

# Hills to Hawkesbury

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## Community News

14th - 28th January 2022 | Volume 39 - Issue 01  
Local Stories, Local Events, Local People and Local Businesses



### Priceline Baulkham Hills *Grand* opening

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# NEW CIVIC LEADERS

*It was super Tuesday on January 11th when both Hawkesbury City Council and Hills Shire Council held meetings and elected new leaders*

**COUNCILLOR PATRICK CONOLLY** (*Liberal*) was elected Mayor of Hawkesbury unopposed by fellow councillors at Tuesday's meeting, Hawkesbury councillors. **BARRY CALVERT** (*Labor*) was elected as Hawkesbury City's Deputy Mayor both positions are for a two-year term.

The two men are long-term councillors and former Mayors at Hawkesbury City Council.

Patrick Donolly said: "As Mayor, I intend to continue to build on the great work this Council has achieved during my previous term.

"My priority will be continuing to make Council an organisation that is focused on its customers, our rate payers and residents. I've always believed that Council is first and foremost a service provider. Our job is to make sure we're delivering the services that people want and that we're delivering them to a good quality, and that we're doing our best to make the Hawkesbury a great place to live and work," he said.

There are three new faces on the 12-member council, The council is now made up of four Liberal councillors, one Small Business Party, two Labor, three Independent, one Greens and one Shooters, Fishers and Farmers member.

The Hills Shire Council is headed by popularly elected Mayor, **DR PETER GANGEMI** (*Liberal*) was elected by voters at the December 4th election

On Tuesday night the newly elected Hills Shire Council voted on the role of Deputy Mayor which was won by first time councillor **MARK HODGES** (*Liberal*) who will hold the post until April 30th 2023. He defeated Ryan Tracey (*Labor*) in a vote, nine votes to four.



Hills Shire Council's 12-member council welcomed eight new faces to council which is now made up of nine Liberals (including the Mayor), three Labor and one Greens councillor.

Councillor Hodges is a solicitor and has lived in the Hills for more than 20 years with his wife Raylee. They have two children together.

A former policeman, he works as a solicitor at his own firm.

"There is a lot of important work which Council will carry out in this term including the completion of important traffic infrastructure; the completion and opening of Waves; the completion of already commenced sporting fields and the commencement of new sporting fields and parks within our Shire," he said.

"I look forward to working with Mayor Gangemi in this term in the service of our community,"

## RIVERSIDE GARDENS CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS

Residents of Riverside Gardens enjoyed a small gathering on Christmas Eve. They were entertained by the lovely voice Of Dyann Clark from Oakville. It was great to get together and enjoy good food and conversation after a very worrying year.

Dyann sang Christmas songs as well as a variety of songs from the 60 s and 70 s. The residents enjoyed the night so much Dyann is already been booked for next Christmas



# Hills to Hawkesbury

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**The Hills to Hawkesbury Community News** has been serving this area for nearly 40 years. It's name may have changed over the decades but the commitment to providing a free service to the community is still at the heart of what this hyper local fortnightly publication does. Established in 1982 it has evolved into a community news magazine with a big digital footprint. Our aim is to inform, inspire and connect our community. It is a family-owned small business. Our team is local and love what they do.

Please follow us on Facebook @hillstohawkesbury. Printed copies are available at local shopping centres and other outlets. For a full list visit our website [www.hillstohawkesbury.com.au](http://www.hillstohawkesbury.com.au).

# ENERGY STRATEGY SCRAPPED

By BEV JORDAN

**At its first meeting for 2022 Hills Shire Council's newly formed council has dumped the energy strategy proposal approved at the last Hills Shire Council meeting of 2021 before the election on December 4th.**

The motion to: "not to proceed with the development of a specific energy strategy" was passed at an extraordinary meeting of council held on Tuesday, January 11th.

It was moved by newly elected Liberal councillor Mark Hodges, who was elected Deputy Mayor at the same meeting, and seconded by newly elected Liberal councillor Jerome Cox.

Councillors Tony Hay, Ryan Tracey and Barbara Burton (Labor) and Mila Kasby (The Greens) asked for their names to be recorded against the motion.

The motion followed a successful move to rescind the Renewable Energy decision made by the previous Hills Shire Council at its meeting on November 23rd, 2021.

The Item, moved by Councillor Jacob Jackson and Seconded by Councillor Alan Haselden, recommended: "Council to commit to the development of an Energy Strategy to review our use of renewable energy and to reduce reliance on fossil fuels such as coal, gas, petrol and diesel.

"The strategy will identify options for increasing the use of renewable energy and identify the most appropriate energy projects including solar generation/storage, electric vehicles for Council's operations and

to commit to develop targets/milestones for Council to manage its energy in a financially viable manner."

At that time, two Councillors Mike Thomas and Liz Russo requested that their names be recorded as opposing the Resolution of Council.

Tuesday's (January 11th) revision motion, signed by Mayor Peter Gengemi and Councillors Hodges and Cox, said: "We believe the current policy settings include significant renewable energy actions, which reflect a positive direction for Council and the community. Notwithstanding such belief it is always prudent for Council to review policies and as such the rescission of the Notice of Motion will afford all Councillors time to properly consider the Environmental Strategy and other policies where relevant."

Councillor Hodges said the council was increasing its use of solar panels and LED lighting, saying the existing environmental strategy would ensure the continued reduction of the energy footprint.

Clr Ryan Tracey said scrapping a strategy on energy at council's first sitting was "irresponsible"

Clr Mila Kasby said a Renewable Energy Plan was "absolutely" needed. "We should be



proactively leading the way and setting an example. All of our neighbouring councils are doing far more in transitioning to renewable energy. Hawkesbury Council is already 100 percent renewable and we don't even have a plan."

A move to have the matter put before a strategic planning workshop for further discussion and briefings from council staff was defeated by Liberal councillors.

- Council has 17 operational solar panel systems on operational buildings and 58% of council's lighting network are LED lights.
- Other projects include:
  - requiring LED lighting for sports fields
  - installing instantaneous gas hot water systems
  - introducing sports field lighting control via text-messaging in Glenhaven and Russell reserves
  - installing carbon dioxide sensors and variable speed drives to car park exhaust and supply fans at the Castle Grand conference centre."

