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Community News | 11th – 25th July 2025 | Volume 42 – Issue 13  
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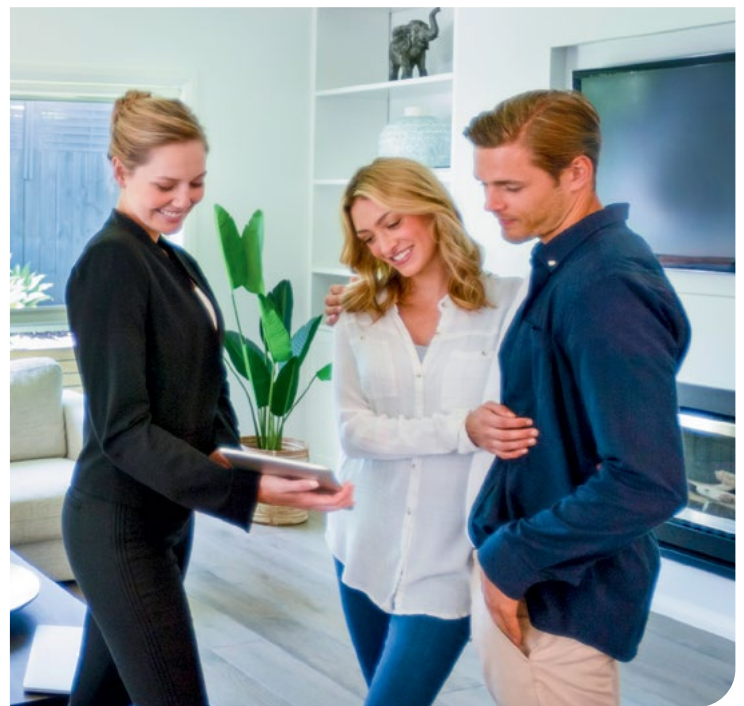
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HEART  
in community**

FULL DETAILS ON PAGE 09

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# HILLS WINTER SLEEP OUT 2025

BY BEV JORDAN

Magi\* is 61 and says she owes the fact that she has a roof over her head to Hills Community Aid's homeless prevention initiative.

She was living in supported housing when a storm damaged the building. "The roof had caved in. I was behind with my rent because I got sick and I had nowhere to go.

I was really scared."

With help from HCA her rent debt was paid off and a bond was paid for a new home where she says: "I am really happy".

The HCA homeless initiative is one of the two projects that will receive money raised at this year's Hills Winter Sleep Out on Saturday, August 2.

The Hills Winter Sleep Out asks people to raise money by giving up their warm beds for one night to sleep at Bella Vista Farm and gain an insight into being homeless.

Hills Shire Mayor Michelle Byrne who set up the first Hills Winter Sleep Out in 2014 said: "The funds raised from the Sleep Out have made an incredible difference in the lives of so many here in the Hills. People who were one pay cheque away from living in their car or on the streets have been helped, families facing severe financial crisis have been given assistance as well as women and children fleeing family and domestic violence."

Executive Officer and Program Director of Hills Community Aid Mici Beer said that funds raised and distributed through HCA's Homeless Prevention Fund have made life-changing differences to people at risk of homelessness.

So far this year, 15 adults and 5 children have been supported including people leaving domestic violence situations and three people living with a disability.

Support has included help with bonds, rent, council rates/strata, and removalist costs.

Mici says: "Every grant is a chance to stop homelessness before it starts. These funds don't just pay bills—they protect dignity, restore hope, and keep families together."

Funds from the Sleepout will also support Transitional Community Housing.

TCH was set up by concerned volunteers who began lobbying for accommodation for older women at risk of homelessness 9 years ago.

They secured their first property 18 months ago in the Hills, the registered charity now has six houses and has provided homes or support to secure housing for 31 people including 12 older women and 18 dependants.



Dennis van Someren, Mayor Michelle Byrne and Mici Beer

Kenthurst Rotarian and TCH director Dennis Van Someren said: "The Transitional Community Housing project has been our response to the deteriorating homelessness situation facing so many today in Sydney.

"We recognise that women over 55 are the fastest growing cohort of homeless. "Sleepout funds will go straight to the front line as TCH is a volunteer organisation. We subsidise the rent and look after property maintenance."

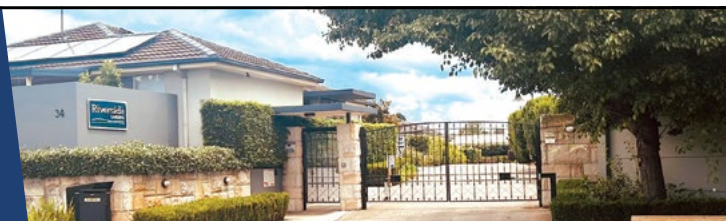
To register or donate to the Hills Homeless Sleepout visit <https://the-hills-winter-sleep-out-august-2025.raiselysite.com/>

To find out more about TCH visit [www.transitionalcommunityhousing.org.au](http://www.transitionalcommunityhousing.org.au)

To find out more about the work of Hills Community Aid visit <https://hca.org.au/>

(\* not her real name)

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## FISH SWALLOWED

Police are investigating a case of animal cruelty after a man allegedly consumed a live fish inside a Castle Hill pet store.

Officers from The Hills Police Area Command were called to the store on Victoria Ave just after 12.15pm on Sunday, 6th July, following reports that a man had removed a fish from a display tank and eaten it in front of staff. It's believed the act was filmed for potential online sharing.

Following public tip-offs, the 20-year-old has since handed himself in and is now assisting police with their inquiries. Digital evidence is being examined as part of the ongoing investigation.

Authorities thanked the community for their assistance and urged anyone with further

information to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000. Police also advised the public not to post information or allegations online to avoid disrupting the investigation.

## SWITCHEROO

Two men are facing charges after allegedly swapping seats at a red light in an attempt to avoid a drink-driving offence in Rouse Hill.

Police observed suspicious behaviour at the intersection of Windsor Rd and Mile End Rd around 11.15pm on Sunday, 6th July.

The vehicle was stopped shortly after, and police discovered that the two occupants had swapped seats. The second driver underwent a breath test and allegedly returned a low-range PCA reading.

The original driver refused to undergo a breath analysis and was charged with refusing a breath Analysis.

## DRINK DRIVING

A 45-year-old man has been charged with mid-range drink driving following a late-night traffic stop in Castle Hill on Sunday, 29th June.

At around 11:20pm, police observed a silver Audi A4 travel straight through a right-turn-only lane at the intersection of Old Northern Road and Castle Hill Road. The vehicle was stopped shortly after and the driver underwent

## ALARM WARNING

Residents are being urged to check they have a working smoke alarm following a fire in Newfound-land Way, Box Hill in the early hours of July 4th.

Police say occupants smelt smoke and rushed out of the house at 2.20am after being woken up by their smoke alarm and called emergency services. Six fire trucks attended with crews from Riverstone and Windsor Fire and Rescue NSW and RFS Brigades from Box Hill/Nelson, Kellyville, Windsor and Oakville. The fire was contained to the garage however the house suffered extensive smoke damage. Initial enquires suggest the fire was caused by a number of garden tool batteries that had been left charging overnight. Turn off chargers for garden tools, e-bikes, etc before going to bed.

## LEARNER SUSPENDED

An 18-year-old learner rider has been issued several fines and had his licence suspended after being caught speeding more than twice the limit in Clarendon on Monday 30th June. Hawkesbury Highway Patrol recorded a green Kawasaki motorcycle travelling at 125km/h in a 60km/h zone along Racecourse Rd, overtaking several vehicles and crossing double unbroken lines before being stopped by police. Officers identified the motorcyclist as a local learner licence holder who was not displaying L plates at the time. He was issued penalty notices for exceeding the speed limit by over 45km/h (\$2959 fine and six demerit points), failing to display L plates (\$320 and two points), and crossing unbroken lines (\$320 and two points). The rider's licence has been suspended for six months, and the motorcycle's number plates were seized, with registration cancelled for three months.

a roadside breath test, which returned a positive result.

He was arrested and taken to Castle Hill Police Station, where a subsequent breath analysis recorded a reading of 0.140. The man was issued a Court Attendance Notice and had his licence immediately suspended. The matter is now before the court.

## SHOTS FIRED

An investigation is underway after shots were fired at a home in Kellyville.

Police were called to Janamba Avenue just after 3.10am on Tuesday, 8th July, following reports of gunfire. Officers from The Hills Police Area Command attended and established a crime scene, where they found damage to the front windows of the property.

A man and woman in their 30s, along with their two-year-old child, were inside the home at the time of the incident. Fortunately, no injuries were reported.

Shortly after, emergency services responded to a car fire on Gorman Avenue, Kellyville. Fire and Rescue NSW crews extinguished the blaze, but the vehicle was destroyed.

Police are treating the fire as suspicious and have commenced inquiries into both incidents, including whether they are linked. Investigations are continuing.

## HOT PURSUIT

An 18-year-old man has been charged following a police pursuit through Kenthurst and Glenorie on Sunday, 29th June.

Around 11:55pm, officers from the Police Dog Unit spotted a Toyota Hilux speeding on Kenthurst Road. When they attempted to stop the vehicle for a random test, the driver allegedly accelerated and fled. A pursuit was initiated, with the Hilux reportedly reaching speeds of up to 120 km/h in a 70km/h zone. The vehicle travelled through Old Northern Road, Cranstons Road, Garmyn Road, and eventually turned into Sermelfi Drive, Glenorie, disappearing behind a property. Police attended the home linked to the vehicle and spoke with the driver's father. Shortly after, the 18-year-old presented himself to police and was arrested.

He was taken to The Hills Police Station, issued a licence suspension notice, and charged with police pursuit. The matter is scheduled to appear in court next month.

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# The Base to Help First Responders

BY BEV JORDAN

A new healing space dedicated to the care of First Responders, veterans and current serving defence personnel is set to open at Kellyville Private Hospital on Monday, July 21st.

The Base Ward is being opened in response to an ever-growing need for mental health support, tailored to the special needs of these personnel who experience a higher incidence of psychological consequence from exposure to trauma, when compared to the general population.

According to figures from the Black Dog Institute 1 in 10 first responders suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder and according to the Department of Veterans' Affairs, research indicates that the estimated rate of PTSD among current serving ADF personnel is 8%, rising to 17.7% among veterans. The rate in the general Australian population is estimated at 5.7%.

Staff in The Base Ward are dedicated to providing care that is trauma-informed, service aware with a recovery focus, to help first responders, veterans and current serving defence personnel struggling with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), alcohol and drug addiction and other mental health issues.

Aurora Health Care Australia runs Kellyville Private Hospital and also South Coast Private Hospital in Wollongong which has been a leading provider of mental health services for

first responders, veterans and current serving defence personnel for the past five years.

Erin Ash, CEO of both hospitals said staff were thrilled to be able to extend the service to Kellyville Private Hospital.

"We know that recovery and healing is possible. However, the best patient outcomes are achieved through early intervention and rapid access to care. And this is one of the biggest challenges faced by first responders, veterans and defence personnel in seeking mental health care.

"We have seen some really positive outcomes from our first responder, veteran and defence patient cohort who have undergone our treatment programs at South Coast Private Hospital.

"By now offering this treatment program for first responders, veterans and defence personnel at Kellyville Private Hospital, we take a step towards closing this access gap potentially having an immense positive impact on someone who has dedicated so much of their life to serving others."

The Base will have 13 bedrooms and offer a 3-week residential program to address mental health issues of PTSD and substance misuse/dependence, with a 12-week outpatient program to provide continued support in the community. The Base also has the capacity to expand to 14 extra beds at a later stage.



Praveen Kumar (Nurse Unit Manager), Marina Stankovic (Allied Health Manager), Erin Ash (Chief Executive Officer) and Karen Hanzal (Clinical Program Coordinator).

Kellyville Private Hospital Clinical Program Coordinator Karen Hanzal says that having timely access to services is critical.

"There are other hospital services out there but not enough to both meet the demand and deliver a military and first responder specific culturally aware mental health program. The Base does this, by offering a safe and supportive space which facilitates connection – with self, peers, family, community - in collaboration with lived experience".



Artist's Impression

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\*Price correct as at 11 June 2025. Images are for illustrative purposes only. The entry payment and any other amounts payable depend on any available contract option you select. A regular service fee will be payable and you may have to pay a departure fee when you leave the village. Furnishings not included. #Terms and conditions apply. See Contracts page on our website for details. ^Pets welcome, subject to approval.

# WISEMANS FERRY to Star in Film

BY LANCE ZAFE AND BEV JORDAN

The Hawkesbury region is set to take centre stage as Wisemans Ferry becomes the primary filming location for an upcoming Australian drama titled *Fireworks*.

Filming is expected to start in October this year and take four weeks.

Sydney-based producer Yolandi Franken (Streets of Colour, Carmen and Bolude) said: "We're genuinely excited to bring this story to life in Wisemans Ferry. The location adds realism and depth, and we're committed to engaging local suppliers and talent throughout the shoot."

Set over a single day, *Fireworks* follows two Iranian-born friends, Saman and Babak, who now live in Australia. Their reunion to celebrate their 20 years of friendship takes a dark and unexpected turn when a figure from their traumatic past reappears and long-buried memories resurface, forcing the pair into a tense moral reckoning.



The tightly woven, character-driven drama explores justice, loyalty and the lingering impact of trauma.

The cast of *Fireworks* includes Shayan Askari and Rina Mousavi, both of whom starred in the Sundance-winning film *Shayda* (2023), along with Baha Jamali and Maddie Jamali.

The creative team includes Iranian-Australian director Ali Vaziri, and writer-director Nick Bleszynski. Vaziri, a former political refugee, brings a deeply personal perspective to the project. The film draws inspiration from his experiences of escaping detention and resettling in Australia.

"*Fireworks* is not just a film for me — it's part of my story," he said. "It's about what it means to seek justice, rebuild a life, and reconcile with your past."

Yolandi says they have 75% of the finance needed for the film and will delay filming until they secure the rest.

She said post production will take several months once filming is finished. *Fireworks* will be doing festival circuit for a year and will then be in theatres and then on streaming platforms.

"We plan to do a special screening/premiere in your local area to thank and involve the community in what we all created together," she said.

The production is expected to contribute to the local economy through accommodation,

catering, crew wages, and location hire. It also offers an opportunity to spotlight the Hawkesbury as a film-friendly region with potential for future screen projects.

Community involvement is encouraged, with opportunities for residents, businesses and organisations to contribute through sponsorships, services, or tax-deductible donations via the Australian Cultural Fund. Locations still being sought are a pub and an apartment plus two boats, a black government looking car, a 20 kva Generator (quiet - suitable to film set), diesel and petrol.

Support is also being sought for accommodation for non-Hawkesbury local cast and crew and also support with meals and groceries. To express interest or find out more: Email: [yolandi@frankendipity.com](mailto:yolandi@frankendipity.com)



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Lutanda Manor has recently completed significant upgrades to its community amenities, enhancing the already outstanding facilities on offer. These refurbishments have revitalised the community centre, making it an even more inviting space for residents to gather, socialise and participate in activities that enrich daily life. Surrounded by lush, established gardens, the village provides a peaceful and picturesque environment that perfectly complements the relaxed, easy-going nature of retirement living.

The village currently boasts 86 single level villas, each designed with comfort and

convenience in mind, ensuring independent living while also providing access to a network of supportive

services. For those seeking a bit more assistance, Lutanda Manor also offers Serviced Apartments, which are ideal for residents who want to maintain their independence but with the peace of mind that help is available with meal, laundry and cleaning services.

## New units coming soon

Lutanda Manor will be expanding its offerings with the addition of 14 brand new independent units now under construction. These architecturally designed homes will include one, two, and three bedroom options, each featuring modern layouts with open plan living areas that seamlessly blend cooking, dining and living spaces. Ground and first floor units will be available, with each boasting a private balcony or patio. With a variety of floorplans, these units cater to different needs and lifestyles, ensuring a perfect fit for any retiree looking to join this vibrant community.



## Join the VIP waitlist

For those keen to get ahead, join our VIP list, and enjoy exclusive access to property information and first opportunity to reserve, as these new homes near completion.

Book a tour now to explore this outstanding retirement community and secure your spot for one of the brand new units released later this year. Call 1800 550 550 or find out more on [keyton.com.au/lutanda-manor](http://keyton.com.au/lutanda-manor)



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Artist's Impression

## MITCHEL'S BRONZE

Vineyard local, 20-year-old Mitchel Azzopardia has won a bronze medal at the National WorldSkills showdown in Brisbane.

The TAFE NSW Mount Druitt apprentice claimed third place in sheet metal fabrication, standing out among more than 600 of the nation's top apprentices across 50 trades.

The achievement marks a major milestone for the TAFE NSW student who is completing Certificate III in Engineering – Sheet Metal Fabrication, while working full-time in the industry.

His passion for metalwork began in high school, when a Year 12 project designing a motorbike carrier led him to work in a local metal shop, he hasn't looked back since.

"TAFE NSW one day, tools the next – it is the perfect balance," said Mitchell.

During the competition, he was tasked to build a pizza oven from scratch, against the clock, "the hands-on experience I've had at TAFE NSW made all the difference, it taught me to focus on the finer details and work efficiently under pressure, I believe that's what got me over the line.

"It felt pretty good handing the final product in on the last day, not everyone finished.

"I've already been thinking about what I could do better, so I know what to work on if I compete again."

Mitchell was one of four students from TAFE NSW Mount Druitt to represent their region at the national championships.

Top performers from the national competition may be invited for a place on the Australian Skillaroos team, which will compete against more than 80 countries at the WorldSkills International Competition in Shanghai, China in September next year.

TAFE NSW Managing Director, Chloe Read said, "WorldSkills is more than a competition – it's a celebration of vocational excellence, and an invaluable opportunity for students, like Mitchel Azzopardi to build their skills, confidence, and careers," Ms Read said.

"This achievement demonstrates the life-changing impact of hands-on training and mentorship, and the vital role TAFE NSW plays in preparing the future workforce."



## TRIVIA NIGHT

If you love a good night of trivia then put Saturday August 16th in your diary.

West Pennant Hills/Cherrybrook Rotary Club is holding its much-loved annual trivia night at Cherrybrook Community Centre.

Cost is \$25 per head with tables of 8. The club can also assist if you want to put a table together.

There will be a raffle with great prizes drawn at the end of the last round.

All proceeds go to the ESCABAGS (for people escaping domestic violence) and other Rotary charities. Tea and coffee are provided - BYOG and nibbles.

More information - [www.wphcr Rotary.org/2025-trivia-night](http://www.wphcr Rotary.org/2025-trivia-night)

Theme of the night is Yellow.  
Saturday 16 August 2025 6.30pm to 10pm. Cherrybrook Community Centre, Shepherds Dr, Cherrybrook.

## Learn everything you need to know about retirement living in just one day.

After a lifetime of hard work, many of us look forward to a relaxing retirement, often in a retirement village or resort.

Doing your homework can lead to years of happiness enjoying the rewards of a low-maintenance lifestyle in a like-minded community.

The perfect place to start is the *Hills District Retirement Village and Resort Expo*, Sunday, July 27 and Monday July 28, at Castle Hill RSL Club.

This is a rare opportunity to explore a large range of retirement living options – all under one roof.

From established villages and lifestyle resorts to brand new luxury residences, in Sydney and throughout Australia, the Expo showcases the best

of what's available now and offers a glimpse of upcoming developments. Visitors are encouraged to take their time and engage deeply with exhibitors to get a true insight into daily life in their community.

With many different retirement communities represented, you can save yourself hours of driving from village to village and discover everything you need to know about retirement living in a single outing.

Don't miss this wonderful opportunity, it really could change your life! The Expo is open from 10am – 3pm both days. Admission is free. For more details about the Hills District Retirement Village Expo, go to [www.retirementexpo.com.au](http://www.retirementexpo.com.au).



## Hills District Retirement Village & Resort Expo

Sun 27<sup>th</sup> & Mon 28<sup>th</sup> July 2025 | 10am-3pm  
Castle Hill RSL Club, 77 Castle St Castle Hill

On display will be the latest resort style developments as well as established villages from many different organisations. All offering a wide range of services & facilities, sizes, prices and locations, all under one roof with free admission.

[retirementexpo.com.au](http://retirementexpo.com.au)

Wonderful opportunity to ask questions and gather information



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# HIDDEN IN THE HILLS DUCKS

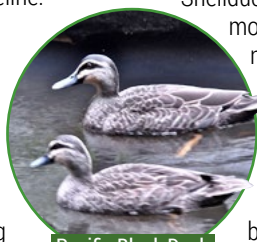


BY LACHLAN TURNER

Along many of the creeks flowing through local bushland reserves there are numerous ponds or deeper pools. Several water birds frequent the larger pools in search of food as well as establishing a secure nesting environment in thicker vegetation around the shoreline.

One such bird is the Pacific Black Duck (*Anas superciliosa*). Although it is found in suitable habitats throughout Australia, it is generally a wary bird when not accustomed to people. It can be solitary, but also gathers in pairs and small groups during the mating season. When breeding, mature ducks pair off as they dabble along the edges of water courses searching for aquatic plants adjacent to their chosen nesting site.

This common species is characterised by a distinctive blue bill, black and white markings



Pacific Black Duck

on its head, with its neck and body being covered in dappled dark brown plumage.

Other ducks that frequent bushland waterways are the Australian Wood Duck (*Chenonetta jubata*) and the Australian Shelduck (*Tadorna tadornoides*). All three mostly prefer a hollow in a tree for nesting which is only a short distance above the ground in close proximity to water.

These three species may lay up to 10 eggs each. The clutch leaves the nest very soon after birth. Both parents take seriously the responsibility of raising and protecting their family. The Australian Wood duck illustrated has a clutch of at least 13 chicks to look after.

When young, the new born ducklings are confined to the ground, and therefore are subject



Australian Wood Duck

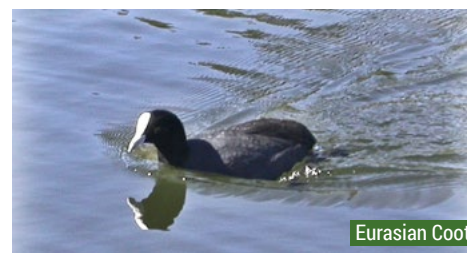


The Chestnut Teal

to being eaten by stray cats and dogs. They naturally conceal themselves in long grass not far from the parent birds. They also have the ability to swim within a couple of days of hatching.

The Chestnut Teal (*Anas castanea*) illustrated has an injured left wing. When disturbed it swam to the cover of nearby reeds to hide.

Although not a duck, the migratory Eurasian Coot (*Fulica atra*) is frequently observed foraging along the fringes of more open water along with other water frequenting birds.



Eurasian Coot

## Embrace Winter's Cozy Comfort

Winter is here, inviting us to find extra warmth and comfort in our homes. As temperatures drop, it's natural to spend more time indoors, making this the perfect season to refresh your personal sanctuary and ensure every corner offers relaxation and support.

Start with your sleep haven. Is your bed truly a source of rest? We believe comfort should be bespoke, adapting to your unique needs. Consider upgrading to an electric adjustable bed. These offer a range of features like effortless position changes, ideal for reading or watching TV, and pressure relief for a deeper sleep. A comfortable, supportive

sleeping surface is essential for well-being this winter.

When it comes to daytime relaxation, a Rise Recliner is an invaluable addition. More than just a comfortable chair, it's designed to enhance your independence. Its gentle rising action helps you stand and sit with ease, while the reclining feature allows you to fully relax, even for a quick nap. Choosing the right one means considering your specific needs, from the type of motor to the perfect size. It's about finding a chair that fits you perfectly, reflecting your style and ensuring utmost comfort.

Beyond your main comfort zones, don't forget those little touches. Having a heat bag ready for chilly evenings or supportive braces for arthritis can make a big difference.

By thoughtfully reviewing your surroundings and investing in solutions that truly serve your comfort and independence, you can transform your home into a warm, inviting oasis this winter.

Speak to one of the friendly specialists at Karis Life, or visit [www.KarisLife.com.au](http://www.KarisLife.com.au) for any questions. Embrace the colder months with the peace and luxury you deserve.

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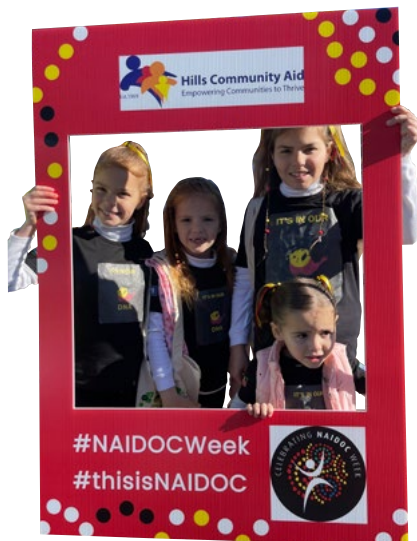
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# NAIDOC WEEK

Sydney Zoo's Aboriginal Animal Encounter will offer a great range of experiences at Hills Community Aid's NAIDOC Family Fun Day on Wednesday, 16th July at Baulkham Hills.



There will be an opportunity to meet native Aussie animals up close and hear about their significance in First Nations culture.

The annual NAIDOC Week free Family Fun day will start at 9.50am (July 16th) with a traditional Acknowledgement of Country, Flag Raising, and Smoking Ceremony, followed by a day filled with cultural celebrations and family-friendly activities plus Youth and Family Workshops.

Visitors can experience Indigenous-themed arts and crafts, embark on a fun treasure hunt with prizes, and enjoy the jumping castle.

There will be information stalls, including representatives from the RFS, AFL, and local emergency services. Norwest Sunrise Rotary Club will be cooking a sausage sizzle and beverages will be available from the Hills Daily Grind coffee van.

The event will also be an open day for Learning in the Hills with classroom displays showcasing student art.



Hills Community Aid will also offer a range of free and affordable youth and family workshops over the school holidays including drawing and painting workshops, board games, a scavenger hunt and sports workshop. More info visit [www.hca.org.au](http://www.hca.org.au) or call 9639 8620.

The Hills Community Aid's NAIDOC Family Fun Day is on Wednesday, 16th July from 9.50am to 1pm at Balcombe Heights Estate, 92 Seven Hills Road, Baulkham Hills.

## Self-Collect Cervical Screening. A Simple, Life Saving Test.

Every year in Australia, around 900 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer, and approximately 250 die from it.

Fortunately, it is one of the most preventable cancers, but too many Australians are still missing out on routine screening.

Since July 2022, all eligible women and people with a cervix aged 25 to 74 can self-collect their cervical screening sample. It checks for HPV, a virus known to cause 99% of all cervical cancers and if picked up early, can be monitored and eradicated before it turns into cancer.

"Self-collection is a game-changer," says local GP, Dr Linda Saad from Norwest Central Healthcare. "We've had so many patients come forward, some for the first time in years, who didn't realise they had the option to test themselves. It's simple, saves lives and its only needed once every 5 years if the result is normal."

### Take Control of Your Health

If it's been more than five years since your last cervical screen, or you've never had one, now is the time to act.

"With the option to self-collect under the guidance of your GP, there is no reason to delay this important test," says Dr Linda. "Early detection is the key to prevention."

Speak to your GP today and ask about self-collect cervical screening. Let's make cervical cancer a thing of the past, one test at a time.

**Need a GP? Call our friendly team at Norwest Central Healthcare for help with all your women's health needs on 8865 4700 or visit [www.nchc.com.au](http://www.nchc.com.au)**

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**Norwest PRIVATE HOSPITAL by Healthscope**

# From Little Things BIG THINGS GROW

**"A society grows great when old men plant trees in whose shade they shall never sit." Greek Proverb.**

Imagine a child in a hospital bed, surrounded by beeping machines and anxious parents. Their family is holding onto hope—hoping for expert care, advanced equipment, and a breakthrough that will bring their child back home healthy and smiling. But what if there were no more options?

It wasn't long ago that diseases like measles, mumps, and rubella meant hospital stays for thousands of Australian children. Polio left many young lives forever changed. And too often, a child's access to care depended on their postcode or their parents' income.

Thankfully, that's not the full story anymore. Thanks to the incredible dedication of researchers, clinicians, healthcare workers, and the compassion of people like you, so much has changed for the better.

At Sydney Children's Hospitals Foundation, we're here for every child. From tiny newborns to determined teenagers, from the cities to the most remote communities. We believe all kids deserve the very best care, no matter who they are or where they live. And no family should ever hear the words, "There's nothing more we can do."



That's where you come in.

By leaving a gift in your Will, no matter the size, you can help shape a healthier future for generations of kids. Your gift could fund groundbreaking research, purchase vital cutting-edge equipment, and help us continue delivering world-class care to every child who needs us.

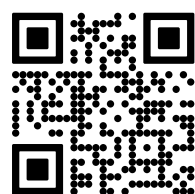
Even leaving just 5% of your estate can make a huge difference. It's a simple act with a lasting impact, like planting a tree today so future children can grow up in its shade.

If you'd like to learn more about how you can leave a gift in your Will, we'd love to chat. Please get in touch with our Planned Giving Team on 1800 770 122 or email us at [plannedgiving@schf.org.au](mailto:plannedgiving@schf.org.au)



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



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## GRADUATIONS AT BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA INC

Much excitement and pride for the five participants and the Bromeliad Society of Australia Inc members at a recent meeting with the graduation and presentation of Certificates and pins for the completion and passing their BSI Accredited Judging School course.

The trainer was Narelle Aizlewood a Bromeliad Society International Master Judge, Trainer and Registrar for Queensland.

The 3 year course include revision test sheets, research material, reading material, discussions and interaction with presentations, passing a point scoring exercise every school, meeting set requirements to be a judge and passing the final written examine.

**Members who graduated were:** Edwina Wain and Warrick Varley. Both these judges are now BSI Accredited Master Judges and Nina Woodcock, Harold Kuan and Amal Eid are all now BSI Accredited Judges. The BSA sponsored the course.



Back row L-R Trainer Narelle Aizlewood, Warrick Varley, Amal Eid and Harold Kuan  
Front row L-R Nina Woodcock and Edwina Wain

## RETIREES Want to Work

Aussie Pumps is on a recruitment drive to find mature people who want to contribute to the development of not just the Hills District, but the whole of Australia.

"We've got great opportunities to help people battle fires, floods and droughts," said Aussie Pumps' Chief Engineer, John Hales.

"We don't write off people over 50 years old. Aussie Pumps are proving that experience that comes with maturity can help people in trouble," he said.

If you're 1. fit, 2. bored, 3. want to be part of a team that celebrates not just success, but success through helping others; contact Linda-Sue at Aussie Pumps on (02) 8865 3500 [info@aussiepumps.com.au](mailto:info@aussiepumps.com.au)



Experienced Aussie Pumps staff John Hales, Chief Engineer and Dave Robieson, Production Fitter.

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# The Hills Shire Council News

## SIGN THE PETITION FOR A FAIRER HILLS FUTURE – IT ONLY TAKES 30 SECONDS

We are just 5,000 signatures away from reaching our 20,000-signature goal! With over 15,000 signatures already, we're almost there – help us get over the line.

Reaching our goal means issues like gridlocked roads and not enough schools and sports fields will be debated in the NSW Parliament. We're calling for these 20,000 signatures to ensure our voice is heard, so we can secure the infrastructure our growing community desperately needs.

We are advocating for:

- The construction of 14 new schools
- Funding for 40 sports fields
- Addressing the \$207 million infrastructure deficit in Box Hill
- Upgrades to 44 roads in the Hills (We've already secured \$220 million for the upgrade of Windsor Road as part of this campaign!)

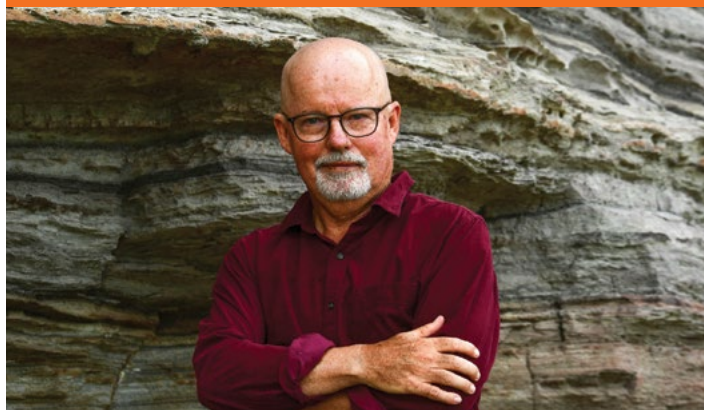


**SIGN OUR PETITION TODAY AT**  
**[www.fairerhillsfuture.com.au](http://www.fairerhillsfuture.com.au)**  
and help us reach 20,000 signatures to bring this critical issue to the NSW Parliament.



**THE HILLS**  
Sydney's Garden Shire

### 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.



### Wheelie big numbers at Council's Bike Drop-Off & Check and Tune event

On Saturday, 21 June we dropped off the highest number of bikes, scooters, e-bikes, and tricycles that have ever been collected in a day! A total of 282 bikes were collected, meaning 3.2 tonnes of materials were donated.

This event was delivered in partnership with Revolve Recycling who professionally repairs and redistributes bikes to children in need.



### Council Meetings

Tuesday, 22 July 2025 at 7pm

For more information, visit [www.thehills.nsw.gov.au](http://www.thehills.nsw.gov.au) and search for 'Meeting Agendas and Minutes.'

[www.thehills.nsw.gov.au](http://www.thehills.nsw.gov.au) | 9843 0555



## Fully granted – Council grants are now open

Are you a not-for-profit or for-profit with an innovative idea that could benefit our community but require extra financial assistance? Why not apply for a Council grant! Applications are now open in Community Grants; Arts, Culture and Events; and Minor Grants.

Scan the QR code for more info.



Learn hints and tips on how to create a stellar application during our **FREE** grants training sessions. Attend one of two sessions at 6:30pm on Thursday 10 & 22 July.

## Rooting for a greener tomorrow

Celebrate National Tree Day by helping plant 7500 plants on Sunday, 27 July at Sundowner Parkway Wildlife Corridor Rehabilitation. Come along and help us rehabilitate the waterway and create a wildlife corridor along Sundowner Parkway in Gables.

**WHEN:** Sunday, 27 July from 9am to 12pm

**WHERE:** Sundowner Parkway Gables

Scan the QR code for more info.



## Listen to a note-worthy performance



Step into the musical world of Beethoven and Schubert this school holiday season with the Western Sydney Symphony Orchestra. It's a wonderful opportunity for students, families, and music lovers to enjoy a fantastic live orchestral performance at Pioneer Theatre. Tickets range from \$30 – \$50 per person.

**WHEN:** Friday, 18 July, from 7pm

**WHERE:** Pioneer Theatre, Castle Hill

Scan the QR for tickets and more details.



## Keep it clean and green – recycle mate!

Recycle Mate is a new online tool designed to simplify recycling for all Hills residents. Now available on Council's website, you can search for specific items you want to recycle or find easy recycling facilities nearby.

Scan our QR code to check it out.



Are you enjoying  
The Hills Shire Council News?  
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**THE HILLS**  
Sydney's Garden Shire

# What Happens at a Hearing Assessment at Ear Studio?

Have you ever felt left out of conversation? Maybe people around you are talking and laughing, but you miss parts of the conversation. Or you turn the TV up louder than everyone else. Maybe you feel like people mumble a lot.

If this sounds like you, your hearing might have changed. Don't worry — you're not alone, and **Ear Studio** is here to help.

Hearing loss can happen slowly. Many people don't realise it until it starts affecting their daily life. That's why it's important to get your hearing checked — even if you think everything is fine. At Ear Studio, we follow best practice audiology. That means we use a full range of professional tests and spend more time understanding your hearing, not just running a quick screen.

## What Happens in a Hearing Evaluation at Ear studio?

A hearing evaluation is a detailed, 90-minute appointment that follows best practice audiology every step of the way. We begin by learning about your hearing history, medical background, and how your hearing may be affecting your day-to-day life. From there, we carry out a full series of advanced tests, including pure tone testing (to measure your hearing thresholds), speech testing in both quiet and noisy environments, and middle ear function testing. These allow us to

understand not just *if* there's a hearing loss, but *how* it's impacting your ability to communicate in real-world situations.

One of the most valuable outcomes of this evaluation is establishing a **baseline** — like a snapshot of your hearing today. If your hearing is within the normal range, we'll usually recommend returning in three to five years to check again.

## What If Something Is Found?

If we do find a hearing loss or any other issue, we'll explain everything to you in simple terms. We'll take the time to talk with you about what it means and what your options are. A comprehensive report will be prepared by our clinicians, along with any necessary referrals to ensure continuity of care.

There is no pressure to make a decision on the day. We simply provide clear, honest advice and walk you through the different solutions available — always keeping your lifestyle, comfort, and goals in mind.

## What Makes Ear Studio Different?

At Ear Studio, we believe in quality over speed. That's why, following best practice audiology, we take the time to thoroughly assess your hearing without rushing. Our comprehensive initial evaluation ensures we fully understand your hearing needs and how they impact your



Ear Studio Clinicians Keeping Up with the Latest Advances Through Ongoing Training

daily life, so you receive the best possible care from the very start.

Our team of highly skilled clinicians has over 50 years of combined experience, and we continue to train and learn so we can offer the latest research, tools, and methods in hearing care.

As an independent clinic, we aren't tied to any one brand or manufacturer. This means our advice is genuine and unbiased. If you do need hearing support, we'll help you find a solution that truly fits your needs to give you the best possible hearing outcome.

The process is easy — you don't need a referral to book an appointment. Simply call us on (02) 9159 6122 or book online at [www.earstudio.com.au](http://www.earstudio.com.au). If you have any questions, you're welcome to email us at [reception@earstudio.com.au](mailto:reception@earstudio.com.au). **Ear Studio** is located at Lawton House in Castle Hill — Suites 9-10, 60 Cecil Ave. Opening Hours: Monday to Thursday: 9:00 am — 5:00 pm and Fridays: 9:00am — 4:00pm. We look forward to helping you on your hearing journey!

## Our Team of Highly Skilled Clinicians

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### DANIEL FECHNER

#### Director and Audiometrist

Daniel is an Audiometrist with over 20 years of experience across three continents. Trained in Germany, Daniel is passionate about bringing the gift of hearing to his clients through an evidence-based, German rehabilitation approach.



### HEBA HAMDAN

#### Vestibular Audiologist

Heba holds a Bachelor of Health Science/Social Science and a Masters of Audiology, with over 15 years' experience in diagnostic audiology, hearing aid rehabilitation, and vestibular assessments. She recently worked with a leading hearing aid manufacturer, training clinicians in advanced technology.



### SANDRA RAZZAGHIPOUR

#### Clinical Audiometrist

Sandra is an Audiometrist with over 7 years of experience in the hearing industry. She has a focus on adult rehabilitation and ear wax removal. In addition to adult rehabilitation, Sandra also an expert in the field of tinnitus management and counselling.



### THUVARAKA CHANDRAPAVAN

#### Vestibular Audiologist

Thuvaraka is a Health Sciences graduate from the University of Sydney and completed her Master of Clinical Audiology at the University of Melbourne. With over 12 years of experience, she specialises in diagnostics of adults and children, hearing aid fittings, and holistic patient care, empowering individuals on their hearing journey.

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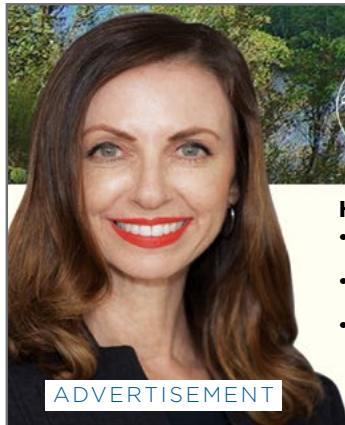
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## ROBYN PRESTON MP

### MEMBER FOR HAWKESBURY

#### How my office and I can help you

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- Answer questions, help you access government services and provide information about community groups and events
- Facilitate applications to become a Justice of the Peace or to obtain a Seniors Card
- Update your electoral enrolment details
- Send a congratulatory letter for anniversaries and birthdays of significance
- Provide you with details on how to apply for government grants

The office is located at Western Sydney University, Hawkesbury Campus Building R4, College Drive, Richmond. M: PO Box 505 Richmond NSW 2753  
T: 02 4578 0300 E: [hawkesbury@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:hawkesbury@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

Authorised by Robyn Preston MP.  
Funded using Parliamentary entitlements.

## Celebrating 100 Years – Richmond RAAF Base

Following on from the success of the Richmond RAAF Base Open Day in 2024, comes the Airshow that will mark the 100th Anniversary of the Base. Much planning has gone into this celebration - an event which has not occurred since 1991!

I remember the Open Day with great affection, witnessing individuals, friends and families eager to explore the displays and interact with Defence personnel. The interest was so great that tickets sold out very quickly.

There is such a rich history of Defence in Hawkesbury, so it was great to see the Richmond Base open to the public to showcase the establishment. I can only imagine the number of children who went home with a newfound dream to one day be in aviation.

On 30th June 2025, RAAF Base Richmond marked 100 years of establishment, when No. 3 (Composite) Squadron's first 3 aircrafts arrived on 30th June 1925 as part of the unit's relocation from Point Cook in Victoria. To commemorate this historic occasion, the Royal Australian Air Force will conduct an airshow at RAAF Base Richmond over the weekend of 27 and 28 September 2025. However, don't let the name deceive you – the airshow event will also showcase military capabilities on the ground!

It is a weekend I look forward to attending to witness the skills exhibited by pilots and crew flying the F-35A Lightning II, F/A-18F Super Hornet, Hawk 127, Roulettes Aerobatic Team, C-17A Globemaster, C-130J Hercules, C-27J



Spartan, KC-30A Multi-Role Tanker Transport, E-7A Wedgetail, P-8 Poseidon, and 100SQN Heritage aircraft.

For more information on the airshow, visit [www.airforce.gov.au/news-events/events/raaf-richmond-airshow-2025](http://www.airforce.gov.au/news-events/events/raaf-richmond-airshow-2025).

## Building a Better Community for the North West

Budgets aren't just numbers on a page - they're statements of priorities. In this year's New South Wales Budget, the Minns Labor Government has made it clear that the needs of our booming community are finally being listened to.

After 12 years of neglect by the former Liberal Government, this budget continues to deliver the funding needed to turn long-held ideas into reality. That means roads, schools, public transport and health care - things people in our community have been waiting far too long for. Seven major road upgrades, three new primary schools, a new high school, more buses and upgrades to existing infrastructure will make a real difference in people's lives.

Expectant mothers in Sydney's north-west will be able to birth their babies closer to home, following \$90 million in additional funding from the Minns Labor Government for the new Rouse Hill Hospital.

The budget also reflects a more modern approach to growth. In areas like Tallawong, developers are already required to install kerbs, gutters and half-roads. Now, with new incentives, they can build parks and community centres too, at lower cost and much faster than if we waited for councils to do it years later.

The Government is also taking action to ease the housing crisis, with \$1 billion in pre-sale finance guarantees to get mid-sized housing developments off the ground sooner. Add to that more funding for TAFE to train 23,000 new construction workers and targeted planning reform, and it's clear the Government isn't just planning for growth - it's building for it.


This budget proves you don't have to choose between economic responsibility and real outcomes for the community. In Riverstone, that means ideas are finally being funded, and the future is taking shape.





**BUILDING A BETTER COMMUNITY FOR ALL OF US**

## WARREN KIRBY

**MEMBER FOR RIVERSTONE**

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AUTHORISED BY WARREN KIRBY MP. FUNDED USING PARLIAMENTARY ENTITLEMENTS.



# State Budget Delivers Little for Local Families

Last month, the NSW Labor Government handed down its 2025-26 Budget – and once again, it failed the people of The Hills.

Despite repeated calls and clear community need, there is still no funding for a much-needed new high school in our area.

Castle Hill High already has 51 demountable buildings – more than any other school in NSW – yet the government continues to ignore our calls for investment. While they've announced an upgrade for Excelsior Public School, construction won't even begin until mid-2026.

At the same time, this Budget offers no meaningful cost-of-living relief. Motor vehicle taxes are rising by 26% over the next four years. Stamp duty, payroll tax and land tax are all forecast to soar. There is no extension for toll relief beyond 1 January 2026. And working families are being asked to pay more – and get less in return.



Another glaring omission from this year's State Budget was the lack of funding to fix our increasingly congested roads – especially with the population booming in Box Hill, Rouse Hill, Schofields and Tallawong.

Annangrove Road is under serious strain. In the coming weeks, I'll be launching a petition calling for a long-overdue upgrade to ensure our community's needs aren't ignored any longer.

Make sure you follow me on Instagram and Facebook to stay up to date as I continue to fight for the needs of our community.

*Authorised by Mark Hodges MP. Funded using parliamentary entitlements.*



## 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

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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



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## Greater funding for frontline legal assistance and support services

Dealing with a legal issue, and possibly going to court, can be a challenging time in a person's life.

Access to legal advice, support and representation when navigating the legal system can make a real difference, especially for vulnerable and disadvantaged people.

As Member for Greenway, I am committed to delivering for our community.

And now as Attorney-General, I am focussed on finding new ways to ensure people here at home – and right across the country – continue to have reliable access to vital local services, including legal and other frontline support services.

Just one way Labor is delivering this is by investing \$3.9 billion through the new landmark

National Access to Justice Partnership (NAJP), which took effect from 1 July.

Under this new arrangement, the legal assistance sector will receive a critical funding increase of \$800 million over the 5 years – the largest ever Commonwealth investment in legal assistance.

The NAJP will fund assistance for people including women and children to help them escape family and domestic violence, and to improve outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples by reducing incarceration, youth detention and out-of-home care.

Importantly, it will also help people doing it tough to avoid homelessness, reduce future

interactions with the justice system and improve mental health outcomes.

I send my sincere thanks to all the dedicated legal assistance and frontline support staff here in Greenway and in other locations across the country. Your advocacy for the legal assistance sector and for the rights of the people who rely on these services is to be commended.

Your vital work ensures people in our community can access justice and equality before the law – and our government has your back.

To find out more about legal assistance services and the NAJP visit [www.ag.gov.au](http://www.ag.gov.au)

*If you or someone you know is experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, domestic, family or sexual violence, call 1800RESPECT on 1800 737 732, chat online via [www.1800RESPECT.org.au](http://www.1800RESPECT.org.au), or text 0458 737 732.*

## BURGER ROOM TAKES TOP PRIZE IN THE “ULTIMATE AUSSIE BURGER CHALLENGE”

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## AT A GLANCE

NAME: HIMARI  
BREED: Staffordshire  
Bull Terrier  
SEX: Female  
AGE: 7 Yrs, 6 Mos,  
and 1 Wk  
PRICE: \$99



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Already desexed and well-behaved, Himari embodies the ease and tranquility that many pet parents seek. Her calm demeanour is perfectly complemented by her sweet and loving personality, making her an ideal match for households looking for a gentle and composed dog. Whether you're enjoying a quiet evening at home or taking a leisurely stroll, Himari is the perfect partner.

Staff say Himari's pleasant nature allows her to adapt easily to your routine, and her well-behaved manner means she'll be a breeze to care for.

*Hawkesbury Council's Rehoming Organisation*  
Number is: R251000145

**MEET MEOWIE**, a delightfully sweet cat with a heart full of affection. The staff at Hawkesbury Animal Shelter say this quiet feline companion adores being the center of your world, showering you with love and loyalty. Meowie will be your constant friend, always ready to share gentle moments and companionship. Despite being quite serene, Meowie is a social cat who enjoys the presence of his favorite people. Staff say whether it's curling up beside you on a lazy afternoon or greeting you softly as you come home, Meowie cherishes every opportunity to be close to loved ones. This cat doesn't require much to be content - just your affection and a peaceful environment to thrive. If you're searching for a calm and loving cat who will become a cherished member of your family, Meowie would be an ideal match.

*Hawkesbury Council's Rehoming Organisation* Number is: R251000145

## AT A GLANCE

NAME: MEOWIE  
BREED: Domestic  
Medium Hair  
SEX: Male  
AGE: 1 Yr, 1 Mo,  
and 1 Wk  
PRICE: \$99



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The Kellyville Kolts U15 team. Picture FNSW

## Kellyville Kolts U15 Boys Gunning for Coveted NSW State Cup Title

BY LAWRENCE MACHADO

Kellyville Kolts will be gunning for the Football NSW State Cup Finals U15 boys title on Sunday, July 13, when they take on Ryde Panthers at Valentine Sports Club. In all, 30 clubs are competing in different age group finals.

A win will catapult the Kolts to the coveted title in their third attempt, after injuries cramped their previous final campaigns. Kick off: 9.45am.

Kellyville Kolts president Bob Harrold praised coach Mike Gardiner, saying he has done an amazing job with the U15 squad.

"We are extremely proud of the team for coming this far," Harrold said. "They've worked

extremely hard as a team and are such a nice bunch of boys.

"Mike Gardiner is one of the best coaches at the club. He is one of our many 'C' Licence coaches and is truly dedicated to the team.

"We are so happy with all of the (Kolts) teams that competed this year with many of them making it through to the quarter-finals and have done super well.

"I want to thank all of the players and coaches from all of the teams that represent the Red and Black so brilliantly."

With 165 teams and 2400 players, the Kolts are the biggest club in the Hills and the fourth biggest in NSW. Of the 11 Division 1 Kolts teams in the State Cup, three made it to semifinals and the rest entered the quarterfinals.

"We are so happy with all of their performances and most were simply unlucky not to go all of the way," Harrold said. "We are optimistic that many of these Division 1 teams will be selected for Champions of Champions at the end of the season.

The club has an impressive growth of 20% among the female players each year, thanks to their heavy investment. Currently there are 570 female players and a very high retention rate.

### Prattent Cup Supports O'Brien's Family

Meanwhile, the Prattent Cup continues to raise much-needed financial support for various charities and families in need. "This year we chose the O'Brien family as it was quite a tragic story for the family and we felt it would be a great gesture for the club to show them all the support we could," Harrold said. "We were able to donate to them \$20,000. So far, the Prattent Cup has raised over \$170k for various causes over the last nine years.

Michael O'Brien was the father of then U5 Kolts player Teddy. Michael was to coach Teddy's Swordfish team before his sad passing away. He was a devoted family man to his wife Olivia, and three young children Lily (an ex-Kolts player), Hattie and Teddy.

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# Windsor Wolves Play A Big Role As Penrith Retain Luke Lewis Cup

BY LAWRENCE MACHADO

Penrith, beefed up by four Windsor Wolves players, outclassed Cronulla 54-16 in the second Luke Lewis Cup rugby league encounter, played recently. The annual fixture featured players from the Penrith and Cronulla Junior Leagues open men's teams, and was played in front of an enthusiastic crowd at Windsor.

The Cup, which began last year, is in honour of dual Premiership winner Luke Lewis who played for both Penrith Panthers and Cronulla Sharks. The rep squads are selected by the coaches appointed by the Penrith and Cronulla Junior Leagues.

The Penrith players were selected from their 25 clubs in the district and included Windsor Wolves foursome Eton Lindsay, Jeshua Maa-Nelson, Frank Toomalatai and Luke McDonald. Making it even more special for the Wolves

was the Penrith team was coached by Col Murphy and Dennis Curry, and managed by Kylie Murphy, all from the Windsor Wolves.

Col Murphy, coaching the Penrith side for the first in time in the annual clash, said it was a very satisfying win. "It was an honour to be a part of the Luke Lewis Cup, and to represent the Penrith district, especially on our home soil," Murphy said.

Having started his rugby league career at the Windsor Wolves, Murphy has coached the U19s for the past three years while being involved with the A grade team too.

"All our senior teams are going well, with all being in the top two at this stage," Murphy said. "I have been in the Penrith pathways system for the past six years."



He has had an outstanding record as a player before taking up coaching. "I was lucky enough to play A Grade for Windsor Wolves at 16, junior reps and President's Cup for Penrith at 17, Australian Schoolboys and a first grade game for Penrith Panthers at 18," said a modest Murphy.

Cronulla, led by Sharks great Andrew Fifita, fought hard before Penrith, skippered by Tom Romer, steamrolled their way to a commanding victory. Penrith fullback Jesse Poulsen was awarded the Luke Lewis Medal for an outstanding game.

According to the Cronulla Juniors JRL, the 2025 Luke Lewis Cup showed just how much the event is growing. "With the Cup set to return to the Sutherland Shire next year, Cronulla Juniors will be determined to turn the tables and claim their first title in front of a home crowd," the club said.

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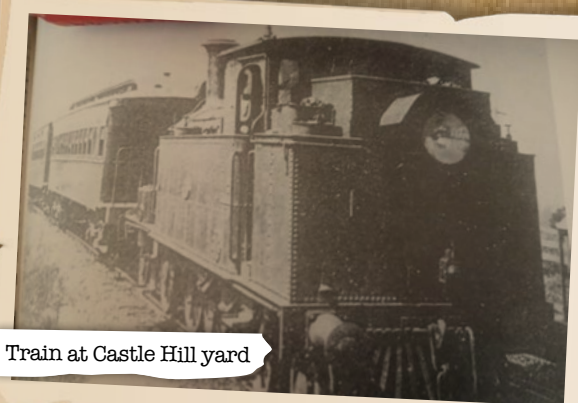
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## MEMORIES WITH IVOR JONES & FRIENDS

# RAILWAY TO ROGANS HILL & BEYOND

The first railway to operate in NSW was between Sydney and Parramatta in 1855. It was not long before other population centres were demanding rail transport to replace the existing horse drawn transport of carts and coaches. Orchardists in the Hills district were concerned that the fruit that was being transported overland to the river jetties on the Parramatta River at Ermington and Parramatta or to the new railway at Parramatta were prone to damage on the rough roads in the area.

With the building of the Northern rail line to Hornsby in the 1880s, railway stations were opened at Pennant Hills and Thornleigh with a goods yard at Thornleigh in 1886. However, in 1897 six residents from Pennant Hills formed a deputation to the Railway Commissioner to argue for a goods siding at Pennant Hills which was built the following year.

Whilst the Hornsby or Northern line assisted residents and orchardists in the eastern part of the Hills, and the western portion of the district was being assisted by the extension of the line with stations at Toongabbie, Seven Hills, and further, with the creation of the Hawkesbury branch line to Riverstone, Mulgrave, Windsor and Richmond, residents and orchardists in the remainder of the Hills felt overlooked.

A private railway was established in 1886 from Clyde to Rosehill, known as Bennett's Railway. In 1893 legislation was passed authorising the building of an additional railway line, Simpson's Railway, which was to run from Bennett's existing railway to Dural and to be built in three sections. The first section was to Carlingford, second to Rogan's Hill, and third to Dural. Only the first section was completed when both Bennett's and Simpson's Railways ran into financial difficulties. The State government then bought the private lines creating what was to become the Carlingford line.

In 1881, a deputation of property owners from the Hills met with the Minister for Public Works to urge for the construction of a light railway from Parramatta to Baulkham Hills, Castle Hill and Dural and as far as Pennant Hills. This was put forward again in 1884.

Fruit growers in the Hills decided to form a co-operative society to be called the Central Cumberland Co-operative Tramway and Fruit Packing Ltd. The idea was to construct and operate a tramway to run from Castle Hill to Parramatta Park gates where they would link up with the Redbank tramway which ran down George Street to the Parramatta River

at Camellia. The Co-operative also intended to purchase the Redbank tramway. The potential loss of freight for the Government-owned railways concerned the Government so much that in 1887 the Government decided to build and operate a tramway from Baulkham Hills to Parramatta, six years after the initial deputation.

The Baulkham Hills line opened on the 16th August 1902. Construction commenced in 1909 on an extension to Castle Hill which opened to the public on 1st August 1910 the line was extended to Rogan's Hill in 24th November 1924. Rogan's Hill had finally got a railway. The line had served initially as a tram line when first opened and as a railway when it closed on the 31st January 1932. It was not until June 1934 that the last of the tracks and platforms had been removed. You can still see signs of where the railway once stood. Model Farms Siding reserve between Folini Ave and Windsor Rd Northmead is one such location. Other indications are evident in street names such as Railway St, Baulkham Hills and Terminus St, Castle Hill.

# WORD SEARCH WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

O	K	J	D	S	O	I	S	Y	A	L	P	Y	H	S
G	T	I	A	R	H	T	E	B	C	A	M	A	I	B
H	C	P	N	C	A	V	H	Y	R	I	O	W	S	A
J	A	O	S	G	L	M	A	E	E	A	K	A	T	R
S	U	M	R	F	L	Q	A	W	L	I	M	H	O	D
E	P	L	L	I	I	E	Z	T	N	L	T	T	R	O
I	L	U	I	E	O	R	A	G	I	H	O	A	I	F
D	A	S	O	U	T	L	S	R	E	S	Q	H	E	A
E	Y	H	E	R	S	M	A	T	A	M	T	E	S	V
G	W	E	C	I	E	C	E	N	F	L	K	N	P	O
A	R	N	U	N	D	M	A	A	U	O	H	N	D	N
R	I	R	S	X	P	E	B	E	P	S	L	A	R	P
T	G	Y	P	E	A	U	M	O	S	T	L	I	W	H
U	H	V	S	T	E	N	N	O	S	A	I	E	O	T
T	T	T	P	O	E	T	J	I	C	T	R	O	C	L

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KING'S MEN  
MACBETH  
OTHELLO  
PLAYS  
PLAYWRIGHT  
POET  
SONNETS  
THE TEMPEST  
TRAGEDIES

Answers from last issue

WORD SEARCH	S	E	Z	R	R	D	N	E	D	I	V	I	D	S	B
	D	M	A	N	A	G	E	M	E	N	T	B	B	L	X
	M	B	E	A	R	M	A	R	K	E	T	U	S	V	T
	G	H	B	Z	R	E	H	M	A	R	G	I	N	E	S
	O	S	N	G	N	I	T	T	E	S	F	F	O	H	
	O	M	E	I	G	P	E	O	H	O	S	I	A	V	A
	M	R	R	D	E	R	M	T	L	N	I	A	S		
	Q	U	T	R	A	B	L	I	T	S	E	R	A		
	I	U	L	F	U	D	U	B	T	A	E	R	O	M	A
	T	F	L	Z	E	T	W	O	R	E	S	T	N	Y	
	Y	S	Y	T	I	U	Q	E	L	A	E	N	S	P	L
	B	U	L	L	I	S	H		S	L	A	G	R	I	P
	O	R	E	D	R	O	T	I	M	I	L	E	F	T	L
	W	H	V	S	E	L	L	S	H	O	R	T	O	E	X

CODEWORD	E	K	E	S	C	A	L	A	M	A	R	I
	X	X	X	P	Z	P	U	R	I	N		
	A	Q	U	A	R	I	A	P	A	G	E	D
	G	D	E	L	R	M	E					
	G	L	E	N	S	E	Y	E	L	E	T	S
	E		I	A	H	E	N	C				
	R	W	A	N	D	A	J	E	S	T	E	R
	A	T	E	W	N							
	T	R	O	U	N	C	E	S	C	R	U	B
	I	M	T	A	I	E	A					
	O	R	I	B	I	P	R	O	V	E	R	B
	N	S		A	O	N	F	L				
	S	E	E	D	L	I	N	G	I	S	L	E

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

## CODE WORD

Numbers in the grid (1-26) correspond to each of the letters of the alphabet from A-Z in some order. Solve the puzzle and fill in the letters in the key provided as you find them. Three letters are provided to give you a start.

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

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Q	8	9	10	11	12	13	G											
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	I	25	26												

## SUDOKU

Rating: ★ ★ ★ ★ ☆

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

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

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

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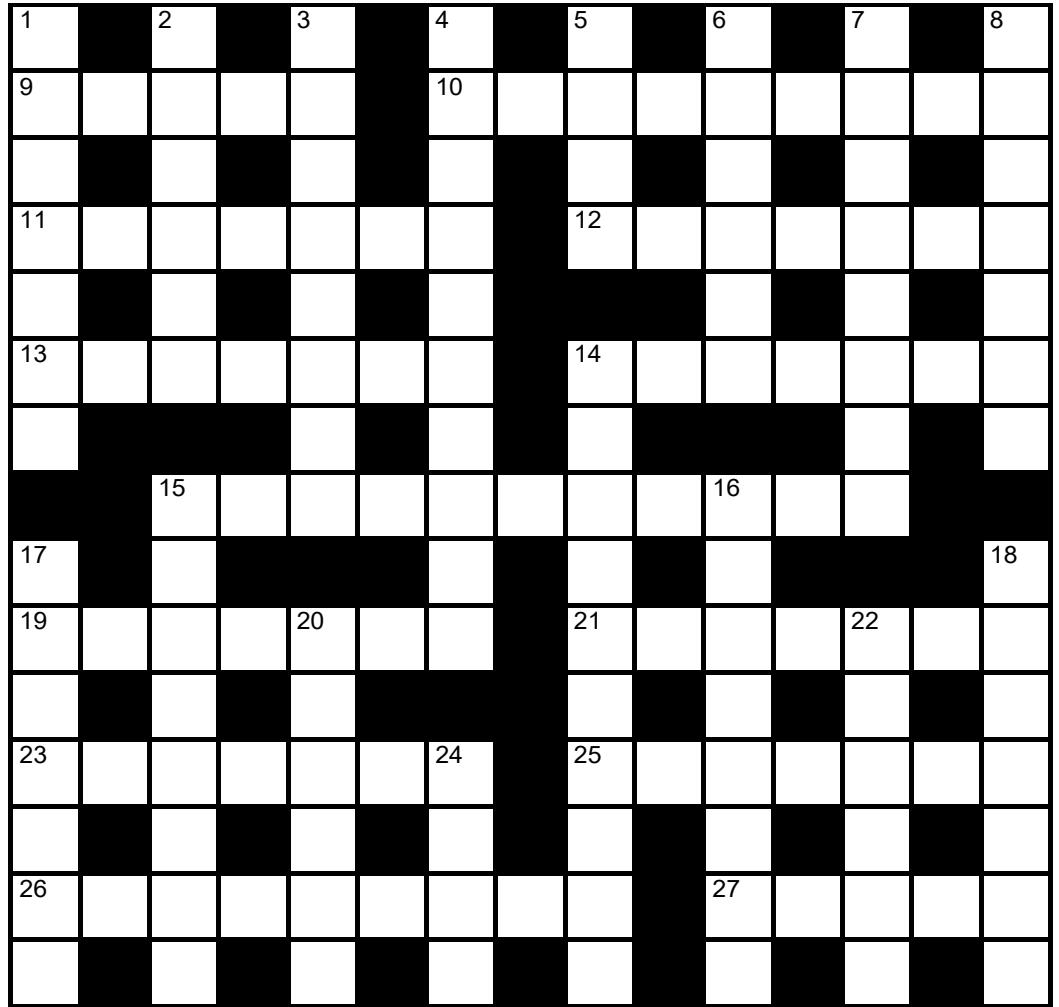
Answers from last issue

B	R	E	A	T	H	S	W	E	L	F	A	R	E
U	P	R	O	A	R	P	U	T	T	O	U	S	E
L	M	D	A	E	T	E							
F	I	R	S	T	A	I	D	R	I	P	P	L	E
G	C	L	D										
J	A	M	I	E	D	W	Y	E	R	I	R	A	N
N	E	I	E										
I	D	E	A	R	E	S	P	E	C	T	I	V	E
T	I	M											
U	N	D	O	N	E	A	N	Y	T	H	I	N	G
K	M	L	N	L	E	N							
L	V	R	E	B	I	R	D	A	C	A	C	I	A
D	N	Z											
V	I	R	T	U	A	L	P	E	R	S	I	S	T

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## Across

9. Like Little Boy
10. Clearing
11. Begin
12. Cooling drink
13. Disputed region between Pakistan and India
14. Waldorf salad necessity
15. Juggler banished Cal to a settlement in Nepean Bay, SA
19. Lewd
21. Affair of the heart
23. Misery
25. Iconic Volkswagens
26. Former national rugby player and heavyweight boxing champ
27. Adult insect

## Down

1. Hawaiian surfing site
2. Compels
3. Irregular
4. Association of sports teams
5. Pickle place
6. Additionally
7. Old Man ---, edible shrub
8. A word to the whys?
14. Worn by those over the eight?
15. Those in the know
16. Don
17. Designer of 25 Across
18. On thin ice
20. Sizing up
22. Ottoman ruler
24. Free from doubt

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