Annangrove Community Environment Centre I decided to take a walk through the bushland near the Centre.

Whilst walking along their Wildflower Walk I came across a small spreading shrub which can sometimes grow up to around 1.5 metres tall in favourable conditions. There are variations in the flower colour of the more common variety, namely, Variable Five Corners (*Styphelia laeta*), which was just coming out into flower.

The flower can be a bright creamy colour, tending towards pink as it becomes older.

This shrub will grow in the open forest as well as in woodland heath, in sandstone soils or sandy clay. Flowering period is usually from March to July, sometimes extending into early spring.

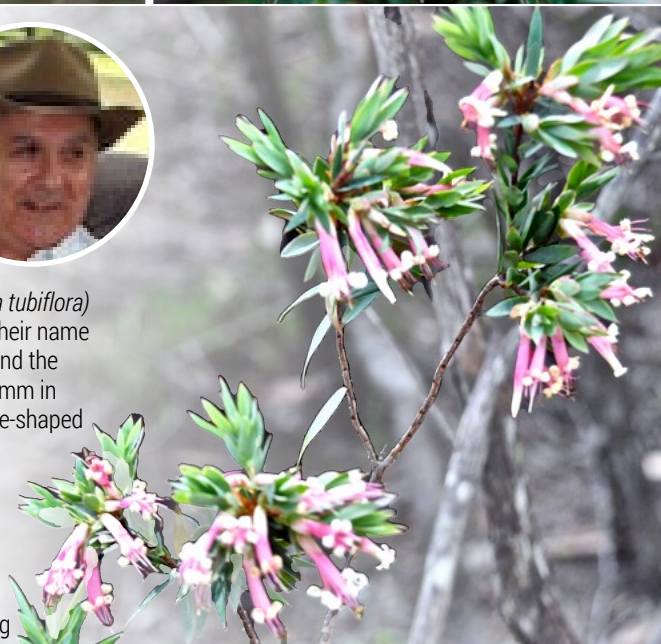
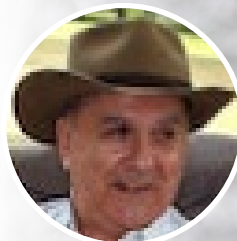
There are two related red and pink varieties which are not as common, but can be found in a similar habitat. One is (*Styphelia triflora*) Pink

Five Corners. The other being (*Styphelia tubiflora*) Red Five Corners. These plants derive their name from the five stamens that extend beyond the tubular flower which can be around 35 mm in length. They have stiff stems with lance-shaped or triangular leaves up to 25mm long.

The fruit of both varieties is said to be edible.

When walking in local bushland it is sometimes easy to miss some of these smaller plants that may at times be obscured by taller more vigorous growing shrubs. Some of the most intricately formed native flowers can be located in amongst bushy undergrowth at or near ground level.

These plants are generally well distributed in local bushland areas.



The Centre periodically conducts a workshop which introduces people to the diversity of Australian wildflowers along with a guided walk along the track behind the Centre.

OPTUS

PROPOSAL TO INSTALL MOBILE PHONE BASE STATION AT CASTLE TOWERS SHOPPING CENTRE INCLUDING 5G AT 6-14 CASTLE STREET CASTLE HILL NSW 2154 (RFNSA 2154035)

The proposed facility consists of installing new Optus equipment and associated works, including 5G, as follows:

- Installation of Nine (9) new panel antennas;
 - Installation of a new 4-bay outdoor cabinet on Rooftop steel support;
 - Installation of ancillary equipment associated with the safe and proper functioning of the facility, including remote radio units, antenna mounts, meter panel and cabling.
1. Indara in connection with Optus regard the proposed works are considered Low Impact proposal under the *Telecommunications (Low-Impact Facilities) Determination 2018* and does not require Council development consent based on the above description.
 2. In accordance with Section 6 of *C564:2020 Mobile Phone Base Station Deployment Code*, we invite you to provide feedback about the proposal. Should you require further information or wish to comment, please contact Musab Kadan at Indara, 02 9495 9000, community@Indara.com.au or Tenancy 1.3/35 Miles Platting Road, Eight Mile Plains 4113 by **Friday 11th of April 2025**. Further information may also be obtained from www.rfnsa.com.au/2154035

Aussie's Flood Cleanup

Trust Aussie Pumps, a Hills industry success story, to pull out all stops when it comes to supporting the folks devastated by the Queensland floods.

Their big 6" inch pumps can pump 6,000lpm, powered by 80hp Deutz air cooled diesel engines! Yes, these are the pumps that saved the capital city of South Sudan, Juba, from flooding during the monsoonal floods in Central Africa.

Post Flood Cleanup

Aussie doubled the production of Aussie AB30 "Pocket Rocket" heavy duty pressure cleaners and shipped loads of product north to speed the cleanup in devastated areas.

Blocked drains? No problem for Aussie's Cobra and King Cobra drain cleaning Jetters. Even sewer lines filled with silt are no problem.

More information on Aussie's great careers contact Linda-Sue Karkowski to 8865 3500





STOCKLAND HALCYON GABLES

Fostering Fun and Friendship for over-60s in the Hills District

New South Wales residents over 60 are increasingly seeking a more active lifestyle enriched with fun, friendship and freedom.

Purchasing a home in a Stockland Halcyon community enables them to unlock capital tied up in their homes and invest in a fulfilling lifestyle as they approach retirement.

Located in the charming Hills district, Halcyon Gables offers vibrant, resort-style living and features premium facilities like a cinema, pool, spa, fitness centre and clubhouse, as well as dining room, bar and community gardens.

Halcyon communities operate as a Land Lease Community model, meaning the buyer purchases their home, while Stockland maintains ownership of the land. No stamp duty is applied to the purchase, and unlike many retirement villages, there are no exit fees levied

if the property is sold, so homeowners retain all their capital gains when they sell.

Three couples who have bought in Halcyon Gables are Ian and Denise Arnott, Dominic and Pauline Vozzo, and Trevor and Beryl Aspin, for whom downsizing and affordability were key considerations. Beryl and Trevor spent years looking before buying with Halcyon. "We just couldn't justify retirement village exit fees or give up the opportunity to possibly make money from our home long-term," she said. "We found Halcyon and said this is the winning formula."

HALCYON GABLES facilities will include Bowling Green and Pickleball Courts, plus much more for an active lifestyle.

The six first became friends through their local Probus group but were surprised to discover they would be neighbours. "We didn't realise we were all looking to buy in Halcyon Gables until we saw each other at the first meeting and couldn't believe it," said Pauline. "We even realised that we bought plots on the same street, so we'll already have friends as neighbours!"

The group is excited to embark on a fresh start. "It's great to know we will be living in a place where we feel supported as part of a community," said Dominic. "I am really looking forward to moving into my brand-new home and starting a new adventure."

To find out more visit <https://www.stockland.com.au/halcyon-communities/nsw/halcyon-gables> or call 1800 050 050.



HALCYON GABLES HOME BUYERS - Dominic and Pauline Vozzo; Trevor and Beryl Aspin; Ian and Denise Arnott

BLIGH PARK

HOTEL

EASTER

Fun Weekend

**FAMILY FUN DAY
EASTER EGG HUNT
EGG DECORATING &
DIY BUNNY EARS
FOOD SPECIALS
HAMPER RAFFLE**



**WHERE FAMILY,
FOOD & FUN
COMES
TOGETHER!**

**18TH TO 20TH
APRIL**

NEWLY RENOVATED!

101 HAM STREET, SOUTH WINDSOR NSW 2756 | 02 4545 2540 | WWW.BLIGHPARKHOTEL.COM.AU

THIS HOTEL SUPPORTS THE RESPONSIBLE SERVICE OF ALCOHOL AND THE RESPONSIBLE CONDUCT OF GAMBLING



Artist's impression. Subject to change.

Keep what's yours. Enjoy what matters.

Welcome to the Hills District's premier over-60s community, where your home is more than just a place to live, and each day invites you to embrace a life of excitement and connection.

At Halcyon Gables, your home and gains are yours. With no deferred management fees, no exit fees, no stamp duty, and the ability to keep your capital gains, you can focus on living the life you love.

Visit our Sales and Information Centre
117B Old Pitt Town Rd, Gables
10am to 4pm, Monday to Friday



Call 1800 050 050 or scan the
QR code to register for our next
information session



Stockland | Halcyon Gables

Price correct as at 01 December 2024. Subject to change. Subject to availability. All photographs, illustrations, statements and information in this advertisement, are for illustrative purposes only and are based on information available to and the intention of Stockland at the time of creation (December 2024) and are subject to change without notice. No diagram, photograph, illustration, statement or information amounts to a legally binding obligation on or warranty by Stockland and Stockland accepts no liability for any loss or damage suffered by any person who relies on them either wholly or in part. Indications of location, distance or size are approximate and for indicative purposes only. Subject to change.

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF THE HILLS

Long time member of the Soroptimist International of the Hills, Jenny McGlashan has taken over the reins as President. Jenny takes over from Cathy Tracey and it will be her second time in the role.

Soroptimist International of The Hills is a part of a global movement started over 100 years ago that advocates to improve the lives of women and girls through education, gender equality and environmental issues. Soroptimist International has a seat at the United Nations.

The changeover happened at last month's Planning Day for 2025.

The club had a busy year in 2024 and ended the year with a project dear to their heart. As long time supporters of Hills Community Aid, especially their endeavours to assist local women who have experienced domestic violence, members of The Hills SI club contributed items for gift bags to give women and their children as a Christmas surprise at the annual Christmas lunch.