## Riverside GARDENS

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## DO YOU RECOGNISE THIS MAN?

Investigators have released a COMFIT image of a man and are appealing for public assistance, as part of ongoing investigations into the sexual assault of a young girl more than 42 years ago.

Police were told the girl, then aged nine, was playing with friends in bushland off Randal Crescent and Richard Close, North Rocks, on the afternoon of Sunday, July 1st in 1979 before she was approached by a man who claimed to be a council ranger.

The man – described as being aged between 25 and 30 years old – took the girl away from her friends and further into the bushland where he allegedly sexually assaulted her.

Officers attached to The Hills Police Area Command were notified and commenced an investigation into the incident.

Despite extensive investigations by local police at the time and over the years, no one has been charged in relation to the assault.

As part of ongoing inquiries, investigators with assistance from the Facial Recognition Unit have now released an additional COMFIT

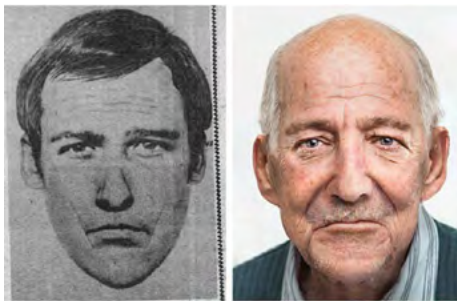


image of a man who they believe may be able to assist with the investigation.

The man – as reconstructed by the victim's description – is shown in the image as he would have appeared at the time, next to how police predict he would look now.

It is understood the man may have lived in the North Rocks area at the time of the incident but could have moved away since.

Detectives are urging anyone who may recognise the man depicted in the COMFIT image, or who has information about the incident, to come forward.

Anyone with information about this incident is urged to contact Crime Stoppers: **1800 333 000** or [nsw.crimestoppers.com.au](http://nsw.crimestoppers.com.au). Information is treated in strict confidence. The public is reminded not to report information via NSW Police social media pages.

## PURSUIT CHARGES

A 20-year-old Kings Park man has faced court on several charges following a pursuit which started in South Windsor late on Christmas Day and ended in Bella Vista early on Boxing Day.

Police say officers attached to Hawkesbury Police Area Command were travelling on Cox Street, South Windsor, in an unmarked vehicle, when they were overtaken by a white Isuzu D-Max at about 11pm on Saturday, December 25th.

Checks of the vehicle revealed it had allegedly been stolen from a home on Toorah Street, Londonderry, earlier that night and police attempted to stop the Isuzu at the intersection of Cox and Bell streets.

Police will allege the Isuzu then reversed into the unmarked vehicle twice before fleeing the scene. A pursuit commenced, however was terminated a short time later, before a separate unmarked Hawkesbury Highway Patrol vehicle resumed the pursuit on Richmond Road, Bligh Park. The pursuit continued to the Windsor Downs area before it was terminated due to the dangerous manner of driving.

Police commenced monitoring the Isuzu as it continued to the Baulkham Hills area, where road spikes were successfully deployed by police on Seven Hills Road, about 12.40am on Sunday, December 26th (2021).

The driver – a 20-year-old man – allegedly fled the scene on foot before officers, with the assistance of the Dog Unit, arrested him at the rear of a home on Barraba Place, Bella Vista.

It is alleged that during a search of the Isuzu, police seized cash, knives and identification cards believed to be stolen.

Following inquiries, the Kings Park man was charged with take and drive conveyance without consent of owner, three counts of police pursuit - not stop - drive dangerously, negligent driving (no death or grievous bodily harm), possess prohibited drug and goods in personal custody suspected being stolen (not motor vehicle).

## BUILDING COLLAPSE

Crews from Fire and Rescue NSW (FRNSW) assisted two injured workers following a structural collapse at a residential construction site in Kings Langley on Thursday January 6th.

Firefighters provided immediate medical first response to two men aged in their 30s who suffered lacerations from the collapse on Perry Street just after 9am.

Crews also established an exclusion zone around the construction site to ensure the structural safety of the rest of the building.

NSW Ambulance treated the two men on

scene for their injuries and the site was handed over to Safe Work Australia to investigate.

Acting Superintendent Tim Hassiotis from Fire and Rescue NSW (FRNSW) said it was a timely reminder that calling Triple Zero (000) for an emergency can be the difference between life and death.

"The Triple Zero (000) service is the quickest way to get the right resources from emergency services to help you. It should be used to contact Police, Fire or Ambulance services in life-threatening or time-critical situations."



## 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 crisis counselling and referral service for women.

**Men's Referral Service (1300 766 491)**

Provide telephone counselling, information and referral 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.



**Triple Zero (000)**

For emergencies or life threatening situations.



## SUSPICIOUS FIRE

Police are investigating a suspicious fire which destroyed a retail store in Northmead on Christmas Eve.

Emergency services were called to a fire on Sherwood Street, Northmead about 12.30am (Friday, December 24th), after reports of a building fire. Crews from Fire and Rescue NSW attended, and extinguished the blaze; however, the building sustained significant damage.

The occupants of residential units above the store were evacuated. No injuries were reported. Detectives have commenced an investigation into the cause of the fire, which is being treated as suspicious. Inquiries continue.

Anyone with information about this incident is urged to contact Crime Stoppers: **1800 333 000** or [nsw.crimestoppers.com.au](http://nsw.crimestoppers.com.au). Information is treated in strict confidence. The public is reminded not to report information via NSW Police social media pages.

## MAN ARRESTED

A 18-year-old Bankstown man appeared in Parramatta Local Court on January 5th charged by Detectives from the Hills Police Area Command with Wounding with intent to inflict Grievous Bodily Harm following from a stabbing incident in Rouse Hill in March 2021.

Detectives commenced an investigation after a 51-year-old man was stabbed after hearing a noise outside his home on Ponsford Ave, Rouse Hill at about 12.40am on Saturday, March 27th, 2021.

He told police he saw an unknown male sitting in his car and yelled out to the male, who exited the vehicle and fled the scene on foot.

The 51-year-old went outside and drove the vehicle to a nearby street where he located the male with two other unknown males.

