

Hills to Hawkesbury

Community News | 16th – 30th May 2025 | Volume 42 – Issue 10
Local Stories, Local Events, Local People and Local Businesses

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BREAKING GROUND

If all goes according to plan the \$200m expansion of Rouse Hill Town Centre will be finished in time for Christmas shopping in 2026.

The official sod turning ceremony to mark the start of major works on the busy and popular shopping hub featured a smoking ceremony and was attended by Hills Shire Mayor Dr Michelle Byrne, Deputy Mayor Frank Di Masi, the Darug Custodian Aboriginal Corporation, alongside GPT's CEO Russell Proutt and Head of Retail Chris Barnett, and representatives from construction partner ADCO and RHTC retail partners.

The expansion will offer more than 50 new retail, dining and leisure options for the community to experience, increasing the centre's footprint to over 80,000 sqm.

The project is GPT's largest retail development in 10 years and includes a revitalised Town Green and 200 additional parking spaces. The project is expected to create more than 300 construction jobs and over 400 new retail positions upon completion.

Hills Mayor, Dr Michelle Byrne said; "Rouse Hill Town Centre is already a beloved hub for coffee, shopping, and dining. It hosts one of

our libraries and has been the backdrop for memorable events like our Orange Blossom Festival parade and the FIFA Women's World Cup, thanks to our partnership with the GPT Group.

"The expansion will ensure it continues to serve as a key gathering place for residents for years to come.

"As one of Australia's fastest-growing regions, The Hills Shire is expected to welcome nearly 329,000 residents by 2041—an incredible 71 per cent increase in just 15 years. To support this growth, we need to enhance our parks, sports fields, roadways, schools, and retail opportunities," she said.

GPT's Head of Development Retail, Anthony Iannuzzi, said: "Rouse Hill Town Centre has long been the jewel in the crown for the region, serving as the leading retail hub for an area undergoing significant growth and transformation.

"With our continued investment in the Centre's modernisation and expansion, we're strengthening its role as a key asset for a dynamic and evolving community"

With Australian retail sales forecast to grow 3.3% p.a. per sqm over the next decade, GPT's Chief Executive Officer, Russell Proutt emphasised the value of investing in high-performing assets. "RHTC consistently delivers

Kristian Anthony (NSW Manager, ADCO), Mayor Michelle Byrne, Deputy Mayor Frank De Masi and Dave Moreton (GM Rouse Hill Town Centre)

strong footfall, robust sales, and maintains low vacancy," Mr. Proutt said.

"We're seeing a resurgence in bricks-and-mortar retail, not just as a point of purchase, but as a vital driver of customer experience and a powerful contributor to online conversion. The modernisation of RHTC opens the door for more retailers to establish a physical presence while addressing the evolving needs of Sydney's rapidly growing north-west corridor."

ADCO's Managing Director, Neil Harding, said: "We are proud to partner with GPT on the expansion of Rouse Hill Town Centre, an iconic project that reflects the energy and growth of Western Sydney.

At ADCO, we are committed to delivering high-quality, community-focused developments, and this milestone represents a shared vision to build not just great spaces, but lasting value for the region.

We are excited to bring our expertise to a project that will enhance the retail, lifestyle, and social fabric of the Hills district."



Artist's impression

Riverside GARDENS

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March for CHANGE

Traffic and Highway Patrol Command and the Hills Police Area Command marched alongside community members at this year's Hills March for Change.

The march highlights the community's commitment towards ending domestic violence. Police and residents marched on the morning of May, starting at Castle Place, Castle Hill, and ending at the Castle Hill RSL Club.

Founder and Co-coordinator Bryan Mullans said the March for Change lets the victims of domestic or gender-based violence be aware the community is behind their backs.

"It encourages them to act in their own interests to break the cycle of violence knowing that they are not alone and that there are people who care and want to help." He said that according to the Hills Police Area Command, it can take up to 26 incidents before a victim makes a report.

Detective Inspector Chris Laird said the Hills PAC have received 379 reported cases of domestic violence in the past 12 months (an increase of 11.5% from last year). Still, The Hills has the lowest rate of repeat Domestic Violence victims.



ST FLORIAN'S DAY AWARDS

Senior Deputy Captain Rutter of the Hawkesbury Catering Brigade is a recipient of the Commissioner's Commendation for Service (Individual) as part of the 2025 St Florian's Day Awards.

Having 35 years of experience working with NSW RFS and for the community, the Senior Deputy was vital during the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2019-2020 Black Summer bush fires, countless fires, floods, and events like the Hawkesbury Show.

SERIOUS CRASH

Emergency services attended a serious crash at Old Northern Rd and Brisbane Rd, Castle Hill. The accident involved a vehicle and a pedestrian at 5.25pm, Monday, 25th of May.

The pedestrian was transported to the hospital, and police are investigating the incident. Motorists were advised to expect delays and to avoid the area.

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CAFE STORYTIME

Bring your toddlers and preschool aged children to Cafe Storytime at the Heritage Valley Cafe.

Mrs Dorbis and students from Wisemans Ferry P.S. will be reading the 2025 National Simultaneous Storytime book - 'The Truck Cat'.

Following storytime children can participate in a craft activity.

MAY 22, 2025 - 9:30 AM

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FALLEN TREE

NSW SES responded to two calls in Castle Hill wherein tree limbs had fallen.

The first limb fell, blocking the road access, which was eventually restored. About two hours later, a second one fell in the direction of the house, which barely missed it, but blocked the driveway and access to the house.

As the first two limbs affected the tree structure, the remainder of the tree was declared dangerous and required an arborist on the scene. The road was cordoned off in case the tree fell before the arborist's arrival.

A bat was also found hanging in the fallen branches, and WIRES came to collect and care for the animal.

SPEEDING P1

A motorcycle rider was seen travelling along Putty Rd at 4.30 pm on Sunday, 4 May, and was detected speeding, going over 201 km/h in a 100km/h speed limit.

The rider slowed down upon detection of police, and appeared to be a P1 Provisional.

The rider was issued a traffic infringement notice for travelling more than 45 km/h over the speed limit (with a fine of \$2959) and had their licence suspended for 6 months.

LONG SERVICE AWARDS

Four SES The Hills Unit crews received Long Service Awards:

- Phil Hickman – 45 Years (Police & SES)
- Graham Cleary – 35 Years
- Tim Randall – 25 Years
- Ray Robinson – 25 Years

The SES Hills Unit is grateful for their commitment and service: "We are incredibly fortunate to have so many long-serving volunteers who consistently go above and beyond serving the community for so many years, and more to come."



FAMILY ESCAPED FIRE

A family of four escaped a house fire at Craigmare Drive, Kellyville, the Fire and Rescue NSW reported Tuesday. There were no injuries.

The FRNSW said it received several Triple Zero calls after 7pm on 13 May.

The home was already raging and flames venting through the roof when the six fire trucks and 24 firefighters arrived. The fires took two hours to contain and extinguish the blaze.

The fire began in the garage and two vehicles caught alight further intensified the flames.

FRNSW reported the home as uninhabitable since half of it was destroyed and partially collapsed. The cause is under investigation.

DRINK DRIVING

A driver, a 52-year-old male, allegedly returned a positive roadside test during a random breath test by the Hills PAC on the early morning of 5 May.

The test was conducted at the intersection of Old Northern Road and Garemyn Road, Middle Dural. The driver of a white Maserati was arrested and transferred to Castle Hill Police Station. He returned a blood alcohol reading of 0.095.

The driver was supposed to have an alcohol interlock device fitted to the vehicle, but did not.

Thus, he was issued a Court Attendance Notice for mid-range PCA and no interlock to appear in Parramatta Local Court next month, and his licence was also suspended on the spot.



Artist's Impression



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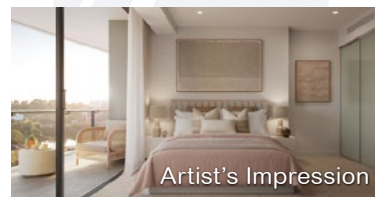
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Artist's Impression

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NSW SES Hawkesbury Unit Celebrates 40 Years of Rescues

For four decades, the NSW State Emergency Service (SES) Hawkesbury Unit's rescue team has served as a vital lifeline to the local community.

The team was formed in 1985, after an increase in accidents along Putty Road, and have since responded to thousands of emergencies with unwavering dedication and expertise.

Whether its rescuing casualties trapped in a car, winching a horse from a septic tank, or a pastry chef's hand caught in a dough roller, the Hawkesbury rescue team has been there to support the community through it all.

And to mark their 40-year milestone, members will be putting on a display and demonstrations at the Hawkesbury Show this weekend (9-11 May).

NSW SES Hawkesbury Unit Commander Kevin Jones said he still remembers 1985 like it was yesterday.

"I was at the hospital, a couple of days after my first son was born, when I got the call to say our rescue team had gone online," Inspector Jones said. "We had been training for 12 months for this day, where we would take over the primary rescue role for the Hawkesbury."

A couple of weeks later, equipped with 15 members, a Ford F350 truck and hydraulic tools, the team took its first call out as Hawkesbury

rescue, assisting ambulance officers load a casualty after an accident on the corner of Putty Road and Stannix Park Road. The second job came the very next day, after a car collided with a horse outside the polo grounds at Richmond.

Prior to 1985, the Hawkesbury did not have its own dedicated rescue unit, and any need for rescues were tasked to the Nepean Rescue Squad in Penrith or the Police Rescue Squad in Blacktown. The takeover of road and rescue operations by NSW SES Hawkesbury Unit would save lives by significantly reducing emergency response time.

Today, the rescue team is made up of 26 active members, which includes Darryl Lever, David King, Kevin Jones and Michael Broome, who have been there since day one.

Inspector Jones said there aren't many problems the crew can't solve.

"We've helped kids who have got their fingers stuck in plug holes, undertaken vertical rescues where animals are stuck on the ledge of a cliff and even freed people who have locked themselves in their own bathroom," Inspector Jones said. "As the leader of the group, I'm very proud of them all. The current boys and girls and the ones that have gone before them have all done a fantastic job to maintain the level of service over the years."



"It's a big commitment to be part of the team because at any moment you could be dragged away for a rescue."

NSW SES Acting Assistant Commissioner Allison Flaxman said while the Service's major responsibilities are for flood, storm and tsunami operations, they also provide rescue services in rural parts of the state.

"The Hawkesbury Unit's rescue team are to be commended for their dedication to continuously serving their local community over the past 40 years, without a day off," Acting Assistant Commissioner Flaxman said.

"The team is there for their community 24 hours a day, seven days a week, responding to a vast range of incidents from road accidents, animal rescues, vertical rescues and bush searches."

The NSW SES Hawkesbury Unit's 40-years of rescue display at the Hawkesbury Show includes the first hydraulic spreader and other original rescue tools.

Members will be undertaking road crash and vertical rescue demonstrations, while others chat to locals about their flood risks and preparedness.

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RALLYING FOR A CAUSE

BY BEV JORDAN

Sisters Katie and Sarah Didsbury have just returned from a huge 4,600km trek in Camilla the Mazda 2 as part of the Sh*tBox Rally, raising funds for the Cancer Council.

The Glenhaven duo (called the Twisted Sisters in the rally) had to drive 290km to Canberra before joining the official start on May 2nd which attracted 250 teams from all over Australia in cars worth less than \$1,500.

Floods on the Birdsville track meant a detour from Silverton through Bourke, Mitchell, Barcaldine and Hughenden, arriving at Townsville on May 10th after organisers added an extra 1,000km to the journey to avoid flooded areas.

Sarah said she had wanted to do the rally for some time and completing it with her sister was great. A dented sump and one wrecked tyre were the only damages.

"I am so glad we did it and we have met some great people."

All teams were put in "Buddy Groups" of around 7 cars to complete the track.

Katie said: "The Buddy Group became a family that was a support network for the rally and into the future."

"You always feel supported by the organisers and the trip had the most amazing outback scenery and showed support to local towns who might be doing it tough."

As well as Camilla the 2013 Mazda 2, decorated in purple and yellow and covered in daffodils, standout cars on the included Thomas the Tank Engine, Green Sheep, complete with a lawn mower on the roof, a car covered in tennis balls and a beer can car.

Sh*tbox Rally founder James Freeman held the first rally in 2010 after losing both parents to cancer within a year in 2009.

Twisted Sisters, Sarah and Katie the day they arrived in Townsville after 4,600kms

So far the many rallies (now at 5 a year) have raised over \$55 million for cancer research. The Didsbury sisters have raised \$8,730 so far.

They weren't the only locals amongst the 250 teams which included John Delaney and Andrew Bateup (Stepbrothers) from Winston Hills, Tanya and Dominic (Tandom) from Northmead, Vic and Anthony (Keep the Pace) from Cherrybrook and Edward and Daniel from Carlingford.

Raising money for cancer research and support programs is already a big part of the Didsbury Family's life.

Katie and her mum Ruth have volunteered for several years on the organising committee of the Hills Relay For Life and Sarah runs the family team Colourful Fun which is part of the annual Hills Relay For Life event..

Camilla the car not only survived the trip from Canberra to Townsville on dirt roads she also survived the 2,059 km journey home from Townsville to Sydney and will be on show at this weekend's Hills Relay for Life at Castle Hill Showground, still dusty from her outback adventure.

Come and say hi on Saturday, 17th May.



Stepbrothers John Delaney and Andrew Bateup at the finish at Townsville



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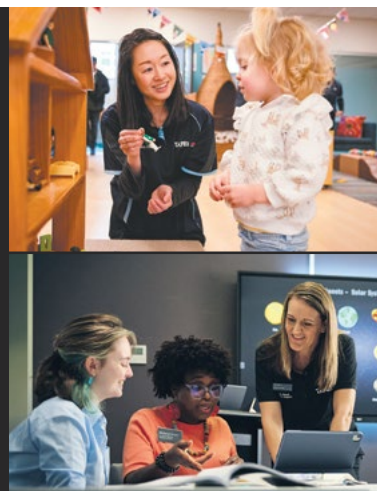
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out and about

with MICHELLE BYRNE

Community Environment Centre Annangrove

Opened on world Environment Day in 2006, by the then Mayor of Baulkham Hills Shire Council, Sonya Phillips, the community environment centre in Annangrove has become a buzzing hive of activity for residents and volunteers alike.

The mission of the Community Environment Centre is to provide a community resource dedicated to promoting the importance of biodiversity and sustainability whilst connecting the local community with each other and the environment.

The Community Environment Centre sits withing the Annangrove Bushland reserve which contains remnant Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest, shale sandstone traditional forest along with a plethora of fauna and flora. This reserve is the perfect place for the community centre and for residents to gain an even greater appreciation of our natural environment.

Features of the Community Environment Centre include native plant gardens, vegetable gardens, bush tucker garden, waterwise garden bed, range of compost bins, worm farm, native beehive, environmental reference library as well as flyers and information about other local environmental organisations, projects and

groups. On offer also is a range of workshops and demonstrations that are run on various topics of interest to residents such as gardening planting natives, sustainability at home, worm farms, growing food for wildlife, building insect hotels and so much more. There are also holiday workshops and other activities aimed at our youngest residents.

The community environment centre is also now known as the "platypus hub", a nod to the collaboration with the Cattai Hills Environment Network (CHEN) and other local environmental groups. The aim of this collaboration is to track and study the movements of platypus in the Hills and to create community awareness of these very shy creatures and the importance of keeping our waterways clean. CHEN in partnership with Western Sydney University have discovered e-DNA of platypus in the Cattai Creek creating much excitement that platypus still live in our waterways despite the increased pressures of urbanisation on a once very rural area.

Like most community centres and organisations, the community environment centre is operated by passionate volunteers who are the drive force and the heart of our

Community Environment Centre and who have made the centre what it is. A testament to their hard work and dedication to ensuring we look after our environment for current and future generations of Hills residents.

The Community Environment Centre is open to residents and volunteers on Thursdays 9am-4pm and Saturdays 10am-2pm. I encourage you to visit the Community Environment Centre, attend one of the many workshops and activities on offer and learn more about our local environment as well as some handy hints or tips for your own gardens.

For more information on the Community Environment Centre including upcoming workshops and demonstrations go to www.thehills.nsw.gov.au/Community/Your-Environment/Community-Environment-Centre-at-Annangrove



Too many bathroom trips during the night?

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Helping Local Sport & Community Clubs Thrive in a Digital World

Castle Hill RSL Club recently brought together a diverse group of local sports and community organisations for a Sports Showcase. An evening of learning, networking, and collaborative development. Designed to strengthen the local sporting and community clubs, the event provided a valuable opportunity for clubs to explore effective strategies for growth and sustainability in an ever-evolving social and digital landscape.

Held in the Phoenix Room at Castle Hill RSL Club, the event was led by the CHRG Leadership Team and focused on how practical marketing approaches can help clubs better engage their members, build awareness, and operate more efficiently. More than just a presentation, the Sports Showcase was an interactive session where attendees could exchange ideas, ask questions, and workshop challenges with both peers and CHRG leaders. This collaborative format encouraged open dialogue, allowing clubs to share their unique experiences and benefit from each other's insights.

Castle Hill RSL Club is affiliated with a wide range of local sports and community clubs across the Hills. The event welcomed representatives from local Cricket, Photography Club, Swimming, Gymnastics, Snooker, and Fishing Clubs - each contributing their unique insights and a shared enthusiasm for learning.

"I found the recent Sports Showcase event on marketing to be very informative. It was

very well presented by the team," said Lance Soles, Treasurer of Castle Hill Cricket Club. "Whilst our committee is doing a lot of positive things around how we promote our club, the showcase presentation provided us with a lot of good ideas and suggestions to help our club thrive and continue to grow. I took away a lot of information that will be very helpful. Thank you for putting this on for the sub clubs, it was the most valuable."

The Sports Showcase presentation covered a broad range of topics tailored to equip clubs with simple yet effective strategies. These included database and registration management to keep operations organised, building strong member connections to foster a sense of belonging and community and leveraging the power of social media to boost visibility and engagement. Attendees also explored the basics of graphic design to improve visual communication using Canva, the importance of a strong online presence through

well-maintained websites, and the emerging role of artificial intelligence in enhancing productivity and streamlining daily tasks.

At its core, CHRG is dedicated to supporting the community, and the Sports Showcase is a reflection of that commitment. By bringing these local sport and community clubs together in a supportive, solution focused environment, CHRG continues to foster collaboration, innovation, and growth across the local sporting landscape, ensuring clubs remain vibrant, resilient, and well-connected into the future. CHRG plans to continue offering educational and collaborative sessions to further support local sport and community clubs.

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Norwest has a highly skilled group of dedicated orthopaedic surgeons with a broad range of expertise. They're some of Australia's most experienced joint replacement surgeons and sports injury doctors. We have state-of-the-art orthopaedic facilities and use minimally-invasive techniques for joint, muscle and tendon repair, using the latest generation of screws, plugs and implants.

We recently achieved recognition as a Centre of Excellence in Orthopaedic Surgery. This accomplishment is a testament to Norwest Private Hospital's steadfast commitment to delivering an unrivalled patient experience.

If you choose Norwest for your procedure, our friendly staff will be with you from pre-admission through to your post-operative care.



Meet some of our doctors

Dr Ali Gursel and Associate Professor Sol Qurashi are both accredited as Surgeons of Excellence at the Centre of Excellence in Orthopaedic Surgery at Norwest Private Hospital.

This highlights the essential role both Dr Gursel and A/Prof Qurashi play in supporting their patients' care and wellbeing.

A/Prof Sol Qurashi

A/Prof Sol Qurashi is a Sydney-trained and based hip and knee surgeon with expertise in hip replacement, knee replacement and reconstructive surgery.

He is the pioneer and first surgeon to introduce the micro-invasive SuperPATH hip replacement procedure in Australia and report on functional outcomes. A/Prof Qurashi is at the forefront of research and development in his field.



How do you support patients through recovery after treatment?

One of the most important predictors of a successful outcome is meeting patient expectations. Having surgery can be stressful, not just physically but psychologically for the patients, and also their families. Making sure that everyone is on the same page and supported through this stressful time is imperative. The best way to provide this support is by empowering the patient through education and providing an open line of communication. We emphasise that we are contactable seven days a week and all our patients go home with a way of contacting us if there are any concerns or issues. They also have the mobile number of the anaesthetic specialist who is happy to be contacted directly, particularly if there are any pain issues for the first few weeks. We make sure that there is timely follow-up organised prior to any procedures.

What do you say to patients who might be delaying surgery?

Treatment of arthritis will depend on how much it troubles the patient. Non-operative measures are often the best way to start, but there may come a time when these are not effective. Then a joint replacement may be a reasonable option.

Surgery by way of joint replacement is performed when the patient feels that their symptoms are a significant intrusion in their day-to-day life and not being managed adequately with simple measures.

What do you like about Norwest Private Hospital?

Norwest is a holistic facility. It is heavily supported with all levels of care as needed. Specialist physicians are very approachable and accessible. I enjoy working in an environment where I feel my patients are being looked after by an excellent team. They strive and go out of their way to make things happen and I appreciate it, as do my patients.

Dr Ali Gursel

Dr Ali Gursel is an Orthopaedic Surgeon with particular interests in surgery of the hip and knee, arthroscopic, joint replacement and revision surgery.

Dr Gursel is a current member of Standards Australia, and member of the Arthroplasty Society of Australia and the Hip Arthroscopy Society. He is the current Chair of the NSW Australian Orthopaedic Association.



Can you describe your specialty and what drew you to this field of medicine?

Orthopaedic surgery involves the diagnosis and management of conditions that affect the musculoskeletal system. My specific interest is the disorders of the hip and knee joints, specifically joint replacement surgery. It is a field of medicine that provides very significant improvements in quality of life usually in a short period of time. Seeing my patients relieved of their pain makes my work so satisfying.

How do you ensure your patients receive the best possible care?

The best possible care is achieved by personalising management. Listening to patients' symptoms, examining accurately and linking this to the appropriate investigations ensures correct diagnosis. I also ensure all non-surgical options are exhausted prior to performing individualised surgery.

What's one advancement in orthopaedic care that has made a big difference for your patients?

Use of technology in preparation and execution of surgery has made a difference in the accuracy of joint replacement surgery. Holistic care of the patient from the very beginning of their treatment has made an even bigger difference.



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ART DEMONSTRATION SATURDAY 2.00pm JUNE 7

AMANDA DOCTOR "Drawing with Perspective"

In this demo Amanda will show you how to find the horizon line, how to do 1/2/3pt perspective and the different ways of illustrating aerial perspective with colour. This will greatly assist when you come to do Urban Sketching in pen and watercolour washes.

To understand perspective, you have to start with the horizon line, which is not just a line dividing earth from sky, it is the foundation from and to which everything is either physically or visually connected, making the objects we draw on a flat surface actually have depth and dimension.

This demonstration will be held on Saturday at 2.00pm and visitors are welcome to join with the Castle Hill Art Society at Castle Glen Community Centre, 157 Ridgescrope Drive, Castle Hill. Enquiries 9899 3179 www.castlehillartsociety.org.au



PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION

Living with the River

Explore the power, beauty and the rich stories of the Hawkesbury-Nepean River, also known as the Dyarubbin, through the lens of our community.

Hawkesbury Central Library, Windsor has just opened a new photography display Living with the River. This captivating exhibition features a selection of images from the NSW Reconstruction Authority's Living with the River competition, which invited local residents to capture what the river means to them.

From the tranquil scenes of kayakers gliding through the water to the majestic bridges spanning the river and the diverse wildlife co-existing with us in nature, each photo tells a unique story and celebrates the community's deep connection with the river. The exhibition includes images from Wallacia to Brooklyn, highlighting its changing face, the wide range of ways people experience the River and the challenges of living on a floodplain.

The photo competition and exhibition are a key part of the Reconstruction Authority's work to raise flood risk awareness, promote emergency preparedness, and gather community input for the Hawkesbury Nepean Valley Disaster Adaptation Plan (HNV DAP). By bringing together a collection of images that captures the beauty, challenges, and everyday interactions with the river, we see how the community values and engages with this vital waterway.

Don't miss this opportunity to connect with the heart of our community and the lifeblood of our region.

Visit Hawkesbury Central Library, at 300 George Street Windsor and immerse yourself in the stories of the Hawkesbury-Nepean River from 10 April through to 30 September.

Proudly supporting our clients, our community and our team for 25 years

25 ANNIVERSARY

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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

Why is it so Hard to Hear in Noisy Places?

Do you find it hard to follow conversations at family gatherings, pubs, or noisy restaurants? You're not alone. Many people struggle in these situations because background noise makes it difficult to hear clearly. But why does this happen, and what can be done about it?

Why Noise Makes Hearing Harder

In busy, loud environments, our brains must work extra hard to focus on speech. This is especially tough because human speech is made up of many different sounds – some loud and low-pitched, others soft and high-pitched.

- **Louder sounds** like "M," "N," "A," and "O" are low-frequency and carry more power. They travel well and are easier to hear.
- **Softer sounds** like "S," "F," "TH," and "SH" are high-frequency and much quieter. These are the sounds that add clarity to speech and help us tell words apart.

In noisy places, the louder background sounds often drown out these soft, important speech sounds. Even people with normal hearing may find it hard to understand speech in these settings. For those with hearing loss – especially age- or noise-related hearing loss – it's even more difficult, because high-pitched sounds are often the first to fade.

This common problem is sometimes called the "cocktail party effect."

The Impact on Social Life

When you can't follow what people are saying, it can feel frustrating or exhausting. You might start avoiding social events or stop joining in conversations. Over time, this can lead to feelings of loneliness or isolation.

But the good news is – it doesn't have to be this way!

What You Can Do to Hear Better

At Ear Studio, we help people every day who are struggling to hear in noisy places. Here's how we can support you or your loved ones:

1. Book a Best Practice Hearing Evaluation

Not all hearing checks are equal. We don't just do a quick 15-minute test. At Ear Studio we conduct in-depth evaluations with measurements of many parameters like middle ear pressure, acoustic reflexes to assess some nerve functions, assessment of air and bone-conduction hearing as well as speech tests in quiet and in noise.

2. Understand Your Results

We'll explain your hearing results clearly and prepare a written report for your GP. In some cases, medical conditions may need to be addressed before proceeding with hearing solutions.

3. Consider a Customised Best Practice Hearing Rehabilitation Program

If hearing loss is affecting you, we'll guide you

through our Best Practice Fitting Program at Ear Studio. This involves a series of appointments throughout which you work closely with a hearing care professional. We start off by choosing devices suited to your needs and customised items for a perfect fit. During your fitting and follow up appointments over the coming weeks we measure your progress, continue with small adjustments if required and answer your questions to ensure the best possible outcome for you.

4. Reconnect With the People You Love

With the right support, you'll find it easier to join conversations, laugh with friends, and enjoy social gatherings again.

Ready to Hear Better?

You don't have to struggle in noisy environments. Let our friendly team at Ear Studio help. Call us on (02) 9159 6122 or email reception@earstudio.com.au to book your appointment.

We're located at Suites 9–10, 60 Cecil Avenue, Castle Hill, with off-street parking and easy access. Visit www.earstudio.com.au to learn more. As proud members of the *Hearing Up Network*, we're committed to giving you the best care in a warm and welcoming space.

We are an Independently owned and operated Audiology Clinic following Best Practice principles

"Our drive and motivation are fuelled by the positive impact we can make on the hearing health and the wellbeing of our patients and their improved quality of life and relationships."

– **Daniel Fechner**

Director, Founder & Audiometrist

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✉ reception@earstudio.com.au

🌐 www.earstudio.com.au

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📍 Lawton House, Suite 9-10 / 60 Cecil Ave, Castle Hill
(offering under cover, off-street parking)

**Contact us
TODAY**



Daniel Fechner



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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

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.



**FAIRER
HILLS FUTURE**



See Jane Caro at the Pioneer Theatre

Join Jane Caro as she discusses her latest book *Lyrebird* - a gripping thriller which sees a recently retired detective and associate professor team up to investigate a murder and its connection to the mimicked sounds of a lyrebird from two decades ago.

Jane was awarded the B&T Women in Media Lifetime Achievement Award and has published 13 books, including the bestselling novel, *The Mother*.

Jane will be at the Pioneer Theatre on Thursday, June 5 at 6.30pm-7.30pm. Tickets cost \$13.30pp.

Visit the Pioneer Theatre website, pioneertheatre.com.au to book your ticket.

Council Meetings

Tuesday, 27 May 2025 at 7pm

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

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 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.



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



Council calls for next Sydney Hills Youth Ambassadors

The Hills Shire Council is seeking enthusiastic young individuals to become the next Sydney Hills Youth Ambassadors!

Council is inviting Hills residents aged 15 to 24 who are interested in representing the voices of young people in The Hills to apply for its 12-month Youth Ambassador Program.

As a Youth Ambassador, your responsibilities will include participating in community events, speaking at Council functions, joining The Hills Youth Army, promoting youth opportunities in schools and the broader community, and representing Council at various events.

Additionally, you will collaborate with Council to develop and implement a project focused on young people during your term.

To apply, you must be between 15 and 24 years old and reside in The Hills. Nominations will close on Thursday, 12 June 2025. Scan the QR code to apply!

Last chance to sign our online book of condolence for the late Pope Francis

An online Book of Condolence is still available for you to leave a message for the late Pope Francis.

Pope Francis passed away at 88 years old, following a stroke and cardiac arrest during the early hours of Easter Monday. He made his final public appearance the day before, on Easter Sunday.

Affectionately known as the "People's Pope", Pope Francis consistently called for peace in times of conflict, actively reached out to other faiths, and championed the cause of social justice.

He was committed to fostering inclusivity, addressing historical challenges in the Church, and protecting the rights of migrants and the marginalised

Scan the QR code to be taken to the Online Book of Condolence to leave your message.



Win and Have Your Photos Seen by Thousands in Council's Calendar

Aspiring and professional photographers alike are invited to showcase their skills in The Hills Shire Council's 2026 Waste and Recycling Calendar Photo Competition.

The competition seeks original photographs that capture the unique beauty and spirit of The Hills.

Winning entries will be featured in 2026 Waste and Recycling Calendar, which is distributed to homes across the region.

A \$100 Coles/Myer gift card will be awarded to the front cover winner, and 12 x \$50 Coles/Myer gift cards will be awarded to the monthly feature photograph winners — one for each month.

Applicants must reside within The Hills LGA and can only submit images taken in the Shire within the last two years. The images can feature natural or built environments but must not include people or faces.

The competition closes 11:59pm on Monday, 30 June. Scan the QR code to learn more.



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



THE HILLS
Sydney's Garden Shire

FROM FACING THE UNTHINKABLE TO A FUTURE OF HOPE:

Josh's Journey with CAR T-Cell Therapy

A childhood cancer diagnosis is heartbreaking, and for some families, when treatments fail, the unimaginable becomes a reality. But thanks to research funded by Sydney Children's Hospitals Foundation (SCHF), there is new hope for children with hard-to-treat cancers.

Josh, a typical 16-year-old who loves skateboarding and video games, faced a devastating diagnosis of Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia. After multiple treatments failed, his family prepared for the unthinkable: Josh entering palliative care. But a revolutionary treatment—CAR T-cell therapy—turned his life around. Today, Josh is in remission and his future is bright.

His journey began with what seemed like a simple bruise. After abnormal blood test results, his mother Kerryln recalls, "One of the doctors came to see me, and it was a doctor who had the word Paediatric Oncologist on her badge. And I thought, oh my gosh, you're the last person I ever wanted to see."

Josh's cancer was deemed high-risk, and didn't respond to chemotherapy, so Josh had a bone marrow transplant within the first year of his diagnosis. Sadly, the transplant didn't

succeed, and his cancer returned. "He didn't really respond as quickly as they say you usually do, and quite soon... he had relapsed. He still had leukaemia," Kerryln shares.

With few options left, doctors offered CAR T-cell therapy—a groundbreaking treatment that reprograms a patient's immune cells to fight cancer. The treatment works by harvesting a patient's T-cells, then strengthening them in a lab and reinfusing them into the body to fight the cancer.

Unfortunately, Josh's first attempt at the therapy failed, and his condition worsened. "That was a really hard time, a really dark time," says Kerryln. "That's when the doctor mentioned Josh having some palliative care involvement."

Thankfully, a second T-cell harvest was successful, and weeks later, Josh was in remission. "For us to have had CAR T-cell as an option has just been life-changing," Kerryln says.



Now, Josh is living a normal teenage life—going to school, working part-time, and making plans for his future.

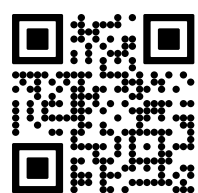
Thanks to SCHF-funded research, CAR T-cell therapy is being explored for other childhood cancers. With your support of the Sydney Sick Kids Appeal, more kids like Josh could be given that same chance at hope.

Visit SCHF.org.au to learn more and donate today.



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Children's
Hospitals
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1 in 2 Australians don't have a valid Will.



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Lakes of Cherrybrook

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Call 0499 511 976



Cherrybrook Gardens

10 Casuarina Drive, Cherrybrook
Saturday 14th June, 10am- 12 noon
Call 0400 195 926



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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



A positive forward-looking agenda for North West Sydney

To the good people of Greenway, serving as your local member in the Federal Parliament is the greatest honour of my life.

It is with heartfelt thanks, humility and gratitude that I will continue to represent our local community in a second term Albanese Government.

It is also an honour to be appointed Attorney-General and to be part of a majority female Cabinet.

Our Labor Government is driven by fairness, hard work, aspiration and opportunity for all.

I will stay true to these values as we work together to build a better future for the families, households and businesses of North West Sydney.

No matter who you voted for, your postcode, background or beliefs, I will work every day for each of you with commitment and dedication.

Just as the Albanese Government will work for every Australian.

Throughout the election campaign, countless constituents shared their priorities and aspirations with me.

You want better mobile connectivity, local parks and playgrounds. Labor is delivering this.

We are upgrading Windsor, Richmond, Burdekin, Townson, Garfield and Bandon Roads to make it easier to get around and spend more time with those you love.

Hard-working mums and dads want work from home flexibility, cheaper childcare and fully funded schools, like the high school we have fast-tracked for Box Hill.

Our community wants a bulk billed Medicare Urgent Care Clinic, cheaper medicines and full maternity services at the Rouse Hill Hospital.

Young people want fee-free TAFE, HECS relief and a leg-up into the housing market.

Workers want another tax cut and households another round of power bill relief and renewable energy solutions like the home battery subsidy.

Labor took a positive program to the election but we take nothing for granted.

We will deliver our agenda, provide cost-of-living relief and build a better future for North West Sydney.

REIMAGINING RIVERSTONE:

A Town Centre for the Future

The Riverstone community is being invited to have its say on the future of their town, with the Riverstone Town Centre Rezoning Proposal now entering public exhibition in the second quarter of 2025.

Led by the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure in partnership, the proposal lays out a vision that reimagines Riverstone as a vibrant, connected and liveable centre—one that supports the needs of the growing population of Sydney's North West while respecting the town's unique history.

For too long, Riverstone has been left behind. Despite being located in the heart of Sydney's North West Growth Area, and experiencing significant population growth over the past 15 years, its town centre has not seen the investment or development that other areas have enjoyed. That's why this proposal matters.

It's a long-overdue step toward establishing Riverstone as it was always intended to be: the civic, cultural, and economic heart of the North West—the jewel in the crown of a rapidly developing region.

This plan is about more than just rezoning land. It provides a comprehensive framework

to deliver well-connected transport, diverse housing, public open space, and new local job opportunities. Importantly, it also preserves Riverstone's heritage and recognises the strong community that already exists here.

Understandably, there is community scepticism. People rightly point out this has been talked about for years and ask why it wasn't done a decade ago. The difference now is the Riverstone masterplan is a State significant project led by the Planning Department with Ministerial oversight and clear milestones to complete the process.

The government is approaching the design with balance, care, and community input at its core. The public exhibition phase, starting in June, is an opportunity for residents, local businesses and stakeholders to provide feedback and shape the final outcome. Every voice matters, and every submission will be considered in the refinement of the proposal.

With finalisation expected in early 2026, this process marks a turning point for Riverstone. It shows that the government is committed to real planning, genuine consultation, and long-term investment in the region's future.



BUILDING A BETTER COMMUNITY FOR ALL OF US

WARREN KIRBY

MEMBER FOR RIVERSTONE

riverstone@parliament.nsw.gov.au

WarrenKirbyMP warrenkirbymp

(02) 8883 3499 warrenkirby.au



AUTHORISED BY WARREN KIRBY MP. FUNDED USING PARLIAMENTARY ENTITLEMENTS.

Riverstone has waited long enough. This proposal is a clear signal that its future is finally being taken seriously—and that the first step towards achieving the town centre Riverstone deserves is firmly within reach.

Residents can view the proposal via the NSW Planning Portal.

DEMAND A NEW BUS ROUTE: **West Pennant Hills to Carlingford**

BY MARK HODGES MP | Member for Castle Hill

Public transport is not a privilege—it's a necessity. Yet for thousands of residents in West Pennant Hills, North Rocks, Cherrybrook and Carlingford, a basic piece of our public transport puzzle is missing: a direct bus service connecting Cherrybrook Metro to Carlingford Light Rail.

Despite the world-class Sydney Metro North West opening in 2019, commuters in the West Pennant Hills Valley remain without a bus link to their nearest metro and light rail hubs. Cherrybrook Station, the Oakes Road bus interchange, North Rocks, and the newly opened Carlingford light rail station are all just beyond reach for those without a car.

The numbers tell the story. By 2026, more than 12,000 residents will live in West Pennant Hills Valley—65% of whom commute outside the area. That's over 8,000 people in need of reliable public transport. Parking stations are full. Traffic congestion is worsening. And yet, the NSW Government has confirmed there are no plans to introduce new routes.

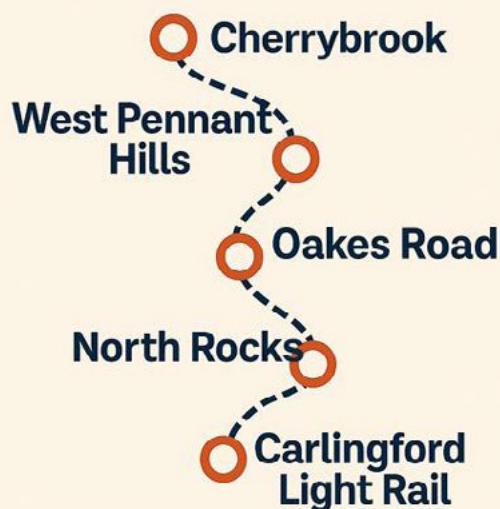
Residents are speaking up. From hospital staff to students, their message is clear: we need a bus. I've launched a petition calling for a new route to serve our growing, ageing, and increasingly mobile population. This isn't a "nice to have." It's essential.

I ask you to join me in urging the Minister for Transport to deliver the connection our community deserves. Let's get moving.

Sign the petition at: www.markhodes.com.au/petitions



NO BUS. NO OPTIONS.
IT'S TIME FOR A NEW ROUTE



A DIRECT BUS IN 2025
SIGN THE PETITION NOW



Mark Hodges MP
Member for Castle Hill

Mark can help you by

- Representing you in the NSW Parliament
- Assisting you to access State services
- Communicating your issues to the relevant Ministers
- Organising Justice of the Peace applications
- Recognising Community Achievements



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 📍 Suite 1A, 19-21 Terminus St Castle Hill 2154

Authorised by Mark Hodges MP. Funded using parliamentary entitlements.



A collage featuring a happy dog with its tongue out, a cat's face, and the text "PETS OF THE WEEK" in large, bold letters. The background is blue with white text and graphics. The word "PETS" is partially visible on the left, "OF THE" is in the center with a paw print icon, and "WEEK" is on the right. A cartoon cat face is in the top right corner, and a small brown animal is partially visible on the far right. The word "MEET" is partially visible at the bottom right.

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: BELLA
BREED: American
Staffordshire Terrier
SEX: Female
AGE: 9 Yrs, 6 Mos
and 3 Wks
PRICE: \$99



MEET BELLA, a sweet and affectionate girl who's 9 years old and ready to find her new family. With her laid-back personality, Bella is the ideal match for those who appreciate the calm and comforting presence of a mature dog. Her chilled-out demeanour makes her a low-maintenance companion, perfect for individuals or families looking for a dog that enjoys quiet evenings and gentle company. Bella is affectionate and enjoys being around people, making her a wonderful snuggler for cozy nights in.

Bella is already desexed, so she's fully prepared to settle down comfortably into her new home. If you're searching for a gentle, loving, and tranquil addition to your household, Bella could be the heart-warming companion you're looking for. Adopt Bella and embrace the easy-going joy she brings into every moment!

All prices include microchipping, lifetime council registration, desexing and 1st Vaccination.
B251000145

MEET BAMBI, a sweet and gentle soul who's ready to find her place in a loving family. This beautiful cat with a sleek and striking appearance came into the shelter as a devoted mother. Now that her babies have found their own homes, it's time for Bambi to receive the love and care she truly deserves. Bambi may come off as shy at first, but once she becomes acquainted, her tender nature shines through. Her gentle demeanor makes her ideal for a calm and serene home environment where she can flourish at her own pace. Patience, kindness, and a loving hand are key to helping her blossom into a devoted and loving companion.

Imagine Bambi gracefully lounging in the sunlit corner of your home or nestled beside you, as you wind down for the day. Her presence brings serenity and beauty, making your space feel complete. If you're ready to open your heart to this elegant feline, Bambi is sure to make your home a happier and more fulfilling place.

All prices include microchipping, lifetime council registration, desexing and 1st Vaccination.
B251000145

AT A GLANCE

NAME: BAMBI
BREED: Domestic
Short Hair
SEX: Female
AGE: 1 Year and
2 Months
PRICE: \$99







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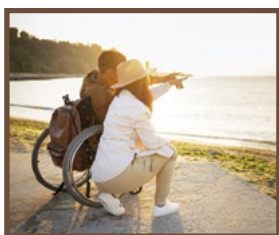
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Aussie Pumps Fights Climate Change

Nobody is more conscious of the effects of climate change than the team at Aussie Pumps.

Operating from their big new factory warehouse complex at Norwest, the Engineering Team is always working on developing solutions for drought, bushfires and floods.

Their latest development is big 6" heavy duty trailer mounted trash pumps suitable for local government flood mitigation.

"A battery of four of these monsters can pump over a million litres of flood water in an hour," said Aussie Pumps Chief Engineer, John Hales.

The machines in the picture are on their way to Whitton Shire Council in central Queensland.

"New South Wales Emergency Services should take note of this new development," said Hales.

The pumps are driven by 80 horsepower Deutz diesel engine and each produce 6,000 litres a minute flow.

They have a front opening port so "chokes" can easily be cleared without disconnecting hoses!

"It's a mobile flood mitigation solution produced right here in Castle Hill!" said Hales.

Further information on how Aussie's products are helping to combat the effects of climate change are available from aussiepumps.com.au.

Want to be part of the team and make a difference? Call Linda-Sue Karkowski on 8865 3500.



John Hales with his Aussie flood solution!

VEER'S SPORTING GOALS are Extraordinary

BY LAWRENCE MACHADO

Hills youngster Aaryaveer Tangri is an incredible child. At just 10 years, his sports charity, Golden Wickets, is already well known in several countries. His vision of helping poor children access used sports gear is helping hundreds of girls and boys to take up sports otherwise be unattainable to them.

He is a confident public speaker and a whiz at maths - skills he combines to inspire and support kids around the world. From calculating demand and supply to plan donation drives, to sharing his journey and delivering engaging talks, he's a one-stop powerhouse for youth empowerment.

The Kings School, North Parramatta student started his venture after his trip to India in 2019 when he saw children play skilful football without proper gear. He promptly gave his own boots to a young child and asked his parents how he could help. The result is a growing international sporting initiative which is backed by organisations here and overseas.

"I'm lucky to have good sports stuff, and I want other kids to have that too," Veer said. "I want them to be happy and enjoy playing with the right equipment. I also want to build a community where all kids can play and have fun together."

"Last year, I also got to share my birthday with kids from some of the poorest areas in India, which was amazing."

A talented state-level cricketer, Veer dreams of earning a Baggy Green one day. His family and school have been supportive, helping him run successful donation drives. Veer happily spends his school holidays helping out at charities, collecting books or cooking for disadvantaged families.

Veer admits it's sometimes hard to find time to handle all this stuff besides his school work and sports but said: "I learned that spreading kindness is actually pretty easy and even one small act can make a huge difference in someone's life."

Veer encourages children who would like to start their own charity to follow their hearts and start with simple steps.

Some of his initiatives:

- Shoe Donation Drive (Dec 2024) – Partnered with his school and the India Youth Soccer Association (IYSA) to collect and distribute used shoes to children in remote villages.
- Human Rights Celebration – Engaged with children at the Asylum Seekers Centre, Auburn, distributing sporting equipment.
- Ongoing Support for Asylum Seekers Centre – Worked with

Aaryaveer Tangri handing over sports gear to the children

the Asylum Seekers Centre during school holidays, donating sports equipment and organising fun cricket.

- Community Care Inc. Donation Drive part of Refugee Outreach program – Collected and distributed cricket kits to children.
- Birthday Initiative – Dedicated his birthday to bringing joy to underprivileged children in New Delhi in collaboration with Centre for Education and Health Research Organisation (CEHRO) India.
- Participates in school holidays at The Salvation Army, Parramatta – Helping to prepare and pack meals for needy families, creating drawings and motivational messages.

Details:

<https://goldenwickets.org>



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DURAL BOWLING CLUB NEWS

GREG SMITH is the New Club CHAMPION



Congratulations to Greg Smith, the new club champion, winning a very close game against Terri Hezlett. Commiserations to Terri. Our thanks to Cheryle Hobart, the marker for the game. The final of the Consistency Competition was on May 6.

PENNANT COMPETITION

Dural Bowling Club completed the pennant competition on May 3 with a victory against Wentworthville Bowling Club. This win enabled DBC to finish third on the ladder.

LAWN BOWLS CARNIVAL

DBC held their annual Hills Club's Living Choice Retirement Villages carnival on Monday, May 12. This was Dural's first carnival of the year. The day started under a blanket of fog, but the cloud cover quickly went away, turning it into perfect conditions for bowling.

There were 30 teams of men, women, and mixed competing. The teams came from Dural, Pennant Hills, West Pennant Hills, The Hills club, Beecroft, North Epping, Castle Hill, Burwood Diggers, St Marys Diggers, Asquith, Pittwater, Wentworthville and Merrylands.

The games consisted of two games of 12 ends of three bowl triples and they were worked off in a very friendly manner. Carlie Gowenlock, from Living Choice (major sponsor) presented the prizes to the winning teams after lunch in the LUSSO restaurant at the Dural Club.

The club thanked Living Choice for sponsoring the carnival and The Dural Club for donating the bottles of wine for the raffle.

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

THE SYDNEY TINY HOME EXPO Embracing a Sustainable Future

As urban living continues to grapple with soaring housing prices and environmental concerns, the Sydney Tiny Home Expo at the Hawkesbury Showgrounds emerges as a beacon of innovation and hope.

This event is not just about cute houses; it symbolizes a transformation in our understanding of what home truly means. The expo showcases a diverse array of tiny homes, from beautifully crafted models featuring cutting-edge sustainable technologies to creative designs that maximize minimal space. Visitors can expect not only to witness stunning designs but this is a wholly informative event with a community and industry that combines a thorough knowledge of what a Tiny Home could mean for you.

In a world where material excess often leads to stress, the notion of living in smaller, more intentional spaces promotes a lifestyle centered around mindfulness and purpose. This event, which is in its 4th year at the Hawkesbury Showgrounds, can help us reimagine our living spaces, foster community, sustainability, and a deeper appreciation for the world around us.

Open on Friday 6th June (10am-3pm), Saturday 7th June and Sunday 8th June (9am - 5pm), the event fosters a staggered entry to avoid over-crowding. Visit the website for information on tickets and entry. www.tinyhomesexpo.com.au

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An Industry Born on A Sheeps Back

When the Macarthurs introduced Merino sheep to Australia little did they know that it would lead to a worldwide industry that became popular with women everywhere. A Polish immigrant in 1896, Helena Rubenstein, with no money and very poor English language skills, arrived in Melbourne. From Melbourne, she moved to Coleraine in Western Victoria where she had an uncle who was a shopkeeper. There she found some 75 million sheep who produced copious quantities of lanolin, grazing around the countryside.

She used the lanolin as a beauty aide on herself and experimented by adding lavender, pine bark and water lilies to hide the pungent odour of the lanolin. After falling out with her uncle, she found employment as a bush governess. She later moved back to Melbourne finding employment as a waitress at the Winter Garden Tearooms. There, an admirer provided her with funds to launch Crème Valaze, supposedly including herbs from the Carpathian Mountains in Europe. The cost of production of a single jar was 10 pence and was then sold for six shillings. She could soon afford to open a salon in fashionable Collins Street.

Sydney was next, and within five years she also had a salon in London which she financed with \$100,000 of her own money. Women could not obtain bank loans at the time. In 1908, her sister, Ceska, took over the Melbourne operation and, at the same time, Helena, who had moved to London in 1908, married Polish born

American journalist Edward William Titus who also set up a small publishing company and helped Helena's company by writing publicity for the salons. Titus' publishing company is probably best known for publishing "Lady Chatterley's Lover". Titus and Rubenstein moved to Paris and again established yet another salon in 1912 to add to their growing empire. As Rubenstein and Titus were Jewish, they decided to leave Paris and move to New York at the outbreak of World War 1. In 1915 she opened a cosmetics salon in New York which became the forerunner of a chain across the United States. In 1917 Rubenstein took on the manufacturing and wholesale distribution of her products to other salons and retailers.

Rubenstein and Elizabeth Arden became intense rivals with both using the perceived value of packaging and overpricing and the pseudoscience and promotion of skincare. Rubenstein saying of Arden "With her packaging and my product we could have ruled the world". Both were social climbers who died within eighteen months of each other.

Rubenstein sold the American business to Lehman Brothers for \$7.3 million in 1928 only to buy it back during the Great Depression for less than \$1 million. She went on to increase the value of the company to \$100 million.

During 1938 Titus and Rubenstein divorced and she then married Prince Artchil Gourielli-Tchkonka who claimed to be a member of Georgian nobility and whose grandmother

was Princess Gourielli, thus enabling Helena Rubenstein to also use the title of Princess Gourielli as the wife of the Prince.

Helena Rubenstein died in New York on April 1, 1965 aged 92.

In 1973 the company of Helena Rubenstein Inc. was sold to Colgate-Palmolive and the brand started to fade so it was sold once more to L'Oreal who closed the US operations and repositioned the brand as a high-end franchise in international markets, with the exception of the US where the brand is no longer available.

The takeover of Helena Rubenstein business by L'Oreal was controversial as it had been engineered by Jacques Corze, an ex-Nazi, who had expropriated Jewish property during the war, and that the founder of L'Oreal, Eugene Schueller, had also been a Nazi collaborator.

From the sheep of Coleraine in Victoria, Polish refugee Helena Rubenstein built a worldwide business of beauty and skincare.



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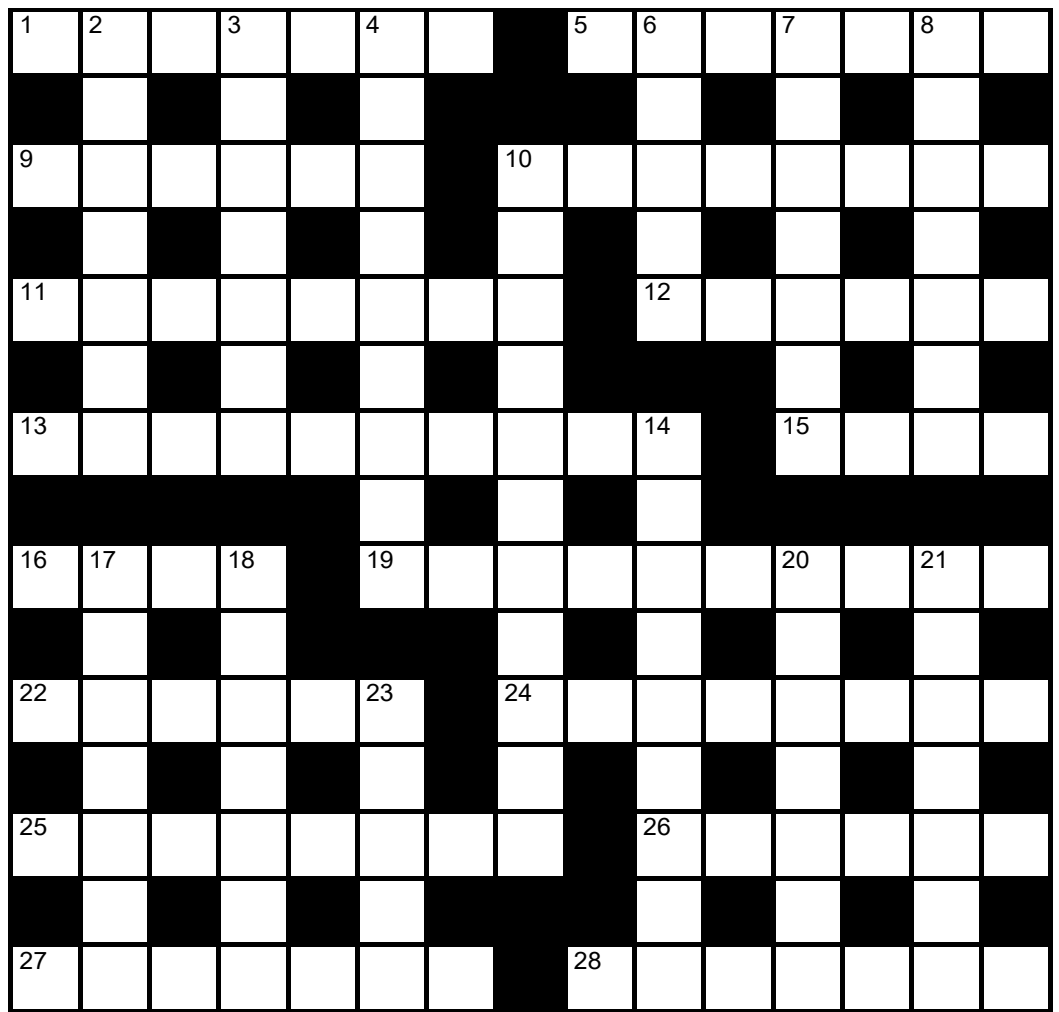
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28. Unfavourable

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4. Twisted out of shape
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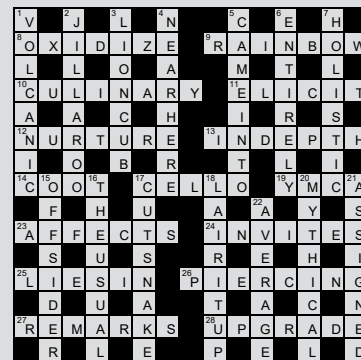


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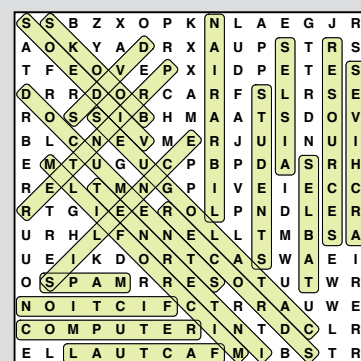
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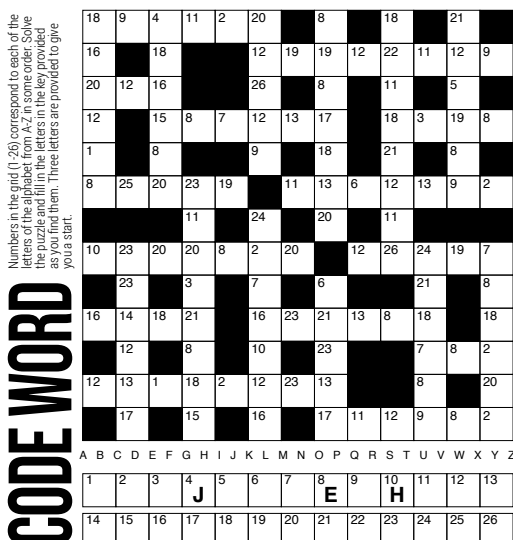
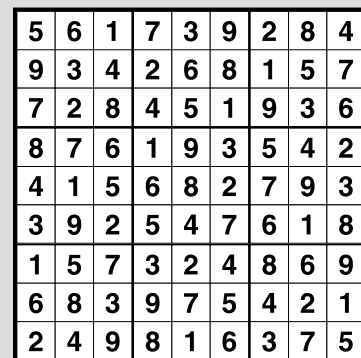
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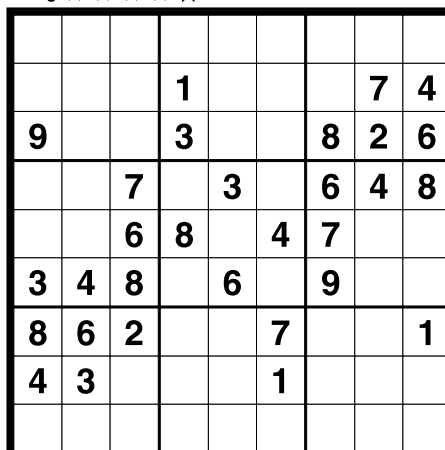
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