The bags were delivered along with some homemade treats for their morning tea. SI has been active in The Hills for over 40 years. Club meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at Crestwood Community Centre in Baulkham Hills.

New members are always welcome. Interested community members can contact the club at sithehills@gmail.com and check the website at www.seap.org



IWD AT NORWEST

A collaboration between three women's organisations saw a powerful celebration of women's achievements at a special event held at Rydges Norwest on March 8th.

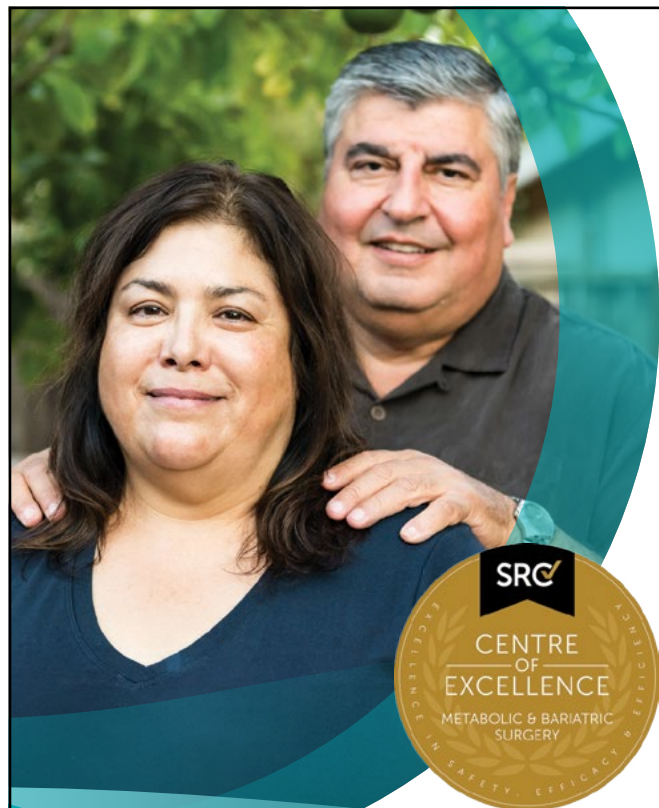
Pratibha Bhanushali from Powerful Empowered Women and team, Bhavini Singh from BPW and team, and Michelle Russell from Country Women's Association, Castle Hill and team were onboard to guide an evening of multicultural entertainment.

A Recognition Ceremony during the evening presented awards to:

- Young Woman of the Year: Ashleen Khela
- Business Woman of the Year: Michelle Walker
- Woman in Leadership: Susan Jones
- Community Woman of the Year: Swecha Kulrestha
- Woman of Social Impact: Tiya Gorain
- Rising Star Award: Terese Wilson
- Performer and Culture of the Year: Leila El Khoury

A cheque for \$2,000 was also presented to the Country Women's Association, Castle Hill to support its work in the community.

Pratibha Bhanushali said the highlight of the event was the Panel Discussion/Q&A Session, where the audience heard from some inspiring individuals, including: Anubha Verma (Banking Supervisor, APRA), Melanie Mackie (Principal of Box Hill Public School), Jeannette Oujani, (Founder of NMCA), Ingita Thakkar (Dementia Australia) and Narendra Kulkarni (Women in Business).



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.

Dr Michael Devadas is accredited as a Surgeon of Excellence at Norwest Private Hospital.



Scan the QR code for more information or visit norwestprivatehospital.com.au

Norwest Private Hospital
11 Norbrik Drive, Bella Vista NSW 2153

Norwest
PRIVATE HOSPITAL
by Healthscope



Former Presidents Castle Hill Rotary Club

GOLDEN ROTARY MOMENT

A glittering Gala event to celebrate Castle Hill Rotary's 60th birthday was held at Rydges Norwest and there were some very surprised and deserving guests.

The applause was loud and enthusiastic when long-time Rotarian Ron Marcus was announced the winner of the inaugural Bruce Allen Humanitarian Award which was presented by Club President Juanita Ruiz and Hills Mayor Dr Michelle Byrne.

The club established the award in recognition of extraordinary Castle Hill Rotarian and Past District Governor Bruce Allan who embodied the essence of Service Above Self.

MC Jaime Buttigieg said: "Whether it was mentoring new members, leading humanitarian efforts across the globe, or passionately championing the Rotary Foundation, Bruce's impact was profound and far reaching."

It was fitting that the first recipient of the award named in his honour was Ron Marcus who has dedicated his life to serving local communities at home and overseas.

All up he made 80 self-funded trips to implement life-saving projects in Nepal, Mongolia and PNG with his work in hospitals estimated to have saved the lives of at least 25,000 people.

Awards were also presented to Terry O'Mara (Legacy of Service), Phil Dunn (Arada Community Champion) Natasha Nugent (Rising Star) Nicola Fox (Innovation) Mike Blar (Community Engagement) Lisa Pelayo (Service Above Self) Hannibal Shabaz (Lifetime Achievement Award). Ubah Gabris was presented with an Excellence in Youth Engagement and a Paul Harris Fellowship while PHFs were also awarded to Jaime Buttigieg and Peter Rheinberger.

Castle Hill Rotary Club has had a busy 60 years including saving and restoring Heritage Park in Castle Hill raised millions of dollars



Ron Marcus with his award.



Castle Hill Rotary Board: PPRay Wooster, PP Amanda Firkins, Lisa Pelayo, Danni Piperata, President Juanita Ruiz, Tania Marin, Ubah Gabris, Sonja Simpson, Nik Fox, Jaime Buttigieg

to help during floods and bushfires and overseas humanitarian disasters plus provided community buses and supported youth leadership programs, mental health initiatives and local charities.

NEW PLAYING FIELDS LAUDED

The new Central Playing Fields, a \$21 million state-of-the-art sports precinct spanning 4.5 hectares in Fontana Drive, Gables is already winning major fans.

Officially opened by Stockland and Hills Shire Council on Sunday 16th March, it is home to a premium hockey facility which is certified to host international and national hockey games.

The precinct also features multipurpose sports fields for soccer and rugby, full-sized basketball courts for basketball, netball, tennis and futsal, as well as a skate park, rock climbing structure, and children's playground.

Kookaburras Captain, Mark Hager, and Hockeyroos Captain, Kaitlin Nobbs highlighted the importance of Central Playing Fields to the growth and support of hockey in the region.

"These Olympic-standard hockey pitches mean national and state championships can potentially be held onsite, giving young kids and budding players something to aspire to and encouraging more people to take up the sport. This precinct is an incredible investment in the growing area – the future of hockey is in good hands," Mark said.

"I think it is really important for young athletes to have access to world class facilities such as this one at The Gables. For athletes to succeed, it is very important to be able to train as much as they need to, and a facility such as this sets them up for success," said Kaitlin.

Hills Shire Mayor, Dr Michelle Byrne said; "Providing premier sporting facilities is central to Council's strategy of creating pathways for residents to access elite sports and opportunities, as well as provide the Gables school, Santa Sophia College, with a dedicated place to play."

Hockey NSW Acting CEO, Richard Griffiths said Hockey NSW was delighted that Stockland and the Hills Shire have developed an



Caption: L-R) Matt Bulkeley, Clr Mila Kasby, Uncle Colin Locke, Clr Tina Cartwright, Deputy Mayor Frank De Masi, David Campbell, Mayor Dr Michelle Byrne, Clr Reena Jethi, Sophie Ale and Michael Edgar .

international standard hockey facility in western Sydney as part of The Gables community.

"There is a dearth of hockey fields in this part of Sydney and with two synthetic turf pitches and surrounding infrastructure, we now have a facility that will assist our endeavours to grow and develop the sport," Mr Griffiths said.

Stockland General Manager Masterplanned Communities NSW/ACT, Sophie Ale said Central Playing Fields is set to become a social and active hub for the community. The community will have access to a fenced dog park and an amenities building with a canteen, change rooms and restrooms on site.

"The Gables Central Playing Fields will provide a space where local schools, sports clubs, residents and the wider community can stay active and make the most out of state-of-the-art sporting facilities," she said.

"The Gables is a vibrant and connected community, and the Central Playing Fields caters to a variety of sports, meaning there's something for everyone – from athletes and fitness enthusiasts to casual visitors wanting to enjoy the dog park or a kickabout with friends on the fields."

See more sports stories on pages 26 and 27

New Aspect to AUTISM EDUCATION

BY BEV JORDAN

There is already a waiting list for places at the new Aspect Hills Shire School at Gables just, less than two months after the purpose built, autism-specific primary school opened its doors.

The development of the school was made possible through a \$10.2 million investment jointly funded by the NSW Government's Western Sydney Infrastructure Grants program and Aspect (Autism Spectrum Australia).

Aspect Hills Shire School is the tenth autism-specific school to be opened by Aspect across NSW and South Australia and will eventually cater for 72 students on the autism spectrum from Kindergarten to Year 6.



SHANE MORRIS

The two-storey school features 12 autism-friendly classrooms, a multi-purpose hall, a sensory outdoor area, life skills kitchen and technology room.

Hills father Irfan Hussain (pictured) said being able to take his son Aayan to a local Aspect school saved him at least 2 hours of travel time a day. "When you're caring for a child with special needs, the thing that most often gets neglected are your own needs as a parent or a couple. Having that extra time for self-care or other personal goals is incredibly helpful for the family."