When he exited the vehicle, a physical altercation allegedly occurred with the males, where the man sustained four stab wounds to his back. The males fled the scene on foot up Mailey Circuit. The 51-year-old man drove back to his home, where emergency services were contacted. He was treated at the scene before being taken to Westmead Hospital in a stable condition.

## BIKES STOLEN

Hills Police Area Command are investigating a Break and Enter in Glenshee Place, Glenhaven that occurred in the early morning of Sunday, January 9th whilst the occupants were asleep.

Five valuable trail bikes were stolen during the incident. Some of the bikes are unique and would be recognized by members of the motorcross racing community.

Anyone with information about this incident is urged to contact Crime Stoppers: **1800 333 000** or [nsw.crimestoppers.com.au](http://nsw.crimestoppers.com.au). Information is treated in strict confidence.

## CANNABIS FIND

Two 37-year-olds from North Kellyville have been arrested and charged with cultivating a commercial quantity of cannabis following the execution of a Search Warrant by The Hills Police Area Commands proactive team at a North Kellyville house on Tuesday (January 11th).

A total of 72 cannabis plants and 2.9 kg of cannabis leaf were allegedly located in different parts of the house.

A large number of suspected cannabis seeds were also seized by police.

The woman was granted conditional bail and is due before Parramatta Court on January 19th. The man appeared in Parramatta Local Court on January 12th.

Both have been charged with: Enhanced indoor cultivation – commercial quantity - expose child, Possess cannabis (indictable and commercial quantity); Cultivate prohibited plant (small & indictable quantity); supply cannabis (indictable and commercial quantity).



Anyone with information about these incidents is urged to contact Crime Stoppers: **1800 333 000** or [nsw.crimestoppers.com.au](http://nsw.crimestoppers.com.au). Information is treated in strict confidence. The public is reminded not to report information via NSW Police social media pages.

## MAN CHARGED

Robbery and Serious Crime Squad detectives have charged a man as part of ongoing investigations into a spate of alleged car jackings, and armed robberies committed at gunpoint in Sydney's north-west at the weekend.

Investigators from the State Crime Command's Robbery and Serious Crime Squad – assisted by officers from The Hills Police Area Command – established Strike Force Bellinger to investigate a number of motor vehicle thefts and assaults which occurred in the early hours of Saturday 8 January 2022. They include:

- About 3.15am, two males armed with handguns approached a man and woman – aged 58 and 59 – travelling inside a black BMW 640i as they drove into the driveway of a West Pennant Hills home. It's alleged the males demanded the keys to the vehicle before smashing the passenger's side window and stealing a handbag, then fleeing in a black Lexus sedan.
- About 3.35am, a 37-year-old man was approached by two males and threatened with a firearm, then assaulted, as he exited a service station on Windsor Road at Northmead. It's alleged one of the males then fled in a white Hyundai, while the second male left the scene in the man's black Range Rover Evoque.
- About 3.50am, a 36-year-old man had stopped his white Hyundai on the side of Prospect Highway, Blacktown, when two vehicles approached his car and stopped; preventing him from driving off. Police have been told two males – armed with a machete and handgun – then forced the man into one

of their vehicles, as a third male stole the Hyundai. It's alleged the duo then made a range of demands for cash and other property, before he was eventually released near Girraween.

Crime scenes were established at multiple locations and several items were seized by investigators – including the stolen Lexus and Range Rover – which were located abandoned later that day and have since undergone forensic examination.

Following extensive inquiries, strike force investigators arrested a 24-year-old man in Lithgow just before 2pm on Tuesday January 11th.

The Mount Wilson man was taken to Lithgow Police Station and has since been charged with destroy property in company use fire, three counts of robbery while armed with dangerous weapon and take/detain person in company with intent to obtain advantage.

Investigations under Strike Force Bellinger continue.

Anyone with information that may assist Strike Force Bellinger investigators is urged to contact Crime Stoppers: **1800 333 000** or [nsw.crimestoppers.com.au](http://nsw.crimestoppers.com.au). Information is treated in strict confidence.



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# CHRG FURTHERING VETERAN CONNECTION

*Traditionally RSL Clubs were created in communities across Australia to provide a venue for current and ex-service personnel and their families to enjoy a safe and comfortable place to gather, enjoy each other's company, and to share a meal and a drink or two.*

Over the years, RSL Clubs opened their doors, and their social memberships, to the broader Australian community to enable them to contribute towards the goal of better facilities and services – not only for veterans, but for local communities as a whole.

For almost 50 years, CHRG (Castle Hill RSL Group) has worked closely with local sub-Branched Castle Hill RSL and City of Parramatta RSL to provide support and funding to Veterans and their families. To build on the existing strong relationship CHRG already has with Veterans, the group has launched a new Veteran Service Member card for current and retired service people.

David O'Neil, Group CEO said "This card will not only immediately identify our Veteran Service Members who have served for their country, but it will also provide an array of member benefits and access to promotions and events across our Group."

Throughout the year, Veteran Service Member cardholders will be entitled to a range

of in-venue opportunities, including regular meet and greets, as well as discounts on the Group's offerings.

"Clubs have always been a place where our Veteran members feel comfortable and safe to connect and reflect with their peers, and we recognise the importance of further nurturing this sense of belonging.

"We have many members in our Group who are current and/or returned service men and women. We recognise the importance of their service and sacrifice, and we recognise the importance of providing ongoing acknowledgement to leave a lasting legacy for generations to come," said Mr O'Neil.

CHRG's Veteran Service member card will further cement the Group's commitment to Veteran welfare and support by providing eligible members with a sense of connectivity,



Veterans Mr Steve Taylor, Mr Warren Grant and Mr John Payne, President CHRG

community and belonging. The new Veteran Service Member card is available exclusively to current or returned Veterans who are CHRG Members. For more information please email [info@chrg.com.au](mailto:info@chrg.com.au) or call Reception at:

- Castle Hill RSL Club: 02 8858 4800
- Club Parramatta: 02 8865 5100
- Lynwood Country Club: 02 4580 2800

**Are you a current or returned Veteran?**

**You may be eligible for our CHRG Veteran Service Member Card offering additional club member benefits.**

[www.chrg.com.au](http://www.chrg.com.au)

**CHRG**  
- Castle Hill RSL Group -

## GRASS FIRES MOVE FAST

*Recent summer rain has led to a huge increase in foliage and grass growth. It takes just a few hot days for this to dry out, turn into tinder and fuel fast moving grass fires.*



Joe's halo of water is set to protect his property should bushfires threaten.

