

Hills to Hawkesbury

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Community News

10th - 24th September 2021 | Vol 38 - Issue 17
Local Stories, Local Events, Local People and Local Businesses



GOOD MEN Project

A project that gives **men the chance to speak up**, challenge gender stereotypes and promote change

FULL STORY PAGE 18



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GREEN CORRIDOR PLAN

A plan for a green link between Middleton Avenue through to Carrington Road, and onto Showground Road, Castle Hill for walkers and cyclists is a step nearer.

The Hills Shire Council has adopted a Draft Concept Master Plan that will transform what is considered an underutilised corridor into a green spine with new pathways, seating and connections for pedestrians and cyclists near the Showground Metro station.

The project will also see valuable ecological areas protected and the Cattai Creekline rehabilitated.

Associate Director and Landscape Architecture Discipline Leader at McGregor Coxall, Matt Ritson said the Cattai Creek Corridor is a hidden gem that will become a critically important open space for Castle Hill's growing community.

"The creek plays an important role as a home for a diverse variety of valuable flora and fauna which will be protected and enhanced through the landscape and environmental design approach.

"Leveraging the strategic outcomes of the adopted Castle Hill Masterplan works completed by our Urban Design Team, the project will create new connections to key destinations within the local community, including the iconic Castle Hill Showground and Showground Station,

as well as provide new and refined green spaces for the community to enjoy."

Hills Shire Mayor Michelle Byrne said: "We want to develop a plan to deliver a much needed green space that will provide active links and passive recreation that will support this community.

It also compliments the redevelopment of the Castle Hill Showground and provides residents with another option to access the Showground Metro Station."

The NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment's Executive Director for Infrastructure & Place, Martin Reason, said the NSW Government's funding for The Hills Shire Council's Draft Concept Master Plan was part of the Precinct Support Scheme.

"Public spaces and shared paths are just as important to the community as roads and shops, and these new facilities will provide local residents, workers and visitors with better access to active transport," Mr Reason said.

The Draft Concept Master Plan was developed in collaboration with the community. A council spokesman said council will continue to consult with residents as further design stages become available and once construction commences.

BLACKSPOT FUNDING

Some of the area's worst roads will undergo improvements with the help of the Federal Black Spot grants program.

Hills Shire Council has been awarded \$2 million for road safety improvements along Cattai Ridge Road, Glenorie to improve road safety.

Improvements will include shoulder improvements, flexible crash barriers, more signage and improved lighting.

Another \$400,000 has been granted to Hawkesbury City Council for improvements to Old Pitt Town Rd, near Midson Rd, Scheyville including the installation of flexible roadside barriers and upgrade pavements.

A \$16,000 grant will go towards providing pedestrian crossing improvements at Oakes Rd and Murray Farm Rd, Carlingford.

Federal Member for Mitchell, Alex Hawke, announced that \$700,000 had been awarded in Black Spot funding to provide a one-lane roundabout at Annangrove Road and Edwards Road in Rouse Hill.

He said community input was critical to identifying key black spots in the area.

"None of these projects would be delivered without the community's vital input and I encourage all residents and motorists in the region to nominate projects for future funding rounds," he said.

For more information on the Australian Government's Black Spot Program, or to nominate a black spot, visit investment.infrastructure.gov.au/funding/blackspots.

CENSUS PLEA

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) is reminding people that the Census is compulsory and is urging people to complete their Census if they haven't done so already.

Almost 1.3 million final reminder notices have been sent to households who haven't responded requesting that they fill in their form and return it as soon as possible to avoid a fine.

The ABS is also requesting people with a second property—holiday home or investment property—to go online and report if it was vacant or unoccupied on Census night, 10 August 2021. People can also let us know by calling the Census Contact Centre on 1800 512 441.

Hills to Hawkesbury

Community News | Local Stories, Local Events, Local People and Local Businesses

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Judge Ross Miller in 2020

GARDEN FESTIVAL BLOOMS

By BEV JORDAN

While most of the much-loved Orange Blossom Festival has been cancelled due to COVID restrictions, one signature event that is very much blooming is the annual Sydney Hills Garden Competition.

This year's event, which started in 1959 as the forerunner of the Orange Blossom Festival, is ready for action with entries closing on September 17th. Organiser Keith Stapley from the Rotary Club of Hills-Kellyville Rotary Club said there are 45 entries so far.

"It's been a challenge for us (organising the event) but we are so excited that we have been able to make it all happen."

He got confirmation this week from Service NSW that judging would be able to go ahead. Judging will start on September 20th.

With more people gardening through Lockdown than ever before Keith is hoping that more people will think about entering the iconic competition which is free to enter.

"Just get out there, pull out the last of the weeds and send in your entry form." Gardens are judged by professional and experienced horticulturists and landscapers. In the past judges

Gardening expert Ross Miller said: "We've never seen so many beautiful gardens around this year. So many people are home making the very best of their surrounds and especially enjoying their gardens. More than ever, this is a time to celebrate the fine gardens of the Hills District this spring.



Garden winner in Arcadia

There are nine major categories for gardeners from small Town Houses to residential gardens, to gardens of industrial, commercial and retirement complexes.

The garden competition is open to gardens located in the Hills Shire and adjoining parts of the suburbs of North Rocks, Carlingford, Northmead, Winston Hills, Baulkham Hills, West Pennant Hills, Cherrybrook, Glenhaven, Dural, Arcadia, Galston and Glenorie.

For more information about entering visit www.hillsrotary.org.au or call Keith Stapley on 0412 079 014.

Hills Shire Council took the decision last week not to run its popular "Lights, Beats and Eats" OBF OBF event later this year.

Other OBF events which have had to be cancelled for 2021 include the much-loved OBF Fun Run at Bella Vista Farm run by Castle Hill Rotary Club, the annual OBF Art Exhibition, Bonsai Show and several concerts.

Last month Hawkesbury City Council announced it had to cancel Hawkesbury Fest due to be held on September 26.

* The best bush walks around: [Page 24](#)

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LUCKY ESCAPE

Emergency services spent 3 1/5 hours rescuing a driver trapped in his ute after the vehicle plunged 10m down a bush gully off Renown Road, Baulkham Hills on Monday morning (September 6th).

The 51-year-old Baulkham Hills resident was driving down the "big dipper" just after 7am when his vehicle crashed through a barrier and plunged down into the bush below.

The road was blocked westbound as the Mitsubishi Triton was stabilised to enable the driver to be rescued in the rough terrain.

The driver, who suffered a head injury, was treated by paramedics before being carried up to the roadside and rushed to Royal North Shore Hospital by ambulance just after 10.30am. He was released from hospital the following day to recover at home.



MAN, 62, IN DRUG BUST

A retirement village resident from Dural appeared before Parramatta Local Court on Wednesday, (September 8th 2021) charged with six counts of possess prohibited drug, supply prohibited drug, possess or use a prohibited weapon without permit and fail to comply requirement public health order - COVID-19.

The 62-year-old former courtesy bus driver was being watched by police for several months after residents at the Mountain Retreat Retirement reported him to CrimeStoppers after allegedly seeing people not wearing masks visit the man's unit on numerous occasions.

In June this year, investigators attached to Penrith Region Enforcement Squad (RES) commenced an investigation into the supply of prohibited drugs in the Dural area.

Following extensive inquiries, officers arrested the 62-year-old man and 37-year-old woman during a vehicle stop at the intersection

of Windsor Road and Olive Street at Baulkham Hills, about 12.45pm on Thursday, August 27th.

In a subsequent search of the Ford Falcon, investigators seized cannabis, methylamphetamine (ice) and a mobile phone.

A short time later, police executed a search warrant at the retirement unit at Stonelea Court, Dural.

Investigators were assisted by North West Metropolitan Region Operations Support Groups (OSG) and the Dog Unit throughout the operation.

During the search at Dural, police seized 12g of cannabis, six LSD (lysergic acid diethylamide) tabs, a baton and electronic devices.

All items seized during the operation will undergo further examination.

The Baulkham Hills woman was issued a Court Attendance Notice (CAN) for fail to comply requirement public health order - COVID-19. She will appear at court at a later date.

FATHER'S DAY FAILS

A 31-year-old Dural man was handed a \$2,547 fine on Father's Day for driving at 45kph over the speed limit on Showground Rd Castle Hill.

The man was pulled over just after 1pm by police from the Darling Mills Sector Traffic and Highway Patrol Command after allegedly reaching a speed of more than 117kph in a 60kph zone.

His licence was automatically suspended for 6 months. The car, a Toyota Yaris, was registered as a company car and so was not confiscated.

Less than 30 minutes later, a 17-year-old P-Plate driver was caught driving a Mercedes at 175kph on Windsor Road at Box Hill. The Kellyville teenager was allegedly driving a friend's car when he was clocked by police from the Darling Mills Sector Traffic and Highway Patrol Command driving at excessive speed.

He was stopped and tested for drugs. The oral fluid testing allegedly returned a positive for cocaine. He is due before Parramatta Local Court on October 28 to face charges. His Licence was automatically suspended for six months.

SHOE HABIT

A 19-year-old man from Carlingford is due before Parramatta Local Court charged with supplying prohibited drugs, dealing with the proceeds of crime and possess prohibited drugs.

Hills Police executed a search warrant at a unit in Post Office Road, Carlingford on Wednesday September 9th. It will be alleged that the 19-year-old was in possession of 4kg of

cannabis, and proceeds of crime had been used to purchase more than 50 pairs of Nike Air & TN shoes.

Anyone with information about the supply of prohibited drugs is urged to contact Crime Stoppers: 1800 333 000 or nsw.crimestoppers.com.au. Information is treated in strict confidence.

Services Available

The following services are available to anyone experiencing domestic or family violence:

1800 RESPECT (1800 737 732)

A confidential information, counselling and support service:

NSW Domestic Violence Line (1800 65 64 63)

A state-wide telephone or text counselling and referral service for women:

Men's Referral Service (1300 766 401)

Provides telephone counselling, information and referrals for men:

Link2Home (1800 152 152)

Can help refer women experiencing domestic violence to crisis accommodation:

LifeLine (13 11 14)

A national charity providing all Australians experiencing a personal crisis with access to 24-hour crisis support and suicide prevention services.

GUN AMNESTY

Police are urging people to take advantage of the Firearms amnesty rather than risk being caught with unregistered firearms in their homes and facing firearms charges.

There have been several incidents locally where former partners, neighbours and friends have dobbed in owners of unregistered firearms to CrimeStoppers.

The National Firearms Amnesty, which started on July 1, enables people with unwanted and unregistered firearms or firearm-related items to legally dispose of them or register them at approved drop-off points.

There is no cost involved with handing in firearms or related items for destruction, and no personal details are required.

People handing in firearms should contact their local police station and make an appointment to hand them in. Before taking a firearm to a participating firearms dealer or a police station, make sure the firearm is unloaded and where possible, remove the bolt or other method to render the firearm safe. Place the firearm in a gun bag or wrap in a blanket. Ammunition can be taken at the same time as a firearm; however, it must be stored in a separate bag, box or container.

Assistant Commissioner Scott Cook, the Police Prosecutions and Licensing Enforcement Commander, said: "We want to reduce the number of illegal firearms in the community, so they don't fall into the hands of criminals, who use unregistered firearms for intimidation and violence."

More information about the amnesty and surrendering, registering or selling unwanted firearms is available from crimestoppers.com.au/firearmsamnesty



INJURED WALKER

Hills Police, Ambulance NSW and members of NSW Rural Fire Service responded to the rescue of an injured 75-year-old bushwalker at 1pm on Wednesday, September 8th. The injured woman was on a trail 2km from Neich Road, Glenorie.

She was treated by paramedics before being winched from the scene and air-lifted to Royal North Shore Hospital by the Toll Ambulance Rescue helicopter.

PROTEST FINES

Police issued nine people with a \$3000 fine each and arrested and charged six others following a protest gathering outside Hills Shire Council at Norwest on Tuesday morning (August 31st).

Eight protesters were also fined during a similar incident outside Hawkesbury City Council offices in Windsor that same morning where about 50 people had gathered to protest the Lockdown.

At the Norwest protest a 56 year old Glenhaven man was arrested and charged with resist arrest, not comply with direction. A 61 year old man and a 56 year old woman from Bella Vista were arrested and charged with not comply with direction, fail to provide details.

Three women, aged 28, 30 and 60 years old from Glenorie were charged with Fail to comply, Hinder Police.

All were given bail to appear at Parramatta Local Court on October 13th. They were arrested after Hills Police responded outside to an unauthorised COVID/Anti Govt Protest on August 31st outside The Hills Shire Council administration building in Columbia Court at around 9am.

Police say about 30 protestors who had gathered were informed that the protest was illegal and that they were breaching Public Health Orders and 15 failed to comply with the Police Direction.

As well as the six who were charged, a further nine other people were issued \$3000 Penalty Notices for Not comply with direction.

The protest at Norwest was one of 69 protests held across NSW including one outside Parliament House.

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MENTAL HEALTH ACTION

By **BEV JORDAN**

MADDISON CALCOTT, now 17, was in primary school when she was bullied and moving on to high school didn't mean it stopped ... it just changed.

"When I was young it was verbal and physical (abuse). I stood up for a girl that was being bullied and then it happened to me, every day," she says. "I didn't want to leave the school because I didn't want them to win."

The Hills local started songwriting at the age of 10 and found the creativity really helped.

At the age of 11 Maddison was hospitalised for six weeks after an operation on a brain abscess. She says it led to her to become more empathetic and aware of people dealing with challenging situations.

It was a different kind of bullying when she reached high school.

"It was much more subtle, which makes it worse," she said. "It dominates every day ... not being tagged in photos, seeing things on social media you haven't been included in."

Maddison, who has always loved drama and film production, was 13 when she created her first award winning short film for the Bloodfest film festival. This year she is one of three ambassadors for the annual Australian short film competition Mentalicious, open to Australian and New Zealand students in years 7-12.

Maddison was the only NSW finalist in the inaugural Mentalicious competition after her school invited her to make a short film on mental health for the competition. "Back then I was just starting to go through my own mental health issues."

She ended up runner up in the finals and as a result attended a mental health in schools conference in Sydney and gave a short speech about her film.

"The conference was attended by teachers from schools all over Sydney, so my speech was honest and raw. I also highlighted issues of bullying through social media by exclusion. I felt this was my opportunity to make a difference.

"In 2019 I was formally diagnosed with generalised anxiety disorder," says Maddison. "Since then I have become very passionate about mental illness and breaking the stigma ... if there are any kids out there that have been through similar situations, hopefully my story helps them through it."

She is encouraging students to get involved in the 2021 Mentalicious short film competition saying: "Having a creative outlet like film-making or performing arts can help free you of all the feelings



and pressure. It's a healthy way to express yourself and feel like you are being heard."

Her message to other teenagers finding it tough is: "It's okay to have issues with your mental health and there is no shame in asking for help. There will always be people out there who will help and support you through the tough times.

"And for those who know or suspect someone that's going through something, sometimes all they need is for you to be present and listen and most of all be free of judgement".

Closing date for entries to Mentalicious is this Saturday, September 11. There is no entry fee. To find out more and see previous entries visit proppsy.com.au/mentalicious/. If you need help or advice visit kids helpline.com.au or call 1800 55 1800

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HOUSE-HUNTERS ARE EMBRACING VIRTUAL PROPERTY SALES

It could be a bumper start to the Spring property market with a lack of supply and strong demand expected to keep prices high during Sydney's extended lockdown.

Agents Kate Lumby and Will Hampson from Lumby Hampson said it has been a smooth transition to virtual sales with bidders confidently adapting to new technology.

Among their recent successes was **21 Wyoming Rd, Dural**, which fetched a record \$6.3m – the highest amount ever paid under the hammer in the blue-ribbon suburb. There were 16 registered bidders vying online for the palatial 10-bedroom mansion, set on a 2ha estate with indoor pool and tennis/basketball court.

"In the lockdown we are finding that buyers are just getting on with it and don't seem at all phased by the online process or if they do need help, they will ask," Mr Hampson said.

"While it is not as fast as a 'live' auction' – some running for an hour – online auctions are just like one you would attend in person. **It can still be very suspenseful and exciting waiting for the hammer to fall, particularly with such strong competition in the current market.**"

More than 130 bids were traded during the recent auction of **58A Annangrove Rd, Kenthurst**, which took more than an hour to complete. It sold for \$4.158m with two main contenders pushing the final price \$685,000 above expectations.

Delighted vendor, Rene Kemplen, revealed they always planned to sell the acreage in August as it is the month with the lowest number of listings – which meant fewer competing properties.

As it turned out, it was also the time that Sydney was under a tight lockdown due to the COVID19 pandemic.

"It turned out to be quite good because people who would normally be working, such as those in construction, were able to come out to an inspection in keeping with the guidelines," Ms Kemplen said. **"We were really hoping for a figure up there, but the final price was even higher than what we imagined."**

Lumby Hampson has now achieved 25 residential record sale prices across a number of suburbs in the Hills District.

Another recent record was **9 Glenhaven Rd, Glenhaven**, which sold for an incredible \$5.415m back in July. The magnificent 2ha parcel of land with older style house achieved a massive \$915,000 above its expected price. In February this year, Lumby Hampson sold **1484 Wisemans Ferry Rd, Maroota**, for \$2.65m – a record price for residential acreage. Also setting a new record this year was **44 Peebles Rd, Fiddletown**, which sold for \$3.75m.

For further information, call **Will Hampson** on **0414 620 333** or **Kate Lumby** on **0414 620 222**.



More than 130 bids traded on 58A Annangrove Rd, Kenthurst



A record price was achieved for 1484 Wisemans Ferry Rd, Maroota



44 Peebles Rd, Fiddletown sold for a record \$3.75 million

ACREAGE LAND WIN

Homeowners in the rural zones in The Hills Local Government Area will have more clarity surrounding the maximum size of a secondary dwelling due to changes to The Hills Shire Council's planning controls.

Recent amendments to The Hills Local Environment Plan (LEP) specify that the permitted size of secondary dwellings (in rural zones) is 110m² or 20 percent of the total floor area of the principal dwelling, whichever is the greater.

The new amendment only applies to those located in rural zoned land where secondary dwellings are already permitted with consent, including in the RU1 Primary Production, RU2 Rural Landscape and RU6 Transition zones.

Hills Shire Mayor, Dr Michelle Byrne said that the amendment was a "win for rural landowners".

"This policy change gives a lot of flexibility for residents to help them manage their rural properties and balance their individual needs.

"It responds to the growing demand for more affordable and diverse housing options, while also maintaining the character of our rural areas. This means that residents who want to keep their family close, can do so, including parents and their adult children. It also means they can live in a good-sized home that enables them to remain in the local area and raise a family," she said.

"Council also believes these changes will incentivise the retention of rural land uses and allow the region to continue to contribute to the food needs of our Shire and beyond. And when the Western Sydney Airport at Badgerys Creek is fully operational, it is my dream to see our Shire's produce being transported and enjoyed around the world."



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38 Windsor Road, Kellyville
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164 Glenhaven Road, Glenhaven

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9 Bangor Road, Middle Dural

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966 Old Northern Road, Glenorie

AUCTION

14 Gibber Place, Annangrove

AUCTION

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SOLD

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SOLD

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SOLD

124 Gallaghers Road, South Maroota
\$2,012,000



SOLD

7 Yarrington Road, Glenorie
\$1,430,000



SOLD

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SOLD

7 Stanton Road, Nelson
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SOLD

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58a Annangrove Road, Kenthurst
\$4,158,000



SOLD

21 Wyoming Road, Dural
\$6,300,000



SOLD

840 Old Northern Road, Middle Dural
\$4,100,000



SOLD

9 Glenhaven Road, Glenhaven
\$5,415,000



SOLD

1235 Old Northern Road, Middle Dural
\$4,250,000



SOLD

1233 Old Northern Road, Middle Dural
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SOLD

1 Blacks Road, Arcadia
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Kate Lumby 0414 620 222
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PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Retirement often gives people more time to pursue their passions and hobbies and with a little bit of preparation and planning you can ensure you have your affairs in order, allowing you to sit back and enjoy doing the things you love.

Our top tips for planning ahead for your retirement:

- Ask yourself if your current home is suitable for now and into the future. Consider rightsizing into a retirement village to minimise your home and garden maintenance as Carmen, a Uniting Independent Living Resident explains, **“Moving to a retirement village was one of the best decisions we’ve made. We have more time to focus on the things we enjoy.”**
- Seeking the advice from a financial adviser will determine the various options available to you and can help to minimise the stress of navigating a system that can often be complex. A financial planner who specialises in aged pension and superannuation can help to ensure you’re getting the maximum benefits and assist you with planning for the retirement you envision.
- Understand your care needs and what you may be eligible for already, Commonwealth Support Programs are an option for those who may need assistance to remain living independently.

If you’re interested in rightsizing and think it’s the next step in your journey, contact the friendly team at Uniting to discuss if there is a retirement village near you. Call **1800 864 846** or visit uniting.org/villages.

COVID-19 CHECK-IN CARD

Residents who don’t have smart phones or are not comfortable using the Service NSW webform can create a hard-copy COVID-19 check-in card with a unique QR code that contains their registered contact details. Once you’ve created your card you can have it posted to you, or download a printable version immediately.

If you lose the card, or your contact details change, you simply create a new card. To create your COVID-19 check-in card, visit www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/create-covid-19-check-card.

Note: This check-in method is only available at businesses that have a QR compatible device. It is not mandatory for businesses to accept COVID-19 check-in cards.



Don't forget to check in every time you arrive at a venue



REGISTRATION LINKS

Please see the following links related to travelling within NSW, workers leaving or entering a COVID-19 area of concern and registering a COVID-19 nominated visitor:

Register to travel within NSW: <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/register-your-travel-within-nsw>

Registration for workers leaving or entering a COVID-19 area of concern: <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/registration-workers-leaving-or-entering-covid-19-area-concern>

COVID-19 Nominated Visitor: <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/register-your-nominated-visitor>

FIRE DANGER ... BE PREPARED

RFS Commissioner, Rob Rogers is warning that we are heading towards what could potentially be a very active 21/22 bushfire season. After a quite fire season last summer and with steady rain falling over autumn and winter, increased grass and crop growth across NSW will bring fresh challenges for firefighters and communities.

One local company, Aussie Pumps, is working hard to build more pumps to cope with the anticipated demand this year. “We’ve bought every Honda and Yanmar diesel engine we could get our hands on and are turning them into top quality fire pumps using the Aussie Fire Chief as the base” said Aussie Pumps’ Brad Farrugia.

Brad warns that buying a pump from a third world country can not only be a disappointment but could put your property, livestock and maybe even your lives at risk. “Check before you buy, is it a reputable brand? Is it from a first world source? Does it carry a respectable warranty like Aussie Pumps’ unique five year?” he said.

Further info including free copies of Aussie’s Bushfire Survival Guides is available from authorised Aussie Pump outlets or your local Fire Depot.

Make sure you are equipped with a quality pump like the Aussie Fire Chief to defend your property! Visit your local Aussie Pumps dealer, including Hills Irrigation.





Retirement Living

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uniting.org/westmead**

Uniting

KNOW YOUR OPTIONS

Knowing your options when it comes to an elderly relative or yourself can be very difficult. What are your options when you notice that you or your loved one are no longer coping at home?

Community Care packages are often part of the answer; however, they can be challenging to get, and they may not fill the requirement for social company that so many of our elderly need and are craving. Often people think their only option is aged care. However, there is an alternative.

Assisted Living is an excellent option between Independent Living and Aged Care. Assisted Living may be the answer when you are looking for some extra support for a loved one but don't feel that they are ready for Aged Care.

Assisted Living provides a safe and supportive environment for you to remain independent. Comfortable 1 and 2 bedroom apartments with emergency call buttons and staff onsite 24 hours a day are provided with a weekly linen and cleaning service as well as a delicious selection of chef-prepared meals, allowing you to put your feet up and enjoy your retirement.

We currently have availability for private respite, a great opportunity to experience the benefits of Assisted Living. Charged at a daily rate, you can book in and try out the services to see if they fit your requirements. After enjoying respite, many decide that the assisted living lifestyle is perfect for them and purchase a unit of their own. Woodlands is a company title village with no deferred management fees, and you keep any capital gains.

All residents can take advantage of our activities and facilities throughout the village such as the swimming pool, gym, Community Centre, shopping bus, croquet lawn and BBQ area. For your convenience, we also have a range of onsite services such as Doctors, Podiatrists, Hairdressers and mobile dentists.

Whether you decide to buy or stay for a short period for some respite, Woodlands can provide you with a personalised care plan to suit your needs.

Call Woodlands today to find out more on (02) 9481 8842.



CHRISTMAS CARD COMP

Primary School students in the Baulkham Hills electorate are being invited to design a Christmas card for local MP David Elliott who is also Minister for Police and Emergency Services.

It will be the 11th year that the State MP has held the competition to design his parliamentary Christmas Card, last year's winner was Lavinia Saad (pictured) from Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School with her *Three Wise Men Card*.

This year's theme is The Christmas Star and a \$100 Castle Towers Gift Card is up for grabs for the most creative submission. Closing date for entries is October 29.

The competition will be judged by Mr Elliott and his wife, Nicole. Mr Elliott encouraged students at all 15 schools in his electorate to take part.

Entries should be posted to Suite 1, 25-33 Old Northern Road, Baulkham Hills NSW 2125. Please ensure that the student's name, school and year is included.



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1 and 2 bedroom units and villas located in bush surrounds for your enjoyment.



- Fully serviced assisted living apartments
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- Sought after ground floor location
- Private terrace adjoins lawn area
- Air-conditioned community centre with a spacious lounge, library, games room, kitchen plus BBQ area next to the heated swimming pool
- Freshly cooked meals in The Lodge dining room
- No exit or deferred management fees
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Enjoy access to a range of community events and facilities perfect for an active retirement including the Terrace Café, bowling green, hair salon, library, billiard room and workshed.

We take care of the little things like mowing and maintenance, while our BaptistCare At Home team can assist with washing, cooking and cleaning right through to personal care should you ever need extra help.

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 **(02) 8896 3905**

 **[baptistcare.org.au/Aminya Village](https://baptistcare.org.au/Aminya_Village)**

Because we care

The Hills Shire Council News

Draft Master Plan – Caddies Creek Sports Complex – Stage 2

A Draft Master Plan for Caddies Creek Sports Complex, Beaumont Hills – Stage 2 is now on exhibition and available for viewing.

The Master Plan has been prepared to represent a long term vision for Caddies Creek Sports Complex, incorporating a premier facility for football in accordance with Council's Recreation Strategy. The site is already home to football, cricket and baseball, as well as providing passive recreation opportunities including a playground and shared pathway network.

Stage 2 proposes to include four additional football fields as well as opportunities for smaller court sports, amenities facilities and car parking.

Also nestled within the site is the State Government's Parks for People project which will seek to provide additional passive recreational space. The Parks for People project will be exhibited as part of a separate community consultation program.

It should be noted that at present, the site of the proposed Stage 2 works is not yet under Council ownership. The development will be subject to the transfer of government owned land to Council.

ENQUIRIES:

Open Space and Recreation Team on 9843 0555.

SUBMISSIONS:

Residents are invited to provide a written submission by either:

- Completing the online submission on Council's website, or
- Mailing your submission to:

**General Manager, The Hills Shire Council,
PO Box 7064 NORWEST NSW 2153**

**Submissions close at 4:00pm on Tuesday,
28 September 2021.**

For more information and to view the Draft Master Plan, visit www.thehills.nsw.gov.au and search for 'Caddies Creek.'

A new arbour for AH Whaling Memorial Reserve Rose Garden

Stage one of the Alfred Henry Whaling Memorial Reserve Rose Garden upgrade is now complete.

Works included:

- Removing the old timber arbour and surrounding structures;
- Installing a new rose arbour, as well as concrete pathways, seating and a feature sandstone area; and
- Landscaping works.

Roses are currently being planted, and will be trained to climb over the newly constructed arbour, creating a cathedral focal point for the garden.

More construction is planned for the rose garden including garden bed restoration, upgrades to the stairs and pathways and more planting works.

Works on the rose garden are taking place in conjunction with the Waves Aquatic Centre upgrade. For more information on both projects, visit www.thehills.nsw.gov.au and search for 'Waves.'



Making a Submission to Council?

Any person may make a submission to Council. Submissions which obtain objections must be specific in their content. Council's preferred method of receiving submissions is via Council's website through each exhibition's online submission form. To view current exhibitions, search for 'Have Your Say.'

Council Meetings

Due to the current NSW lockdown restrictions, Ordinary Meetings of Council will be broadcast live from Council's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/TheHillsShireCouncil>

To view Council meeting dates, visit www.thehills.nsw.gov.au and search for 'Meeting Calendar.'



More Room to Play for North Kellyville and West Pennant Hills

In November 2020, Council sought feedback from Hills Shire residents about their preferred locations for dog off-leash areas in West Pennant Hills and North Kellyville. These suburbs were identified as ‘gaps’ in The Hills Shire’s off-leash area network in Council’s Recreation Strategy.

Six reserves were identified as potential off-leash locations for West Pennant Hills and four locations were identified for North Kellyville. Interested residents were invited to submit their preferred location via an online submission form on The Hills Shire Council’s website during the consultation period. 213 submissions were received for West Pennant Hills and 150 submissions were received for North Kellyville during this time.

Colbarra Place Reserve was selected as the location for the new off-leash area for West Pennant Hills and Indwarra Avenue Reserve was chosen for North Kellyville. The design of both off-leash areas is in the process of being completed, which will enable the projects to be included in the 2022/23 Capital Works Program, or to potentially be funded earlier through government grant programs that may become available during the current financial year.

For more information about the new dog off-leash areas for West Pennant Hills and North Kellyville, visit www.thehills.nsw.gov.au and search for ‘More Room to Play.’

Save the date
2021 NSW Local Government elections
Saturday 4 December

Voting is compulsory
elections.nsw.gov.au/lge21
 1300 135 736

Visit www.thehills.nsw.gov.au to find out which ward you’re in.

To register to vote, check your enrolment or to update your enrolment details, visit <https://www.elections.nsw.gov.au>

Report it to Council

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- Cycleways
- Potholes
- Maintenance
- Bins

Have you seen something that needs our attention? You can report an issue from anywhere, on any device, at any time.

To get started, visit www.thehills.nsw.gov.au and search ‘Report it to Council.’



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



THE HILLS
 Sydney’s Garden Shire

GOOD MEN SPEAK UP

By BEV JORDAN

Male voices from the age of 14 to 73 are using the **2021 Good Men Project** to share their views about respectful relationships, masculinity and gender stereotypes.

Youngest participant, 14-year-old Lucas said: "Respect means genuinely accepting people for who they are and what they believe in."

For 29-year-old Vivaan: "Attributes such as creativity, emotional intelligence and kindness should hold more value in our society".

Hills Community Aid started the Good Men Project in 2018 as a response to feedback during the White Ribbon Campaign from men who said that they wanted things to change in society but they didn't feel they had an opportunity to speak up.

Suzanne Deguara, Safer Communities Program Worker with HCA, said: "Men haven't had a voice in this conversation about respectful relationships and gender-based stereo-types for so long.

"Our stereotypes are mostly sporting heroes and perceived masculinity. Unhelpful gender stereotypes, telling men that it's not okay to be themselves, have a huge impact on relationships and mental health and they can contribute to a whole host of problems in society."

She collated the 2021 comments saying most men are nurturing, caring and kind which should be the ideal that young men are encouraged to aspire to.

The 2021 Good Men project will go live on the Hills Community Aid Facebook and Instagram this Friday (September 10) as well



SUZANNE DEGUARA co-ordinator of the Good Men Project

as on Castle Towers' social media platforms.

Suzanne is urging men to comment and share their views on the posts to "promote social change".

Centre manager at Castle Towers and dad Eddie Paynter said: "Now more than ever, it is incredibly important to generate thoughtful community conversations on relationships, respect and responsibility, and we are so thankful to be involved with the incredible work Hills Community Aid does in this area, empowering our community to thrive."

He said Castle Towers is proud to support a project which highlights: "everyday heroes that are showing true strength by speaking up, challenging gender stereotypes and promoting change."

The 2021 project is also supported by the CHRNG Club Grants program.

COMMENTS:

BEN (38) believes that good hearted men who show support and compassion for others need to step up to take the lead and become role models for other boys and men.

BRYAN (35) said Adam Goodes is a great role model: "His work in Indigenous literacy programs and combating racism through his strength of character makes him a shining example in how to take a stand without compromising principles or belittling others".

MARK (50) "I respect my grandfather, he was always so giving and he was a real softy. He shared his emotions and he always considered others and how he could help them".

VISHAL (41) "I believe that your spiritual thinking and good soul makes you a good man."

To find out more about the program and see other quotes from this year and previous years visit www.hca.org.au/thegoodmenproject Facebook www.facebook.com/hillscommunityaid/ and Instagram www.instagram.com/hillscommunityaid/

FREE

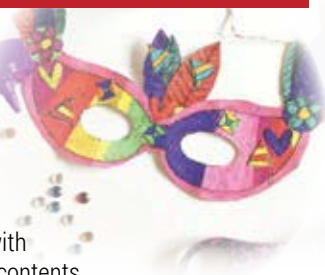
CREATIVE FUN

A craft pack with 10 different arts and crafts projects has been put together by Hills Community Aid to keep youngsters occupied for the rest of the month.

The free pack comes with a booklet with instructions and ideas on how to use the contents to create paper masks, hand butterflies, moving paper fish, octopus toilet rolls, paper plate snakes, rainbow clouds, toilet roll creatures, turtle craft, window collage and many more. There are a limited number of packs available. Register online from the HCA website www.hca.org.au. Packs will be delivered between September 13th and 17th according to COVID restrictions. The packs have been sponsored by The Hills Shire Council and Deicorp.

Hills Community Aid has also organised a range of Community Connections Online Child and Family Workshops which will run from September 20th to October 1st.

Workshops include: Coding, Trivia Kahoot, Craft Time, Let's Draw, Family Bingo, Hip Hop Dance, Family Boot Camp, Story Time, Family Zumba, Family Yoga. Bookings are essential online: www.hca.org.au/whatson-old. For details call 9639





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Spring Fertilising activate your plants growth

By **KAREN GODWIN** | HORTICULTURIST

With spring now upon us, the plants in your garden will begin to grow. This is the time when every plant in your garden including your lawn will need fertilising to maximise growth and maintain good health and vigor before the warmer months.

Before coming to the nursery, think about which plants you have growing in your garden. They may include native plants, roses, fruit trees, shrubs and pot plants and also grassed areas.

When you attend the nursery, there are usually 2 main groups of fertilisers available, which are organic or non-organic fertilisers. Organic fertilisers are derived from animal and plant products such as animal manures, compost and seaweeds. Non-organic fertilisers are usually sold in granular or powdered forms.

If you choose an organic fertiliser, a bag of Katek in the pellet form is a very economical, easy to apply, slow release fertiliser which can be used on most plants including potted plants. If you prefer a liquid fertiliser, they are available in concentrated form or in a powdered form which can be added to water and mixed before applying.

There are also more specific fertilisers available for fruit trees, camellias, roses, natives and lawns. Even though there is an enormous range of fertilisers available, most gardens may only need a few different types to provide adequate feeding.

When you have purchased your fertilisers, take them home and read the instructions on the packet before applying. This ensures the correct application rate is used so you don't waste fertilisers or overfeed your plants.

It is very easy to cause fertiliser burn on your plants if you incorrectly apply fertilisers. Make sure you wet the soil prior to feeding and always spread fertilizers evenly over the plants drip line and then water again. If you follow the instructions taking the correct care, you will be rewarded with beautiful strong growth and much healthier plants.

We look forward to seeing you at Sydney's Plant Market where our staff can give you advice on any fertilising requirements and help you choose from our wide range of products available. See you at the nursery and Happy Spring!



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THE LINK BETWEEN DIABETES AND HEARING LOSS

Diabetes and hearing loss are two of the most common health concerns in Australia and research has shown that there is a link between these two conditions. Did you know that if you have diabetes, you are twice as likely to acquire a hearing loss compared to those without diabetes?

There are three types of diabetes; type 1, type 2 and gestational diabetes – all of those can have a negative effect on hearing and can cause hearing loss. Often it is a sudden hearing loss that develops quickly, and it can affect anyone with diabetes, regardless of age. It is important to remember that this risk of hearing loss is not restricted to any age group or only those exposed to loud noisy environments.

Investigations into the link between hearing loss and diabetes explain that the high blood sugar levels people experience with diabetes can cause damage to the small hair cells in the inner ear. The tiny hair cells in the inner ear require a good blood circulation to operate at their best. These cells translate the noise that our ears

collect into electrical impulses that need to be interpreted by the brain to recognise the sound. So, when blood cells and the blood supply area affected in the inner ear, the hair cells in our inner ears are not working optimally. These hair cells do not regenerate and damage to them is permanent. This causes a sensorineural hearing loss which cannot be reversed.

Although hearing loss caused by diabetes cannot be reversed, steps can be taken to prevent this hearing loss from developing. The most important component to protecting your hearing with diabetes is living a healthy lifestyle. It is crucial that you stay on top of your medications and treatment plans, following the directions of your health care providers closely.

It is important to have annual hearing tests if you have diabetes. This will allow hearing care professionals to monitor the function of these tiny hair cells and ensure action is taken as soon as required. At EAR STUDIO, we assess the hearing of any person over 3 years of age. If you know you have diabetes or have a strong family history of diabetes, it is important that you have a hearing test at a clinic like EAR STUDIO. If you would like to learn more or book a hearing assessment, please call EAR STUDIO on (02) 9159 6122 or head to our website.

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JAZZ UP YOUR EVENING

By LAWRENCE MACHADO

Rising young crooner Charlie Tchetchenian will be serenading his growing army of fans during a special online performance this Saturday (September 11) broadcast on the Hornsby RSL Facebook page from 6pm.

All you need to do is to log in and enjoy his amazing vocals.

Cherrybrook's young version of Michael Bubl  will have you singing or humming in your own living room as he and special guest artist Amelie Gnatek, also known as Am  lie, bring to life jazz greats including Ella Fitzgerald, Dean Martin and Frank Sinatra.

West Pennant Hills resident Amelie, a gifted singer/songwriter, will also perform her originals during the two-hour performance. She and Charlie were peers at the prestigious Talented Development Project. It's been a challenging year for Charlie, 17, who like all entertainers,

has seen his shows dry up during the Covid-19 lockdowns. In addition, the Cherrybrook Technology High School student is sitting for his HSC exams, after which he plans to complete a media communications or media politics degree.

"I'd love to just transport people for a couple of hours to somewhere else through the power of music," said Charlie, who grew up listening to the legendary musicians like Ella Fitzgerald, Sammy Davis Jr, Dean Martin, and Frank Sinatra. "It's been so challenging for everyone in lockdown, so let's get together for some great music and entertainment."

His proudest moment was when he sang with his musical idol Michael Bubl  during his Sydney concert two years ago. This led to Charlie learning from Bubl 's great trumpeter Jumaane Smith for almost 12 months.



Watch Charlie and Amelie on Saturday at facebook.com/events/s/lockdown-sessions-live-music-w/3098486157040835/

You can enjoy Charlie's music via his social media pages: Facebook: @CharlieTchetchenianSinger or Instagram: charlietche_music

LIBRARY NEWS

GREAT TALKS ONLINE

The Hills Shire Library Service has a whole range of online activities and talks scheduled for the rest of this month for all ages.

In partnership with Western Sydney Local Health District (WSLHD) the service will deliver FREE live health talks, curated reading lists and expert tips and resources to keep people happy and healthy during the Sydney lockdown.

They include exercise for older residents and Healthy Snack and Lunch

Ideas for Children Workshops.



Western Sydney Local Health District Health Promotion Officer, Monica Nour, will be delivering an online talk about healthy lunch and snack ideas for children as part of Library Health Month in September.

Matt Murphy, author, part time historian and teacher, will be discussing his latest book, Rum - A Distilled History of Colonial Australia, with Eric Dodson on Wednesday, September 15.

This fascinating read tells Murphy's account of the formation of Australia through the distorted view of a rum bottle and asks questions, such as - Would the Eureka Stockade have been different if the rebels weren't drunk? The Kangaroo Dreaming Colouring Challenge will continue throughout lockdown. The colouring template can be downloaded from Council's website. Artworks will be displayed online (Hills Shire Library Service Facebook page) and at Castle Hill Library when it re-opens to the public and when lockdown restrictions ease.

To find out more and to book your place, visit The Hills Shire Library Service: www.thehills.nsw.gov.au/Library.

TOP PICKS

STAFF PICKS

THE WOMAN IN THE WINDOW

by A .J. Finn

NOTHING VENTURED

by Jeffrey Archer

GREAT ESCAPE FROM WOODLANDS

NURSING HOME by Joanna Nell

TOP READS

Kids eMagazines

Astronomy for Kids

National Geographic Kids

K-Zone

eMagazines for Adults

BBC History Magazine

Grand Designs Australia

Marie Claire Australia

You can access these reads all from the comfort of home with the easy-to-use Hills Shire Library App, which is available to download for FREE from Google Play and the App Store.

BOOKS TO YOU DOOR

Hawkesbury Library Service has recently resumed housebound delivery services for senior residents that have been cut off from their normal support network of family, friends or caregivers due to the pandemic.

The free delivery service was originally offered to existing housebound members, identified as having a disability or chronic illness and unable to access the Library's e-resources or those isolated and particularly vulnerable.

The service has now been extended to residents, living alone in the Hawkesbury Local Government Area, who are aged 65 years or older. Participants will be provided with a selection of items delivered


to their door by Library staff while restrictions are in place. Staff will contact each patron before visiting to determine that they are safe and well, and that material will be delivered without contact.


To find out more about the service if you, or someone you know has become isolated and/or vulnerable because of lockdown contact the Library to check eligibility by either calling 4560 4462 or emailing library@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au

Members can also access Library eResources including eBooks, Audiobooks, eMagazines and video streaming via the library's website: hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/library



Home delivered books





ROBYN PRESTON MP

MEMBER FOR HAWKESBURY

How my office and I can help you

- Represent you in Parliament and raise local issues with the appropriate Minister or Department
- 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

Hawkesbury folk are doing the heavy lifting when it comes to getting vaccinated and your efforts will bring us closer to getting out of lockdown and returning to a sense of normality where we can go about their work, education and social life without the current restrictions in place. I encourage anyone who is yet to consider taking the vaccination to speak to your GP and make an informed decision.

You can keep updated on COVID-19 restrictions by visiting www.nsw.gov.au/. This link can provide assistance for other Covid-19 related information, such as where and how to get vaccinated, testing clinic locations, available support and regional travel registrations.

If you have symptoms or questions about COVID-19, please call the National Coronavirus Health Information Line on 1800 020 080.

You can also call visit service.nsw.gov.au or call them any time on 13 77 88 to find out Covid-19 related information or just call my office on 02 4578 0300 or email hawkesbury@parliament.nsw.gov.au.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL

A staggered return of students to face-to-face learning will begin on Monday 25 October starting with Kindergarten and Year 1. On 1 November, students in Years 2, 6 and 11 will be back in the classroom and Years 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9 and 10 will be returning on 8 November.

Year 12 students are already able to return in a limited way and this will continue for the remainder of Term 3. From 25 October, Year 12 will have full time access to school campuses and their teachers. HSC exams are now scheduled for 9 November with a revised timetable and guidelines for a COVID-safe HSC to be released by NESA this month. Importantly, the delay of the HSC exams will not disadvantage NSW students when applying to university. I wish our Year 12 students all the very best as they prepare for their HSC exams.

2022 WOMAN OF THE YEAR

Glenorie's Dennise Williams was Hawkesbury's 2021 Woman of the Year and a very worthy recipient for her voluntary work as P&C President with Glenorie Public School. If you would like to nominate a Hawkesbury woman to be considered for this award, applications are still open until **11:59pm on Friday, 17 September 2021**.

Information is available on www.women.nsw.gov.au/news-and-events/women-of-the-year or by emailing womenoftheyear@fac.nsw.gov.au.



Wild dog and fox control program

Dear Neighbours,

Greater Sydney Local Land Services will be leading a wild dog and fox control program in the Hawkesbury, Blue Mountains, Hills Shire and Hornsby areas.

As a result of strong support from local landholders Greater Sydney Local Land Services has been able to develop and lead a broad, integrated wild dog and fox control program for these localities. The high number of properties involved has been critical to achieving the best outcomes and is crucial to the success of the program implementation.

This program is part of our ongoing work to reduce pest numbers and impacts on primary production and native wildlife in these areas.

The below landholders are participating in the current program and will be laying 1080 wild dog and/or fox ground baits and Canid Pest Ejectors on the listed properties below. The program will commence on the **22 September** and run until **20 October 2021**.

Please restrain all domestic pets and working dogs during this time. In the event of accidental poisoning of a domestic pet please seek immediate veterinary assistance. For more information on the use of 1080 visit bit.ly/3BiuP92

- 1880 Bells Line of Road Kurrajong Heights NSW 2758
- 1955 Upper Colo Road Upper Colo NSW 2756
- 28 Rocky Hall Place Wilberforce NSW 2756
- 891 Mountain Lagoon Road Mountain Lagoon NSW 2758
- 578 Mountain Lagoon Road Bilpin NSW 2758
- 1017 Mountain Lagoon Road Mountain Lagoon NSW 2758
- 182 Mountain Avenue Yarramundi NSW 2753
- 278-278a Hermitage Road Kurrajong Hills NSW 2758
- 19 Rocky Hall Place Wilberforce NSW 2756
- 350 Tennyson Road Tennyson NSW 2754
- 94 Dight Street Richmond NSW 2753
- 65 Vincents Road Kurrajong NSW 2758
- 42 Vincents Road Kurrajong NSW 2758
- 584 Hawkesbury Road Winmalee NSW 2777
- 895b East Kurrajong Road East Kurrajong NSW 2758
- 1703 Megalong Road Megalong Valley 2785

- Pinnacle Ridge (Mvr) Aspinall Road Megalong Valley NSW 2785
- 95 Yellow Rock Road Yellow Rock NSW 2777
- 132 Yellow Rock Road Yellow Rock NSW 2777
- 5-11 Bungaree Road Yellow Rock NSW 2777
- 161 & 177 Briens Road Cattai NSW 2756
- 554 Singleton Road Laughtondale NSW 2775
- 470 Singleton Road Laughtondale NSW 2775
- 228 Hermitage Road Kurrajong Hills NSW 2758
- 244 Hermitage Road Kurrajong Hills NSW 2758
- 551 Springwood Road Yarramundi NSW 2753
- Origma Bird Sanctuary Glenorie (33°32'55.5"S 150°58'00.1"E)
- 411-469 Smallwood Road Glenorie NSW 2157
- Warner Holding Glenorie (33°33'17.5"S 150°58'05.8"E)
- 277a,b&c Upper Colo Road Central Colo NSW 2756
- 425 Singles Ridge Road Yellow Rock NSW 2777

For further information or to get involved in a future program, contact the Greater Sydney Local Land Services office on 1300 795 299.

BLZ-IP2650

PLATYPUS PROJECT

By BEV JORDAN

A project which is looking at environmental DNA to identify the presence of platypus in the Cattai Creek Catchment is not only seen as critical for effective conservation of the species and its habitat but has the capacity to help other native species.

Sydney Water is supporting the project by the Cattai Hills Environment Network (CHEN) and Western Sydney University.

Chair of Cattai Hills Environment Network, Sue Martin (pictured) said they were very grateful for the support of Sydney Water as a partner.

She said when CHEN was founded by local volunteers in 2016 there was no science to back claims by locals and fishermen that platypus were living in the Cattai Creek Catchment area.

Last year CHEN volunteers collected water from 20 sites and platypus e-DNA was confirmed in samples from eight of the sites by Western Sydney University.

The partnership with Sydney Water enabled 20 volunteers from CHEN to take samples from across 36 sites in the Cattai Hills catchment and also 56 sediment samples just before this year's June Lockdown. They are currently being analysed by Sydney Water labs.

Sydney Water's lab teams have developed a new testing method that identifies the presence or absence of eDNA of platypus in water samples. The method was derived from water samples taken from Taronga Zoo's platypus enclosure.

Dr Michelle Ryan from Western Sydney University said: "This is a non-invasive way to detect platypus in waterways. It can be used to determine if a platypus is nearby or has recently travelled that waterway without the need to capture or even sight the animal.

"Western Sydney University plans to use this information to gain a better understanding of the distribution and habitat requirements of the Western Sydney Platypus populations. This will provide a real insight into these secretive creatures," Dr Ryan said.

Two of Sydney Water's Water Resource Recovery Facilities (Castle Hill Sewage Treatment Plant and Rouse Hill Water Recycling Plant) release treated wastewater into waterways that join into Cattai Creek. It's believed this treated water has helped the urban platypus population by providing environmental flows during drought periods. Sydney Water's Head of Customer, Strategy & Engagement,

Maryanne Graham, said: "It's hoped that this work with CHEN and Western Sydney Uni will enable the future tracking and monitoring of platypus populations and is critical for effective conservation of the species and its habitat including building community knowledge and increasing environmental awareness on catchment health.

"Based on the results of this study, it is hoped this testing method, developed by our scientists, can be used again to allow researchers to gain a better understanding of the platypus population and the environment in which they are living.

"This study will provide further insight into how the environment surrounding the water treatment plants encourages Platypus health and highlights the contribution of Sydney Water's treated wastewater has to waterway health and wildlife habitat," Ms Graham said.

Sue Martin said: "We are looking forward to the results. I see the partnership with Sydney Water growing to enable more e-DNA wildlife monitoring across Western Sydney."



TELL YOUR STORY

The Hawkesbury Resilience Project, in collaboration with Western Sydney University, is leading a new initiative to uncover how Hawkesbury residents are responding to climate change by encouraging people to contribute to the **Stories of Resilience** initiative.

Former geography teacher and Sackville resident, Helen Sobiesiak, has contributed her story to the collection, explaining her connection and passion for the land comes from her ancestors, who lived in the area as far back as 1827.

"As a geographer, you certainly recognise that everything is connected – and that if we do something, there's going to be an impact, or a repercussion. Also understanding a need to use resources in a way that they will last for future generations – that's at the heart of what I've taught," said Ms Sobiesiak.

Now retired, Helen dedicates her time and expertise to promoting climate change awareness within the Hawkesbury and hopes to model how to live sustainably and responsibly for her grandchildren.

Among the other community leaders featured so far are, Dr Sally Faulks, Richmond, General Practitioner; Pastor Stephen Kearns, Kurrajong, Minister for Kurrajong Baptist Church and Carpenter/Business Owner (Solid Art Design); William Potter, North Richmond, Architecture Student; and Craig Burley, Colo, Group Captain Hawkesbury RFS and Fire Consultant.

Tanya Ritchie, Project Manager and Community Consultant for the Hawkesbury Resilience Project, said the initiative is part of a broader project to encourage locals to talk about and prepare for worsening fires, floods and droughts that are projected as a result of climate change.

"By connecting with each other and sharing stories, we can learn new and positive ways to respond. Whether it's how to prepare for fire, plant trees, cope with stress, recover from flood, go solar, respond to emergencies, connect with your neighbours or lobby government, we all have something useful to teach and to learn about living well in these challenging times," said Ms Ritchie.

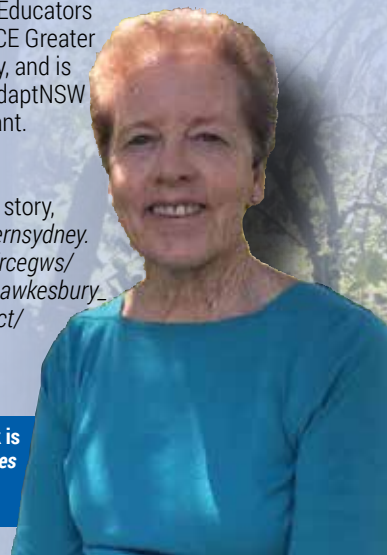
Jen Dollin, Head of Sustainability Education at Western Sydney University, said: "I encourage community members to contribute their stories,

ideas and insights as part of this initiative – at the core of the Hawkesbury Resilience Project is providing people with a platform and a voice."

The Hawkesbury Resilience Project is a partnership between Western Sydney University, Hawkesbury City Council, Hawkesbury Environment Network, Macquarie Electorate Student Climate Activists, Penrith-Hawkesbury Environmental Educators Network and RCE Greater Western Sydney, and is funded by an AdaptNSW Community Grant.

To read the collection or to contribute your story, visit www.westernsydney.edu.au/rcegws/rcegws/rce_programs/hawkesbury_resilience_project/stories

Helen Sobiesiak is part of the **Stories of Resilience initiative**



GREAT PLACES ON THE DOORSTEP

With walking almost everyone's favourite pastime these days it's good to know that there are some fantastic spots to discover in the "backyard" as it were. Both Hills Shire Council and Hawkesbury City Council have some great bushwalks with a variety of walks for all ages.

The Hills Shire Council's Guided Walks Program lists 10 bushwalks that vary in length and intensity level. We have listed a few favourites below:

- **Heritage Trail (Baulkham Hills):** This walk goes through the Headwaters of Toongabbie Creek, which was the earliest settlement in Baulkham Hills. **Distance:** 6.4 km. **Grade:** Easy. **Time:** Up to three hours.
- **Wildflower Walk (Cranstons Road Middle Dural).** **Distance:** 3.5 km. **Grade:** Moderate. Steep ascent and descent. **Time:** One and a half hours.
- **Geebung Walk (Fred Catterson Reserve, Castle Hill):** There is a large variety of native plants as well as many species of birds which feed on them. **Distance:** 3.6 km. Shorter sections of the walk can be undertaken if preferred. **Grade:** Easy to Medium. **Time:** 2 hours.
- **Bushland Corridors at Rouse Hill:** An early farm house, original land grants, a mysterious grave, remnant bushland including Forest Red Gum Woodland and Heathland. **Distance:** 4.4 km. **Grade:** Easy. **Time:** 2 hours.



Stevenson Creek - Baulkham Hills



Waterfall Walk- West Pennant Hills

- **Stevenson Creek (Excelsior Reserve/ Baulkham Hills):** This walk is one of the more challenging walks in The Hills Shire. **Distance:** 3.3 km. **Grade:** Moderate. Some steep sections and three creek crossings on stepping stones. **Time:** Two hours.
- **Waterfall Walk (West Pennant Hills/Richard Web Reserve):** This walk follows Darling Mills Creek to the only waterfall in The Hills. **Distance:** 3.4 km or 3.1 km without the additional loop. **Grade:** Moderate. **Time:** One and a half to two hours.

For more information about each of the bushwalks and to access the FREE downloadable maps, visit: www.thehills.nsw.gov.au/Venues/Parks-Recreation/Tracks-Trails.

The Hawkesbury region has some wonderful world heritage locations and has more rivers and national parks than any other part of Sydney. We have listed two of the most popular.

- **Mitchell Park Walking Tracks located in Cattai National Park.** The tracks offer several routes through woodlands and wetlands all within an easy 20 minute drive from Windsor. The tracks are open, but the picnic area is currently closed. Toilets are available. Dogs are not permitted. Currently the gates remain open from 8am to 5pm.
- **Windsor Downs Nature Reserve:** Although there are no dramatic views or features, it's a great family walk to stretch your legs, look for eastern grey kangaroos and enjoy the bush. No dogs are allowed.

To find out more trails in the Hawkesbury area visit www.discoverthehawkesbury.com.au

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RUGBY LEAGUE HUB TAKING SHAPE

By LAWRENCE MACHADO

Kellyville's new purpose-built rugby league facility is taking shape as the Hills Shire Council aims to get Parramatta Eels boots on the pitches by early next year.

The Premium Rugby League Facility, as the council calls it, will be the training and administrative home for the Eels when it is completed. It will also boast two additional NRL standard playing fields.

A council spokeswoman confirmed that turf is being laid on these new fields, with final drainage works commencing when the grass has sufficiently established.

"Whilst the project has experienced some impacts from NSW Public Health Orders, the project remains on track," the spokeswoman said. "It is anticipated the fields will be available for use in January 2022, which is in accordance with the original construction schedule."

She said the council has entered into a licence agreement with the Eels for the joint redevelopment and use of Kellyville Memorial Park as a Premier Rugby League Facility.

The Eels, who count many fans in the Hills Shire and surrounding suburbs, are also building a \$40 million Centre of Excellence here, making it arguably the largest community rugby league facility in Australia. Parramatta Eels Chief Executive Officer Jim Sarantinos said earlier that "this will become the best rugby league facility in the country".

According to the Hills Shire Mayor Dr Michelle Byrne it is a great outcome and that they have been working hard to deliver these sporting fields for the residents.

"I can't wait for our Premier Rugby League Facility to come to fruition and see our community using these fields very soon," Mayor Byrne said.

"It's great to see work continuing on this project. This means we can continue to keep people employed, while also supporting businesses and families during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Turf being laid at Kellyville Memorial Park. Picture: Courtesy Western Earthmoving

"It also means we can deliver a facility that will provide our residents with the opportunity to access and play elite rugby league.

These works are in addition to the construction already completed as part of the council's Master Plan for the park which includes a new playing field, refurbishment of two existing fields, construction of a new carpark and access from Stone Mason Drive.

"The project is testament to the great relationship our club has with the council, and we look forward to seeing the precinct develop further for the local community over the coming years," Mr Sarantinos said.

CRACKING NEW SPORTS FACILITIES FOR THE HILLS

By LAWRENCE MACHADO

Hills Shire residents, already enjoying some of the best sporting facilities in NSW, will be spoilt for choice when the new multi-purpose sports complexes and facilities are rolled out in the coming months and years.

Sports including baseball, basketball, cricket, football, rugby, rugby league, tennis and swimming will be able to accommodate more participants as clubs and associations resume competitions when the Covid lockdowns end.

Masterplans for Castle Hill's Fred Catterson Reserve, and Balmoral Road Reserve, Kellyville will be a boon for sports and recreational aficionados when completed. The half ball court at South Maroota is open.

One of the biggest projects in the shire is the relocation of the Eastwood Rugby Club to Castle Hill's Fred Catterson Reserve, with NSW Shute Shield matches to be played from next year, if construction goes according to plan. Eastwood's new ground will boast a synthetic all-weather grass pitch and a floodlit stadium and be able to host premier matches.

BMX riders, cricketers, basketballers, baseballers and tennis players already use the impressive facilities at Fred Catterson Reserve with more upgrades coming up under the council's masterplan. A council spokesperson confirmed that the sub base for the tennis courts, the steel frame work for the amenities building and the new footpath and cycleways network has been completed.

The complex will feature four multi-purpose fields - including two cricket ovals - four tennis courts and two floodlit multi-use ball courts, changing rooms, public toilets, a meeting room and storage facilities. The new complex will have parking spaces for 245 cars, a picnic area, playground and importantly link pedestrian and cycling paths into the local trails network.

Renovation of the popular Waves Fitness and Aquatic Centre, which has served the community for years, is going ahead full swing, with the outdoor 50m pool being tiled. The new-look Waves will be the envy of the NSW swimming fraternity with the world's controlling swim body FINA standard Olympic sized 50m pool with 10 lanes, a combined indoor 25m learn-to-swim pool, family leisure pool, a 20m warm water program pool and a 25m outdoor pool with spa, sauna and steam room facilities.

Residents have time until September 28 to have their say on the Beaumont Hills-based Caddies Creek Sports Complex draft masterplan - stage 2, where more football fields and smaller court sports can be accommodated. The council is taking a long term vision for the Caddies Creek Sports Complex, with a premier football facility among the main goals. The complex currently also has cricket and baseball fields.

"The draft masterplan also includes a range of exciting upgrades, including a proposed Football Centre of Excellence, more parking



Four tennis courts are being built at Balmoral Road Sports Complex.

and expansion of the shared pathway network," Hills Shire Mayor Dr Michelle Byrne said. "Council understands the demand for more fields and wishes to start the planning process as soon as possible. This will make the facility closer to being shovel ready for when the land is dedicated to council."

The council said the site of the proposed Stage 2 works is owned by the NSW Government but is expected to be dedicated to the council as part of the rezoning of Bella Vista and Kellyville Precincts.

An Interesting CASE

By Ivor Jones

As a schoolboy, arriving in Australia during the late 1950s, I found that school students carried their school books and lunches in a small suitcase. These were so different to the school satchels that I was used to back in the UK.



The bright yellow cases presented to attendees at the Sydney Olympic Opening Ceremony in 2000 were a homage to the iconic Globite case

The school cases were made of reinforced fibre usually carrying the trademark name of "Globite" and were very hard wearing and stood well the hard knocks of being thrown about by the students being also kicked and scuffed.

Many students also stuck stickers onto the cases. I also recall that using the locks on the suitcase gave me some pleasure in placing very small stones or gravel pieces on the catch of the lock and releasing the catch so it catapulted the stones or gravel elsewhere.

The Globite case also came in handy as a portable seat for some of the small children.

The story of how the "Globite" came about is also interesting. The company that manufactured the cases was Ford Sherington of Sydney. Alfred Ford was an English migrant who manufactured metal trunks and imported china and glass, operating from a factory and shop at Ultimo.

In the 1890s depression, he was looking for a partner to inject £150 into his business. Ada Sherington came to his aid. Ada had emigrated to Brisbane in 1899 with her three sons, William, 14, Arthur, 12 and Guy, 10. During 1892 the family moved from Brisbane to Sydney and William quickly found work at the retailer Farmer & Co and later found employment with Alfred Ford.

William and Arthur often wrote to their paternal aunt and her husband, wealthy

corset manufacturer William Pretty, back in England. Ada, hearing of Alfred Ford's attempts to seek a partner in his business contacted William Pretty seeking financial advice, who used contacts in Sydney to assess Ford's business credentials.

With Ada investing in Ford's business, Alfred took William in as a partner, his brothers Arthur and Guy also joined the business working in the factory alongside William and Alfred Ford and around 20 or 30 other workers. Ada also helped out with the business by opening the shop and showroom in Harris St Ultimo.

The ties between Alfred Ford and the Sherington family was further strengthened when Alfred married Ada Sherington's younger sister (William's Aunt), Clara Banfield.

The focus of the business shifted from tin making and metal trunks to leather goods including handbags and travel trunks, prospering under Commonwealth tariffs introduced at Federation.

In July 1911, when the business had expanded to 165 employees from 100 a year earlier, Guy told a federal Royal Commission into labour shortages that Ford Sherington needed to recruit 12 skilled trunk makers from Great Britain, as suitably qualified tradesmen could not be found in Australia.

Ford Sherington, then operating from Elizabeth Street Surry Hills, acquired the site

in 1911. Architects Robertson & Marks were engaged to design their new building in an area undergoing radical redevelopment as factories replaced housing.

Further opportunities for the Ford Sherington business arose when a technique to toughen paper fibres through vulcanising was invented in Europe. Ford Sherington acquired Australian distribution rights, using the reinforced fibre in their Globe-brand suitcases.

Importing reinforced fibre from Norway, Guy also took out an international trademark on the brand name Globite. Originally a travel case, by the 1960s Globite cases were dumped in school corridors and kicked around bus stops or railway platforms by school kids across Australia.

Aside from luggage, which included a "wardrobe trunk" for overseas travellers and "a cheaper grade" Fordite case, promoted as "the best value low-priced case on the Australian market", the Surry Hills factory manufactured footballs, cricket pads and dog collars.

Ford Sherington manufacturing moved to Kingsgrove in 1967, and the business was taken over six years later in 1976. Globite bags are now manufactured in Melbourne, Victoria.

HOSPITAL'S R U OK?

Staff wore yellow at Hills Private Hospital on Thursday (September 9) and asked the question: R U OK?

It's an important day at the hospital which runs the Windsor Road mental health unit.

General Manager Nicola Klumper presented staff with "R U OK?" pens, note pads, pins and wrist band and spoke to staff about the help and support that is there for all that need it.

R U OK Day Aims to equip people with the skills, confidence and strength to seek help and support for those struggling with life's challenges. Money raised with a raffle will be donated to support the LifeLine telephone counselling service which people can access 7 days a week 24 hours a day: 13 11 14.



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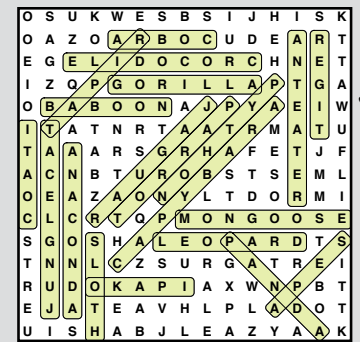


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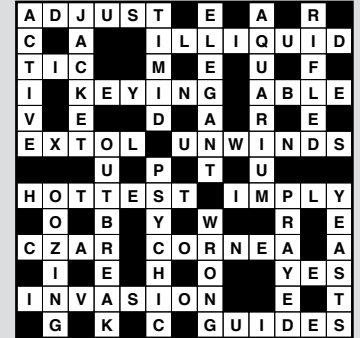


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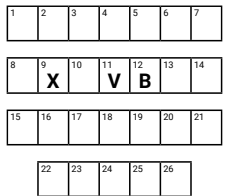
Answers from last issue

CODE WORD



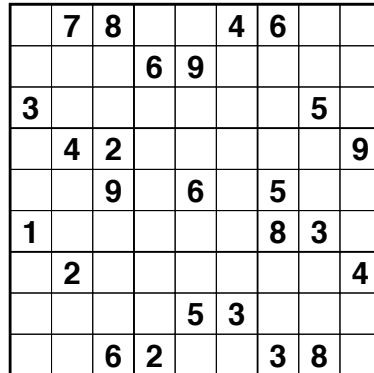
CODE WORD

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.

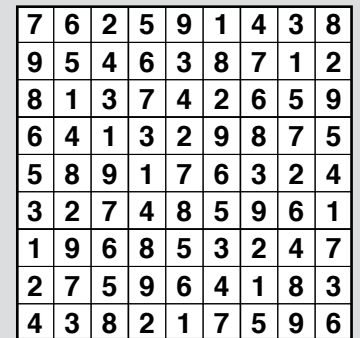


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Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 to 9.



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Look after your mental health during the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic

If you're feeling overwhelmed, you can talk to a trained counsellor any time, any day by calling the Coronavirus Mental Wellbeing Line: 1800 512 348. For a free telephone interpreter call 131 450 and say the language you need. You can then ask the interpreter to connect you to the Coronavirus Mental Wellbeing Support Service.

If what you're going through is making it hard to get on with your daily life, contact your local General Practitioner (GP).

Adapted from *Look after your Mental Health Australia*, Mental Health Australia, March 2020



LIONS ROAR ON

The new District Governor for the Lions Sydney District is West Pennant Hills Cherrybrook Club member Sunil Amaratunga.

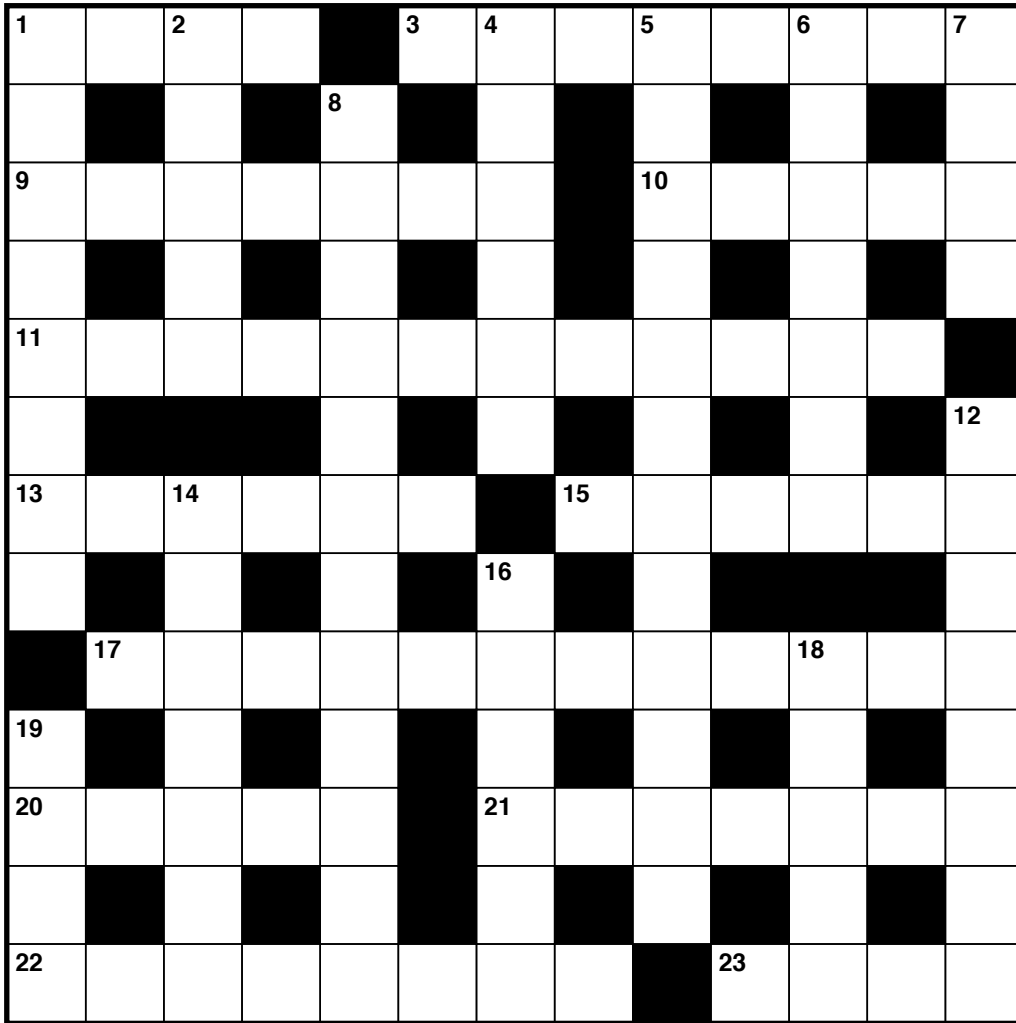
The club will be hosting the Sydney District Convention at the Castle Hill RSL Club in November if COVID restrictions permit.

The Club's major project for 2021-2022 is to raise \$27,000 to support a brain cancer clinical trial at The Westmead Hospital's Children's Cancer Research Unit for a cohort of 10 patients.

Scientists are developing a new model to grow "brains in a dish" to advance improved treatment outcomes for this disease.

Despite COVID restrictions severely impacting on its fundraising plans the club is supporting Lions International five global causes: hunger, vision, children with cancer, diabetes and the environment.

If you would like to know more about Lions International the club's website is: www.wphclionsclub.org.au



Across

1. Erase
3. Sheath for a sword
9. Refiles (anag)
10. Momentary oversight
11. From this time on
13. Courteous
15. From that place
17. Animal lacking a backbone
20. Moneys owed
21. Hammers
22. Recently married person (5-3)
23. Metal fastener

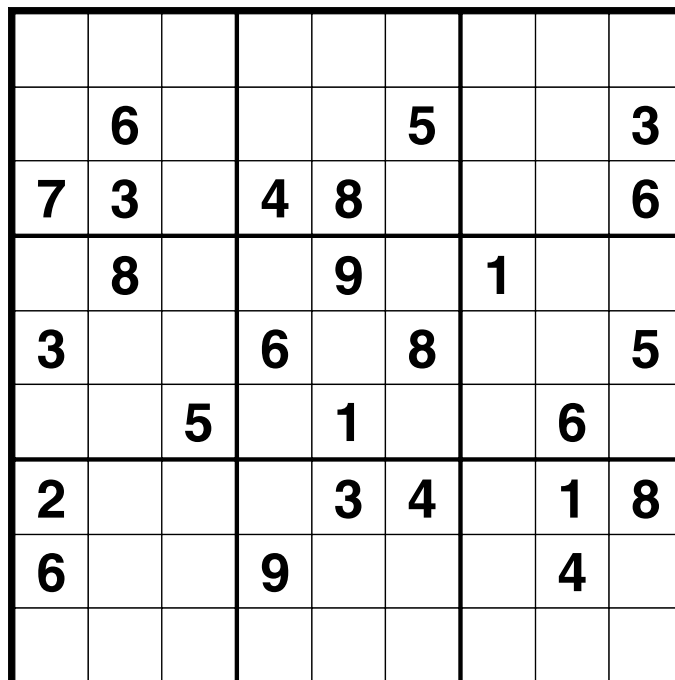
Down

1. Pays homage to
2. Large mast
4. Universe
5. Disregarding the rules (5, 3, 4)
6. Drug that relieves pain
7. Hold as an opinion
8. Incessantly
12. Freed from captivity
14. Archer's weapon
16. Hinder the progress of
18. Active cause
19. Biblical garden

SUDOKU

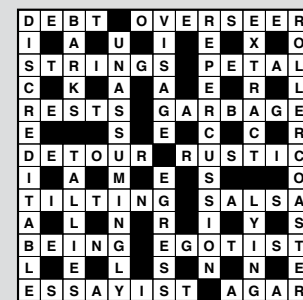
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Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 to 9.

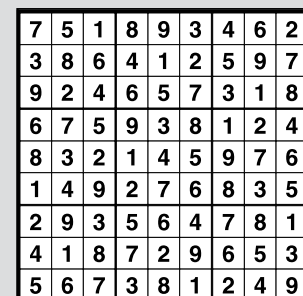


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