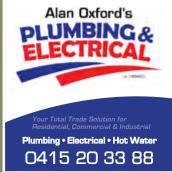
Hills to Hawkesbury Community News | 13th - 27th June 2025 | Volume 42 - Issue 12 | Local Stories, Local Events, Local People and Local Businesses





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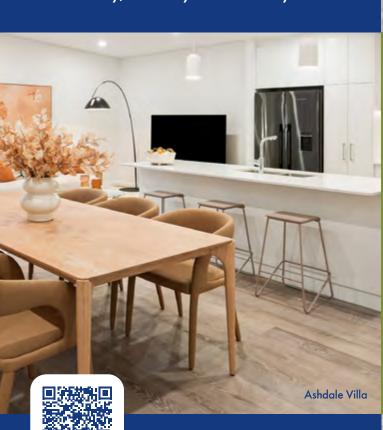
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MOVEMENT FOR BOX HILL

BY BEV JORDAN

The new owner of Box Hill City Centre has submitted an application to Hills Shire Council to modify approved plans for a childcare facility at the site at 29-31 Terry Rd Box Hill from a capacity of 80 children to 100 children. It is currently under evaluation.

The application was lodged last month by Polyhedric Developments PTY Ltd, headed by lawyer Geoffrey David Stein, which bought the 4.3ha Box Hill City Centre site in September last year for \$50.6 million.

The master planned \$600m development dream for the Box Hill site stumbled to a stop when TopPlace Group developer Jean Nassif went into voluntary administration and his company wound up.

The development has approval for a 22,843 sqm shopping centre and 660 apartments. Coles supermarket will anchor the site.

Hills Shire Mayor Michelle Byrne has welcomed movement at the site saying the growing Box Hill community deserves much more.

"This is an important step toward finally delivering a village centre for Box Hillsomewhere residents can catch up with friends over coffee or lunch, do their grocery shopping, or access essential services like childcare close to home.

"But a village centre isn't the only thing Box Hill has been waiting for. There is a \$207



million infrastructure deficit in Box Hill-and it's growing by the day.

Box Hill was planned by the NSW Government as part of its Northwest Priority Growth Area.

"Yet despite this, it remains the suburb the state forgot. Roads, sporting fields, parks, and playgrounds, and schools are all missing or under pressure, and if the funding gap isn't addressed, residents will continue to miss out."

She has been leading Hills Shire Council's campaign for better infrastructure, road improvements, more schools and playing fields in the area by launching the on-line petition, Fight For a Fairer Hills Future.

So far more than 11,200 people have

signed the petition, It needs 20,000 signatures for the issue to be tabled in Sate Parliament.

The NSW Government has recently announced a major upgrade to Rouse Hill High School and the fast-tracking of Box Hill High School by two years so it opens for Year 7 students in 2026.

The multi-million dollar upgrade at Rouse Hill High will open in early 2027.

Dr Michelle Byrne said: "This is a step in the right direction - but it's like trying to stop a tsunami with a sandbag. We already have the most overcrowded schools in the state - and these projects won't even accommodate the existing students in Box Hill and Rouse Hill, let alone the tens of thousands expected in the coming years and beyond."

"When the Box Hill Precinct was first rezoned, it was expected to accommodate 9,600 homes and 28,000 people. Now, due to additional housing pushed by successive NSW Governments, we're looking at 50,000 residents in the next decade."

"Both the Federal and State Governments have declared housing a national priority. Box Hill should be the first place they invest to unlock housing potential and restore fairness for existing residents."

The Fight for a Fairer Hills Future campaign, calling on the NSW Government to commit to 40 new sports fields, 45 road upgrades, and 14 new schools to support the Hills' area's rapid growth.

You can sign the petition at: www. fairerhillsfuture.com.au

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OOOSERVICES

FRAUD WARNING

Police have re-issued warnings to people to be wary of scams. Officers from The Hills Police Area Command have charged a 20-year-old man following a sophisticated scam that targeted a local couple in Rouse Hill.

On Wednesday 28th August 2024, a woman received a text message from an unknown number claiming to be her son, followed by a phone call from a man identifying himself as "Steven" from a bank. The caller instructed her to place her debit card in an envelope marked with her son's initials and hand it to an Uber driver outside her apartment. The card was never returned.

The following day, the victim discovered over \$40,000 in unauthorised transactions, including large purchases at retail stores across Merrylands, Parramatta, Blacktown, and Penrith.

Police obtained CCTV footage from several locations and, with the help of a Crime Stoppers report, identified a suspect. Officers attended a residence in Blacktown and arrested the man, who was later charged with fraud.

If you or someone you know has experienced a similar scam, report it to the Police Assistance Line at 131 444 or contact Crime Stoppers NSW 1800 333 000.

DRIVER WITH DRUGS

On the early morning of Monday 9th June, Hawkesbury police officers stopped a vehicle on Blacktown Road, South Windsor for random testing. A 31-year-old male was questioned. A police search of the vehicle uncovered a number of prohibited drugs, a pocket knife, and copper wiring. The male was charged with 2x possess prohibited drugs, 1x goods in custody, and 1x custody of a knife. He was bail refused to appear before Penrith Local Court on 10 June.

APPLE PAY PRANK

People are being warned about an "ApplePay pranks" following a violent confrontation in Castle Hill on Thursday, June 5th.

Police were called after a 17-year-old male approached an older man pretending to receive money via Apple Pay by holding his phone near the older man and playing a beeping sound. The teenager was detained by the older man and escorted to Castle Hill Police Station.

The trend misleadingly implies that money is being transferred between phones by playing a sound similar to a digital transaction.

Police say while the videos may seem like harmless fun, these pranks may escalate into dangerous situations as they can cause confusion and may even create fear and aggression among people, especially those who are unaware of what's happening.

"We remind everyone that filming strangers without consent and engaging in conduct that causes alarm or distress can have legal consequences," The Hills Police said.

If you witness or experience similar behaviour, please report it to your local police station or call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

VEHICLE SEARCHED

Police discovered two knives and a gel blaster pistol inside an unattended vehicle with the engine running at Thallon St, Carlingford on Sunday, 1st June. Police spoke with the 32-year-old male driver from Carlingford who was arrested and brought to Castle Hill Police Station where he was charged with possession of a prohibited weapon and firearm. He was granted conditional bail to appear at the Parramatta Local Court on 9 July. Gel blasters and flick knives are illegal to possess in NSW without proper permits, and may result in a penalty of 10 years imprisonment.



ROAD RAGE

The Hills Police is appealing for information about an alleged road rage incident involving a grey 2012 Toyota Camry in the Norwest and Castle Hill areas, that happened between 8pm to 10.20 pm on Monday, 2nd June.

At around 8.05 pm, the Camry driver allegedly flashed a knife and threw a vape at another driver. The victim followed the vehicle and notified police. The situation escalated when the victim and the Camry driver arrived at Spurway Drive, Norwest, where several persons armed with knives and machetes approached the victim.

After the incident, police engaged in two pursuits on Showground Road, Castle Hill. Both attempts were stopped due to the Camry's manner of driving. Police say despite patrols, the vehicle was not located.

Anyone who witnessed or may have dashcam footage about the incident is urged to report the information to The Hills Police Area Command on 02 9680 5399 or Crime Stoppers.

AFSM MEDALS

Nine members of the NSW Rural Fire Service, including one from Hawkesbury and another from Hornsby District, have received Australian Fire Service Medals (AFSM) for their commitment and service to the community.



Deputy Group Captain Philip Hurst (Hawkesbury) and Group Captain Andrew Cameron (Hornsby Ku-ring-gai) both received their AFSM distinctions as part of the 2025 King's Birthday Honours list.

Philip has served the Kurrajong Heights Brigade since 1981, serving in multiple leadership roles including senior deputy captain, treasurer, and permit officer, while also contributing significantly to training and the School Cadet Program in the Hawkesbury District. He is highly respected for his operational leadership during major fire events such as the 2019/20 Black Summer bushfires and for his ongoing service in both firefighting and flood response efforts.

KINGS BIRTHDAY AWARDS

BY BEV JORDAN

Jo-ann Morris and Michael Morris from North Richmond have both been awarded OAMs for service to the community through their work through the Samuel Morris Foundation.

The couple established the Foundation in 2007, the year after their two year old son drowned in a back yard pool and sustained catastrophic injuries.

They said they were "incredibly humbled" that someone took the time to nominate them.

"It's been a deeply reflective moment filled with mixed emotions about celebrating our work because of being so emotionally attached to the tragedy of Samuel's accident and the challenges he and our family face.

"At its heart, this award is not just about one person or one couple. It is about the many remarkable people who have supported our work and shared in the belief that asking difficult questions and challenging the status quo are essential to driving meaningful change. It's about a community of people who have believed in the power of questions and the need for constant improvement, who stand up and say, "We can do better," and then work tirelessly to make that a reality. We are lucky to have met so many of them as part of our work."

The couple said that Michael's colleagues and friends at Fire and Rescue NSW rallied around them to give the parents of three

the strength and support they needed in the weeks and months after Samuel's non-fatal drowning.

It was when they tried to connect with other people in similar circumstances that they realised there was nowhere to connect.

"We also realised that not everyone had the benefit of the support we were shown," said Jo-ann.

"We were faced with trying to figure out a way to both highlight the real tragedy and hidden impacts of non-fatal drowning, while trying to create a support network for families like us.

The couple's work through Samuel Morris Foundation, Royal Life Saving Society and health care consumer advocacy via the Sydney Childrens Hospitals Network has connected them with thousands of people, delivering messages on safety.

"We are incredibly grateful that we have been able to honour Samuel's all too short and difficult life, and that his story and his life has had such a significant impact on so many people."

Sadly Samuel passed away at the age of 10.

advocates for children with disabilities and families impacted by non-fatal drowning.

COMMUI

NEWS

"Their impact has been far-reaching across the charitable, health and water safety sectors. Through their work with Sydney Children's Hospitals Network, Jo-ann and Michael have been instrumental in bringing lived experience into policy development, consumer engagement, and the shift towards value-based care. They have served on state and national committees, contributed to global health outcome frameworks, and helped shape more inclusive and responsive health systems."

"Their work has informed the Australian Water Safety Strategy, contributed to strengthened pool safety laws, and inspired change at many levels. Internationally, Samuel's story helped to prompt the World Health Organisation to increase science and advocacy directed at non-fatal drowning, and the United Nations Resolution on drowning recognises the wider impacts on families."

Retirement Living Information Session

You're invited - Wednesday 25th June



Ready to explore retirement living but unsure where to start? Join us at our upcoming **Retirement Living Information Session** to hear from a panel of local industry experts.

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*RSVP is essential. Health and safety practices apply. The information presented at the event reflects the view of the speaker. It is general and not personalised for your unique needs, objectives or financial situation. Aveo encourages you to seek independent legal and financial advice about your particular circumstances before moving to an Aveo retirement village.

WINTER ARTHRITIS: YOUR HELPFUL TOOLS

Winter can present challenges for Australians living with arthritis, a significant cause of pain and reduced independence. Whether stemming from genetics, past injuries, or lifestyle factors, the impact of arthritis varies.

While early medical advice is vital, at Karis Life, we believe in empowering individuals through knowledge and practical solutions. Maintaining a positive approach and understanding your condition are key aspects of self-management, alongside exploring gentle exercises like Tai Chi and natural remedies.

Our compassionate team at Karis Life understands the daily struggles arthritis can bring. That's why we offer a range of simple yet effective assistive tools to enhance your independence. From pick-up reachers and key turners to jar and tap openers, these aids can make a significant difference, boosting your confidence and self-worth. During the cooler months, specialized arthritis gloves can provide welcome relief. We also offer a selection of adapted cutlery to make dining easier and more enjoyable.

At Karis Life, we're dedicated to providing reliable and user-friendly solutions. Our knowledgeable team is here to offer generous support and guidance, helping you find the right tools to navigate winter with greater ease. Ready to explore how assistive technology can improve your winter? Visit our friendly team at our Hornsby showroom or browse our range at www.KarisLife.com.au for personalized advice and support.

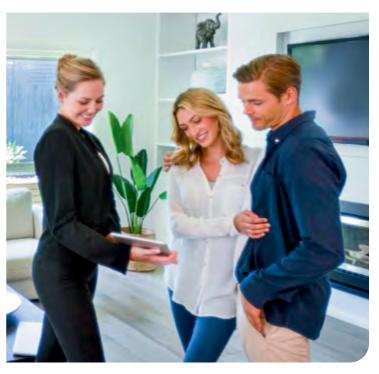






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KINGS BIRTHDAY HONOURS

With so many OAMs (Medal of the Order of Australia in the General Division) granted to so many locals it is heart-warming to see what a caring region we are. We will be featuring the winners on our website at a later date www.hillstohawkesbury.com.au

Major Malcolm Botfield
(Retd) North Rocks for
his service to veterans.
Malcolm says he
was very humbled to
receive an OAM. "My
reward is seeing people
enjoy the outcomes of what

we have been about to do. You can't do these things without a lot of support from people." He cites his wife Dianne as a main support. Malcolm is a member of the Castle Hill Sub-Branch and is Welfare Supervisor and active in recruiting on a district basis. He has been President of the 21 Construction Regiment Association since 2014 and is President of the Blacktown Branch, NSW TPI Association which supports disabled veterans. He was on the Reserve Forces Day Committee. A Vietnam veteran, he served in the Australian Army, 1964-1985 and was a Member of the Army Reserve for 23 years.

Robertson Ewin, Kurrajong for service to the community through a range of organisations. A Rotarian and retired regional bank manager, Rob has been a Board Member of Muru Mittigar and director of New Haven Farm Home since 2019 and chair of Peppercorn Services since 2016. He is former Chair, Living in Community Services.

Rob is a former Treasurer of Hawkesbury Community Outreach Service and former President, State Secretary and Treasurer of Apex Clubs Australia. A member of the Rotary Club of Kurrajong North Richmond (President, 2002-2003, and 2014-2015) He has also been a member, Australian Rotary health Foundation since 2019.

Roslyn Fogg, West Pennant Hills for service to the Indigenous community of Sydney. Roslyn has been chair of the Muru Mittigar (Dharug Aboriginal Social enterprise) since 2010. Cultural Advisor and Board Member, since 2007. Member, First Nations Advisory Committee, City of Parramatta, since 2022. Member, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee, Hornsby Shire Council. Member, Dharug Ngurra Aboriginal Corporation and involved with establishing the Dharug Traditional Owners Group.

Glenn Funnell, Castle Hill for service to community football.

Patron of Castle Hill United Football Club since 2019. Principal Sponsor for 37 years.

Kenneth McCracken, North Rocks for service to the building and construction industry. National President of **Australian Institution of Construction Supervisor**. Former Judge, Professional Excellence in Building Awards.

Former President, Dural Lions Club. Justice of the Peace, since 2004. Instructor with the Gliding Federation of Australia. Former Delegate, Civil Aviation Safety Authority.

Salim (Paul) Moussa, Carlingford for service to the community through social welfare roles including his work with Parramatta Mission, Co-ordinating Meals Plus since 2016.

Dennis Perry, Cherrybrook For service to the community of Papua New Guinea through **Operation Life** Co-founder and President, since 1998.

Haran Ramachandran, Castle Hill for service to the community through a range of organisations including the Hills-Kellyville Rotary Club. Chair, International Service, since 2009 and former President Chair, Rotary Foundation (Rotary Club District 9685)

Chair, Rotary Foundation Grants Sub-Committee. Project Manager for several overseas projects including Vietnam, Sri Lanka and India. Volunteer Sydney Sri Ayyappa Swami Temple.

Allan Staples, Castle Hill for service to the community of Castle Hill and scouting. Group leader 1st Castle Hill Scout Group, Cub and scout leader since 1987. Youth Safe Advocate with Scouts NSW, Member Lions Club of Castle Hill for nearly 50 years and former President. Chairman, Christmas Cake Fundraiser, ~20 years. Liability Claims Manager, CGU Insurance, 1960-2016.

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Castle Hill Bowling Club Chargers Take CHAMPIONSHIP WINS at the Pennant Playoffs After 11 Years

In a landmark achievement, the Castle Hill Bowling Club Chargers have delivered a stellar performance for both the Grade 3 and Pennant Cup titles at the Metro Northwest Open Gender Pennant Playoffs, held at NBC Sports. This marks the club's first Open Gender Pennant flag win in 11 years, signalling a triumphant return to form.

The Grade 3 team were the favourites going into the finals with a strong regular season campaign. The top-of-the-table Chargers won 8 out of 9 games during the season. They went into the final against Wenty Leagues full of confidence and delivered

a commanding performance, securing a 70-49 victory. This decisive win not only earned them the championship but also highlighted the team's skill and determination throughout the tournament.

Grade 3 Skip Gerard Harkins recalled, "During a vital part of the game, it was awesome to see the Chargers fight back to take a commanding lead; all three rinks combined well through the middle period to kick away from their



opponents." Harkins continued, "This performance showed exceptional teamwork, helping put us in an excellent position for the upcoming state games ".

To further the Chargers' success, in a closely contested Pennant Cup final, the Chargers put together a come-from-behind

win against the undefeated NBC Sports team with a 20–13 victory. With NBC Sports having the home-ground advantage and an undefeated run, the team showed great discipline and tactical edge, with the Chargers returning with the win.

Although the Grade 7 team didn't walk away with a title, their campaign was commendable. After a tough quarterfinal outing, they went down 73-54 to The Hills Club.

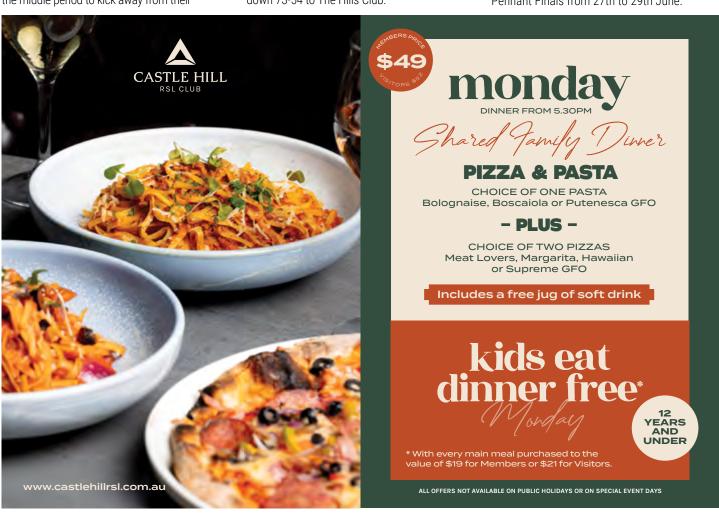


Castle Hill Bowling Club President Noel Benson helped lead his Grade 3 team to the championship win. Benson said, "It was awesome to see more than 40 supporters from our club watch Grade 3 and Pennant Cup teams come away with the win. It's great to bring success back to Castle Hill.".

Castle Hill Bowling Club dates back to 1960, and it has a rich history of bowls within the Sydney Metro North-West area. The club has a strong presence in women's, men's, open-gender and mid-week competitions.

These victories signify more than just titles; they represent a resurgence of the club's prominence in the lawn bowls community. With strong leadership, dedicated players, and unwavering community support, the Chargers are poised for continued success in future competitions.

Wishing the Grade 3 team all the best as they head into the upcoming BCiB Open State Pennant Finals from 27th to 29th June.





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STOCKLAND HALCYON GABLES: Redefining 'What's Next?' for

Over 60s

With their children grown and the family home no longer filled with the daily rhythm of a busy household, Cherri and Brendan McConnell faced a common question: What's next? Ready to embrace the next stage of life, they knew it was time to downsize, but finding the right solution wasn't straightforward. Retirement villages didn't appeal to them, they felt restrictive and didn't match their vision of an active, connected future.

"We'd been exploring options for a while, but nothing truly spoke to what we wanted until we came across Stockland Halcyon Gables. It was the only place where we didn't feel like we were giving anything up, in fact, it felt like we were gaining something better," said Cherri.

Set within the thriving Gables precinct in Sydney's north-west, Halcyon Gables is a vibrant over 60s community that combines wellness, connection, and freedom with a convenient lock-and-go lifestyle. Homeowners have access to resort style amenities such as a wellness centre, gold class style cinema, fully equipped gym, yoga studio, and will soon enjoy The Gables Town Centre, which is being developed in Stockland's neighbouring masterplanned community, upon its

completion next year.

The couple, who plan to move into their new home early in the new year, said it was the active lifestyle that first caught their attention, but the sense of community that made it feel like home.

"It's a big lifestyle change, but a really good one. We know we're going to have everything we need right at our doorstep. We've already met other homeowners and honestly, there's this shared sense that the future is going to be bright," said Cherri.

The financial side also offered peace of mind. The couple were drawn to the freedom and flexibility that came with buying at Stockland Halcyon Gables, especially the absence of stamp duty and deferred management fees.

"At Halcyon, our home is truly ours. We can sell it, stay in it, whatever feels right for us. That level of independence really matters," said Cherri.

From the beginning, the couple have felt supported by Stockland, with the community spirit starting well before move-in day.

"Our experience with Stockland has been fantastic. We're not just people buying houses, they've made us feel like part of their family and that's what I love. We're genuinely excited for this next phase of our lives," said Brendan.

To find out more about Stockland Halcyon Gables visit: stockland.com.au/halcyon-gables



EXHIBITION OF PLANNING PROPOSAL

Riverstone Town Centre

Location Riverstone Town Centre

Applicant Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

Council Area Blacktown City Council

Consent Authority Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

The Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (the Department) worked with Blacktown City Council (Council) and other Government agencies to prepare a new Rezoning Proposal for the Riverstone Town Centre that considers previous planning proposals as well as Council's master plan.

Key features include:

- approximately 3,600 new homes including a minimum of 1.5% affordable housing
- up to 5 ha of employment land and 1,200 jobs
- over 8 ha of new or improved open space including a sports oval
- a new main street along George Street with retail, dining and shopping areas
- improved transport connections including an upgraded station area, cycleways and pedestrian pathways
- increased building heights from between 2 to 15 storeys
- an improved flood resilient neighbourhood.

The Department will lead the rezoning process under the State Significant Rezoning Policy. The Policy aims to shorten the rezoning timeframe to better meet the housing and employment needs of NSW's growing population.

Have your say

The Rezoning Proposal is on public exhibition until 2 July 2025. Submit your feedback online via planningportal.nsw.gov.au/riverstonetown-centre and click on 'Make a submission'.

For more information, including a copy of the Department's submissions policy, go to planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/haveyour-say. Alternatively, contact 1300 420 596 or email riverstonetowncentre@dphi.nsw.gov.au

Will-an-thropy:

Leaving a gift to charity in your Will

You may already be familiar with the term Philanthropy. Now there is a new word in the world of charitable giving, 'Willanthropy', an act by someone who leaves a gift in their Will to charity.

It is a common misconception that only the wealthy can make a meaningful impact through legacy giving in a Will. Willanthropy is something everyone can do. Willanthropy comes in all shapes and sizes, from real estate, shares, or cash to leaving a percentage of your estate to the charity or charities important to you. Everyone who makes a Will can be a Willanthropist!

At Sydney Children's Hospitals Foundation (SCHF), those who become Willanthropists know that leaving a legacy is an act of kindness making a long-lasting and positive

impact on countless lives well into the future.

Willanthropist Lyn Cecil is a mum of a baby boy who survived thanks to the wonderful care received at Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick in the 1970s. "I'm a retired Mum. I may not be in the position to make a significant donation today, but through my Will, I can in the future."

By leaving a gift in your Will to SCHF, you can help fund groundbreaking research, purchase vital cutting-edge equipment, and enable SCHF to continue its mission to ensure world-class health care for kids.

"Bequests gifts are a lifeline for children and families and a wonderful legacy to leave for the next generation." Said Willanthropist Emeritus Professor, Kim Oates AO, former Chief Executive, The Children's Hospital at Westmead.

Leaving a gift in a Will, as little as 5%, can make a significant difference to the future of sick kids and help them live their healthiest lives.

To learn more, contact SCHF on 1800 770 122, plannedgiving@schf.org.au or visit www.schf.org.au/gift-in-will



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



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BY BEV JORDAN

The Cumberland Gang Show returns to the Parramatta Riverside Theatres this July school holidays with its spectacular new production, Dare to Dream!

Audiences will be treated to dazzling song and dance numbers, laugh-out-loud comedy, and the rich sound of a 20-piece live orchestra. With cutting-edge digital theatre effects, stunning sets, and eye-catching costumes.

David Shaw says it's not to be missed: "Dare to Dream is set to be our most exciting production yet.

"Get ready for two hours of high- energy, feel-good entertainment that the whole family will love."

Each year, Gang Show provides hundreds of young Scouts and Guides with hands-on training and mentorship as they learn to write, stage, and perform a full-scale theatrical production.

Rob Lang, Producer and Director, says "A musical variety performance like Gang Show has something for everyone - from stunning harmonies and incredible dance routines to

laugh out loud comedy. But one thing we can guarantee is that our audiences are going to be blown away by our brand new show that demonstrates what happens when our 150 enthusiastic young cast Dare to Dream."

Tristan Horntra who leads the Production Team said "The most rewarding part of Gang Show for me is watching our cast grow in confidence, teamwork, and performance skills. This year's theme, Dare to Dream, truly



COMMUNITY NEWS

shines through as we see them take on new challenges and achieve things they never thought possible"

The 2025 Gang Show is packed with fun, music, and imagination. Taking audiences from the Aussie outback to Barbie wonderland, singing in the shower, and even to where the Wild Things are. There's a special UV number and a Riverside Theatre tribute too. With original sketches and songs by Scouts and Guides, plus hits from Jason Mraz, Lady Gaga, Aqua, Rihanna and more.

Senior cast member Eloise values the skills and confidence she has built after performing in the Gang Show for a number of years: "I love being in Cumberland Gang Show because it's such a fun and supportive environment where I've made amazing friends and unforgettable memories that will last a lifetime."

Volunteering is an important way of supporting her children, says Helen: "I have had the amazing opportunity to build friendships with other like minded adults, who have a passion to help and see children have the most amazing time while thriving and building confidence in their abilities."

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

- Wednesday 9 July, 7:30pm
- Thursday 10 July, 11am
- Friday 11 July, 7:30pm
- Saturday 12 July, 2:30pm
- Saturday 12 July, 7:30pm
- Sunday 13 July, 2:30pm

Book your tickets directly through the Riverside Theatre https://riversideparramatta.com.au/whats-on/cumberland-gang-show/

If you want to learn more about Gang Show and how you can join in the fun, head to www.gangshow.asn.au







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WINTERFEST IS COMING

Gather your fellow adventurers and venture forth to Winterfest Sydney Medieval Fair for a weekend of fun and adventure!

Winterfest is back on 5th - 6th July 2025 at the Hawkesbury Showground, 10am - 5pm.

At Winterfest you can adventure to a world with free-flying birds of prey, knights, vikings and more. From jousting, archery and combat to crafts, cooking and games, this popular two-day event features an extensive program to delight the whole family.

Immerse yourself in the action with a wonderful line-up of entertainment, including:

- The exciting Winterfest Jousting Tournament in the sport of kings!
- Full Contact Fighting with Australian Medieval Combat: The best fighters from NSW and Victoria battle it out in full medieval armour with steel - the last one standing wins!



 Meet graceful and powerful raptors with Feathered Friends. Get up close with a majestic eagle, and colourful parrots fit for a pirate.

 Melee Battles with warriors in armour from a range of historical periods.
 Watch the groups battle for supremacy in the 'Combat and Arms' displays

- The Mounted Skill-at-Arms, demonstrating the skills required for knights in training and in battle on horseback.
- The Re-enactors's Row, where you can try helmets, armour, shields and weapons.
 Friendly re-enactors from history enjoy sharing their knowledge about the people and period they are re-enacting.

Explore the vibrant range of wares at 'Merchant's Row', with over 70 stalls including quality artisan and handcrafted wares, clothing, accessories, and toys, to delectable home-made sweets and stunning artwork! Discover traditional skills in the 'Artisan Alley' with displays throughout the day, including blacksmithing, woodworking, and leatherwork.

Roaming entertainers add to the festival, including musicians and minstrels, and

'Feldergast the Fool' the wandering jester. Treat yourself with many delicious foods to choose from, including delicious slow-cooked BBQ, gluten-free Japanese style chicken, handmade pizza, and refreshing ginger beer. Have a go at archery, Celtic drumming

Have a go at archery, Celtic drumming workshops, and the chance to learn to use a rapier. Have your photo taken with a unicorn, and kids can join in at the Kids' Knight School.

Immerse yourself in the festival environment by wearing something a bit different from the usual. The free-to-enter Winterfest Costume and Cosplay competition is always popular. Join the competition parade for judging and fun. Come along in a medieval-inspired outfit or fantasystyle clothing; all medieval periods, cultures, and styles are welcome.

Getting to and parking at Winterfest is easy at the Hawkesbury Showground: Free on-site parking, and Clarendon Railway station is only two minutes' walk from the gates.

Pre-purchase your tickets online for discounts, or you can buy at the gate - www.winterfest.com.au, 40 Racecourse Road, Clarendon NSW 2756 (opposite the RAAF Base). Connect with us: Facebook, Instagram and YouTube





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to book a tour of BaptistCare Aminya Village.

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The Hills Shire Council News

SIGN THE PETITION FOR MORE SPORTS FIELDS IN THE SHIRE

An additional 140,000 people are expected to move to The Hills by 2041.

With more residents, we will need 40 new sports fields. Currently, 31 of these fields have partial funding, while nine are unfunded at the following locations:

- Cherrybrook Castle Hill Norwest Bella Vista Kellyville
- Rouse Hill Baulkham Hills

Our children deserve the opportunity to play sports, especially as more families move into apartments or houses with smaller backyards.

Help us secure funding for more sports fields – it only takes 30 seconds!



SIGN OUR PETITION TODAY AT www.fairerhillsfuture.com.au

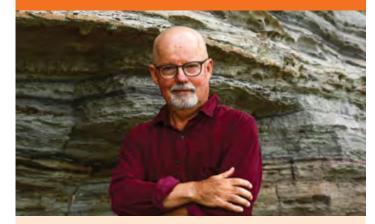
and help us reach 20,000 signatures to bring this critical issue to the NSW Parliament.







Plot twist: Author Michael Robotham is coming back to The Hills!



Join award-winning master of crime Michael Robotham as he discusses his new novel *The White Crow* at Pioneer Theatre. Tickets are \$13.30 per person.

WHEN: Wednesday, 23 July

from 6:30pm to 7:30pm

WHERE: Pioneer Theatre

Scan the QR code for more info and tickets.



Gear up for the Bike Drop Off & Check and Tune

Get wheelie excited for the Bike Drop Off & Check and Tune event! Grab that old bike or scooter sitting in your garage and drop it off at Castle Hill Showground – it will be refurbished for resale or donated to those in need through the Revolve Recycling Foundation.



WHEN: Saturday, 21 June from 9am to 1pm **WHERE:** Castle Hill Showground

0 11 00 1 6

Scan the QR code for more info.



Council Meetings

Tuesday, 24 June 2025 at 7pm

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



Yarn at The Farm

Come along and have a Yarn at The Farm and celebrate NAIDOC Week on Thursday, 10 July from 10am to 2pm at Bella Vista Farm.

Council has partnered with Muru Mittigar to honour First Nations culture during NAIDOC Week 2025. There will be something for everyone – you can kick a footy with AFL NSW and the Parramatta Eels, paint your own boomerang, enjoy traditional dancing and storytelling, and sample some incredible First Nations fusion food.

The day will begin with a Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony, followed by didgeridoo performances, storytelling, traditional dances, a performance by Jannawi Dance Clan, an interactive show with Cheeky Little Emus, and live music.

Browse through vibrant Indigenous market stalls and sample delicious food from Indigenous-owned Wilka Thalta food truck, alongside a sausage sizzle, coffee van, dessert truck, and ice cream truck.

There will be:

- FREE cultural workshops and traditional arts and crafts activities
- FREE sporting activities with AFL NSW, Western Sydney Wanderers, Parramatta Eels
- Live music, storytelling, traditional dances and performances
- FREE Indigenous fusion cuisine from Wilka Thalta food truck, including pies, pasties and sausage rolls
- Market stalls from Indigenous artists, designers, and small business owners

WHEN: Thursday, 10 July

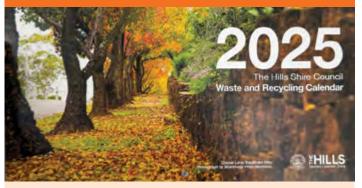
from 10am to 2pm

WHERE: Bella Vista Farm

Scan the QR code for more details.



Oh snap! Click a pic and win big in Council's Waste Calendar Photo Comp



Submit your favourite photograph of The Hills for a chance to be featured in our 2026 Waste and Recycling Calendar and win a prize. 12 images will be chosen – one for each month – and one image will make the front cover. \$50 Coles/Myer gift cards will be awarded for each monthly feature, and the front cover winner will receive a \$100 Coles/Myer gift card.

Submit your photograph by Monday, June 30.

Scan the QR code for more info.



Swing by the newly upgraded Cockayne Reserve

Discover all the new improvements at Cockayne Reserve in Castle Hill. There are two new vibrant playgrounds, two picturesque pedestrian bridges, an exercise station, a picnic shelter, seating areas, and a network of connected shared pathways – perfect for cycling, walking, or running.



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



Why You Can Trust Ear Studio With Your Hearing Health

BY THE TEAM AT EAR STUDIO

At Ear Studio, we believe that better hearing starts with better care - care that's grounded in science, delivered with empathy, and tailored to every individual. We're not just here to fit hearing aids; we're here to guide you through a personalised journey toward better hearing and improved quality of life.

What sets Ear Studio apart is our dedication to evidence-based, best practice audiology - a standard often expected in Europe and the United States, but not yet required across Australia. As one of the few clinics in the country to voluntarily adopt these international protocols, we hold ourselves to the highest level of clinical integrity.

Our approach is inspired by German audiological standards, renowned globally for their precision, thoroughness, and patientfocused outcomes. These standards guide how we assess hearing, fit and fine-tune hearing aids, and follow up on your progress. The result? You receive a level of care that is consistently accurate, reliable, and effective.

One of the ways we demonstrate this commitment is through the time we invest in each hearing aid fitting. At Ear Studio, we dedicate 6-8 clinical hours to ensure your hearing aids are set up correctly – far more than a quick in-and-out appointment. This

includes advanced diagnostic testing, Real Ear Measurements (REM), tailored programming, counselling, and multiple follow-up visits to make sure your hearing aids are not just functional but fully optimised to your lifestyle.

We also understand that hearing loss rarely exists in isolation. That's why our team of clinicians brings expertise across multiple areas of ear health, including:

- Tinnitus management offering relief strategies and support for those living with persistent ringing or buzzing in the ears.
- Ear wax removal primarily performed by micro suction - a safe, gentle, and effective alternative to syringing, performed in-clinic by highly trained specialists.
- Vestibular and balance assessments for those experiencing dizziness or vertigo symptoms, we provide thorough testing and quidance.
- Cochlear Implant Assessment and Support - We assess suitability for cochlear implants and provide ongoing support before and after surgery to ensure optimal outcomes and confidence with your new hearing pathway.
- Paediatric and adult hearing care from young children to seniors, we tailor care to every stage of life.

At Ear Studio, you'll find a small,



Our highly skilled and dedicated clinicians, Sandra Heba, Daniel and Thuvaraka.

independent team who genuinely care. We're not part of a chain or governed by sales targets. This independence allows us to recommend the right solutions without pressure — and to spend the time truly getting to know our clients.

We believe that hearing care should be about more than just devices; it should be about confidence, clarity, and connection. That's what we strive for every day, and that's why so many people in Castle Hill and beyond trust us with their hearing.

Whether you're just starting to notice changes in your hearing, seeking help with tinnitus, or looking for a more personalised approach to hearing aids, we're here to help with care you can hear and compassion you can feel.

Ready to Hear Better? Call (02) 9159 6122 or email reception@earstudio.com.au to book an appointment.

We are located in Lawton House at Suites 9-10, 60 Cecil Avenue, Castle Hill, with easy access and off-street parking. Learn more at www.earstudio.com.au.

As proud members of the Hearing Up Network, we're committed to delivering the highest standard of hearing care in a warm and welcoming space.





The Hills Shire Symphony **Orchestra Returns** with Another Blockbuster **Night of Music!**

The Hills Shire Symphony Orchestra returns with "Symphonic Heroes" on Saturday, 21st June at 7:30pm at Hills Grammar in Kenthurst. Following a sold-out Cinema Classics concert last year, they're diving into film and video game scores.

Expect a curated program of memorable music from Hollywood blockbusters by Ennio Morricone and John Williams to iconic video game themes by Koji Kondo from The Legends of Zelda. Conductor Chris Upton highlights the emotional role of these scores, stating, "We're excited to give that music the spotlight it deserves."

Adding to the fun, audience members are encouraged to dress as their favorite

superheroes for a "Best Dressed" competition, enhancing the interactive experience. The orchestra, known for accessible and engaging performances, anticipates another successful themed event.

Tickets are available at https:// hillsshiresymphonyorchestra. org.au/. Early booking is recommended. Get ready for a night where orchestral power meets cinematic and gaming magic.

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HKCC Celebrates 100 Years

For a century, Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Community College has stood as a beacon of opportunity, inclusion and transformation in our community.

HKCC has played a central role in adult and community education across our region, not only responding to educational needs, but actively shaping what community learning looks like both locally and nationally.

Today, the College supports over 1,600 students annually, with more than 5,000 enrolments in 2024.

What makes HKCC so special is its commitment to people who have been left behind by traditional pathways - those who left school early, parents returning to work, migrants starting again in a new country, and many others working to create better

futures for themselves, their families and their communities.

HKCC's teachers and staff are dedicated to helping each student succeed. They adapt their teaching, meet students where they are, and foster confidence as well as skills. This personal, flexible approach has helped thousands of local people build careers, find new opportunities, and contribute more fully to our community.

Congratulations to Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Community College on an extraordinary 100 years of service. May the next hundred years be marked by the same spirit; a belief



in people, a passion for learning, and a deep commitment to our community.

For those who want to learn more about the remarkable work of HKCC, you can visit their website at www.hkcc.nsw.edu.au.

New Health and Education Services Coming to Riverstone Under Minns Labor Government

Two major announcements from the Minns Labor Government are set to deliver much-needed services to the growing Riverstone community marking a renewed focus on public infrastructure after years of neglect.

In health, the opening of the Quakers Hill Urgent Care Service is already improving access to timely, bulk-billed care. Operating daily from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., the centre treats non-life-threatening but urgent conditions such as minor wounds, suspected fractures and infections. Staffed by experienced GPs and nurses with onsite radiology and pathology, it offers a vital alternative to overcrowded hospital emergency departments.

Patients can access the service via Healthdirect on 1800 022 222, where a nurse triages their condition and directs them to the appropriate care—whether that's an in-person visit, telehealth, or escalation to emergency services. This initiative is part of the Minns Labor Government's broader commitment to rebuilding the state's healthcare system, delivering accessible, community-based services and reducing pressure on hospitals.

In education, the Minns Government has announced a new public primary school and

preschool for Grantham Farm, one of the fastest-growing suburbs in New South Wales. Opening in Term 1 of 2028, the school will accommodate at least 500 students, with facilities including 24 classrooms, a library, multipurpose hall, canteen, and beforeand after-school care. A co-located public preschool will cater for up to 60 children per day, providing vital early learning close to home.

The new school will also become the future site of Vineyard Public School, ensuring students are not disrupted by nearby road infrastructure works. This project responds to vears of underinvestment in school planningwhere enrolments in areas like Schofields East tripled earlier projections—and reflects the Minns Labor Government's determination to restore confidence in public education planning.

Together, these announcements represent real action on health and education. The

Minns Labor Government is delivering for Riverstone, ensuring growing communities have the infrastructure, services, and support they need now and into the future.



Lights, Civics, Action! Entries Open for Parli-Flicks 2025

Castle Hill school students are invited to roll camera and shine a spotlight on democracy, with entries now open for the 2025 Parli-Flicks Short Film Award.

This annual competition is hosted by Parliament of NSW, and it challenges students from Years 5 to 12 to create a one-minute film exploring Australia's Westminster system of democracy and the role of parliament in our society.

The 2025 theme is: 'What do I value about democracy?'

There is a lot to value in representative

government—from fair elections to having a voice when important decisions are made.

I encourage students in Castle Hill to enter! I cannot wait to see your talents and imagination on full display as you reflect on what democracy means to you and your role as a young citizen.

Films will be judged across five categories: Best Regional, Best Metropolitan, Best Primary (Years 5 & 6), Best Junior Secondary (Years 7 - 9) and Best Senior Secondary (Years 10 - 12).

The overall winner will receive \$500 and a Parli-Flicks 2025 trophy, with \$100 awarded to each shortlisted entry.

Entries close 8 August 2025.

Scan the code for more information, or visit education.parliament.nsw.gov.au/parliflicks-short-film-award-2025-entries-now-open







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

Authorised by Mark Hodges MP. Funded using parliamentary entitlements.



ADVERTISEMEN



SEX: Male

AGE: 3 years 8 months

PRICE: \$49

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/



AJ is a lively and joyful dog looking for an adult-only home where he can truly thrive. Staff at the Hawkesbury Animal Shelter say AJ is bursting with enthusiasm and intelligence and is happiest when he has a job to do or a fun task to focus on. They say, from helping in the garden to learning new tricks or joining you on outdoor adventures, AJ is always ready to get involved. While his excitement makes him better suited to a home without young children, AJ has endless affection for adult companions. He loves greeting his favourite people with a happy bounce, showing just how much he enjoys being by your side. If you're looking for an active, intelligent, and loyal friend, AJ might just be the perfect match. The adoption price includes the first vaccination, desexing, microchipping and lifetime registration.

Hawkesbury Council's Rehoming Organisation Number is: R251000145.

PERRY is a friendly, fun-loving cat with a personality as warm as his purrs. Staff at the Hawkesbury Animal Shelter say Perry's playful energy makes him a joy to be around—they say he's always ready for a game of chase or a swipe at a feather toy. Perry's also a sweetheart who loves affection and quality time with his people. A gentle chin scratch is his idea of bliss.Adaptable and kind-natured, Perry would suit families or individuals looking for a companion who brings both fun and affection into the home. If you're after a well-rounded feline friend, Perry could be your perfect match. His adoption price includes the first vaccination, microchipping, desexing and lifetime registration.

Hawkesbury Council's Rehoming Organisation Number is: R251000145.



BREED: Domestic short hair cat SEX: Male AGE: 9 months PRICE: \$49





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- 9 Unit 8/1-3 Celebration Drive Bella Vista NSW 2153

Kellyville

- **(**02) 8883 0533
- Unit 1/106 Windsor Rd, Kellyville NSW 2155

Baulkham Hills

- **(**02) 9157 5557
- 472 Windsor Rd, Baulkham Hills, NSW 2153

IS YOUR CAT HIDING A PAINFUL SECRET? Why Feline Dental Care Is More Important Than You Think

Cats are masters of disguise — especially when it comes to hiding pain. While their wild ancestors chewed on bones and grass to keep their teeth clean, our modern indoor companions don't have the same opportunity. That's why dental disease is one of the most common, yet overlooked health issues in cats.

In fact, 80% of cats over the age of three show signs of dental disease. What starts as simple plaque build-up from their food can harden into tartar, causing gum inflammation, tooth decay, and painful infections. If left untreated, this can lead to tooth loss and even damage to vital organs like the kidneys and heart as bacteria enter the bloodstream.

The Signs Aren't Always Obvious

Unlike humans, cats can't tell us when something hurts. That's why it's crucial to be alert to subtle changes. Watch for:

- Bad breath
- Drooling or pawing at the mouth
- Difficulty eating or changes in appetite
- Red, swollen gums or visible tartar
- Weight loss or behavioural changes

If you notice any of these, it's time to book a check-up.

How to Keep Your Cat's Mouth Healthy

The good news? Dental disease is largely preventable with a mix of at-home care and professional support. Here's how you can stay on top of your cat's oral health:



Start Brushing Early

Daily brushing is ideal — but even two to three times per week helps. Start while your cat is young and use:

- A finger brush or gauze pad
- Cat-safe toothpaste (never human toothpaste)
- Tuna water or flavoured options to make it more appealing

Try Dental Treats & Sprays

Ask your vet about special dental diets, water additives, or treats formulated to reduce plaque. These can be especially helpful if your cat resists brushing.

Schedule Regular Vet Checkups

Because cats won't always show symptoms until the disease is advanced, your vet plays a vital role in prevention. An annual professional clean under anaesthetic allows your vet to:

- Remove plague and tartar
- Examine under the gum line
- Take x-rays and address any hidden issues

Older cats may benefit from more frequent cleanings to stay comfortable and healthy.

Gums Matter Too

It's not just about teeth. Healthy gums mean a healthier cat. Gently massaging your cat's gums after brushing helps improve circulation and reduce inflammation.

Take Action Before It Hurts

Dental disease can cause real suffering — but it's entirely preventable. With the right approach, you can keep your cat's teeth sparkling and their purr strong for years to come.

If you're not sure where to start, Sydney Animal Hospitals is here to help. Our experienced veterinary team can guide you through home care routines, recommend the best products. and provide thorough dental checks and cleans to keep your feline friend pain-free and smiling.

Book a FREE nurse dental check today or learn more at: www.sydneyanimalhospitals.com.au



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World Comes to Aussie



Hills District local success story, Australian Pump Industries, has a constant stream of high level visitors calling at their Norwest factory warehouse complex. They come just to see this remarkable company in action!

With a wide range of international clients, its not unusual to see three or four different groups of visitors from around the world coming to the Norwest factory.

Aussie's Export Manager, Mel Jansen says, "We enjoy the opportunity to share our philosophy of quality products. It's inspiring to see the way they relate to the way our great team put together some

of the most advanced products of their type in the world".

For example, their drain cleaning Jetters are now a big success, not only in Australia and the South Pacific but also as far away as Hong Kong, and even New York city.

The secret of our success is the relentless pursuit of excellence and the attitude of the team that includes factory staff, warehousing, sales and admin. The marketing team enables us to spread our wings right around the world", said Mel.

For information about becoming a new member of the Aussie team, contact Linda-Sue Karkowski on 02 8865 3500 aussiepumps.com.au

Boost for Eastwood Rugby's Castle Hill plans

COUNCIL OPENS TENDERS FOR THE PROJECT

Eastwood are one of the top rugby clubs in Sydney. Picture: Eastwood Rugby FE

BY LAWRENCE MACHADO

Eastwood Rugby's elite sporting base in Castle Hill is on the verge of getting off the ground with the opening of the tender process.

The Hills Shire Council said there will be three playing fields on the former Pony Club site. which occupies about 6.8ha of the total 58ha Fred Caterson Reserve.



The council signed a MOU with Eastwood District RUFC in November 2020 to make this a premier rugby union facility. Eastwood rugby club will be moving from their current Marsfield grounds when the Hills venue is complete. These new fields are funded via the **Developer Contributions.**

Eastwood, one of the leading rugby clubs in Sydney and Australia, is confident their new venue will provide the ideal pathway for players in the North West and Hawkesbury regions. The move and new facilities has been approved by Rugby Australia and NSW Rugby Union.

Then Eastwood rugby general manager Robert Frost told us in 2023 that North West Sydney are massive growth areas and should boost the game for all the other clubs in the region. He said they were supporting the new junior rugby club at Box Hill.

"We run the NSW Rugby Waratahs Western Rugby Academy for aspiring young athletes," Frost said. "We are very keen to ensure there is a pathway for young elite athletes which

doesn't require them to relocate in order to progress. So, you can see that we are very active in the Hills already and this will only increase in years to come."

The Hills Shire Mayor Dr Michelle Byrne said an additional 140,000 people are expected to move into the area in the next 15 years and their sports fields are not keeping pace.

"This has been a long and careful process, and I can't wait for work to begin," the mayor said. "More people mean more teams and more demand on our local fields. We need 40 new sports fields by 2036 to accommodate our rapidly-growing population."

"I want our residents to know that it is council's top priority to preserve the natural environment of Fred Caterson Reserve, while providing access to recreational and competitive sport that our community needs."

The council said the Master Plan reuses previously-cleared areas, minimises impact on endangered ecological communities, and carefully positions infrastructure to avoid disrupting bushland.



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Local AFL hero Ian Parker Honoured by Sports NSW

BY LAWRENCE MACHADO

Ian Parker of Pennant Hills Demons has been recognised by Sport NSW for his extraordinary contributions to ALF as a player, coach, official and senior administrator for more than 60 years.

The AFL NSW Senior Life Member will be presented with the Distinguished Long Service Honour on Monday, June 30 at the CommBank Stadium in Parramatta.

Parker, who moved from Tasmania in 1990, is among 19 recipients who will be honoured. The awards recognise individual officials, coaches, administrators, and organisers who have demonstrated extraordinary dedication to nurturing and promoting sport for over 25 years.

"I was extremely surprised in being recognised for the long service award," Parker said. He began his AFL career way back in 1956 as a schoolboy player. There seems to be no role he has not undertaken in the code over the years. He served as president of his club and Director of the State Football league for eight years.

In NSW, Parker joined Westbrook Junior AFL Club, becoming a representative team manager. He also coached and managed junior club and representative squads for nine years. In 1998, he joined the Senior Club committee while being a league talent identification scout, Tribunal Chairman and AFL timekeeper for Representative, AFL, and VFL games in the state.

"The Distinguished Long Service Honour presented to lan is a testament to his selfless commitment and lasting impact. He has contributed countless hours over many years to ensure others can enjoy the benefits of sport," said Sport NSW Chairperson, Chris Hall. "Individuals like Ian have been the backbone of their sport within their community."

Parker, who is married to Sally, has a daughter Fabienne, son Sebastian, and granddaughters Molly and Daisy. Sebastian plays AFL with Pennant Hills and skippered the dual Premier Division teams in 2006 and 2008.

Parker's original team was North Hobart and he played in premiership teams. Currently, he assisting the Demons with administration matters, having served as Vice President/Administration Manager, and many other roles.

'(There have been) many changes over the years with the growth of AFL in Sydney," he said. "More recently, unfortunately, the lack of volunteers is a major concern for most community clubs"

In 2016, Parker was presented with the prestigious AFL Merit Award.

Cornerstone



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Our Mission, Vision, and Values

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Mission:

To support positive outcomes for all our clients through compassionate, reliable, and person-centred care.

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Respect | Comfort | Support | Quality



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Former Socceroo Van Egmond takes charge at Hills United

BY LAWRENCE MACHADO

Former Socceroo Gary van Egmond has taken over as coach of the Hills United FC men's first grade in what should be a major boost to the club's hopes in the NSW NPL League One championship.

The 60-year-old van Egmond has turned around the club's losing streak into two successive wins over Bonnyrigg White Eagles and Northern Tigers. However, the highly-experienced player and coach has a big task on his hands for the rest of the 2025 season because the Hills United lie 12th on the ladder after 10 defeats.

The club said it was, "thrilled to announce the renown and talented Gary Van Egmond has joined our club as head coach for our NPL first grade men's squad."

"An honour for the experience, guidance and mentorship Gary brings to guide our players & club for success," Hills United said.

"Gary, with his impressive playing & coaching history, will bring a knowledgeable hands-on approach and we look forward to success for the remainder of the Football NSW League's 25th season.

Bianca Galayini Hits Century Mark

Meanwhile, attacker Bianca Galayini is the first Hills United woman player to reach the century mark and hasn't missed a minute since their inception. Praised by her coach Alan Tasses for her dedication to the club, Galayini celebrated the milestone with a goal against South Coast Flames.

Galayini is one of the key contributors in the side who top the Football NSW League One Women's competition. Last weekend, they hammered Inter Lions 7-0 to cement their lead at the top of the table. Hills United are on 37 points after 14 games with just one loss to Central Coast Mariners. SD Raiders lie second on 31 points but have two games in hand.

WITH IYOR JONES & FRIENDS WELCOME TO HISTORIC TOWN hawkesburytourism.com.au

PITT TOWN

One of the five Macquarie Towns, so called as they were established in 1810 on the orders of Governor Lachlan Macquarie, is Pitt Town on the banks of the Hawkesbury River. Settlement of the area began in 1791 when Governor Arthur Phillip camped there. Land grants were given to early settlers in 1792, along the river front in the area now known as Pitt Town Bottoms.

The name of the town was chosen to honour the 18th century British Prime Minister, William Pitt the Younger, and a plan for the town was laid out in 1811 however it was slow to develop. In 1815 it was decided to relocate to it to its present site although development was still slow and 31 years later, in 1841, there were only 36 houses in the town.

The building of St James Anglican Church in Bathurst Street saw church services begin in the district in 1857-1858 and a few years later Scots Presbyterian Church, opposite St. James, was established. Scots Church has a close association with Ebenezer Church which has been mentioned on a few occasions within these pages in the past.

Prior to the building of these two churches, worshippers had to travel to the churches in either Ebenezer or Windsor. Travel to Ebenezer was either by rowboat or punt. The punt was situated at the bottom of Bathurst Street, Pitt Town (now Punt Rd) and built and operated by James Davison II on a farm. He was forced to sell both the punt and the farm in 1826 due to financial difficulties. The punt was bought by the Rev. John McGarvie, the Minister of Ebenezer Church, and the farm was purchased by the

Ebenezer Church Committee, thus providing a Manse for Ebenezer Church. Ministers of Ebenezer Church continued to reside in the Manse and in 1839, the Rev. George Macfie was inducted as Minister. It was during his term that Scots Church was constructed and dedicated. Mr Macfie retired soon after the 1867 flood, during which his daughter's wedding breakfast was disrupted, requiring the wedding quests to be evacuated by boat from the upstairs windows of the Manse. After the 1867 flood, the damage caused was such that the Manse was considered uninhabitable and new manse was built alongside Scots Church and completed in 1883.

Welsh settler, John Grono, who featured in the 21stf March and 4th April editions of this magazine, established his ship and boat building operations at Pitt Town during the early part of the 19th century. In 1829, Grono launched the 270-ton vessel "The Australian" which, at that time, was the largest vessel ever built in the Colony.

In 1825, The Bird In The Hand Inn was built opposite its present site and for much of the 20th century was a general store known as "Millers". 1987 saw construction of the

shopping village in Eldon Street and The Bird In The Hand being converted into a Public Inn. The shopping village was extended in 2006 into Bathurst St.

The coming of the 20th century saw electricity come to Pitt Town in 1935; and town water connected in the early 1940s. The Second World War saw what is now known as Airstrip Road developed as an ancillary runway for Richmond RAAF Base and it was here that decoy aircraft and decoy buildings were installed whilst the real aircraft were concealed under camouflage nets. Following the end of the war the Pitt Town airstrip was converted into a car racetrack by James Hardie and was also used by Hardie for trialling the Ferrodo disc brakes. Airstrip Road is now a public road.

During the 1980s Pitt Town was threatened with eradication if some government reports had been adopted. The most threatening was a proposal to locate Sydney's second International Airport at Pitt Town, with plans showing the runways running through the town centre. Another proposal was to turn the nearby former Army camp and Migrant centre into a high security prison.

LIVE@ALIVE

BY LEONIE DIXON

Alive 90.5 has been recognised by the Community Broadcasting Association of Australia as one of 5 community stations to receive a grant aimed at invigorating the live music industry in NSW.

It is the only Sydney station to be given the honour and plans are well underway with the Riverside Theatre booked for the event on Saturday 21st June which is World Make Music Day.

There is a great line up of entertainment including Like Angels, Sarah Bernardo, D Minor, Joel Turner, Antoun, Kulcha, Reuben De Melo



(Winner of the Voice 2024), Duncan Toombs and the DJ is Raul Hernandez. It means a diverse range of music genres including acoustic pop soft rock, hip hop, r'n'b and soul, country and Reggae.

Tickets are limited, cost \$33 and are available on the Riverside Theatre web site. This event is not aiming for a profit but rather providing experience to many people on how

to organise such an event, so if it's successful there will be other concerts organised to provide young up and coming performers and especially bands with the opportunity to play to live audiences. This is all about supporting the music industry in our area so why not organise family and friends to attend the show. Doors open at 5.30pm.

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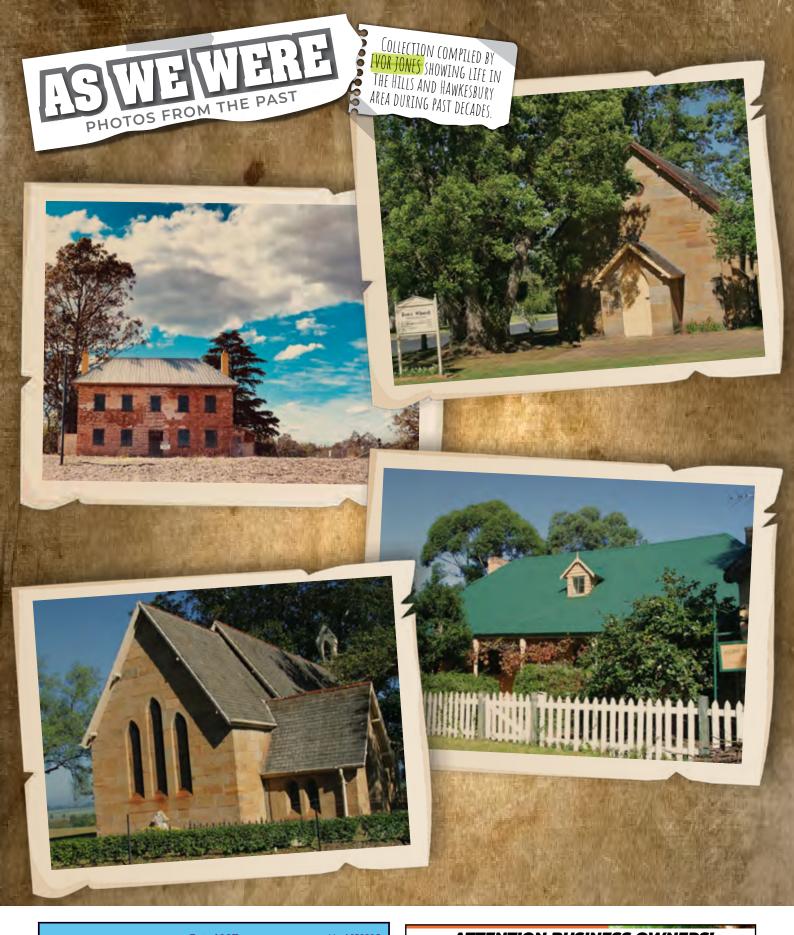


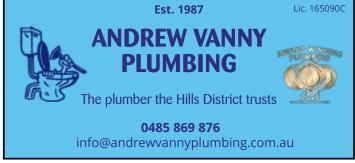
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PUZZLE



Across

- 1. Gulps of air
- 5. Assistance for the needy
- 9. Big commotion
- 10. Exploit
- 11. In an emergency, it doesn't come second
- 12. Small wave
- 13. Field hockey player with Olympic gold and bronze medals
- 16. Land of ayatollahs
- 17. It may be half-baked
- 19. Corresponding
- 21. Sunk
- 23. It goes, according to Cole Porter
- 25. A dishonest flyer, by the sound of it
- 26. Gum arabic

- 10 11 12 13 14 15 18 19 20 17 21 23 25 26 27 28
 - 27. Simulated on a computer
 - 28. Hang in there!

Down

- 2. Knockoff
- 3. Tiny particles
- 4. White-flowered NE Queensland rainforest tree

- 7. Clue in the dirt
- 8. Parrot variety
- 10. Burnett River dry spot?
- 14. Directly
- 15. Bellarine Peninsula swamp
- 18. Genuine
- 20. Catholic welfare organisation
- 22. Subject of Professor Higgins' experiment



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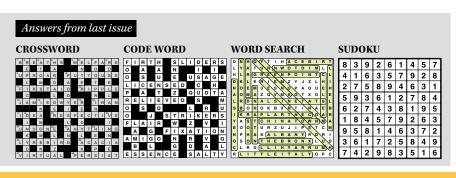
Numbers in the grid (1-26) correspond to each of the letters of the alphabet from AZ in some order. Solve the puzzle and fill in the letters in the key provided as you find them.

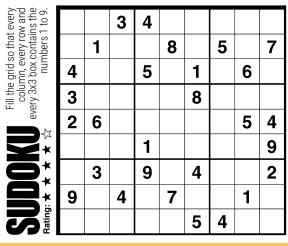
Three letters are provided to give you a start.



BALANCE	CABLE	HELMET	PUNCTURE
BEARINGS	CHAIN	HORN	SADDLE
BELL	DYNAMO	LIGHTS	SPOKE
BICYCLE	GEAR	PEDAL	UNICYCLE
BRAKE	GLOVES	PUMP	WHEEL

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





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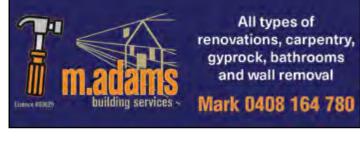


















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