Just as destructive as bushfires, grass fires are nimble and can get out of control fast. Living in the Hills District means being aware of the dangers and planning for the worst.

Joe from the Hills District, was faced with the task of protecting his home and contacted Hills Irrigation in Castle Hill for assistance. He had a dam on the property however the challenge was to move sufficient water to protect several buildings. This is a bigger job than a standard portable fire pump can achieve.

"I went with Aussie Pumps because they are a local manufacturer. I chose Hills Irrigation because they were able to design and install the complete system," said Joe.

The Aussie Pump team have created a video of Joe's installation, showing the system set up, and the ability of the pump to throw a complete "water halo" to protect against ember attack.

For details check online [aussiepumps.com.au](http://aussiepumps.com.au) or contact Hills Irrigation at Castle Hill on 02 9659 9659.





# GRAND OPENING PRICELINE BAULKHAM HILLS



*Although Priceline Baulkham Hills opened their new store on 5 August, 2021 the official opening was delayed until 18 - 20 January 2022 due to COVID 19 restrictions.*

After many months of rebranding, the Impressive new store is open. Shariff Kotb, the owner of Priceline, has a passion for health and customer service. He brings with him the same friendly and caring staff he had at Mullane's Pharmacy, all of whom offer knowledgeable advice plus reliable and professional service. Priceline has an extended range of health and beauty products.

Priceline also offers competitive prescription prices, home delivery service, medication packing, and vaccinations. It is also one largest stockists of diabetes equipment in the Hills.

Come and see Shariff and his team Tuesday to Thursday - 18 -20 January at the Grand Opening for a fun-filled day. There will be saving of up to 50% storewide, giveaways, free samples and more.

## CWA NEWS

*With 2022 bringing us our third successive summer of discontent, regular columnist for The Sydney Morning Herald and founder of Bad Mother Media, Kate Halfpenny, has had the brilliant idea of getting actual professionals involved in organising Australia. She's calling in the Country Women's Association.*

*"Back in 2012 my daughter and I volunteered at the CWA pavilion... The Devonshire teas were the hottest ticket in town. We were hammered for days, and not once did the CWA ladies drop the ball. Not once did customers go sconeless. Not once did we run out of jam or cream.*

*The ordering, budgeting, rostering, customer service and quality control was immaculate. These were no little old ladies kneading dough while gossiping about Joyce's daughter's hysterectomy. They were tough, professional, and uncompromising.*

*And exactly what Australia needs. Organisational guns with lived and learned*



*experience who take charge in times of crisis with no fuss. Who know that failing to plan means planning to fail... Country women, your country needs you!"*

So if the exceptional organisational skills of the CWA pique your interest and the promise of a cup of tea and the occasional scone entice you, then be sure to bookmark your calendar

to meet with us in Galston on the second Wednesday of each month.

Meeting details for 2022 will be posted on our Facebook page, or for more information please contact Jann 0439 222 217 or Pam 02 9653 1036. [www.facebook.com/CWAGalston](http://www.facebook.com/CWAGalston) | [galston.cwa@gmail.com](mailto:galston.cwa@gmail.com)

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# LIBRARY'S GRAB AND GO

*Library users young and not so young are enjoying the convenience of the surprise element of the new Grab and Go bags.*



The Hills Shire Library initiative started off with Grab and Go bags for busy parents and carers which are filled with books on various themes for various ages including animals, families, magical stories, adventures, cooking and baking and starting school.

Designed to save time and take the struggle out of choosing what to borrow, each bag comes with five books, hand picked by library staff.

The adult bags have also been a huge hit with themes including: Mysteries; Sci-Fi; Australian thrillers; and Romance. Participants

can keep their Grab and Go bag to reuse for future library visits.

Staff shortages due to the impact of COVID has meant reduced hours were introduced at all Hills libraries from Monday (January 10th) – including Castle Hill, Baulkham Hills, Dural and Vinegar Hill Memorial Library at Rouse Hill Town Centre.

Hills Shire Mayor Peter Gangemi said: "Public health and safety is a top priority for this Council, as well as the health and wellbeing of our Council Officers. Every effort to protect the community and our Officers from this highly

transmissible disease has been carried out, including minimising staff and public contact, ensuring Officers have access to face masks, social distancing is carried out, hand sanitiser is available and QR code check-ins are available upon entry to our facilities.

"I encourage residents to continue to follow the Public Health Order, wear a mask and to practice social distancing and good hygiene. I encourage library members to access resources online and through the free Hills Shire Library app which can be downloaded through the App Store and on Google Play."

For library opening hours and updates, visit: [www.thehills.nsw.gov.au/Library](http://www.thehills.nsw.gov.au/Library).

The Mayor said: "I also encourage residents to support small businesses. This is a particularly challenging time for local businesses and eateries, especially as many of them are re-establishing themselves in the market place after what has been an incredibly hard two years.

"One of the best ways we can help during this time is to continue to shop online and grab some takeaway. We have a great network of parks, playgrounds and open space facilities where you can enjoy a picnic in a safe, outdoors setting."

\* Last year's Library Fine Amnesty which allows library members to return overdue library items without paying a late fee, in return for a donation of a non-perishable food item saw 828 food items donated and 264 long overdue library items returned.

## RELAY WRAPPING A RECORD

*A record breaking \$19,541 was raised for the Cancer Council at the 2021 Christmas wrap at Castle Towers.*

Around 80 volunteers wrapped from December 6 to Christmas Eve. Wrap Co-ordinator Ruth Didsbury, a volunteer committee member with the Hills Relay for Life said that volunteers were at the wrapping station for a total of 198 hours.

She thanked Castle Towers for their "amazing" support and

supplying space, paper and ribbon.

"They supplied everything we needed."

She also thanked the volunteers who gave up their time to help with the wrapping.

"It was harder this time due to COVID," she said. "Some people having presents wrapped took on shifts when I was short."

She said she was also very grateful to Castle Hill High Yr 11/12 prefects who took on a lot of shifts during busy times.

"The generosity of people was heart-warming. Some of the presents were challenging to wrap, a stuffed dinosaur about a metre high, a full sized microwave oven, suitcases full of presents, trolleys full of presents, fishing rods and other unusual shaped toys. It all made for a challenge and a lot of fun. Thank you to everyone who supported the wrapping... You have helped make a huge difference as every cent makes a difference," she said.

The 2022 Hills Relay For Life is due to take place on May 21. It will be the 21st Hills Relay For Life, raising money for cancer research and support services. Find the Hills Relay For Life on FB.



Ruth Didsbury (centre) with Hills Relay For Life Committee members at the Christmas wrap.



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# COVID IN THE HAWKESBURY ALMOST 1500 NEW CASES IN THE LAST 7 DAYS

BY TONY BOSWORTH | EDITOR HAWKESBURY POST

**COVID cases across the Hawkesbury continue to climb and with no test centres open over Christmas and New Year there is still likely some lag in the system with more cases to be revealed.**

In the last 7 days the Hawkesbury recorded 1498 new cases, and a large number of them without any known source, so the virus is spreading fast.

All aged care facilities in the Hawkesbury are in lockdown or have enhanced screening in place, following the death of a resident from Windsor's Fitzgerald aged care home back just over a week ago, and three current residents at Richmond's March St Hawkesbury Living aged care home testing positive. Two of the residents, though positive, are not showing any symptoms, and the third has mild symptoms, relatives have been told.

There are currently almost 2000 active Hawkesbury COVID cases – 1904 – and with most test centres now reopened we will likely see a rise in the number of recorded cases in the coming weeks.

And while residents are being urged to use Rapid Antigen Test (RATs) for self testing, rather than clogging up test centres, the kits' availability across the Hawkesbury is best described as patchy and prices vary.

The Hawkesbury, Blue Mountains and Lithgow local government areas represented 39% of all cases in the Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District on January 11 after 39% on January 10 and 34% the day before. It's normally 10-20% each day so we're part way through a significant wave (of both reported and unreported cases) in this part of Sydney.

Until two weeks ago, these Local Government Areas weren't that badly affected by COVID compared to the rest of Greater Sydney.

The positivity rate of tests across NSW is currently high at 36.27%, which means that on January 11, for example, of the 71,325 COVID tests 25,870 were positive.

The World Health Organisation considers a 5% positivity level is the virus under control, so we're way ahead of that.

Here's a snapshot of cases on January 11 across the Hawkesbury.

## New Hawkesbury COVID cases on January 11 and postcodes they are in:

- **147 in the 2756 postcode** (Windsor, Sackville, Wilberforce, Bligh Park, Clarendon, Ebenezer, Mulgrave, Pitt Town, South Windsor, Freemans Reach, McGraths Hill, Upper Colo, Central Colo, Colo Heights, Lower Portland, Glossodia)
- **93 in the 2753 postcode** (Richmond, Richmond Lowlands, Londonderry, Grose Vale, Grose Wold, Bowen Mountain, Hobartville, Yarramundi, Agnes Banks)
- **29 in the 2758 postcode** (Bilpin, East Kurrajong, Kurrajong, Kurrajong Heights, Kurrajong Hills, Mountain Lagoon, Wheeny Creek, Mount Tomah, Berambing, Blaxlands Ridge, Devils Wilderness)
- **28 in the 2754 postcode** (North Richmond, Tennyson, The Slopes)
- **5 in the 2757 postcode** (Kurmond)
- **2 in the 2775 postcode** (Lower Macdonald, St Albans)

## Total active COVID cases in the Hawkesbury as of 8pm January 10 - and postcodes they are in:

- **1019 in the 2756 postcode** (Windsor, Sackville, Wilberforce, etc) - was 907 the day before
- **516 in the 2753 postcode** (Richmond, Londonderry, Grose Vale, etc) was 447 the day before

- **185 in the 2758 postcode** (Bilpin, East Kurrajong, etc) was 167 the day before
- **166 in the 2754 postcode** (North Richmond, Tennyson, The Slopes) was 150 the day before
- **19 in the 2775 postcode** (Lower Macdonald, St Albans) was 18 the day before
- **16 in the 2757 postcode** (Kurmond) was 11 the day before

Reported cases in NSW over the last 5 weeks have been approximately 85% Omicron and 15% of the far more dangerous Delta.

80% of the 342 people in ICU in Australia have Delta and 20% Omicron and for the 3865 in hospital in Australia it's approximately 65% Delta and 35% Omicron.

## Current COVID cases in NSW hospitals, in ICU, and on a ventilator, and vaxx status:

- **IN HOSPITAL:** 2186 patients (was 2030, 1927, 1795, 1738, 1609 on previous days) - 69.8% fully or triple vaccinated, 2.5% one dose, 27.7% not vaccinated.
- **IN ICU:** 170 (159, 151, 145, 134, 131 on previous days) - 52.0% fully or triple vaccinated, 1.2% one dose, 46.8% not vaccinated.
- **ON VENTILATORS:** - 51 (47, 38, 40, 33, 38 on previous days) - 52.0% fully or triple vaccinated, 1.2% one dose, 46.8% not vaccinated.

There were 166 people in hospital 27 days ago - 2186 today. There were 21 people in ICU 27 days ago - 170 today. There were 7 on ventilators 27 days ago - 51 today.

You can read more Hawkesbury news at Hawkesbury Post at [www.hawkesburypost.com.au](http://www.hawkesburypost.com.au) or [facebook.com/hawkesburypost](https://facebook.com/hawkesburypost).





# COLO HEIGHTS MUM GETS PETITION UP TO ACCELERATE DRIVING TESTS FOR TEENS AS COVID PUTS THE BRAKES ON

BY TONY BOSWORTH | EDITOR HAWKESBURY POST

*We all know how poor public transport is in many areas of the Hawkesbury and it's led a Colo Heights mum to set up a petition calling on Hawkesbury MP Robyn Preston to get in gear and push for shorter driving test waiting times for our teens.*



There's been a big blow out on driving test availability as COVID hits staff at test centres, including Richmond, where there's now a minimum wait of a month for a test and very often much longer.

And the shortage of tests is not just in the Hawkesbury, so even travelling to another test centre far away doesn't seem to solve the problem.

"We live in a rural part of the Hawkesbury in Colo Heights and I have tried to get my daughter an early age licence for education and employment purposes," says Rosalynd Martin. "We've tried as far away as Tamworth and Taree, but no success.

"We have been trying for months to book this in and there have been no appointments available for at least 6 months," Mrs Martin told the Post.

Her daughter Kathryn has worked hard to get her driving hours up so she can sit the driving test, not least because her mum is having to drive her from home to education and work.

"Rural teens are in desperate need of their licence," said Mrs Martin. "I can no longer work the hours I need to provide for my family because I'm needing to taxi my daughter 4 hours a day to and from educational and work engagements, and it's been that way for 6 months. I also have a 8-year-old old son who I have to get to school and back again. With no public transport, and I might add we have no before and after school services in our area, something needs to be done, and done quick."

Mrs Martin says she's hearing day in and day out from frustrated parents in remote areas with the same issue.

And she's calling on Hawkesbury MP Preston to put pressure on to get some action for local teens.

"What are you going to do in the Hawkesbury for our children?" asks Mrs Martin

of the MP, "the government needs to step up and take action for our communities.

"Step it up for our Hawkesbury teens. They deserve to be listened to."

Young learner drivers in the Hawkesbury can apply – as can all rural teens – for an early age licence but Mrs Martin says her experience is there's little point because that is also being rejected across NSW.

You can apply for an early age test at age 16 and 6 months, if you've held L-plates for 6 months, do extra driving lessons (the safer driver course), pay \$150, have a letter from employers or education, and a letter from Transport for NSW to prove there is no transport available, plus a letter from anyone with a licence living in the same household, and you also have to complete the 120 hours driving plus 20 hours night driving.

"All that had to be done before even applying for the test," said Mrs Martin, "and then we were told by the test centre it would be rejected. I've been told teens as far out as St Albans also have been refused recently."

There was nothing to be done but wait until Kathryn turned 17 and now she can get her Ps, but only if she can get a test and pass it.

She was told by the RMS test centre in Richmond it could be 5 to 6 months' wait for a test.

"It's unacceptable for our rural teens not to be able to get their licence to keep themselves moving forward with their education or employment and it means parents having to make the choice between working to provide for their family or by reducing work hours to drive their teens to education or jobs," says Mrs Martin.

"Something needs to be done asap to clear this backlog in licencing, not least because our kids have no access to public transport in a lot of areas in the Hawkesbury and now have limited access to licence testing too.

"The Blue Mountains, Bilpin, St Albans, Upper MacDonald, all these areas would be feeling the same stresses that we are."

A spokesperson for Service NSW told the Post they were, "experiencing a high demand for driver testing across the state due to the impact of COVID restrictions.

"However, Service NSW is actively recruiting new driver testers to better meet the high demand.

"Online bookings for driver testing are still available statewide.

"The wait time for Richmond Service Centre is about four weeks. However this number changes when more customers book their test.

"Service NSW understands the wait time is frustrating and appreciates customer patience and understanding as testing returns to normal."

The spokesperson said a temporary driver testing site had been put in place at Howell Oval in Penrith to assist the Nepean-Hawkesbury region, and they said that had a current wait time of one week.

"Driver testers must be fully vaccinated and customers either need to be fully vaccinated or have received a negative COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Test result on the day of their driver or rider licence test," said the spokesperson.

"A photo of your negative test next to your existing licence or ID on a mobile phone is sufficient proof. A negative PCR test is no longer required," said the spokesperson.

"Guidelines for face masks, disposable seat covers, hand sanitiser and other personal protective equipment remains in place."

For more information on driver testing and Covid-19 visit, <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/driver-testing-and-covid-19>

You can read more Hawkesbury news at Hawkesbury Post [www.hawkesburypost.com.au](http://www.hawkesburypost.com.au) or [facebook.com/hawkesburypost](https://facebook.com/hawkesburypost).



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT WELCOMED

By BEV JORDAN

**Hills Shire Mayor Peter Gangemi won cross party approval for his move to strengthen ties to the indigenous community in the Hills.**

At Tuesday night's Extraordinary Council meeting (January 11th) the first item on the agenda was to include Acknowledgement of Country at council meetings.

"It is a gesture that we can do to show our residents of indigenous descent that Council is reaching out to them for their wisdom and support," he said.

"In addition to an Acknowledgement of Country before each Council meeting, I believe that Council needs to do more outside of our meetings to further reach out to our indigenous population."

He has suggested a Council-backed celebration of NAIDOC week in July saying:

"I want this Council to represent the whole community. Conducting an Acknowledgement of Country at the start of Council meetings is an important step in the process. However, I believe it is important to have additional measures outside of Council meetings including better displaying our indigenous history, looking at place naming opportunities, conducting an event during NAIDOC week and visiting Muru Mittigar's Cultural Education Centre at Rouse Hill."

The motion has also called for the indigenous history of the area to be displayed more prominently in the community and on the council's website.

"Remains of both open camps and cave dwellings have been discovered in the Hills Shire, with charcoal drawings, shellfish middens, animal bones and stone flakes being discovered in caves," he said.

"The rock dwellings found in the Darling Mills Creek area of West Pennant Hills date back almost 12,000 years.

"I believe that the history of the Darug people is an amazing one and should be better known in the Shire."

The Mayoral Minute and motion was unanimously approved:

- at the earliest council meeting possible a proposed updated Code of
- Meeting Practice is tabled (containing an Acknowledgement of Country) and placed on public exhibition for 28 days.
- Council continue to conduct an Acknowledgement of Country prior to Citizenship Ceremonies and Major Events.



Woman in a crinoline dress, Devil's Rock, Maroota

- Councillors accept an invitation to visit Indigenous members of the community at Muru Mittigar's Cultural Education Centre at Rouse Hill.
- Council conducts an appropriate in-person event for The Hills community to attend to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples during NAIDOC week.
- Council investigate options to better display the indigenous history of the Shire in key locations such as the Council website, Libraries and key parks.
- Council investigate indigenous place naming opportunities of a proposed park or newly built park in The Hills, with a report to be brought back to Council of potential options for Councillors to consider.

**ITS TOP PRIZE DURING QUARANTINE**

**SCHOFIELD MAN UNWRAPS \$25,000 INSTANT SCRATCH**

A Schofields man is pleased to have come out of quarantine on a high note after scratching a \$25,000 top prize on an Instant Scratch-Its ticket gifted by his friend.

The top prize winning \$2 Christmas Cheer Instant Scratch-Its ticket was purchased at Nexra North Kellyville, Shop T07, North Kellyville Village, 12-14 Withers Road, Kellyville.

"I was so excited when I'd realised I'd won \$25,000!" the winning man told an official from The Lott. It was actually a Christmas gift from my friend, so it's definitely a wonderful present! When I scratched the top prize, I didn't believe it at first. I told my friend straight away and he was over the moon."

"I said to him, 'I'll have to shout you some breakfast!' I've actually just finished quarantine, so the win has really brought me some joy. What a great way to start 2022!"

Nexra North Kellyville owner Dipak Raghvani said it's the first top prize winning Instant Scratch-Its ticket the outlet had sold.

"It feels amazing to have sold a top prize winning ticket! We've had a couple division two winning entries in Powerball and Oz Lotto, but nothing else," he said. "We really hope it's the first of many more. It's a great way to start the new year. Congratulations to the winner, and we wish them all the best!"

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# NEW YEAR *baby*

The first baby of 2022 born at Norwest Private Hospital arrived in the early hours on the 1st January. Proud parents Anna and Daniel Sergi celebrated the New Year by welcoming Domenic, their 2.7 kg bundle of joy to the world at 5.32am. Domenic is the couple's second child, and is little brother to big sister, Domenica.



"Even with the challenges that COVID-19 presented in 2021, almost 1500 babies were born at Norwest Private last year," said Rebecca Garrard, Postnatal Midwifery Unit Manager at Norwest Private Hospital. "Our midwives and nurses are committed to providing the best possible experience for mothers and are always there to support them and their families."

"Despite the limitations of COVID restrictions, we continue to provide new mums with the opportunity to meet other new mums and socialise in a COVID safe environment, said Ms Garrard. "Our Feeding Room is a relaxing space for baby to feed and

there are also snacks for mum. Education sessions are held throughout the week and include physiotherapy classes with a specialist women's physiotherapist, breast feeding classes and newborn behaviour classes, giving women the opportunity to not only learn but also meet women in the same situation as themselves."

"Our Early Childhood Clinic remains open and is a unique service that is available free of charge for the first 12 weeks to all babies born at Norwest. It's a wonderful opportunity for mums to seek help and advice from a knowledgeable midwife and Early Childhood Nurse after they go home', said Ms Garrard.

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Community of Care



# The Hills Shire Council News

## Dr Peter Gangemi elected as Mayor of The Hills Shire

Dr Peter Gangemi has been elected as the new Mayor of The Hills Shire, following the Local Government Election on December 4.

Mayor Gangemi was first elected to Council in 2012 and has continued to serve as a North Ward Councillor for the past nine years.

“It is an incredible honour to have been elected as the Mayor of The Hills Shire Council,” Mayor Gangemi said.

“The Hills is the greatest part of the world and I am very thankful to have this opportunity to serve you in this new term of Council,” Mayor Gangemi added.

Mayor Gangemi said he was passionate about engaging with local residents and excited to represent and advocate for The Hills community during this new term of Council. Fast-tracking road and intersection upgrades in the new release areas, supporting the local economy during the pandemic, maintaining strong financial discipline while being able to deliver and upgrade key community assets are also top priorities for the new Mayor.

“It is important to me that Council consults with residents on key decisions and regularly communicates with the community on the latest initiatives of Council,” Mayor Gangemi said.

“The population in areas such as North Kellyville and Box Hill are growing quickly so upgrading key intersections and roads in these suburbs and surrounding areas will be a large focus in this term of Council.

“This new Council will also be working hard on economic initiatives to ensure that more local jobs are created for our residents and that the rural and tourist economies remain well supported. The community expect Council to maintain a strong financial position, and that is what we will seek to do despite the rising costs of the pandemic.

“With strong financial management, Council has a greater ability to deliver and upgrade crucial parks, playgrounds, footpaths and community facilities over the long term.

“One of the projects I’m most excited about is the opening of our Waves Fitness and Aquatic Centre. This facility is going to be a game-changer for Hills residents, with a new Olympic-sized swimming pool with 10 lanes, a combined indoor 25 metre learn to swim pool and family leisure pool, swimming clubhouse, large gym, and fitness centre and much more. I am looking forward to working with the newly elected Council to open Waves to the community,” Mayor Gangemi added.

Mayor Gangemi, as well as 12 Councillors, was officially sworn in on Thursday, December 23 at the Council Chambers. They will represent the community until September 2024.

Returning to Council is Cllr Frank De Masi, Cllr Reena Jethi, Cllr Ryan Tracey and Cllr Tony Hay OAM. Barbara Burton, who was a Councillor from 2008 to 2012, also makes a return to Council.

New Councillors include Mitchell Blue, Jessica Brazier, Mark Hodges, Virginia Ellis, Mila Kasby, Rosemarie Boneham and Jerome Cox.

“This new term of Council is going to be a great one. I have a brilliant team behind me, and I know we will work hard to represent the people of The Hills in a fair, honest and proactive way,” Mayor Gangemi added.

For more information on The Hills Shire Council’s new Council, visit [www.thehills.nsw.gov.au](http://www.thehills.nsw.gov.au) and search for ‘Mayor and Councillors.’



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Image credit – Western Earth Moving.

## Kellyville Memorial Park upgrade now complete

The final step to reconfigure and construct new playing fields at Kellyville Memorial Park is now complete – with play on these facilities set to commence in February 2022.

This project was part of The Hills Shire Council's adopted masterplan for the site, which also included the addition of a 250 space carpark and a new access road from Stone Mason Drive, in Kellyville.

Fields were also expanded to accommodate four international standard rugby league fields, including lighting and irrigation. The final stage of the project was delivered by Western Earth Moving (WEM).

In addition to these works, Council also entered into a licence agreement with the Parramatta National Rugby League (PNRL) for the joint redevelopment and use of Kellyville Memorial Park as a Premier Rugby League Facility to allow residents further opportunities to play at an elite level.

For more information about this project, visit the Hills Shire Council's website and search for 'Kellyville Memorial Park Playing Field Project.'

### 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

Tuesday, 8 February 2022 – 7pm.  
For more information, visit [www.thehills.nsw.gov.au](http://www.thehills.nsw.gov.au) and search for '2022 Meeting Agendas and Minutes.'

## Grab and Go with new Hills Shire Library Initiative

Spend less time looking for a book and more time reading with The Hills Shire Library Service's new Grab and Go bags!

Designed to save time and take the struggle out of choosing what to borrow, each bag is themed and comes with five books, hand-picked by our friendly library staff.

This program is open to both children and adults and bags are available for pickup from all Hills Shire Library branches.

Children's bag themes include:

- Action and adventure;
- Magical stories;
- Whodunit mysteries;
- Starting school;
- Families; and
- Cooking and baking.

Adult bag themes include:

- Mysteries;
- Sci-Fi;
- Australian thrillers; and
- Romance.

Best of all, participants can keep their Grab and Go bag to reuse for future library visits.

Head to your nearest Hills Shire Library branch to try out a Grab and Go bag today.

For more information on library activities, visit The Hills Shire Library Service website: [www.thehills.nsw.gov.au/library](http://www.thehills.nsw.gov.au/library).



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**THE HILLS**  
Sydney's Garden Shire



# HILLS AUSTRALIA DAY 2022

*A Tapas of tempting treats is on offer in the Hills this Australia Day as COVID restrictions cause concerns.*

Community Flag raising events plus picnic sites Bella Vista, Castle Hill, Wiseman's Ferry and Annangrove featuring coffee trucks, icecream vans and roving musicians are just some of the events being supported by Hills Shire Council.

The first event is an Australia Day Awards Presentation on January 19th at the Pioneer Theatre in Castle Hill.

On January 26th planned events include: Flag Raising Ceremonies between 8am and 11am at Kellyville, Annangrove, Kenthurst and Castle Hill.

The Indian community is organising a flag raising ceremony through the Community Foundation of North Western Sydney at Wrights Road Reserve at 8am on January 26th. There will also be a Flag Raising Ceremony at Heritage Park in Castle Hill at 8am organised by the Rotary Club of Castle Hill.

Members of the Rotary Club of Kenthurst have organised a flag raising event at John Benyon Rotary Park, cnr of Kenthurst Rd and Nelson St, in Kenthurst at 9am which will feature indigenous dancer Ryka Ali who will perform a smoking ceremony, traditional dance and Welcome to Country. Ryka's heritage stems from the Wuthathi tribe of Shelburne Bay and

from the Torres Strait Islands. Keynote speaker will be Marian College school captain Ryan Muscat.

A Flag Raising Ceremony will be held at Annangrove Park in Annangrove at 11am. The ceremony is to be organised by the Annangrove Progress Association.

Australia Day picnics are proposed at Bella Vista Farm picnic area at Bella Vista between 10am and 1pm; Castle Hill Heritage Park at Castle Hill from 9am to noon; Wisemans Ferry Reserve at Wisemans Ferry from 10am to 1pm and Annangrove Park Sportsground at Annangrove from 9am to noon.

The picnics are to be supported by youth entertainment or buskers, ice cream trucks, coffee carts and roving entertainment. A citizenship ceremony will be held at 12pm at the Council chambers in Bella Vista.

Hills Shire Mayor Peter Gangemi said there would be a wide range of events to suit all residents.

"Given the rise of the Omicron variant, I want there to be an emphasis on outdoor or remotely conducted events to reduce the risk to our residents in the current environment. All of the proposed events comply with the



health orders at the time. I believe there is a great opportunity to engage large sections of the community remotely through colouring in activities for our youth and encouraging people to send through their Australia Day photos from their celebrations wherever they are."

Find out what's on and where at council's website [thehills.nsw.gov.au](http://thehills.nsw.gov.au)

# AUSTRALIA DAY ON THE HAWKESBURY 2022

*In the interest of public health and safety, changes have been made to the planned Australia Day on the Hawkesbury event on Wednesday, 26 January.*

Australia Day on the Hawkesbury 2022 will be held at Governor Phillip Park, Windsor from 7pm to 9pm. Residents are invited to bring their friends and family and enjoy a relaxing picnic

by the shores of the Hawkesbury River. There will be some light entertainment, and a small selection of food trucks. Visitors can bring their own picnic dinner or buy their food on the night.



The evening will end with the ever-popular fireworks display. The carnival rides and activities, and the emergency services display, will not be held.

Council's Australia Day Awards Ceremony and Citizenship Ceremony will still take place but will be moved to an online format.

Australia Day on the Hawkesbury has been assisted by the Australian Government through the National Australia Day Council by receiving a \$22,000 grant to support the event.

Visit Council's homepage [www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](http://www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au) and Hawkesbury Events Facebook for event updates.





# CELEBRATE AUSTRALIA DAY IN BLACKTOWN CITY

*Enjoy breakfast with some feathered and furry friends and rock out to live music at the Rooty Hill this Australia Day in Blacktown City.*

Blacktown City Mayor Tony Bleasdale OAM said there was a range of exciting events and activities for people of all ages to enjoy, including a Wake Up with the Wildlife Breakfast at Featherdale and the popular Australia Day Concert and Fireworks at the Rooty Hill.

The City's local heroes will be recognised at the Australia Day Awards Ceremony while some of our newest residents will be welcomed at a special Citizenship Ceremony.

"It's been an incredibly tough 2 years for the people of Blacktown City, living through some of the strictest COVID-19 restrictions and lockdowns," Mayor Bleasdale said.

"While we currently face one of the toughest tests of the pandemic so far, I encourage everyone to come together in a COVID-safe way and celebrate what makes our community and our nation great. