

Hills to Hawkesbury

Community News | 02nd – 16th May 2025 | Volume 42 – Issue 09
Local Stories, Local Events, Local People and Local Businesses

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FULL DETAILS ON PAGE 7

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Waste Breakthrough

BY BEV JORDAN

Preliminary work has started on Australia's first commercial waste-to-resource plant being built at the Hawkesbury City Waste Management Facility at South Windsor.

ARC Ento Tech is building the state-of-the-art plant which aims to convert 85 percent of the waste within the facility into valuable resources.

Hawkesbury City Council is currently working with NSW EPA to attain the required regulatory approvals after the Hawkesbury Planning Panel gave the green light for the installation of the temporary shelters associated with the trial.

The one-year trial will initially process and divert 20 tonnes of putrescible waste per day converting it into fertiliser, biofuel and livestock feed instead of burying it in landfill. It will help extend the life of the waste management facility and reduce methane emissions from food and other organic matter decomposing in the landfill.

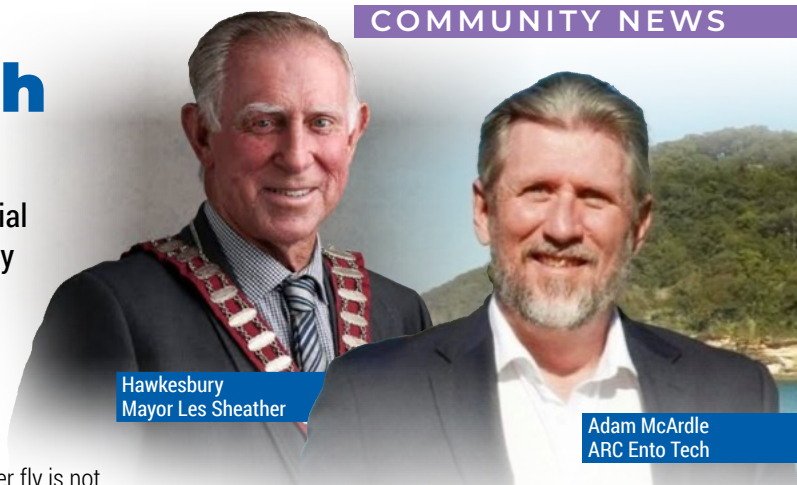
The ARC Process™ developed in Australia uses the black soldier fly larvae to feed on the putrescible waste from the weekly red bin collections and excrete a by-product that can be collected and potentially used or on-sold as a valuable fertiliser. The larvae themselves have the potential to be on-sold as livestock feed at the end of their lifecycle. Residual organic and

inorganic by-products are also captured for processing and repurposing as a biofuel. The black soldier fly is not attracted to homes or humans.

Hawkesbury City Mayor Les Sheather said the trial was an innovative addition to council's efforts to reduce waste, to the benefit of all residents. "All current predictions show Greater Sydney's existing landfill capacity will run out by 2030, including the Hawkesbury facility. This is a huge problem for all Sydney councils, not just the Hawkesbury.

"This trial has the potential to extend the life of our landfill, giving our residents greater certainty around the ongoing provision of an affordable and sustainable waste service, but more than that, it has the potential to revolutionise how we manage waste across the country and I'm very proud that Council and our staff are leading the way.

"I look forward to the results of this trial and a positive path forward for our city's waste management," he said.



Hawkesbury
Mayor Les Sheather

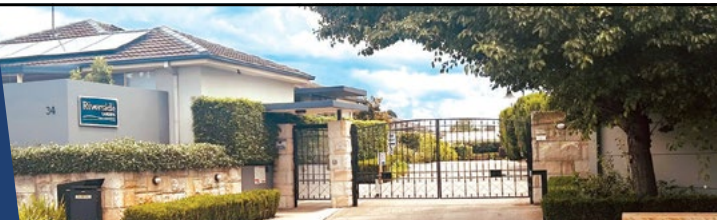
Adam McArdle
ARC Ento Tech

Adam McArdle, CEO of ARC Ento Tech, said: "Our partnership with Hawkesbury City Council is a crucial step in demonstrating that the waste ending up in landfills holds significant commercial value. With our ARC Process™ technology, we are not only reducing landfill dependency but also unlocking the potential of waste as a valuable resource. This project provides solid proof that sustainable waste management is achievable and offers a scalable model that can be adapted by private and government stakeholders worldwide."

He said other councils were looking at the ARC Process™ technology.

ARC Ento Tech is an Australian biotechnology company determined to solve one of the biggest environmental problems plaguing the world today - Mixed Solid Waste. Its slogan is: From Wasteful to Resourceful www.arcentotechltd.com.au.

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IN DISTRESS

A father and son have been praised by the police for raising the alarm to a man found injured in bushland off Annette Place near Eric Mobbs Reserve at Baulkham Hills.

At 10pm on Tuesday April 22nd the two called for emergency help after hearing cries of distress in the bush. They led Hills police through the bush to locate the person in distress.

A 40-year-old man was found half-submerged in a creek, the police were unable to move him without assistance. The father and son who raised the alarm stayed at the scene and police say gave "crucial support" to the emergency responders.

Police called for Fire and Rescue as well as an ambulance. Shortly after, Fire and Rescue teams arrived, followed by paramedics.

With the continued assistance of the two men, the individual was safely transported to the ambulance. Paramedics assessed the individual and transported him home after a full check-up.

Police said: "Thanks to the quick thinking and collaborative efforts of the two men, the police, Fire and Rescue, and paramedics, the individual sustained no injuries and was safely reunited with his family."

"The Hills Police Area Command commends the two men for their invaluable assistance and dedication to helping a fellow community member in need. Their actions exemplify the spirit of community and the difference we can make when we come together."

"This story serves as a reminder of the strength and compassion within our community, and the vital role each of us can play in ensuring the safety and well-being of our neighbours".

HIGH ON SPEED

A P-Plater will face a hefty fine and disqualification after a police Highway Patrol car clocked him driving at more than double the legal speed limit (107kph in a 50kph zone) just after 1pm on Thursday 17th April. The driver was drug tested and allegedly returned a positive result for cannabis.

STABBING

An 18-year-old has been arrested and charged by Hills detectives for aggravated robbery with wounding and robbery following two knife incidents.

On 10th April at 6.45 pm a 16-year-old male was stabbed twice during an altercation and robbery on Softwood Avenue, Kellyville. The victim fled and sought help from a nearby residence, and emergency services were contacted. The victim was treated at Westmead Hospital.

On the evening of April 15th at approximately 8:15pm police say another robbery occurred at Main Street, Rouse Hill Town Centre. The same male suspect is alleged to have approached a 17-year-old male victim and demanded their belongings. The victim was assaulted and had their shoes and backpack taken.

Following a thorough investigation, Hills Detectives identified and arrested the alleged 18-year-old male suspect on April 16th.

HEAD-ON COLLISION

A two-car head-on collision occurred on Glenhaven Rd Near Bannerman Rd around 8.30 pm, Monday, 28th April. Both drivers were taken to hospital with minor injuries and precautionary scans. Emergency crews attended the scene and cleared the roadway.

On the same day a car crashed on Samantha Riley Drive at Beaumont Hills.

There were a number of crashes locally.

It was lucky there were no serious injuries following a multi vehicle crash (pictured below) at the intersection of Old Northern Rd and Hastings Rd, Castle Hill on Thursday 24th April. Emergency crews responded on-site to clear the area. Police say the persons involved only had minor injuries.

On Tuesday 22nd April, a man driving a vintage yellow Volkswagen Beetle luckily escaped serious injury following a rollover crash in the wet on Wisemans Ferry Road, Cattai, at the cross of Post Office Road at around 1pm. The driver was taken to the hospital for observations.

Police urge drivers to be extra cautious when driving in rainy conditions as wet roads can be slippery due to oil and other substances.

- Check your tyres. Ensure they have good tread and are properly inflated.
- Slow down. Reduce your speed to maintain better control.
- Increase following distance. Give yourself more time to react.
- Slow down, stay alert, and drive safe.



ROAD RAGE ARREST

A man has been arrested and charged with assault and theft following a road rage incident on County Drive at Cherrybrook at around 8.20am on Wednesday, 30th April 2025.

The incident involved a grey BMW X5 and a white Volkswagen Golf which were both traveling south on County Drive, approaching the right turn lane onto Woodgrove Avenue.

The female driver alleges that the 42 year-old male driver began yelling and showing signs of road rage. She started recording the male driver, who then exited his vehicle.

She told police that as she began to drive away, the male driver followed on foot, leaned into her vehicle through the front passenger window, and demanded her phone. It will be alleged he then took her car keys.

The male driver returned to his car with the keys, and the female driver attempted to retrieve them, leading to a physical altercation. A witness arrived, recorded the interaction, and contacted emergency services.

The male driver drove to Castle Hill Police Station, where he handed over the car keys, and was subsequently arrested and charged with assault and stealing.

The matter is now before Parramatta Local Court on the 18th June.

Police are appealing to anyone with information about the incident or dash cam footage to contact Crime Stoppers NSW on 1800 333 000. All information is treated with the utmost confidentiality.

DRINK DRIVING

At approximately 1:10am on Friday, 18th April, police were patrolling south on Windsor Road, Kellyville. During this time, a 28-year-old male was initially observed committing a traffic

Offence. Police stopped the vehicle and a roadside breath test was conducted, which returned a positive reading. The driver was subsequently arrested and taken to Castle Hill Police Station for a breath analysis, which returned a reading of 0.115 grams of alcohol in 210 litres of breath. He was charged with mid-range drink driving and his licence was suspended.

SWITCHEROO

On 17 April, a vehicle pulled up short of an RBT site on Schofields Rd, Schofields, Police say they observed the driver and passenger swap seats before proceeding to the site.

The 24-year-old male seated in the passenger seat made full admissions to driving the vehicle and swapping seats with his female passenger. The male was found to be disqualified from driving until 2039 and was subsequently charged.

JOHN EBBOTT OAM

BY BEV JORDAN

The Hills is mourning the death of community stalwart John Ebbott OAM with tributes pouring in from the many organisations he served during 40 years and more of volunteering.

A guard of honour from the Rural Fire Service and Lions Clubs will be at his funeral on Monday, 5th May at Castlebrook Memorial Park, Rouse Hill. The service will start at 11am.

John, 74, spent 25 years co-ordinating the running of the Crestwood Community Fair at Baulkham Hills, part of the annual Orange Blossom Festival, and was also on the Hills Council Australia Day Committee for many years.

He was a Rural Fire Service volunteer for decades and spent 12 years as community liaison with the CareFlight rescue organisation and 30 years volunteering with Crestwood Lions which he helped establish. He also co-founded the Crestwood Leos club and was a Life member of APEX.

He was a scout leader and the voice of Crestwood Fair as its MC.

Social media was flooded with tributes to John following his death on April 22 and with condolences to his wife Kathy and sons Phil and Neil.

Hills Shire Mayor Michelle Byrne dedicated a Mayoral Minute at Tuesday's meeting to John's extensive community involvement. "In 2024, John received the Medal of the Order of Australia. While he may not have sought recognition for his many achievements, those of

us who knew him always understood the depth of his impact on our community. John's legacy is one of tireless service, community spirit."

John was part of the RFS The Hills Communications and Schofields Brigade and just a few weeks ago, while in hospital he was given another RFS honour, Life Member of Hills Communication Brigade. It was the last of many honours John received.

The Brigade said John's community service left "a significant mark" on numerous organisations and individuals.

"He was a highly active volunteer firefighter for many years, serving with dedication in several brigades including Kenthurst (2006-2013), North Rocks (2013-2023), and Schofields (2017-2025). One of John's proudest contributions to the RFS was his role with The Hills Communications (2004 to 2025). He was Brigade President (2005-2014) Deputy Captain (2007-2025) and Brigade Training Officer (2013-2024).

"His commitment to protecting the community through the NSW Rural Fire Service, particularly during the challenging 2019-2020 bushfire season, earned him numerous accolades, including the National Emergency Medal, NSW Premier's Bushfire Emergency Citation, the RFS Long Service Medal and the National

Medal. John's expertise, especially in training Communications volunteers, was invaluable and will be deeply missed within the RFS.

"John was more than just a respected colleague in service; he was a great friend, a devoted and pragmatic community leader, and his guidance, humour, and presence will be profoundly missed. He was a rare individual whom we feel deeply privileged to have known and served alongside."

John was an incredibly humble man who didn't seek awards. On the day his OAM was made public last year he was cooking a Lions sausage sizzle for Australia Day at Bella Vista Farm with his wife Kathy by his side and grandchildren Jemima and Henry.

John's funeral service will be held at Castlebrook Memorial Park Rouse Hill at 11am on the 5th May. The family have asked for no flowers but donations to CareFlight.



Artist's Impression

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TO AFRICA WITH LOVE BY BEV JORDAN

Ruth Pasi from Box Hill, has dedicated her life to caring for children in need. With six children of her own, Ruth has also fostered two additional children and, eleven years ago, started a special program for troubled youth.

Through her African Theatres organisation, Ruth has taken a total of 46 teenagers to Zimbabwe for three weeks to show them how children on the other side of the world live.

Ruth fundraises tirelessly all year and uses money she earns as an Uber driver to add to the necessary funds. She is now planning her sixth trip in November this year 2025, with the hope of taking up to 15 teenagers, depending on how much she can raise.

"We stay on a farm about 60kms from Harare," Ruth says.

During their stay, the teenagers help on the farm and visit a local orphanage, spending time with the children.

Ruth believes this trip breaks barriers and changes lives. "It's a journey," she says. "Some children we take to Africa don't have a lot of hope. This trip is therapy and healing. I take a child to Africa, and it changes them."

Ruth has witnessed the profound transformation in kids who are at a very low point in their lives, skipping school, suffering from eating disorders, feeling depressed and even suicidal.

"When they interact with the children they meet every day in Africa, they change. The smiles, the laughter, and the bonds formed create a ripple effect of hope and healing," she says.

Josh aged 17 says: "This trip to Africa was life-changing. I was feeling lost and hopeless, but meeting the children there and seeing their

resilience gave me a new perspective on life. I came back with a renewed sense of purpose."

Amber, 18: "Helping on the farm and spending time with the kids at the orphanage made me realise how fortunate I am. It was a humbling experience that taught me the value of gratitude and compassion."

Kelly, 15, "I was struggling with depression and skipping school before the trip. But interacting with the children in Africa and seeing their joy despite their circumstances inspired me to make positive changes in my own life."

Chanel, 21: "This trip truly healed me in ways I never imagined."

One of the most inspiring success stories from Ruth's past trips is that of Corey, a teenager who was feeling lost and hopeless before the journey. Corey had been struggling with depression and skipping school, but the trip to Africa changed everything. Corey returned home with a renewed sense of purpose and hope.

The fundraising is all year round to enable more children to attend. Ruth says: "Every contribution, big or small, makes a significant impact and brings hope and healing to these young lives."

To find out more and how to get involved, visit africantheatres.com.



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HILLS RELAY 2025

BY BEV JORDAN

It's a major community event with everything you want at a fair plus a huge message of Hope and despite its name, Relay for Life is about walking and talking rather than running.

Thousands of people will be walking the track at Castle Hill Showground on Saturday May 17th, united in their determination to raise funds for cancer research and support programs.

There will be all day entertainment on stage plus trackside activities including a huge inflatable dartboard and basketball hoop plus activations by Alive 90.5, tug of war, box car rally and decorated hat parade.

There are more than 70 teams registered to take part in the 24-hour event which starts at 9.30am on Saturday with the final lap at 9.30am

on Sunday. Participants can walk as many laps as they want and stay for as long as they want.

There are trackside stalls, plus coffee vans and food stalls, cakes stalls, a plant stall, facepainting, hairbraiding and temporary tattoos plus a scavenger hunt and more on Saturday and silent disco from 10pm.

Dog morning is back on Sunday with participants invited to bring along their four-legged companion to walk with them. Sydney Animal Hospitals has sponsored the event and there will be fun competitions (from 8am) for the dogs to take part in such as best dressed and most like owner. There will also be free dental checks for dogs and an awesome display by RoughTrack dogs who work with young people at risk. The Relay ends at 10am.

Hills police, SES and RFS have teams this year as do 8 local schools, service clubs, churches, RSL sub-branch veterans, businesses, BNI, Hills Private Hospital and groups of family and friends.

Chair of the community organising committee Lisa Carruthers said the most important

first lap of the day was for cancer survivors and carers who are then invited to a special morning tea.

Lisa said: "I love seeing our fantastic Hills community come together at this event, we are looking forward to reconnecting with some familiar faces and some new faces. We have some fantastic entertainment this year and the candlelight ceremony of Hope is always a highlight as we remember loved ones lost and those undergoing their cancer journey.

"We are incredibly grateful to our sponsors who make this possible, especially our Purple sponsor, Castle Towers, CHRG (Castle Hill RSL Group) Castle Hill Fitness and Aquatic Centre and Event Cinemas who have supported us for many years."

The annual event is run by a Hills community committee in conjunction with the Cancer Council and over the years has raised nearly \$6million. This year's target is \$300,000.

To find out more or to register a team visit <https://www.relayforlife.org.au/event/hills-2025/> home or call Yvette (02) 9354 2007.



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MOTHER'S DAY

Breakfast

11 May 2025, 7:30 AM – 10:00 AM

Start Mother's Day with an indulgent buffet breakfast set in the beautiful Elena's Restaurant. Guests will enjoy a relaxed morning with delicious food, ambient background music, and a warm family-friendly environment.

\$39 per person



MOTHER'S DAY

Luncheon

11 May 2025, 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM

Celebrate Mother's Day with an elevated lunch featuring a three-course menu by Visy Dior chef, curated wines, and light entertainment - creating a refined yet warm and welcoming dining experience.

\$79 per person



MOTHER'S DAY

High Tea

11 May 2025, 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

An elegant high tea set in the grandeur of Visy Dior's ballroom. Guests will be immersed in a floral-inspired experience with premium teas, petite delicacies, and entertainment perfect for a Sunday celebration.

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A MOTHER'S DAY TO REMEMBER

at Visy Dior Hotel International

This Mother's Day, Visy Dior Hotel International invites you to experience something more than a celebration—it offers a poetic tribute to the women who anchor our lives with grace, strength, and unconditional love. Nestled in the heart of Norwest, Visy Dior is reimagining the art of hospitality with three distinct experiences crafted to honour every mother in a setting of elegance and heartfelt indulgence.

From sunrise to afternoon's close, the Hotel becomes a canvas of celebration, drawing families together to express the love that often goes unspoken in the busyness of everyday life.

A Morning of Warmth and Wonder

The day begins gently at Elena's Restaurant, where a curated breakfast buffet awaits from 7:30 AM to 10:00 AM. Priced at \$39 per guest, it's not just a meal—it's a chance to pause, reconnect, and start the day in gratitude. The serene setting, paired with soft music and generous hospitality, sets the tone for what promises to be a memorable Sunday.

An Afternoon of Culinary Elegance

At midday, the energy rises. The Mother's Day Luncheon, served between 11:30 AM and 2:30 PM, is a statement of culinary

sophistication. At \$79 per person, guests are treated to a multi-course menu designed by Visy Dior's esteemed chefs—each dish plated to reflect the refinement and warmth of a mother's touch. Paired with curated wines and ambient entertainment, the luncheon is an invitation to slow down and savour each moment together.

The Grand Finale: High Tea in Bloom

And finally, the day culminates in a scene of splendour in the hotel's Grand Ballroom. From 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM, guests are invited to a floral-inspired High Tea, priced at \$79 per guest. With delicate pastries, artisan teas, and the ambience of a European salon, this closing experience is a sensory delight—a refined way to say, "Thank you, Mum."

An Invitation to Celebrate with Intent

At a time when we seek deeper connection and meaning, Visy Dior Hotel International provides more than a setting—it delivers an experience imbued with sincerity and beauty. Each detail, from tableware to timing, has been curated to honour the quiet heroism of motherhood.

Bookings are essential, and the response has already been strong. As we all search for ways to express appreciation in ways that truly resonate, Visy Dior stands as a gracious host, ready to help you create a moment that will live long in memory.

To learn more or to reserve your place, visit: www.visydior.com/mothers-day.

COMMUNITY groups (update)

To include your group on this page please email: contribute@hillstohawkesbury.com.au

CWA of NSW - Toongabbie Branch.

i Mthly meetings 1st Tues/mth. Toongabbie Scout Hall, 99 Bungaree Road, Toongabbie. 10am. Craft mornings for members 1st and 3rd Tues of mth from 10-12.

✉ secretary.toongabbie.cwa@gmail.com

Pennant Hills VIEW Club

i Pennant Hills View Club meets 2nd Tuesday of each month 11am: Baulkham Hills Sports Club. An interesting guest speaker is featured each month. On 4th Tuesday of the month a social outing is organised.

👤 Margaret on 9873 2402

Richmond/Windsor View Club

i Meets every second Wednesday of the month at The Richmond Club. VIEW (Voice, Interest and Education of Woman) supports the Smith Family and Learning for Life.

👤 Christine Walshaw on 0416 073 483

The Hills Trefoil Guild

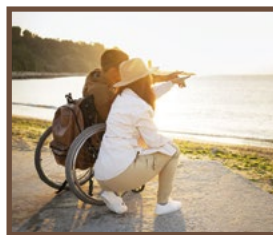
i The Hills Trefoil Guild is a group of friendly former Girl Guide members who meet on 3rd Friday each Month at 10am in Castle Hill. Our AIM is to support Guiding and the Community.

👤 Evelyn on 0400 345 558.

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Mackillop Family Services

Foster care agency **Mackillop Family Services** is calling for foster carers in the Hawkesbury, to provide stable and secure care for children and young people unable to live safely in their own homes.



Christina D'Acunto, MacKillop's Carer Recruitment & Development Coordinator, says many people in the community are surprised to learn there is a critical shortage of foster carers within their own community. "Across the Hawkesbury and its surrounds there are kids who need safe homes where they are nurtured and secure," says Christina. "Stability is key to a young person's wellbeing as is keeping them within their local community where they can maintain connections and thrive in a familiar environment."

Mackillop Family Services will be at the Hawkesbury Show this 9-11 May.

They invite you to visit their stall and ask all the questions you have about making a difference to a child. Alternatively, you can visit www.mackillop.org.au or call **1300 791677**.

The Bromeliad Society of Australia Inc

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

Guest speaker will be Robyn Bible, from the Australian Geranium Society and she will speak about the different varieties of geraniums and pelargoniums, she will also bring along a large selection of examples.

Robyn will explain about their growing conditions, where best to use the various types including a demonstration on how to prune and propagate. Robyn will also have several plants available for purchase.

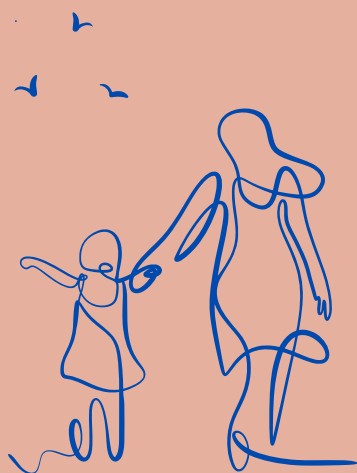
She has specialised in the growing of geraniums and pelargoniums for more than 50 years and will happily share her immense knowledge with the BSA members and guests.

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

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



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MOTHERS' DAY

AT ST ALBANS VILLAGE MARKET AND EVENTS



Give Mum a special treat with a country drive to a true farmers market, great coffee, an awesome kids park, and our two nearby fully licensed local institutions – the iconic Convict built Settlers Arms Inn and the Pickled Wombat Café.

It's a great friends and family daytrip to historic St Albans – just 90 mins from Sydney, the Central Coast, & the Blue Mountains, and a step back in time to a quieter, more gentle era.

If you are coming from Sydney, after breath-taking, magnificent views of the valley, you descend into Wisemans Ferry, turn LEFT past the Police Station for 200m and alight the WEBBS CREEK FERRY. It's 24/7 and it's free.

To get there firstly **set your GPS to include Ferries** - then once across the river, take a meandering drive beside the Macdonald River to the village of St Albans.

On your 21km drive to St Albans, you are surrounded by both farms and wilderness and it certainly gives you the feeling that nothing much has changed over the years; the sense of history and the natural beauty of the region makes St Albans an idyllic destination. **10am - 2pm**

DURAL SCOUT PRESTIGE AWARDS



Dural Scout Group recently held their Awards and Report Presentations, celebrating another fabulous year of Scouting. They welcomed the Mayor, Hon. Warren Waddell, who presented Kristina Taylor with her King's Scout Plaque. The King's Scout replaces the Queen's Scout and was renamed after His Majesty King Charles III confirmed his patronage of the Scout Association of Australia.

It is the highest award a Venturer Scout can achieve. Venturers must demonstrate a capability across core outdoor skills and progression across additional outdoor adventure skills such as paddling, cycling, aquatics, rock climbing etc. They must also demonstrate leadership and achieve personal challenges across six identified special interest areas. Kristina challenged herself across a wide range of interests from developing barista skills, learning a new sport, and demonstrating her commitment to community service through volunteering with the Galston Rural Fire Brigade.

The King's Scout Award, and Scouting more broadly, develops resilience and confidence in our youth members. These awards encourage them to build essential skills preparing them for leadership roles within the community.

Scout, Jack McDonough, was recognised with 'The Bear Award'. This is an award presented to a single outstanding and valued member of the Group who represents the spirit of Scouting in their actions, but who may not necessarily excel in scout award system achievements. Jack has shown outstanding personal growth across his leadership skills, outdoor adventure skills, and he represents the spirit of Scouting by courageously facing every challenge he encounters and successfully overcoming every one of them!

A huge congratulations to both our award recipients and a special thank you to the Mayor for his continued support of Dural Scout Group.

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

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



ARCADIAN QUILTING NEWS

With Autumn upon us it's certainly time to think of "quilts for warmth" as well as just the joy of owning a quilt.

April has presented Arcadian Quilters with the opportunity of giving 34 quilts to two of our charities, and in so doing, we have shared the joy and the warmth that a bright cheery quilt can bring to a home or to 'new' accommodation!!

The two charities in this case are - Assistance Dogs Australia and Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Women's Shelter.

Photo is showing 'typically' the possible type of accommodation in shared living situations.

In this other photo BELLA, the 'Ambassador Dog' from Assist Dogs Aust whom we have met many times at our quilting meetings is showing how she 'helps' display the latest quilts given to this group.

In our experience we note that charity work connects amazing people; people who all work with a common goal in mind and that is to share the joy that Community connection can create!

We meet on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Wednesday of each month. For further information please call Carole on 9894 7749.



Living with hip pain?

Discover our Centre of Excellence in Orthopaedic Surgery

Our specialists can provide treatment including joint replacement surgery for hip pain. This includes those living with osteoarthritis – a common form of arthritis that frequently affects the hip joints.

Norwest Private Hospital is proud to be accredited by SRC as a Centre of Excellence in Orthopaedic Surgery 2025-2028.

Scan to download our factsheet on hip joint replacement surgery.



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Norwest
PRIVATE HOSPITAL
by Healthscope

out and about
with MICHELLE BYRNE

The Hills Offroad RC Club

Nestled away in the Fred Caterson Reserve sits the relatively unknown Hills Offroad RC track. For the past 50 years this track has seen 1/10th scale electric radio control cars race for fun as well as for the glory of a championship win.

The Hills Offroad is one of the best offroad RC tracks in Australia offering a 225m track with plenty of challenging bends and hills that need to be conquered in the fastest time possible. From the 3m drivers' ramp, the drivers have a bird's eye view of their car and the track as they race. It is fast and furious, and it is not uncommon to see the cars flip over or leave the track, with volunteers on the track quickly turning the cars over so the race can continue.

It is a hobby that appeals to many, and it is one that is taken very seriously by those looking to compete Nationally and Internationally to become World Champion. In April, this year the Hills Offroad RC hosted the pre-world warm up event which brought together competitors from across Australia and from overseas. Local man, Lachlan Donnelly took out the title, ensuring a shot at the World Titles in September which will also be hosted in Castle Hill.

For the Hills Offroad RC Club, hosting the World Championships is a shot in the arm for the Club and will put the Club and the Hills on the map. The World Championships will be a lot larger than the warm-up event and will bring together even more competitors from across the globe and nationally to compete for the ultimate World Championship Title.

Outside of the Club Championships and the World Championships, the Hills Offroad RC club races every 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month from 9am to 4pm. Everyone is welcome to join in regardless of racing experience and novice drivers are always welcome at the Club.

Outside of racing days, the track is open every day of the week for residents wishing to race their 1/10th electric cars (or smaller).

There is no doubt that the Hills Offroad RC track, set in the picturesque Fred Caterson is one of the prettiest tracks across Australia and

the Globe. The Club is run entirely by volunteers who are very proud of their track and amenities as well as the opportunity to host the World Championships in 2025.

If you have not seen 1/10th scale radio controlled car racing, then I encourage you to visit the track on a Sunday race meet or even better, visit the World Championships and watch professional and amateur drivers battle it out for the title.

For more information on the Hills Offroad RC Club or to get involved go to www.hillsoffroadrc.com

Can You Solve This Murder Mystery?

Castle Hill Players presents **Rehearsal for Murder** at the Pavilion Theatre from 30 May – 21 Jun 2025. Adapted by D.D. Brooke from the Teleplay by William Link & Richard Levinson and directed by Grant Brennan

Playwright Alex Dennison is a man with a mission.

It's been one year since the Broadway debut of his then fiancé, Monica Welles. A debut which ended in tragedy when her body was found in her apartment, an apparent suicide.

On the anniversary of her death, Alex has called together the cast and crew of that ill-fated Broadway production. He is eager to start rehearsing his new play, *Killing Jessica*, whose heroine bears an uncanny resemblance to Monica. As they progress through *Killing Jessica*, Alex's colleagues grow wary of his intentions. Did Monica take her own life or was she murdered? And which one of the assembled thespians, if any, committed that deed? Packed with red herrings, thrills and wit, is this a rehearsal for a new play? Or a rehearsal for murder?


"*Rehearsal for Murder* is an intriguing spin on the classic whodunit, set against the backdrop of an empty Broadway theatre. Playwright Alex Dennison invites the members of an ill-fated production to a reading of his new play - where he intends to catch which one amongst them killed his fiancée." Grant Brennan, Director said.


30 May – 21 Jun. Wed, Fri, Sat 8PM, Sun 4PM at the Pavilion Theatre, Castle Hill. The Pavilion Theatre is located within the Castle Hill Showgrounds, Castle Hill. Tickets \$30, Concession \$25.

Bookings paviliontheatre.org.au/rehearsal-for-murder or call 02 9634 2929 Enquiries call 02 9634 3846 or email admin@paviliontheatre.org.au

REHEARSAL FOR MURDER

ADAPTED BY D.D. BROOKE
FROM THE TELEVISION PLAY BY
WILLIAM LINK & RICHARD LEVINSON
DIRECTED BY GRANT BRENNAN





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TICKETS
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[paviliontheatre.org.au/
rehearsal-for-murder](http://paviliontheatre.org.au/rehearsal-for-murder)
The Pavilion Theatre
Hills Showground

THE PAVILION THEATRE
CASTLE HILL SHOWGROUNDS
IN THE SHOWGROUNDS SINCE 1968

Norwest Quarter

BY MULPHA



New collection now selling.

Perfectly positioned in the heart of Norwest, these premium 1, 2 and 3 bedroom apartments offer effortless connectivity, just 800 metres from Norwest Metro and 275 metres from Castle Hill Country Club, with shops, restaurants, and daily conveniences at your doorstep.

Designed for a vibrant lifestyle, the community features 20+ amenities, including a residents-only pool, lush green spaces, wellness facilities, and a buzzing public plaza with dining and retail.

Each apartment is crafted for comfort and style, with designer cabinetry, Miele kitchen appliances, Parisi bathroom fixtures and double-glazed windows, providing a superior living experience. Delivered by Mulpha, a 4-star iCIRT-rated developer and parent developer of Norwest Business Park, these residences offer quality you can trust.

Visit on-site display apartments today. Move in Spring.



Register your interest below.
norwestquarter.com.au
0409 127 380
36 Solent Circuit, Norwest



The Hidden Health Issue You Shouldn't Ignore

Hearing loss can creep up gradually. Many people remain unaware of the early signs, as they can still perceive some sounds. However, they may begin to miss softer, high-pitched consonants like "s," "f," "sh," and "t," which are crucial for speech clarity. This often leads to the common complaint: "I can hear, but I can't understand what is being said."

When communication becomes challenging, it affects more than just hearing. Misunderstandings can strain relationships with friends, family, and colleagues. Over time, the effort to hear and interpret speech can lead to feelings of frustration, fatigue, embarrassment, and social withdrawal. In more serious cases, untreated hearing loss has been linked to reduced self-confidence, increased stress levels, and even depression. These effects can permeate all areas of life; work, school, home, and social interactions.

About Hearing Loss in Australia

- Around 4.5 million people have some level of hearing loss (1 in 6 Australians)
- More than 1.3 million people live with a hearing condition that could have been prevented
- More than 1 in 3 Australians have noise-related ear damage

Many factors can cause hearing loss, including age. Hearing loss increases from about half

of those aged 60 to 70, to 70% of those aged 70 and over, and 80% of those aged 80 and over. Exposure to loud noise is another cause of hearing loss which is often preventable, untreated ear disease and genetics are some other factors that can also impact hearing.

The Benefits of Hearing Rehabilitation

While hearing loss can impact various aspects of wellbeing, the good news is that modern hearing rehabilitation can significantly improve quality of life. Research indicates that hearing well can enhance:

- Social-emotional wellbeing: Facilitates easier conversations and deeper connections.
- Cognitive wellbeing: Supports brain health and reduces cognitive load.
- Physical wellbeing: Encourages an active, independent lifestyle.

Today's hearing technology makes it easier than ever to stay connected and engaged. Hearing aids are now rechargeable, waterproof, and equipped with smart features. Many models can track your steps, monitor your heart rate, connect directly to your phone or TV, and support a more independent, enjoyable life. These devices aren't just about sound—they're about restoring confidence and convenience.

Ear Studio: Your Partner in Hearing Health

At Ear Studio, we believe that hearing care should go beyond simply fitting a device. That's why we offer a comprehensive suite of hearing health services, including:

- Hearing assessments
- Hearing rehabilitation
- Hearing protection
- Ear wax removal

We adhere to best-practice audiological principles to deliver personalised care that focuses on your goals and lifestyle.

Now is the time to prioritise your wellbeing—and that includes your hearing. We routinely get our eyes tested, but our ears are just as important. If you've been struggling to hear or haven't had a recent check-up, we invite you to book a comprehensive hearing assessment.

As a locally owned and proudly independent practice, Ear Studio is committed to listening to you, understanding your needs, and helping you reach your hearing and wellbeing goals.

Contact our friendly team at Ear Studio today for all your ear health needs on (02) 9159 6122. Alternatively, you can reach us on email at reception@earstudio.com.au - To find out more or book online visit www.earstudio.com.au - We are conveniently located at Lawton House, Suite 9/60 Cecil Avenue, Castle Hill NSW 2154



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(02) 9159 6122



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The Hills Shire Council News

SIGN OUR PETITION FOR BETTER INFRASTRUCTURE

We need urgent investment:

ROADS

- 45 key intersections across the Hills require upgrades, along with improved bus, walking, and cycling connections to Metro stations.

PARKS AND SPORTS FIELDS

- By 2036, The Hills will need 40 sports fields to support our growing population.
- 31 fields are partially or fully funded by contributions plans, but nine across Cherrybrook, Castle Hill, Norwest, Bella Vista, Kellyville, Rouse Hill, and Baulkham Hills remain unfunded.

SCHOOLS

- The Hills needs at least 14 new schools to meet growing demand.

BOX HILL – A COMMUNITY LEFT BEHIND

- Box Hill alone faces a \$207 million shortfall for essential infrastructure.
- Projects at risk include upgrades to The Water Lane, Ross Place Bridge, Hereford Street Reserve, Killarney Chain of Ponds pedestrian bridge, and more.

We need 20,000 signatures to force a debate in the NSW Parliament and help secure the infrastructure the Hills deserves.

**IT TAKES 30 SECONDS
TO SIGN OUR PETITION**

VISIT

fairerhillsfuture.com.au
or scan the QR code.



Help Shape The Hills Shire's Future

The Hills Shire Council is developing one of its most important planning documents – *Towards Hills 2050* – and they want your input.

Toward Hills 2050 brings the community's aspirations for the Hills to life.

This draft plan has been developed based on input gathered from various community engagements. The plan aims to clarify the different roles involved in shaping our living environment and outlines the expectations that the community should have of Council.

Your feedback is vital. By sharing your ideas and aspirations, you can help ensure this plan reflects what matters most to you and your community.

Have your say at: hillshaveyoursay.thehills.nsw.gov.au

Fox Baiting

A fox baiting program is currently underway at Ted Horwood and Eric Mobbs Reserves and will be completed by June 13. Cats and dogs (including on leash) must not enter these reserves until the baiting period is finished on June 13, 2025. The aim of this program is to protect native wildlife from fox predation. Baits are buried 10cm under the ground to reduce the risk of non-target poisoning.



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



Year One Reading Club

Do you know a child in Year One at school? Enrol them in The Hills Shire Library Service's Year One Reading Club for FREE and grow a love of reading.

Members will get a logbook, stickers and special rewards as they read more. Simply head to one of The Hills Shire Library branches (Castle Hill, Rouse Hill, Baulkham Hills and Dural) and sign them up!

Have Your Say on the Draft Hills Shire Plan

The Hills Shire Council has released its Draft Hills Shire Plan 2025–2026 for public comment and is inviting residents to have their say.

The Draft Plan outlines key projects and services proposed for delivery over the next financial year, including a \$5.8 million investment in a new signalised intersection at Mount Carmel Drive, Old Pitt Town Road, and Valetta Drive in Box Hill. A further \$5.5 million is earmarked for a new roundabout at Terry Road and George Street, while \$4.7 million will be invested across the Shire.

The Draft Hills Shire Plan is a five-part document that provides the framework for progressing the strategic objectives set out in Towards Hills 2050, the community's long-term vision for the region. It details how Council, with support from NSW Government grants, will deliver new infrastructure, upgrade existing facilities, and build a more connected and inclusive community.

Residents are encouraged to visit The Hills Shire Council website and search "Draft Hills Shire Plan 2025-26" to view the Plan and share their feedback.



Sign Pope Francis' Book of Condolence

Express your sympathies on the passing of Pope Francis in the online Book of Condolence. The Book will be available to sign online until Wednesday, 21 May. It will then be printed and bound as a lasting tribute.

To leave a message for the Pope, visit www.thehills.nsw.gov.au and search for 'Pope Francis Book of Condolence' or scan the QR code.



Have You Visited Livvi's Place Yet?

Now upgraded with an impressive multi-storey play tower, slides, ramps, swings designed for toddlers and older kids, and a range of all-abilities features, Livvi's Place is a fantastic playground to take the family.

Visit the play space at Bernie Mullane Reserve in Kellyville.



Council Meetings

Tuesday, 13 May 2025 at 7pm

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



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



THE HILLS
Sydney's Garden Shire

GROVE SQUARE – THE HILLS GETS A BOLD NEW LOOK!

Exciting changes are underway at Grove Square – The Hills as a multi-million dollar refurbishment nears completion—bringing a fresh new look, improved comfort, and even more reasons to visit. With construction well underway since September 2024, the upgraded spaces are already beginning to transform the centre into a more vibrant and welcoming destination.

Whether you're visiting for a weekly shop, a coffee catch-up, or a casual meal with family and friends, Grove Square is evolving into so much more than just your local shopping hub.

A Food Court Worth Gathering For

The centre's new-look food court is shaping up to be a standout attraction. Spacious, modern, and inviting, the updated area has been thoughtfully designed with comfort and convenience in mind. Once complete, it will feature stylish new finishes, timber accents, and plenty of room to sit back and enjoy a freshly prepared meal.

A wide selection of eateries awaits your appetite, including Subway, Toros Kebabs, Wok Hei, BH Fish Market, Surbhi Indian, Master Rolls, Omspresso, KB Chickens, Sharetea, and Ai Sushi. Whether you're in the mood for something quick or something hearty, the food court is your go-to for flavour and variety.

Smart, Sustainable Upgrades

Beyond dining, the refurbishment brings a full suite of centre-wide improvements. New flooring, energy-efficient lighting, and warm timber features are being installed throughout the centre to create a more comfortable and cohesive environment. Outside, refreshed entranceways will offer a more inviting welcome, while upgraded heating and lighting systems support the centre's long-term commitment to energy efficiency and sustainability.

Olive Grove Lane – Still Fresh, Still Flavourful

In case you haven't experienced it yet, Olive Grove Lane—Grove Square's new casual dining precinct—is already open and adding extra flavour to the experience. This vibrant new area is perfect for relaxed dining and socialising, offering an enticing mix of cuisines and modern interiors.

Grab a bite at crowd favourites including Guzman y Gomez, Zeus Street Greek, Ooshman, The Yook, Little Rock Café, Sol Bowl, and Burger Room. Whether dining in, taking away, or ordering delivery, Olive Grove Lane is fast becoming a local favourite for lunch, dinner, or special occasions.



Centre Manager William Koreman says...

"This refurbishment represents a significant investment in our community, aiming to enhance both the functionality and appeal of Grove Square," says Centre Manager William Koreman. "We're proud to create a more modern, comfortable and connected environment for locals and visitors alike."

Celebrate with Us – Saturday 17 May, 11am–2pm. To mark this exciting new chapter, Grove Square is hosting a Family Fun Day on Saturday 17 May, from 11am to 2pm. Join in for an afternoon of free entertainment and activities, including:

- Sonic the Hedgehog meet and greets
- DJ David playing live in the food court
- Face painting and balloon bending
- Spin to Win prize giveaways near Woolworths

With so much to explore and even more still to come, Grove Square – The Hills, located on the corner of Windsor Rd, Old Northern road and Olive Street, Baulkham Hills, is the ultimate destination for food, fun, and community.

Mum's Tap & Treat!

Shop at Grove Square - The Hills, and you could get **\$20 off your shopping** with a friendly tap on the shoulder at the register!

Monday 28 April - Sunday 11 May

*150 shoppers will be tapped at random by a Grove Square - The Hills representative at any time and at any store at Grove Square - The Hills, during the promotional period. \$20 will be paid off the total bill at the time of purchase. Full terms and conditions available on the website.



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

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NEW LOOK

Grove Square - The Hills!

Celebrate our refreshed Food Court and upgraded spaces throughout the centre!

Saturday 17 May

11am - 2pm

Lots of FREE fun for everyone!



Meet Sonic the Hedgehog

- 11am - 11.30am
- 12pm - 12.30pm
- 1pm - 1.30pm

Roaming

Spin to Win

1000s of prizes to be won!

Located near Woolworths

*T&Cs apply.



DJ and Face Painting

Located in the Food Court



Balloon Bending

Roaming

[GroveSquareTheHills](#) [@grovesquarethehills](#) [grovesquare.com.au](#)

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**GROVE
SQUARE**
• THE HILLS •

As your Federal MP, I am here to help.

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

Please contact my office if I can be of assistance.

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ALEX HAWKE MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MITCHELL



📍 Suite 8, 23 Terminus Street, Castle Hill NSW 2154 📞 9899 7211 ✉ alex.hawke.mp@aph.gov.au 🌐 www.alexhawke.au 📺 AlexHawkeMPMitchell
Authorised by Alex Hawke MP, Liberal Party of Australia, 8/23 Terminus Street, Castle Hill NSW 2154.

ELECTION DAY – Saturday, 3 May

Polling Booth locations throughout Mitchell (8am – 6pm)

The Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) has finalised the Polling Booth locations in Mitchell and has added additional locations to prevent long wait times. Please take the opportunity to look at the list of polling booths. Visit <https://www.aec.gov.au/election/voting.htm#start> to find your nearest polling booth.

If you need assistance with voting information for polling day, please email alex.hawke.mp@aph.gov.au or phone my office on 9899 7211.

ORDER OF AUSTRALIA: Anyone can Nominate

The Mitchell electorate has a wonderful volunteer workforce in our community and there are many who deserve to be recognised for their outstanding service and contribution. Anyone can nominate someone to be recognised for an Order of Australia. I encourage you to nominate an outstanding, inspirational volunteer for recognition in the General Division of the Order of Australia.

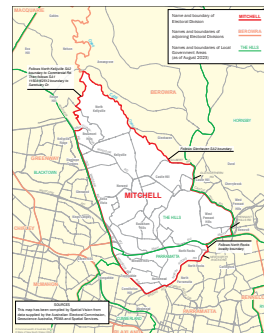
For further information please visit www.gg.gov.au/australian-honours-and-awards

FEDERAL REDISTRIBUTION

Changes to the Mitchell Boundary

The Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) revised the NSW electorate boundaries, which come into effect on election day. The electorate of Mitchell has changed significantly – the suburbs of Gables, Box Hill, Nelson and Rouse Hill will now be in the electorate of Greenway. It has been an honour to represent the residents of these suburbs over the years and to strongly advocate for vital infrastructure in this high growth area of North West Sydney.

The new boundary now includes the West Pennant Hills Valley and a small section of Glenhaven.



Celebrating a 50th or 60th Wedding Anniversary or 100th birthday?

Residents of Mitchell who are celebrating a milestone birthday (90th or 100th) or wedding anniversary (50th or 60th plus) can receive personal congratulations from the Prime Minister, Governor-General or His Majesty, King Charles III.

For further information to apply please visit www.alexhawke.au

SAN GIORGIO FESTIVAL

A Testament to our strong, multicultural community

Every year, I look forward to the San Giorgio Festa, in Kenthurst – and this year's celebration was no exception.

Now in its 48th year, the festa is one of the most cherished cultural events in our local calendar, and one of the best examples of what makes our community so special.

The Associazione San Giorgio Martire Di Sydney has built something remarkable in our community. What began as a modest celebration is now a full-day festival that brings thousands together for faith, food, music, and family.

Events like this matter.

They remind us that keeping culture alive isn't just about tradition – it's about identity, belonging, and passing something meaningful to the next generation.

It's always an honour to watch and join in the procession, hear stories from locals, and yes – indulge in the best woodfired pizza in our community.

To the executive team - George Dolores, Anthony Papallo, Vince Papallo, Tony Macri, Andrew Papallo and Mary Macri, and the dozens of volunteers, thank you for keeping the spirit of San Giorgio alive and sharing our traditions with the community.



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.

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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](https://www.facebook.com/julianleesermp)

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

Susan Templeman MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MACQUARIE

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Mail: PO Box 855, Windsor NSW 2756 **OPEN:** Mon - Fri 9am-5pm

www.susantempleman.com.au

Authorised by Susan Templeman, ALP (NSW Branch), 299 George Street, Windsor NSW 2756



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LABOR IS BACKING MEDICARE

Whether its men's health or women's health, in person or by telehealth, Labor is ensuring everyone can access health care more easily and with just your Medicare Card.

If re-elected not only will we be delivering 50 more Urgent Care Clinics, including in the Hawkesbury and at Rouse Hill, but we'll provide a 24-hour Urgent Care health line – 1800MEDICARE.

1800MEDICARE will be a free, nationwide 24/7 health advice line and afterhours GP telehealth service, backed by Medicare.

If you need urgent GP care that can't wait for your regular GP to be available, the triage nurses will connect you to a free telehealth session with a 1800MEDICARE GP via phone or video, available all weekend and weeknights between 6pm and 8am.

This announcement builds on our existing commitments to strengthen Medicare, with additional Medicare Mental Health Centres, cheaper medicines and more bulk billing for all Australians.

For men's mental health, we've announced a \$20 million funding boost, including backing Men's Sheds for their key role in helping men and boys find mateship and social support. It will provide another two years of Men's Shed Initiative's National Shed Development Program, providing grants of up to \$10,000 to individual Men's Sheds. It will also support the Australian Men's Sheds Association to deliver new health promotion and prevention programs.

I've been committed to tackling the issues that impact men's health, especially men's mental health, in my time in Parliament.

When I've met with the men's health experts from Movember, they've told me that the statistics show as many as two in every three men are skipping health support due to gender stereotypes – and around half believe avoiding health check-ups is normal.

Australian men are three times more likely to take their own life than women and are significantly less likely to seek mental health support.

So I am very pleased that a re-elected Albanese Labor Government will also provide an additional \$11 million to Movember to support men's health and break the stigma around seeking support.

Whether it's at men's sheds, walking groups or as part of community volunteering, these are important investments at the grassroots level.

Too many bathroom trips during the night?

For men, this could be a sign of an enlarged prostate or benign prostatic hyperplasia. If you're worried talk to your GP. If they suggest further assessment or treatment, talk to an experienced urologist at the Centre of Excellence in Urology at Norwest Private Hospital.

- GP referral needed
- Minimal wait times for appointments
- Private health insurance not needed. Option to self-fund

Norwest Private Hospital is proud to be accredited as a Centre of Excellence in Urology from Surgical Review Corporation (SRC), 2025-2028.

Scan to find out more



11 Norbrik Drive, Bella Vista NSW 2153
norwestprivatehospital.com.au



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: SASSY
BREED: Bull Terrier
SEX: Female
AGE: 2 Yrs, 4 Mos
& 3 Wks
PRICE: \$49



MEET SASSY. Sassy is a young, energetic girl looking for a loving home. Staff at Hawkesbury Companion Animal shelter say she's playful, loves her toys, and thrives with daily exercise and a big backyard. Sassy would do best as the only pet and without small children, as she can get overexcited. She's calm indoors, smart, and eager to please. A secure yard with solid fencing is a must, as she can jump wire fences up to 6 feet. According to staff, with the right, active owner, Sassy will be a loyal and loving companion ready for endless adventures!

Hawkesbury Council's Rehoming Organisation Number: R251000145

AT A GLANCE

NAME: MAYA
BREED: American
Staffordshire Terrier
SEX: Female
AGE: 2 Yrs and
9 Months
PRICE: \$49



MEET MAYA, a playful, toy-loving girl who adores outdoor adventures and a good game of fetch. Staff at Hawkesbury Companion Animal shelter say she would thrive as the only dog in a home where she can soak up all the love and attention. Staff say Maya strikes the perfect balance between calm and playful, making her a wonderful companion full of love and adventure.

Hawkesbury Council's Rehoming Organisation Number: R251000145

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IS YOUR CAT HIDING A PAINFUL SECRET?

Why Dental Care is ESSENTIAL.

CATS are masters of disguise. They can nap peacefully in the sun, purr on your lap, and chase their favourite toy — all while hiding painful dental disease.

In fact, up to 70% of cats show signs of dental disease by age 2, and most cat owners don't know it's there until the damage is done. That's why Sydney Animal Hospitals is focusing on feline dental health this May and June.

The Silent Signs of Dental Disease

Unlike dogs, cats rarely show obvious signs of dental pain. Instead, you might notice:

- Bad breath (not just "cat food breath" — real, foul odour)
- Reduced appetite or chewing only on one side
- Drooling or pawing at the mouth
- Weight loss, irritability, or sleeping more than usual

Often, these symptoms are subtle or mistaken for "just getting older."

Why Dental Care Matters

Dental disease doesn't just affect the mouth — it can impact your cat's entire body. Bacteria from infected gums can enter the bloodstream

and damage the kidneys, liver, and heart. Left untreated, it becomes a painful and costly condition to manage.

But the good news? Early intervention and routine dental care can prevent these problems entirely.

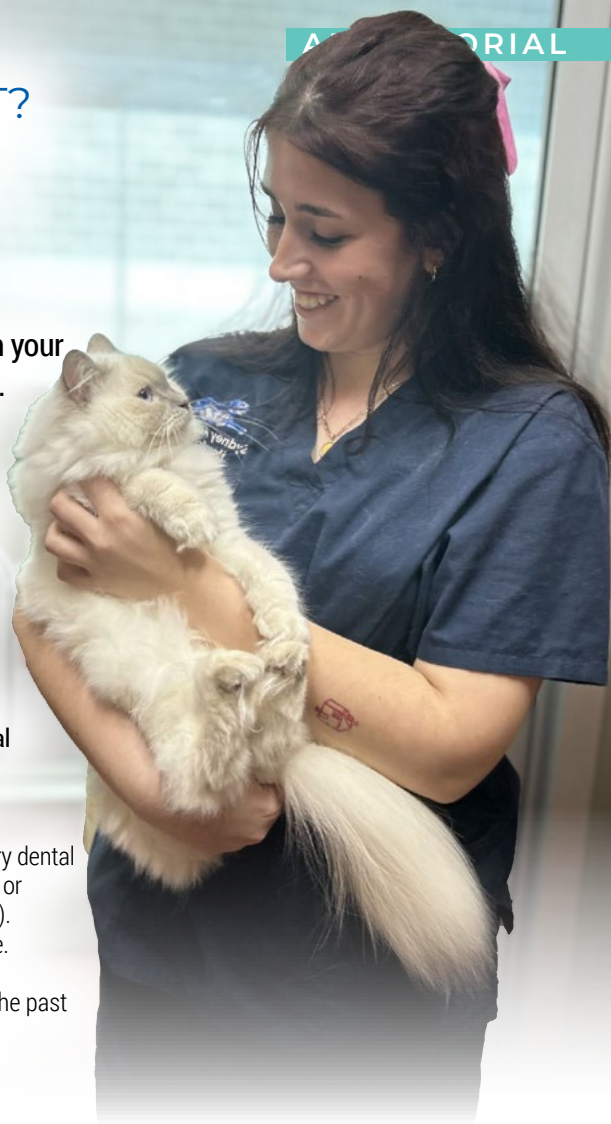
What You Can Do.

To help more cats stay healthy and pain-free, Sydney Animal Hospitals is offering a range of feline-specific dental offers this May and June:

- Free nurse dental checks
- Discounted dental treatments
- Complimentary Hill's T/D diet with every dental
- Free urine test with every health check or vaccine (to detect early kidney disease).
- Bonus flea/tick protection with vaccine.

If your cat hasn't had a dental check in the past 12 months — or ever — now is the time.

Let's make sure your feline friend isn't hiding a painful secret.



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Griffo Memorial Cup: Magpies Edge Bulls

BY LAWRENCE MACHADO

The Hills Bulls and Wentworthville Magpies are contesting the inaugural Griffo Memorial Cup this season, with the winners decided after the completion of their Ron Massey Cup and Sydney Shield home and away matches.

The Magpies drew first blood in the series last Sunday, with a hard fought 28-18 victory, after trailing 10-12 at half time.

The Griffo Memorial Cup has been warmly received by both clubs, because the late Paul 'Griffo' Griffin was a long-time coach and member of the Hills Bulls, and he was highly-respected among the other clubs as well. His widow Robyn Griffin said on her Facebook post that it was "a special day for us and for everyone involved".

"For many years The Hills District and Wentworthville Magpies have had a love-hate relationship, on the field, (they were) harsh competitors and then off the field (they) would share a beer together, and have become mates.

"Paul was lucky enough to always be a part of playing and coaching over the years. I would like to say a very special thank you to

Rod Pritchard and Michael Gremmo, along with the many others it took, to make the inaugural Griffo Memorial Cup the day that it was.

"I feel very honoured as I know my family does, that Paul has yet again been recognised in such a special way."

The Magpies and the Bulls have always a healthy rivalry in their clashes and last Sunday's match at Kellyville Memorial Park was no different.

Maila Aluni-Chanfoon (18th minute) and Jayden Yates (22nd) scored the tries which gave the Bulls the half-time lead after Joshua Minhinnick had planted the first try for the visitors in the eighth minute. Tali Toetu'u converted both tries for the Bulls who were, however, unable to prevent the Magpies from scoring three converted tries to storm to a 28-12 lead by the 68th minute.

Jayden Griffin, the son of Griffo, leads the Bulls team in their Sydney Shield game against the Magpies.
Picture Rob Gleeson Photography

Ben Valu, Austin Quast and Blake Cook were the second half scorers for the winners, with Joseph Nohra converting four of the five tries.

The Bulls scored a consolation try in the 78th minute try through Corey Ross.

This Saturday, the seventh-placed Bulls are away to table toppers St Mary's.

Meanwhile in the Sydney Shield, the third-placed Hills Bulls and the Magpies drew 22-all in a thrilling game. Here, the Bulls, led by Jayden Griffin, came from behind to snatch the draw, thanks to a 72nd minute try by Tom Watson, with Kade Moujalli adding the extra points.

Dural Polo Club Fetes Evergreen Lorraine

Dural Pony Club's Chief Instructor Lorraine Carter celebrated her 80th birthday in style in front of club mates. The club praised Lorraine for being a terrific mentor, guide, and coach.

"So much knowledge, kindness and wisdom all wrapped up in one super lady," was how the club described their proud birthday girl on their FB post. Meanwhile, the DRC's Area 1 team finished runners-up at the Sydney Royal Easter Show.



Dural Pony Club Chief Instructor Lorraine Carter celebrated her 80th birthday at the club.

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Five-goal Cemazar kicks Strikers off the park

BY LAWRENCE MACHADO

Elin Rosenberg Cemazar was the five-goal heroine as undefeated Hills United romped to an 8-0 victory over Sutherland Strikers in their FNSW League One Women's first grade game at the weekend.

This followed their 5-0 rout of Blacktown Spartan in the previous round, and makes them the team to beat in the competition which has a long way to go.

Cemazar was simply unstoppable against the Strikers, starting her scoring streak in the ninth minute and founding off her tally in the 93rd.

Hills United took a 2-0 lead into half-time with the consistent Bella Donaldson putting them ahead in the seventh minute.

The floodgates opened after the interval with Cemazar finding the net in the 47th, 66th 67th and 93rd minutes to tear the Sutherland defence to shreds. The other goals were scored by Jess Wotton (60th), and Monique Holder (77th).

Hills United are on top of the table with 22 points from seven wins and one draw (1-1 to SD Raiders on March 30).



The unbeaten Hills United women's first grade team. Picture Hills United FB

They can strengthen their leadership credentials with a win over seventh-placed Bankstown City whom they host on Sunday, May 4 at Valentine Park at 5.30pm.

Meanwhile, the Hills United men were beaten 1-0 by Dulwich Hill in their League One Men's match last weekend.

The 13th placed Hills team will be hoping the sublime form of their women's team will rub off on them so they can break their winless streak when they face UNSW on Saturday, May 3, at 7pm.

FEMALE FOOTBALL WEEK

Football NSW will be celebrating women and girls in football from May 2 to 11 as part of Female Football Week. The association says Female Football Week "provides a fantastic opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate all female participants who play a vital role in our game". Clubs and associations are encouraged to nominate local female champions and register their 2025 Female Football Week events.

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A CAR OR A BOAT

Way back during the 1960s I saw a news item on the television news that intrigued me. The item featured a vehicle driving into Sydney Harbour and then floating amongst the yachts and other vessels on the harbour. What a great innovation I thought.

A memory of that item came to me whilst on a bus tour of the Snowy Mountains of NSW. During a visit to the Cooma Car Club in November 2022 I actually saw the "Amphicar", the vehicle that featured in the news item.

The origins of this amphibious vehicle can be traced back to WW2. Hans Trippel, an engineer and member of the NAZI party, came up with the idea of producing such a vehicle as part of the NAZI war machine. Using the facilities of Volkswagen he produced the Volkswagen Schwimmwagen of which only around 200 were produced.

After the war Trippel served two years imprisonment after being sentenced during the "denazification" of Germany, after which he decided to try to perfect his idea of an amphibious vehicle.

In 1961, the first "Amphicars" were manufactured and manufacturing continued until 1965. During that period, 3,878 amphibious cars were produced. Although its numbers

might be modest, the "Amphicar" remains the only civilian amphibious passenger automobile ever to be mass-produced to date.

The "duckboat" tourist vehicles seen in coastal cities around the world also descended from the Amphicar. Unfortunately, the growing number of accidents involving these hybrid tourism vehicles, which typically carry upwards of 30 passengers at once, has made their continued use controversial.

Though it's almost 60 years now since the last Amphicar was made, these unique vehicles continue to charm collectors. Perhaps this quirky car that turns into a boat could still inspire an amphibious vehicle revolution in the future.

The United States was the only country where the Amphicar could claim to have achieved success. The most famous Amphicar owner was none other than, then US President, Lyndon B. Johnson, who used his hybrid car to play practical jokes on guests, as journalist Robert Sempler divulged in a 1965 profile of the president:

"The scenario is familiar now. An unsuspecting guest is lured into Amphicar. President says they're going for a little spin. President heads for water. Guest cries, 'Hey, you're going into the water!' President flips a lever that locks doors, prevents leakage. Car hits water with a whoosh. Guest gasps, then realizes he isn't sinking. Color returns to face, and he and President go putt-putting along at about 5 knots."

President Johnson's pranks using his amphibious car were so well known that they were even included in the HBO film All The Way starring Bryan Cranston as the

president. But the "Amphicar" wasn't just used for presidential pranks.

According to enthusiast website, Amphicar.com, the amphibious car was also marketed as a specialty vehicle for emergency rescue services. The American Red Cross deployed a number of "Amphicars" to serve flood danger areas. But as the decade came to a close, the novelty of the boat-car hybrid vessel began to wear off.

A number of factors led to the failure of the amphibious vehicle which include -

1. First, the infrastructure needed to support the amphibious car's unique capabilities simply didn't exist. In order for the driver of an Amphicar to launch their vehicle into the water, there needed to be sufficient space, like a proper ramp. These kinds of setups were limited.
2. There was the amphibious car's confusing identity. While the water-riding vehicle enjoyed some degree of attention due to its dual function, the marketing for it was unclear. Was it a car or was it actually a boat? This muddled messaging may have cost Amphicar potential customers.
3. Though compact, the Amphicar was also a high-maintenance automobile. After five hours in the water, the engine needed to be greased - which could only be done by lifting the entire car and taking out the rear seats. Exposure to saltwater made it vulnerable to erosion, so it needed to be frequently cleaned thoroughly with fresh water.

Will anyone else float the idea of amphibious vehicles, I wonder?



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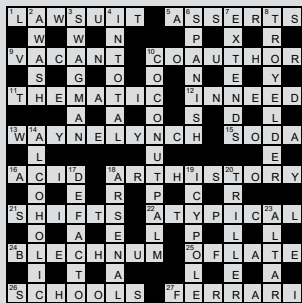
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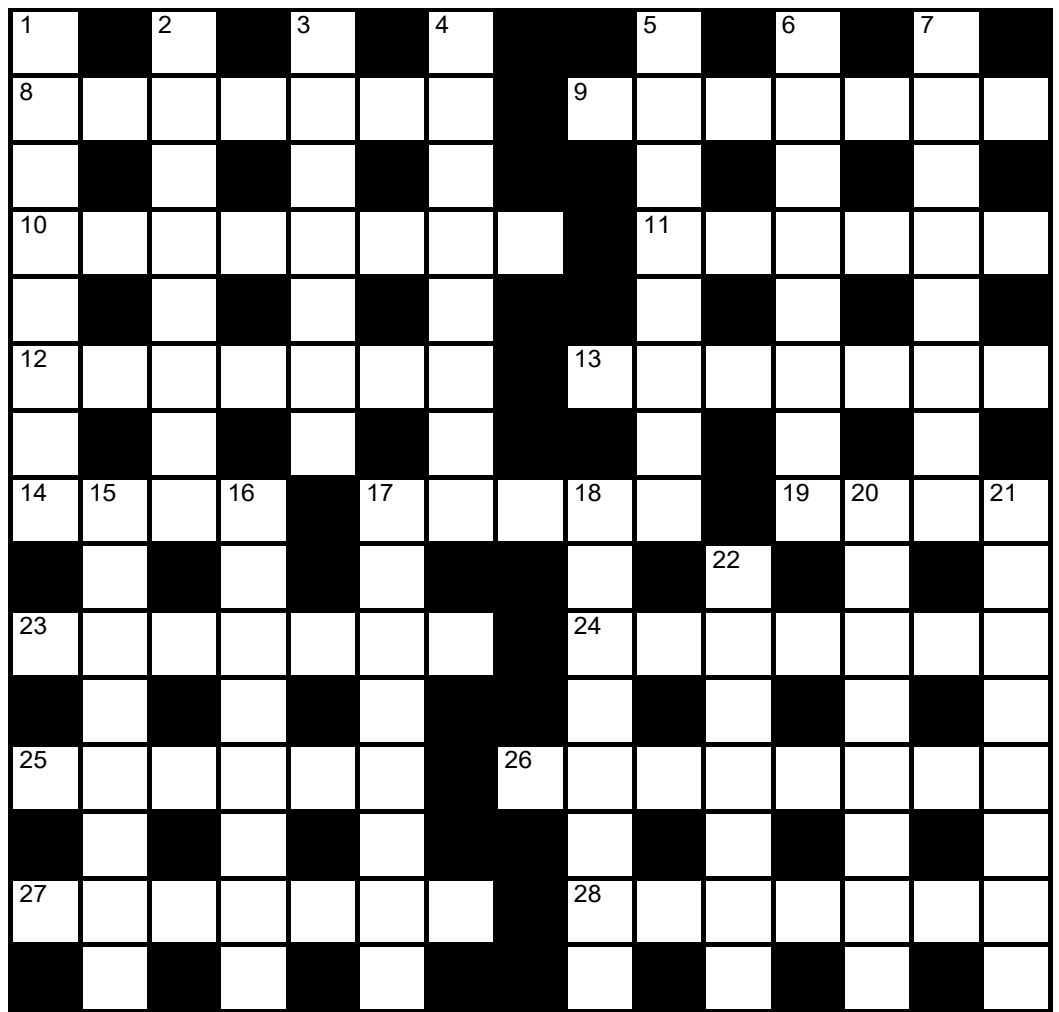
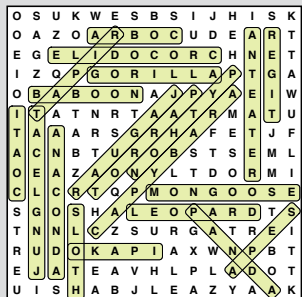
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WORDSEARCH



Across

8. Burn
9. Illusory pointer to gold
10. Used in cooking
11. Bring forth
12. Bring up
13. Very detailed
14. Dark-grey waterbird
17. Second largest stringed instrument
19. Youth charity
23. Impacts
24. Asks over
25. Gets up late
26. Shri11
27. Comments
28. Frequent-flyer perk

Down

1. Explosively violent
2. Cattle station trainee
3. Pride young 'un
4. Not far away
5. Inherited
6. Wholly
7. Kind of medicine
15. Assistant
16. You know what I'm drinking
17. In a rage, you might get as mad as one
18. Behave in a vulgar way
20. Like unicorns
21. Designated
22. Unremarkable

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

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Answers from last issue

CODE WORD

D	O	W	N	F	A	L	L	B	E	A	M
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