Maryanne Gosling, Aspect's National Director of Education, said: "We are thrilled to expand into the Hills Shire, one of the fastest-growing areas in NSW."

"With Western Sydney now home to over a quarter of the state's population, and Aspect's latest estimate that more than 1 in 40 Australians are Autistic, the demand for specialist education continues to rise."

Shane Morris, Principal of Aspect Hills Shire School said: "Since opening with an initial cohort of 24 students, Aspect Hills Shire School is on track for a phased expansion. In 2026, enrolment numbers will double to 48 students, with registrations currently open for Kindergarten and Year 1 for the next two

years. By 2027, we will have 72 students."

He said Aspect is planning a satellite program – an autism-specific classroom located within the grounds of a mainstream school.

"This will involve engaging with local mainstream schools to establish transition pathways for students who are ready to integrate into mainstream education settings through satellite classes within various primary schools."

He said while there was a wait list the school would be holding information sessions each term. "We also offer school tours at our Gables campus, allowing parents to experience firsthand what our school has to offer."

He said: "Parents are very positive about the school services, particularly the integration of Aspect Therapists within the school day. He said the "significant benefit" of the on-site services was that children no longer have to miss school days or part-days to access external therapy sessions.

"Beyond this, families have highlighted the strong sense of connection they feel—both with the school itself and with other like-minded families. They have also expressed appreciation for the supportive and professional staff, reinforcing the importance of collaboration in ensuring student success," he said.

People wanting to find out more can visit the website at Aspect Hills Shire School – Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect).



Irfan Hussain with Jowveria Mufti and Aayan Hussain



2ND BAULKHAM HILLS SCOUT GROUP ARE LOOKING FOR NEW LEADERS

Help kids discover fun

Being an Adult Leader in Scouting has lots of benefits that go beyond giving back to others. Scouts helps kids build character and lifelong sense of fun

For more information call John Gale on 0414 980 064

Grow your leadership skills



Proudly Sponsored by **MANOR**

Kenthurst Public School

SATURDAY 29 MARCH 3-8PM

COME AND JOIN US

RIDES • FIREWORKS • FOOD STALLS • ENTERTAINMENT

Kenthurst Public School
111 Kenthurst Rd, Kenthurst



KANGAROO GAS

The GAS bottle swap service that comes to you BBQ & heater gas bottles delivered to your door

0405 574 574
order@kangaroomgas.com.au

www.kangaroomgas.com.au



MR AMMO

YOUR PROFESSIONAL LOCAL GUN DEALER

CALL FOR US TO ASSESS AND GIVE GREAT PRICING ON ALL ITEMS

0425 255 599

WHO CAN COME TO YOU:

- Deceased estates take care of all paperwork legally
- Firearm collections
- Downsizing on firearms / Ammo old or new
- NSW gun amnesty registered and can take any unregistered firearm no questions asked
- Militaria and all antiques
- Will buy everything Militaria in items or bulk
- Antique items of any kind including cars

MINIMISE YOUR EXPOSURE BY USING A LICENSED GUN DEALER

Lic No: 409568136



RETIREMENT IS JUST THE BEGINNING

Leaving work behind at retirement means more time for the things and people you love. That's something BaptistCare understands.

Moments away from local shops, cafes and a medical centre, Aminya Village is a warm and welcoming community with low cost 1 and 2-bedroom villas.

Enjoy a relaxed social scene at the community hall and cafe, or unwind with friends around the barbecue area and lush gardens.

There is also residential care co-located at Aminya should you need it in the future.

Our Retirement Living villages are thoughtfully designed, vibrant and connected, where you'll be surrounded by like-minded people and have your needs taken care of – both now and into the future.

BOOK YOUR TOUR TODAY

 **1300 275 227**

 **baptistcare.org.au/aminya-village**

Because we care

The Hills Shire Council News

Outstanding E-Waste Plus Event

The E-Waste Plus Event held in February was a great success, achieving a 95 per cent satisfaction rate. Throughout the day, we saw 1,654 vehicles participating, which contributed to the disposal of the following items:

- 51.2 tonnes of e-waste
- 2 tonnes of soft plastic
- 2.8 tonnes of textiles
- 40 cubic meters of polystyrene

This impressive turnout resulted in a significant amount of unwanted items being diverted from Landfill.

Start preparing for our next E-Waste Plus event, which will take place in September.



Debra Oswald Author Talk

Join award-winning author Debra Oswald as she talks about her brand-new book *One Hundred Years of Betty* – a story about a strong, intelligent woman navigating a century of world events and social upheavals. Debra is a two-time winner of the NSW Premier's Literary Award and an acclaimed playwright, screenwriter, and novelist.



Listen to her advice, tips, and stories during her author talk at Pioneer Theatre from 6:30pm to 7:30pm on Wednesday, 9 April.

Tickets are \$13.30 per person.

Scan the QR code for more information and for tickets.



Year One Students Can Join FREE Reading Club

Foster a love for reading from an early age! If you know a child in Year One, the free Year One Reading Club is a fantastic opportunity for them to spark their imagination and develop a passion for reading.

This special club builds on the reading skills acquired in kindergarten.

Children who join will receive a logbook and can earn rewards along the way.

The Year One Reading Club is free to join at any Hills Shire Library branch and will run until October 31.

To enrol your child, simply visit any Hills Shire Library branch to sign up.

Scan the QR code to learn more.



Council Meetings

Tuesday, 25 March at 7pm

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

FERRY ARTISTS

The **Ferry Artists** enjoyed a wonderful attendance at the opening of our **Artists Clearance Sale** in February. Many members and friends arrived to celebrate our first opening of the year and we were grateful for everyone's enthusiastic response to the artworks. This clearance sale is an opportunity for our wall artists to hang previously displayed artworks at sale prices. It's always a great opportunity to pick up a bargain from one of our well known or emerging artists. You never know what gem you will find in this show!

Recently our senior members were invited to take part in **Hornsby Council's Seniors Week** exhibition **Time to Shine at Wallarobba in Hornsby**. Our gallery was delighted to be included in this showcase of local artists in the Hornsby region and the exhibition looked excellent.



Coming up next will be our still life themed show titled **MONTAGE**. Themed exhibitions often challenge our artists and for the landscape artists amongst us the still life genre can be a challenge. Join us for the opening of this show on **Saturday 29th March from 3 -5pm** in the Gallery at 5777 Old Northern Road, Wisemans Ferry. We will have our usual selection of quality giftware, jewellery and sculpture for you to choose from as well.

Make the trip down to our beautiful gallery and talk to our artists about their work and what inspires them to create. One of our artist members will be on duty to greet you!

<http://www.ferryartists.org/events/calendar/calendar.html>
Email: ferryartistsgallery@gmail.com

ARCADIAN QUILTING NEWS

Housing is a big subject at the moment along with affordability.



The word 'house' creates thoughts of safety, warmth, security and a personal space. While our humble quilts cannot solve the "big picture" problems we can and do work towards putting a warm connection into a room where it is needed, be it a care-home or a safe-house, a child's bed or a simple cuddle-rug for a tiny child.

We are giving what we can make to those who need help and our reward is 'joy in sharing'. One of our end-of-year projects was this "houses-quilt" (now complete and seen here), ready to add to our growing pile of Community Quilts.

2025 is proving to be as busy as last year with our meeting days well attended where the ideas flow and hands are busy. This month we look forward to meeting a Co-ordinator from the Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Women's Shelter making yet another connection within our Community.

We meet on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Wednesday of every month.

For further information about our group please contact Carole on 9894 7749.

CASTLE HILL ART SOCIETY

Art Demonstration – 7th May 7pm

Mariana Ariza

"An Impressionist Approach to Seascape Painting" – Acrylic or Oil

By taking an impressionistic approach to capture what's essential, Mariana will demonstrate how to create a captivating composition, how to interpret and mix the right colours, and other techniques with the aim of capturing an impression of the scene that conveys both its visual beauty and its emotive nature.

Mariana enjoys many different subjects and often works on commissioned pieces. The ocean is one of the themes that most captivate her, with its ever-changing shapes and play of colours. She has been a teacher at CHAS for a number of years.

Visitors are welcome to join with the Castle Hill Art Society 7.00pm at Castle Glen Community Centre, 157 Ridgeway Drive, Castle Hill. www.castlehillartsociety.org.au



Aussie Pumps



AUSSIE PUMPS...Not Just Fire Pumps

- Hills District local success, Aussie Pumps, specializes in solving the consistent problems of drought, floods and bushfires. "Everything we do helps somebody, and that's a really positive thing," said Chief Engineer, John Hales.
- The Chief Engineer has a sign in his office that says, "We design and build machines as if we're going to use them ourselves." What a relief from the policies of big corporations who only think about dividends!
- "At Aussie we're focused on people who use our gear, and they're our inspiration," said Hales.
- Great jobs are going at Aussie. Their success creates opportunities in a totally positive environment. Looking for a stimulating career including internship? Contact Linda-Sue Karkowski at info@aussiepumps.com.au | 8865 3500

THE BENEFITS OF WEARING YOUR HEARING AIDS ALL DAY:

Making Your Hearing Better with Ear Studio

At Ear Studio, our dedicated and highly skilled team is committed to helping our clients make the most out of their hearing devices. We follow best practice audiological principles to ensure that every client receives the highest standard of care, leading to optimal hearing outcomes. In this article, we will explore **3 key benefits** of wearing your hearing aids all day, highlighting how it can significantly enhance your overall hearing and well-being.

1. Improving Communication

Much of our daily communication involves hearing. From talking to your family members and friends to an interaction at the shops or speaking to a health professional. Some of them may be more important than others. Of course, you will want to understand advice or warnings extended to you from your doctor or other professionals. Yet sometimes, it is a little interaction you may share with others that has the potential to make you smile and can make a difference to your day.

2. Improve Your Connections with Others

Connections with your loved ones grow over time and, like plants, benefit from regular attention. Being able to have a meaningful conversation is part of that. Ensuring you can join in during events, big and small, lets you be part of the action. Social connections not only bring joy and warmth to our lives, but they also help prevent feelings of loneliness and isolation.

3. Help Maintain Cognitive Functions

The connection between hearing loss and an increased risk of dementia has been well studied in recent years. While the risk of dementia may seem far away in the future for some of us, a more immediate factor is our daily cognitive load. With an untreated hearing loss, our brain must work much harder and uses its resources to receive information. As a result, fewer cognitive resources for processing and understanding are available. Should the information you receive be complex or fast, such as rapid speech, even more resources are needed. If this becomes too hard, most people become stressed; they may seem impatient as they cannot keep up, they may feel embarrassed to ask for repetition, and others simply switch off.

Hearing aids can therefore bring benefits in different parts of your life. It is important to point out that these positive factors will only come into play if your hearing devices are worn

3 BENEFITS
OF WEARING YOUR
HEARING AIDS ALL DAY



daily, ideally for most of the day. Only then will your brain continue to receive auditory stimulation and stay active. The longer your brain remains deprived of this stimulation, the more work you will have to put in to achieve your maximum outcome.

At Ear Studio, we believe in the positive change improved hearing can bring to you. Our commitment to best practice audiology ensures that you receive personalised care tailored to your unique hearing needs.

If you (or a loved one) would like to explore any of these aspects, please take the time to call us today. You can contact our friendly reception staff at **Ear Studio** on **(02) 9159 6122** or via email at **reception@earstudio.com.au**. We are happy to help find a time that is suitable for you. We are open Monday to Thursday from 9am to 5pm and Fridays from 9am to 4pm and are located at Lawton House in Castle Hill (suites 9-10 / 60 Cecil Ave). We look forward to guiding you on the journey to better hearing.

Independently owned and operated Audiology Clinic

Ear Studio is a strictly independent hearing services provider who is not affiliated with any specific hearing aid manufacturer or brand. This independence allows us to provide unbiased recommendations based solely on the client's individual needs and preferences.

Why Choose Us?

Since our founding in 2019, our goal has always been to build an audiology competence centre which can help patients in all things hearing. From the removal of ear-wax blockages to hearing aids, tinnitus management and cochlear implants to auditory processing rehabilitation and the diagnostic and treatment of balance issues. Joining our clinic means being part of a community that understands and supports you.

Call us today **02 9159 6122**



reception@earstudio.com.au



We're conveniently located inside Lawton House, offering off-street parking.
Suite 9-10 / 60 Cecil Ave, Castle Hill, NSW

EAR STUDIO
Passion for Hearing™



Director & Founder
Daniel Fechner



EASTER

Wonderland

AT CASTLE HILL RSL CLUB



GIGANTIC EASTER EGG RAFFLE
SATURDAY 5TH APRIL

**EASTER BUNNY VISIT AND
FREE FACE PAINTING**
SUNDAY 20TH APRIL

Free activity bags for kids!

Scan >

FOR MORE INFO



www.castlehillrsl.com.au



Lynwood
GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

EASTER

Wonderland

AT LYNWOOD

GIGANTIC EASTER EGG RAFFLE
FRIDAY 4TH APRIL

**FREE FACE PAINTING &
ACTIVITY BAGS FOR KIDS**
SUNDAY 20TH APRIL

MINI GOLF OPEN 7 DAYS

Scan >

FOR MORE INFO



www.lynwoodcc.com.au





As your Federal Member, I am here to:



Assist with accessing Federal Government services



Attend your local community event



Arrange congratulatory messages

Please contact my office if I can be of assistance.



JULIAN LEESER MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR BEROWRA

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

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

Hawkesbury River Dragons to benefit from new storage facilities under an elected coalition government

Last week I had the opportunity to paddle alongside the dedicated members of the Hawkesbury River Dragons at Parsley Bay in Brooklyn.

The experience is one of the reasons why the Berowra Electorate is the best place in the world. It is home to an abundance of grassroots clubs and sporting organisations that provide incredible community spirit and camaraderie that keep us as a truly close-knit community.

Dragon boating is also more than just a sport—it fosters physical fitness, mental well-being, teamwork, and a vibrant community spirit that enriches us all.

That's why I was also proud to announce to the Hawkesbury River Dragons that an elected Coalition Government will commit \$36,000 to

upgrading their storage facilities. Established in 2011, the club has quickly grown to over 65 active members, with even more community interest on the horizon. This rapid growth has placed considerable strain on existing storage facilities, highlighting an urgent need for upgrades.

The planned improvements will significantly expand the club's storage capacity, allowing it to acquire new equipment and welcome additional members.

This investment is more than just infrastructure; it's a commitment to the viability of organisations like the Hawkesbury River Dragons – the health, happiness, and connectivity of our community.

Stefanie Haug, President of the Hawkesbury River Dragons, echoed this sentiment, emphasising how critical this funding is to the club's future growth and its capacity support a growing membership base. It's deeply rewarding to see first-hand the positive impact such grassroots organisations have and supporting them remains a key priority for myself and the Coalition.

Continuing to invest in and support our local clubs, like the Hawkesbury River Dragons, isn't just about promoting sport; it's about building stronger communities. As your Federal Member for Berowra, I remain committed to ensuring that our neighbourhoods have the resources they need to grow and maintain the vibrant community spirit that makes our area so special.

Nominate a Local Volunteer for the 2025 NSW Volunteer of the Year Awards!

Volunteers are the backbone of our community, selflessly giving their time and energy to support others.

Whether it's helping at local events, providing essential services, or supporting vulnerable groups, volunteers make a difference every day. Now is the time to recognise those who make a lasting impact by nominating them for the 2025 NSW Volunteer of the Year Awards.

This award program, run by The Centre for Volunteering, celebrates the dedication of volunteers across seven categories: Young Volunteer, Adult Volunteer, Senior Volunteer, Volunteer Team, Emergency Volunteer, Volunteer Leader, and the Not-for-Profit Voluntary Governance Award.

Nominate someone who exemplifies the spirit of volunteering and has shown exceptional commitment to their community. Volunteers can be recognised for their efforts in a local ceremony, with winners invited to the state ceremony later in the year.

Nominations are open until Friday 23 May 2025, so don't miss the chance to show your appreciation. Visit the Centre for Volunteering's website to submit your nomination and ensure that your local heroes get the recognition they deserve.

For more information and to nominate, visit <https://www.volunteering.com.au/awards>.



MARK HODGES MP
MEMBER FOR CASTLE HILL

AS YOUR STATE MP, I AM HERE TO:

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

ADVERTISEMENT

Suite 1A, 19-21 Terminus Street, Castle Hill NSW 2154
9686 3110
castlehill@parliament.nsw.gov.au

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

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

The Hon. Michelle Rowland MP

PO Box 8525, Blacktown NSW 2148
 (02) 9671 4780
 Level 1, Suite 101C, 130 Main Street, Blacktown

@mrowlandmp
 Michelle.Rowland.MP@aph.gov.au
 michellerowland.com.au

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



ADVERTISEMENT

Building North-West Sydney's future by building a stronger Medicare

Have you ever had a pressing medical need that was not a hospital emergency, but couldn't wait for your local GP?

Labor's Medicare Urgent Care Clinics are the answer - providing fast healthcare for burns, cuts, infections, sprains, minor fractures and more. They are walk-in, open early till late, and bulk billed.

As your local Member of Parliament, I have always fought to get essential, affordable health services - like an emergency department at the Rouse Hill Hospital development.

A re-elected Albanese Labor Government will deliver a Medicare Urgent Care Clinic in our community - and all you will need is your Medicare card, not your credit card.

It will take pressure off the Blacktown Hospital and mean you and your loved ones will get care when you need it, without waiting hours in the ED.

Labor proudly built Medicare and we are making it stronger: slashing the cost of PBS medicines to \$25, more bulk billing and 87 Medicare Urgent Care Clinics across Australia. North-West Sydney is next.

Peter Dutton was voted the worst Health Minister by Australian doctors and he tried to destroy Medicare. We won't let him do it again.

He tried to end bulk billing and slashed \$50 billion from public hospital budgets. He wanted to make patients pay a GP Tax to see their doctor.

Now his Liberal colleagues are trying to take credit for Labor's Medicare Urgent Care Clinics. Liberal spokesperson for Western Sydney, Melissa McIntosh MP, recently re-announced a clinic for Green Valley in South West Sydney. What the Liberals fail to admit is Green Valley was already announced by Labor.

They had nine years in government and never opened a single Urgent Care Clinic, and have repeatedly labelled them as "wasteful spending". How can you trust them to deliver a clinic for our community?

Only a re-elected Albanese Government can be trusted to deliver essential healthcare for the people of Western Sydney.

CELEBRATING RIVERSTONE'S WOMAN OF THE YEAR: **BELINDA MCKINLAY**

BELINDA MCKINLAY—affectionately known as Bel—is one of Riverstone's most cherished community volunteers. Her tireless work and dedication have made an incredible impact, particularly through her leadership of the Schofields Crusaders Junior Rugby League Club.

For the past three years, Belinda has been the driving force behind the club, which she started alongside her husband, Rob, in 2022. In Rob's words, they began the Crusaders "with nothing but hopes and dreams." Today, it is one of the fastest-growing rugby league clubs in the state, an incredible achievement built on Belinda's passion and determination.

Under her stewardship, the club has grown to 18 teams in just two seasons, culminating in the club being named the Jan Cameron Club Champions of 2024 in the Penrith District. Belinda not only serves as the club's treasurer but also oversees registrations, manages the canteen, and, as a crowning achievement, led the Under 13 premiership-winning team of 2024.

Her extraordinary dedication has not gone unnoticed. In recognition of her contributions, Belinda was awarded Riverstone's Woman of the Year at the 2025 NSW Government Women of the Year Awards. She also received the Ian Robinson Volunteer of the Year within the Penrith Junior Rugby League Association.

But Belinda's impact extends far beyond the Crusaders. While balancing her club

responsibilities, she has also played a crucial role in assisting other rugby league clubs with their financial governance. All of this has been accomplished while maintaining a professional career spanning 15 years as a data analyst.

Community volunteers like Belinda are the backbone of our local sporting clubs, schools, and charities. They work tirelessly behind the scenes, often with little recognition or reward, driven purely by their passion and commitment to making a difference. Their contributions shape not just teams and organisations but the broader community fabric.

Volunteering is one of the most selfless causes, there is no pay and often little recognition but the reward of making a tangible difference to the lives of people around us is incalculable. Rolling up your sleeves and making a positive contribution to our community through volunteer work is also a great way to meet new friends.

At the heart of any community lies our people, especially those who foster grass root connections, adding to the vibrancy of the places we call home. Why not give it a try?



ADVERTISEMENT



WARREN KIRBY MP
 STATE MEMBER FOR RIVERSTONE

**Riverstone's
 Woman of the Year 2025.**

Celebrating Belinda McKinlay

Authorised by Warren Kirby MP, Shop 20 Starhope Village, 2 Sentry Drive, Starhope Gardens NSW 2768. Funded using parliamentary entitlements.

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: MAYA
BREED: American
Staffordshire Terrier
SEX: Female
AGE: 2 Yrs, 7 Mos
and 3 Wks
PRICE: \$49



MEET OUR SWEET GIRL MAYA!

Maya has a passion for playtime, especially when it involves her beloved toys. She's an outdoor enthusiast who can't resist a lively game of fetch.

Staff at Hawkesbury Companion Animal shelter say Maya would thrive best in a home where she's the sole canine companion, allowing her to bask in the undivided attention and love from her new family. If you're looking for a dynamic friend who balances tranquillity and exuberance, Maya is the perfect match as she strikes a perfect balance between tranquillity and playfulness. Her unique personality promises a delightful companion filled with love and adventure.

Hawkesbury Council's Rehoming Organisation Number: R251000145

MEET ZANE: When Zane first arrived at the shelter, he was a timid and shy soul. However, with a little bit of patience and a lot of care, he's come out of his shell, revealing his true, joyous personality. Today, Zane is a delightful and happy boy that loves the attention of everyone he meets. According to staff at the Hawkesbury Companion Animal Shelter, Zane's loyalty is second to none, and he thrives in the company of people. He loves nothing more than being surrounded by humans. Zane's submissive and gentle nature makes him a wonderful companion for someone looking for a faithful friend to share their moments with.

In the right environment, Zane will continue to flourish, sharing his love and loyalty with a family that appreciates what a special soul he is. If you're seeking a devoted and loving pet to add warmth and happiness to your life, Zane is eagerly waiting to meet you.

Hawkesbury Council's Rehoming Organisation Number: R251000145

AT A GLANCE

NAME: ZANE
BREED: Bull Arab Cross
Mixed
SEX: Male
AGE: 2 Yrs, 1 Mo
and 1 Wk
PRICE: \$49



Sydney Animal Hospitals

Caring for all your family



Senior Pet Awareness

Expert Care For Every Age

- Discounted Senior Diagnostic Screening
- Discounted Hills Prescription Diets
- Discounted Arthritis Medication & Supplements
- Discounted Laser Therapy for Arthritis

Norwest

📍 Unit 8/1-3 Celebration Drive
Bella Vista NSW 2153
☎ (02) 8883 0411

Kellyville

📍 Unit 1/106 Windsor Rd,
Kellyville NSW 2155
☎ (02) 8883 0533

Baulkham Hills

📍 472 Windsor Rd,
Baulkham Hills, NSW 2153
☎ (02) 9157 5557

www.sydneyanimalhospitals.com.au

NOW SELLING

HOMES AVAILABLE NOW

LIVING CHOICE GALSTON

Display Homes

Now open by appointment,
Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.



Spencer Villa



Ashdale Villa



Visit the Sales and Information Centre.
328a Galston Road, Galston. Open 7 days.
Monday to Saturday 10am - 4pm.
Sunday 10am - 2pm.

1300 533 296 | sales@livingchoice.com.au

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

JOHN GRONO

SEALER AND SHIPBUILDER

By W. J. GOOLD

The name of Captain John Grono brings to mind many stirring tales of adventure among the sealers on the New Zealand coast in the early portion of the eighteenth century. Grono, who was born in 1763, came out to the Colony in 1799 as a seaman aboard His Majesty's ship, "Buffalo" (20 guns).

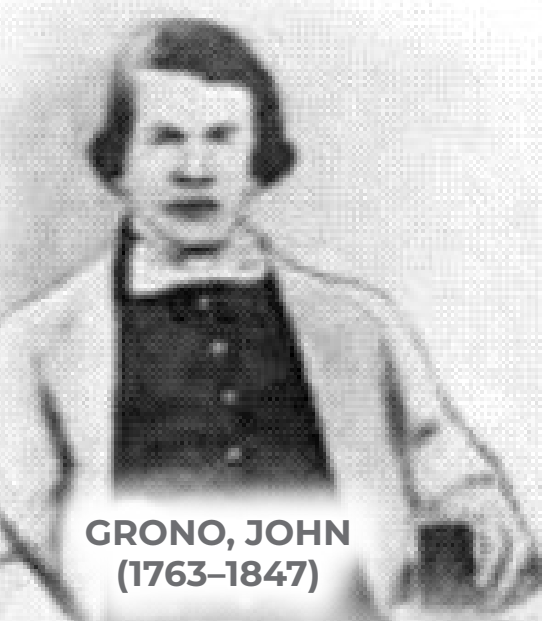
Through the influence of the Governor of the Colony (Captain John Hunter), Grono was enabled to secure his discharge from the Navy, and he settled in the new country. These were the days when whaling and sealing were the principal industries of the port of Sydney. Simeon Lord, Kable & Underwood, Andrew Thompson, the Campbells, and others, were busily engaged in building ships to scour the islands of the Bass Strait in search of seals.

For upwards of thirty years, sealing was carried on extensively in these waters – many large fortunes were made, and very many lives were lost. It was no life for a weakling—the sealers who sailed out of Port Jackson in their little vessels (some not exceeding 18 tons) to brave the treacherous seas of the Straits and along the coast of New Zealand, were hardy, fearless mariners of the old school. The present generation have little conception of the hardships and dangers endured by the sealers in the early days of the Colony. Their voyages

of anything from six to eighteen months were usually crowded with adventures, that even a present day fiction writer could not do.

Many a little vessel sailed out of Sydney and nothing was heard of her again—she was either sunk with all hands during a gale, or forced ashore on the coast of New Zealand, and her crew butchered by the natives. John Grono, whose early training in that hard school, the British Navy, had well fitted him for a life of daring and danger – was soon actively engaged in the sealing industry. We find him in 1804, owner and master of the 18 ton sloop, "Speedwell," combining trading from Sydney to the Hawkesbury and Newcastle, with a voyage to the sealing grounds. He does not seem to have done too well in this venture, for the following year the "Speedwell" was sold to Andrew Thompson, but Grono still remained in command.

On April 1st, 1807, Andrew Thompson launched from his stocks at the Hawkesbury River, a vessel which he named "The Governor Bligh." John Grono was placed in command and despatched upon a sealing expedition. It was the custom in those days for the master of a sealing ship, to place a gang of four or five men on the little rocky islands where the seals congregated. The men were supplied with



GRONO, JOHN
(1763–1847)

JOHN GRONO OF THE HAWKESBURY (Part 1)

In this issue of the Memories Column in the Hills to Hawkesbury Community News

I have decided to republish an article written by W.J. Goold that appeared in the March 10 1932 issue of "The Voice of the North" newspaper. Due to the length of the article I have decided to print over two issues, this is part one.

provisions, rum, and salt, and left there to kill and skin the seals, while the ship cruised further afield in search of new ground. Occasionally through unforeseen circumstances, they failed to return, and the men were left marooned upon a small rocky isle for months and sometimes years.

TO BE CONTINUED (Next Issue)

HIT MIX at **Alive**

BY LEONIE DIXON

Hit Mix is all about top hits and classic dance tracks from the 70's until today with a lot of remixed tracks by various artists combined with music and entertainment news happening around the globe, including interesting interviews.

Dominic Vozzo has been a radio presenter for over 35 years. During this time, he owned his own Disco business which was engaged by all the important hotels and clubs around Sydney and it allowed him to meet some of the best media people in the industry. He has been involved in both commercial and community radio including 2RDJ and 2SM when it was

Lite and Easy. Dom is really into his music and engaging with the public. Dom said, "He loves working at Alive 90.5 as it is such a progressive station with facilities as good as any commercial station." Never one to let the grass grow under his feet, Dom now has his own YouTube channel called Hit Mix Interviews and you can also interact with him on Facebook and Instagram. No wonder he's looking forward to the new Studio 4 being completed. You can tune into Hit Mix every Tuesday from 9-11am and if that's not enough of Dom you can also catch up with him on Tuesday Drive 4-6pm.



CUMBERLAND COMMUNITY RADIO INC.

Building 9/92 Seven Hills Road, Balcombe Heights
Estate, Baulkham Hills NSW 2153 Australia

info@alive905.com.au
 www.alive905.com.au



**YOUR SOUND
COMMUNITY**

CUMBERLAND COMMUNITY RADIO INC.

Streaming Worldwide on

tunein

Download on the
App Store

Like us on [facebook.com/Alivefm90.5](https://www.facebook.com/Alivefm90.5)

Alive
90.5
fm

AS WE WERE

PHOTOS FROM THE PAST

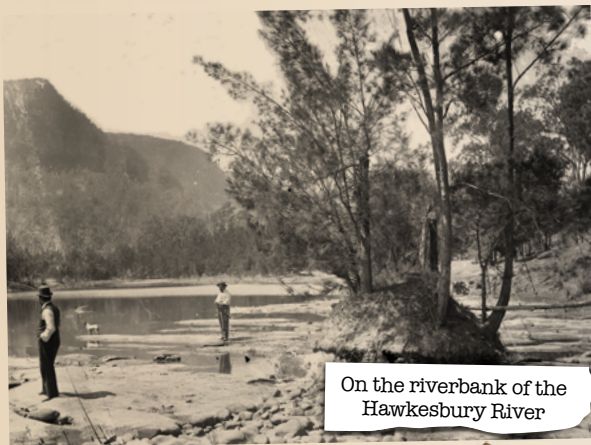
COLLECTION COMPILED BY
IVOR JONES SHOWING LIFE IN
THE HILLS AND HAWKESBURY
AREA DURING PAST DECADES.



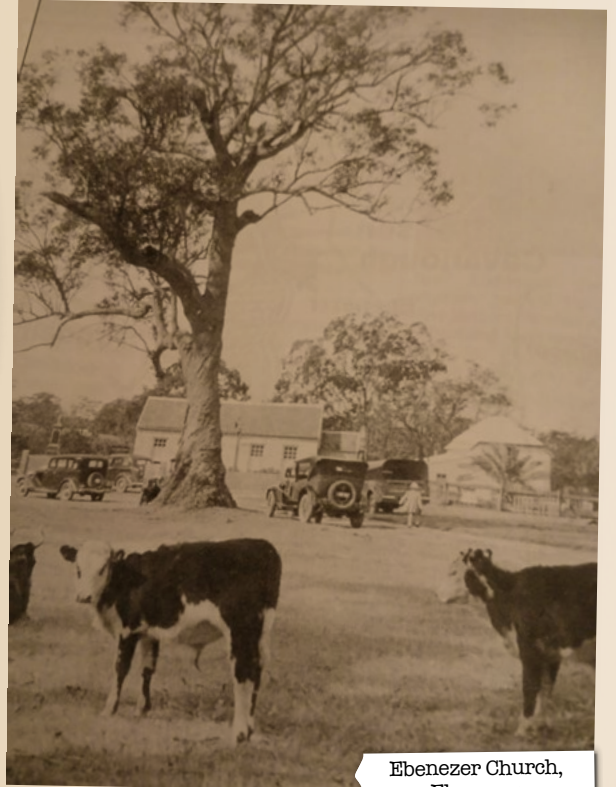
Freemans Reach



Another view of
Singleton's Mill



On the riverbank of the
Hawkesbury River



Ebenezer Church,
Ebenezer



Singleton's Mill at
Loughtondale



Est. 1987

Lic. 165090C

**ANDREW VANNY
PLUMBING**

The plumber the Hills District trusts

0485 869 876

info@andrewvannyplumbing.com.au



ATTENTION BUSINESS OWNERS!
Do you want to attract more customers?

**BUY QUALITY HOLIDAYS
FOR JUST \$32 EACH...**
then give these away to your customers!!

A great promotion to gain new business



Scan the QR Code to
find out more.

* No Timeshare - Quality holiday accommodation opportunities.



NEW-LOOK HILLS UNITED WOMEN TEAM ROAR

BY LAWRENCE MACHADO

A new-look Hills United team have started the 2025 League One Football Women's competition in a roaring style, scoring 13 goals in their opening three matches while topping both the league and club championship tables.

The Hills women are one of the strongest teams in the competition, and some of their new signings, Jess Wootton, Gemma Woolley, Elin Rosenberg Cemazar and goalkeeper Nicola Simmons, have already made their presence felt. Incidentally, Jess and Gemma helped Gladesville Ravens edge out Hills United 1-0 in the thrilling 2022 grand final.

The newcomers are backed by club stalwarts in providing the Hills with one of the most potent attacks and tight defences in the competition.

The Hills are perched on top of the ladder with nine points from three wins, with St George, Central Coast Mariners, and Marconi Stallions filling the next three slots with seven points each.

The Hills lead the Club Championship with 42 points from six matches, followed by Marconi Stallions, St George and Central Coast Mariners on 32 points apiece.

While these are early days, the scoring potential and strong defence – they have only conceded one goal – augurs well for the Hills this year.

The Hills side began their season with a 2-1 win over South Coast Flame, with Wootton scoring both goals. Next up, they thumped Inter Lions FC 6-0 where Rosenberg Cemazar scored their first season's hat-trick with strikes in the 13th, 45th and 61 minutes.

Wootton and regular scorer Bianca Galayini (two) netted the other goals for the runaway winners, who held a commanding 4-0 lead at the breather.

Wootton is likely to be a thorn in the side of defenders throughout the season, showing her skills in the 5-0 demolition of Blacktown City, with a hat-trick at home last weekend.

Wootton scored in the 45th, 82nd and 92nd minutes, starting with a penalty. Aisling Davidson (78th minute) and club regular Ellen

Barios (88th minute) scored the other goals for the Hills.

Blacktown City played the last part of the match with 10 players, following the red card shown to Rhea D'Mello.

The Hills United next face 11th-placed Camden Tigers on Sunday, March 23, at 5pm.

Grassroots Coaching Festival

The Grassroots Coaching Festival, organised by Hills Football, will be held on Saturday, March 22 at the Bella Vista Public School ground. It is a good opportunity for current or aspiring coaches to observe a variety of training sessions. Organisers said that the sessions will be conducted by qualified coaches from Hills Football, Hills United Football Club, Football NSW, and more.

Coaches in attendance will be able to pick and choose which sessions to observe so they're most appropriate to their interests. Time: 9.30-11am.



The Hills United Women's One football team. Picture Courtesy HU Facebook

Exciting opportunities for new rugby league referees in the Hills and Hawkesbury districts

BY LAWRENCE MACHADO

If you ever thought of blowing the whistle and officiating at junior or senior rugby league matches, now is the best time to put your hand up.

The Parramatta District Rugby League Referees Association is welcoming new referees, saying it's a wonderful opportunity for girls and boys to start a career in officiating and make some extra pocket money.

The PDRRLA provides trained, accredited referees for matches across the Parramatta Junior League, including the Hills District and The Hawkesbury.

According to the association's Director Of Officiating, Ethan Murray, anyone from 13 years upwards can join, with specialised training and world-class facilities backing them. He said the association offers some of the best match payments in the area, and that they are always working to improve them.

"We welcome everyone aged 13 and up – whether you're looking for extra income, fitness, social connections, or aiming to build a career and one day referee in the NRL," Murray told the Hills To Hawkesbury Community News. "Our referees range in age from 13 to 65 years, and

they all love what they do.

"With referee retention at its highest in years, we are investing heavily in the development and success of our team. As the Parramatta Junior League continues to grow, we are urgently seeking more referees to join us."

The new referees will train once a week and their progress will be monitored regularly to ensure they are ready for on-field officiating.

Murray said it is free to join, with the workshop fully covered and all required gear for training and officiating provided at no charge, thanks to the support of the Parramatta Junior League and Parramatta Leagues Club.

"We train at the NSWRL Centre of Excellence, a state-of-the-art venue that offers top-tier facilities for our referees," he said. "Our referees are supported by a team of experienced coaches, from grassroots mentors to current and former NRL referees who give back their time to help you succeed.



"We pride ourselves on fostering a welcoming and inclusive culture where referees thrive both on and off the field, and you won't be out there alone.

"We provide dedicated buddies or coaches to support you every step of the way – we treat our referees like family. We look forward to welcoming new referees into our team and supporting them on their journey."

To enrol or for more information, please email: admin@parramattarefs.com.au or visit <http://www.bearef.com.au>

Watson, Matta seal exciting opening Win for Hills Bulls

BY LAWRENCE MACHADO

The Hills Bulls overcame a 16-point half-time deficit to charge to an exciting 30-28 victory over Glebe Dirty Reds in the opening round of the Sydney Shield rugby league campaign last Sunday.

Man of the moment Edmond Matta converted all five tries for the Bulls, with the last kick in the 71st minute sealing the hard-fought win. Tom Watson planted the equalising try in the 70th minute, his second of the match, after the Bulls played catch up for all but the final 10 minutes.

The Dirty Reds raced to a 22-6 lead at the breather through tries from Vincent Valentinetti, Mavoni Tiufua, Druzel Taula, Carlos Henry, with Watson scoring the sole try for the Bulls in the 37th minute.

Two quick tries by Travis Milner (45th minute) and Kade Moujalli (53rd) ignited the Bulls with Matta adding the extra points to reduce the gap to 22-18. However, The Dirty Reds stretched the lead again when Valentinetti, touched down in the 59th minute, making it 28-18.

That was the last time the Bulls' defence was breached with a converted try by Benjamin Zahra in the 65th minute making it 28-24 and setting the stage for a terrific finish. The Hills Bulls broke through the Dirty Reds defence in

the 70th minute through Watson to make it 28-24 before the all-important conversion by Matta sealed a superb victory.

The Bulls face Manly Leagues in the second round on Saturday, March 22, at the Hills Grammar grounds, Kenthurst, at 3pm.

CLOSE DEFEAT

In the Ron Massey Cup, the Hills Bulls had a close defeat at the hands of Glebe Dirty Reds, who held on for a 38-32 win.

The Bulls led 20-18 at half-time thanks to tries by Dominic Reardon (2) and Damon Smith, with Oskar Warner and Christian Abal (2) firing over the conversions.

Second-half tries from Maila Aluni-Chanfoon and Tali Toetu'u were not enough to prevent the Dirty Reds from snatching victory with a 74th-minute converted try through Turoa Williams, his third for the match. The try broke the 32-all deadlock.

"It was a positive start to the season in very hot conditions," the Bulls coach Steve O'Dea said. However, we are looking to improve defensively."

This Sunday, March 23, the Bulls are away to Blacktown Workers Sea Eagles at the H.E. Laybutt Field. Kick off: 3pm.



Fabian Goodall of the Hills Bulls on the charge against the Glebe Dirty Reds. Picture: Paul Gleeson

DURAL BOWLING CLUB NEWS

The team of David Shrubbs, John Lennon and Michael Kennedy emerged victorious over the team of Ray Vindin, Terri Hezlett and Nick Sheerin in an enthralling Open Gender Drawn Triples final on Saturday, February 15.

Congratulations to the winners and commiserations to the losing team.

Pennants Trial

The regional Pennant competition that started on February 22 is progressing well with two good wins from three games.

Consistency Championship

Title holder Neil Mansfield is looking forward to defending his trophy in this event, which commences on Tuesday, April 8.

Anyone interested in playing bowls, please contact Robert on 0411375580.

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.

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

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
U	Q											
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
A												

SUDOKU

Rating: ★ ★ ★ ★ ☆

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

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

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

PUZZLE

FERGIES TREE WORKS



Please call Nathan & Lisa for all your autumn garden needs

No job is too BIG or too small!
Free Quotes • Free Advice
No Obligation • Fully Insured

0414 428 707

fergiestreeworks@gmail.com

GET MORE

CUSTOMERS

WITH GOOGLE ADS

Today a growing number of people search online for products and services.



**IS YOUR BUSINESS
TAKING ADVANTAGE OF
THESE SEARCHES?**

**IF NOT, GIVE US A CALL,
MESSAGE OR EMAIL US.**

**0408 011 193
0410 400 098**

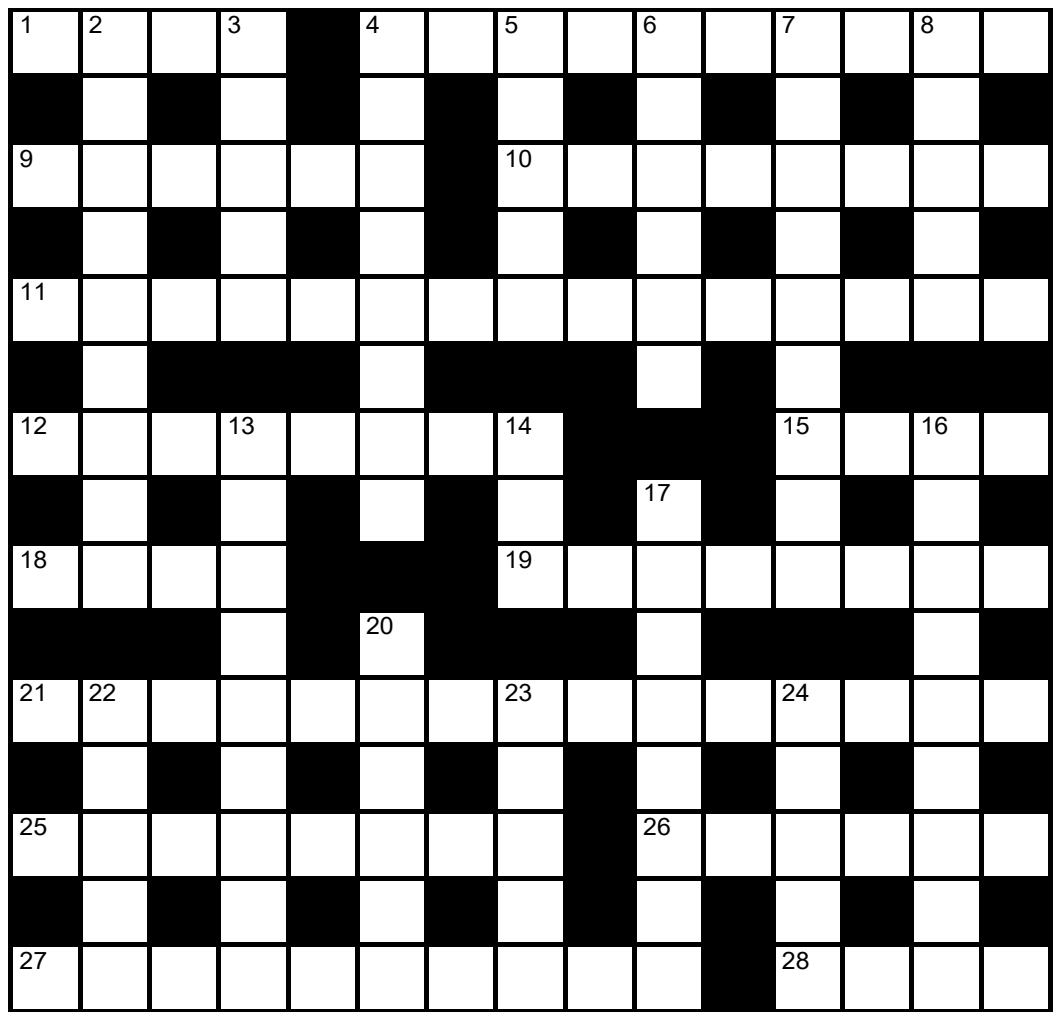
info@kintye.com.au



We can also run ad campaigns on Facebook, Bing, LinkedIn and other online platforms.



www.kintye.com.au



Across

1. Hire
4. Tourist spot south of Denmark
9. Establishes
10. Dinner site
11. Atherton Tableland pine
12. "Know thyself" philosopher
15. Profane expression
18. Spot
19. Lineage
21. Rat only found way up North
25. Desert runner --- Gash
26. Bread
27. Abandoned
28. Barbie staples

Down

2. They obey one's will
3. Preference
4. Pope is to upset another performer
5. Beyond what is usual
6. Unimportant person
7. They're uplifting
8. Church singers
13. Former Richmond centre half-forward
14. Vast amount
16. Rugby's "The Back-up man"
17. Yelled
20. Footwarmer
22. Up
23. Dull yellowish brown
24. Scent

Now located in Sydney Hills!

MOBIQUIP

KEEP MOVING

- Walkers & Mobility Equipment**
- Wheelchairs & Scooters**
- Recliner Lifts Chairs**
- Hospital Beds & Mattresses**
- Pressure Care**
- Toilet & Showering Aids**
- Ramps & Hand Rails**
- Daily Living Aids**
- Incontinence Products**

Phone 9042 2820

HOME HEALTHCARE & MOBILITY EQUIPMENT

SALES | SERVICE | HIRE | ADVICE | DVA | HOME CARE PACKAGES | LOCAL DELIVERY

NEW LOCATION

MOBIQUIP
319 Windsor Road, Baulkham Hills

SHOWROOM OPEN 6 DAYS

Plenty of level parking

ndis REGISTERED PROVIDER

319 Windsor Road BAULKHAM HILLS 2153

www.mobiquip.com.au

WORD SEARCH DANCES



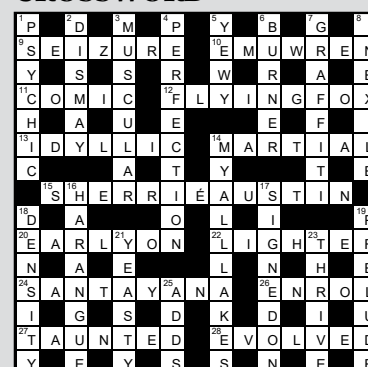
BALLET	CHA-CHA	JIVE	RUMBA
BARN DANCE	FANDANGO	LINDY HOP	SALSA
BEGUINE	FLAMENCO	MAMBO	SAMBA
BOLERO	FOXTROT	MERENGUE	TANGO
BREAKDANCE	JITTERBUG	QUICKSTEP	TWO-STEP

Answers from last issue

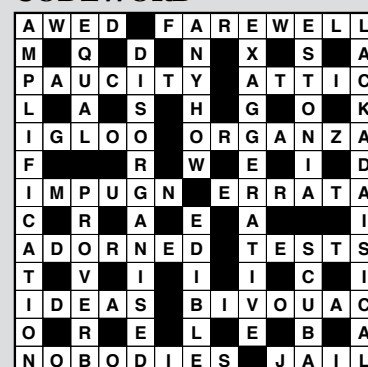
WORD SEARCH



CROSSWORD



CODEWORD



LOCAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY

CE CARR EXCAVATIONS

JOHN CARR
0418 250 828

**SPECIALISING IN
DIRT REMOVAL**

**CLEAN FILL
DELIVERED
FREE**

**24/7
EMERGENCY
PLUMBING**

**PURE PLUMBING
Professionals**

**CALL US
9056 8107**

**BLOCKED
DRAINS**

**HOT WATER
REPAIR**

**GAS
FITTING**

**LEAKING
TAPS**

IF WE CAN'T FIX IT YOU DON'T PAY*

Google ★★★★★ 4.9
LICENCE #233302C

PUREPLUMBINGPROS.COM.AU | LIFETIME WARRANTY

\$ SCRAP METAL RECYCLING

FREE Pick-Up Service Available
*Cond Apply

1800 25 25 21

JUST SCRAP METAL

Unit 3, 81 Railway Rd Nth MULGRAVE | 4577 3677
Unit 32, 2 Hoyle Avenue CASTLE HILL | 9680 9900

ROSS GRAHAM

**Chimneys Sweep, Flues,
Chimney Cooking Stove,
Pizza Ovens, etc.**

OVER 30 YEARS EXPERIENCE | OPEN 7 DAYS

CALL ROSS 4578 3259 / 0421 196 041 | rossg2021@icloud.com

**\$180
SINGLE STOREY**

**\$200
DOUBLE STOREY**

INSURED

LOCAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Est. 1987 Lic. 165090C



ANDREW VANNY PLUMBING

The plumber the Hills District trusts

0485 869 876
info@andrewvannypumbing.com.au



YOUR ARBORIST SYDNEY-WIDE

Tree removal • Land clearing
Free quotes and advice • Fully insured

1800 445 600
www.arborist-sydney.com.au
info@arborist-sydney.com.au




Arborist Sydney
TREE SERVICE

GVT HOME APPLIANCE REPAIRS & ELECTRICAL SERVICES

All Repairs Stoves, Ovens, Cooktops, Ranges, Dishwashers, Fridges, Freezers, Washers, Dryers, and more
All Service Guaranteed, All Brands All Models,
All Suburbs 24/7 Service, 25 Yrs Experience

PH: 9629 6750 MOB: 0408 253 646



J & C RANDO P/L 

PROFESSIONAL PLASTERER

SERVICES

- Gyprock plastering, Repairs, Cornices, Roses
- Ornamental Ceiling Panels, Suspended Ceilings
- Partition Walls

All types of repairs, small or large.
Home, Office, Shop, Extensions, Granny flats

JOE RANDO
MOB: 0412 238 668

A.B.N. 20.003.189624 License No. R72770- (License: Joe Rando)

QUALIFIED CARPENTER
WITH OVER 30 YEARS EXPERIENCE
Specialising in home maintenance work

Call Brendan on
0408 126 106




Grand **PAINTING & BUILDING MAINTENANCE PTY LTD**

Master Painters Association member
Dulux Accredited | Fully Insured

Specialist in repairing all damages, cracks, peeled paints and paint defects. All jobs guaranteed.

25 years experience.
FREE QUOTES & colour advice.
Lic 98578C

0419 449 034 • 1300 272 468
www.grandpainting.com.au

ROSS GRAHAM
HIGH PRESSURE WATER CLEANING

Driveways • Roofs • Houses • Gutters
Tennis Courts • Solar cells etc.

CALL ROSS 4578 3259 / 0421 196 041
rossg2021@icloud.com

OPEN 7 DAYS

 **INSURED**

SAUNDERS
ELECTRICAL GROUP

1300 993 560
info@saunderselectricalgroup.com.au

Clean & Professional Electricians providing a Lifetime Workmanship Warranty for your peace of mind.
Receive 20% off RRP on Beacon Lighting products.



HILLS DISTRICT PLUMBER

- ▶ Google 4.9 Star Rating
- ▶ Guaranteed 24/7 Fast Response
- ▶ Lifetime Labour Warranty
- ▶ 15% Seniors Discount
- ▶ On Time, No Mess or you Pay \$100 Less

Leaking Taps • Blocked Drains
Leaking Toilets • Burst Pipes • CCTV Inspection
Hot Water Systems • Pipe Relining

REACTIVE PLUMBING

02 9199 2612
www.reactiveplumbing.com.au

Lic 257268C



ABC SEAMLESS GUTTERING

- GUTTER GUARD
- METAL ROOFING
- WATER TANKS
- ROOF RESTORATION
- ALL TYPES OF GUTTERING INSTALLED

20% OFF*
*CONDITIONS APPLY

9748 3022 www.abcseamless.com.au

A B C SEAMLESS
EST. 40 YEARS

LOCAL HILLS TO HAWKESBURY ELECTRICIAN

All Electrical Work
Best Prices & All Work Guaranteed
Seniors/Pensioners Discount
Level 2 ASP Electrician
Switch Board Repairs

Mention this ad and get \$50 off

24/7 EMERGENCY SERVICE

PH: 4505 4588

LIC273594C




REFRESH PAINTING & CO

Your Local Painter

All Internal and external Commercial and residential
Free Quote

0411 737 605 | SEAN.REFRESH@GMAIL.COM





HILLSIDE
PAINTING

Justin Kim
0433 233 203
www.hillsidepainting.com.au

- ✓ Interior / Exterior
- ✓ Residential / Commercial
- ✓ Water Pressure Washing
- ✓ Texture
- ✓ Water Damage Repair
- ✓ Plaster Repair

CALL NOW FOR THE BEST PRICE



ORGANISED
Cleaning

FULLY ORGANISED TO
ACCOMPLISH YOUR CLEANING

Professional cleaning services

- ✓ Regular or one-off Cleaning
- ✓ Spring Cleaning
- ✓ Move in / Move out Cleans

Call **Organised Cleaning** to do your domestic or commercial cleaning

OrganisedCleaning.com.au **0404 554 247**



Scott & Sons
Plumbers

DOMESTIC - COMMERCIAL - INDUSTRIAL

FAMILY BUSINESS
FOR OVER 40 YEARS

- ▶ Plumbing, Drainage & Gasfitting
- ▶ Blocked Drains
- ▶ Hot Water Heaters
- ▶ CCTV - Water Jetter
- ▶ Gutters and Downpipes

24/7 Fast Emergency Service

Call **02 9482 9199** **scottandsons.com.au** Lic. No: 141840c

Access Pest Control

Pest Control Specialists

Ants • Bees • Birds • Carpet Beetles • Cockroaches
Mice • Silverfish • Spiders • Termites • Wasps

Sydney Wide • All Areas • Free Quotes • 7 Days a Week

Mark Owen 0423 017 515
info@accesspestcontrol.com.au www.accesspestcontrol.com.au



cemtech
concreting solutions

Our Services

- ▶ Driveways
- ▶ Slabs
- ▶ Patios
- ▶ Stencil Concrete
- ▶ Coloured Concrete
- ▶ Industrial Concrete
- ▶ Steel Fixing
- ▶ Tilt Panels

Residential • Commercial
Over 20 years experience

Ph: 0410 337 092
www.cemtech.com.au

SAME DAY LOCAL PLUMBER

PHONE JERRAM 0488 801 044

10% SENIORS DISCOUNT

BLOCKED DRAIN?

BURST PIPES?

LEAKING TOILET?

NO HOT WATER?

NO CALLOUT FEE

24/7 EMERGENCY

LIFETIME WARRANTY

ON TIME & RELIABLE

NO FIX NO FEE



LOCAL HILLS TO HAWKESBURY PLUMBER

All Plumbing Work

Best Prices & All Work Guaranteed

Seniors/Pensioners Discount


Blocked Drains and Pipes

Hot Water Repairs

Mention this ad and get \$50 off

24/7 EMERGENCY SERVICE

PH: 4505 4589



m.adams
building services

All types of renovations, carpentry, gyprock, bathrooms and wall removal

Mark 0408 164 780



MATT'S SKIP BINS
02 4708 2927

MATT'S SKIP BINS

www.mattsskipbins.com.au



SYDNEY GUITAR REPAIRS

WE PROVIDE SETUPS, REPAIRS, RESTORATIONS AND REFINISHING OF ALL TYPES OF GUITARS AND OTHER STRINGED INSTRUMENTS.

CALL DAVID ON 0414 524 041

Unit 7B, 256F New Line Rd, Dural
sydneyguitarrepairs.com.au



RIGHTLINE FENCING AND GATES

Call Carl
0447 315 154



PAT FEDELE

Professional Painter

Local Licensed Painter in the Hills Shire for over 30 years - Fully Insured

0407 232 869 Free Quotes

Sell your home

with the brand you know and trust:

Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate Luxury Living



**Better
Homes** and Gardens®
REAL ESTATE
LUXURY LIVING

luxuryliving@bhgre.com.au

9686 7999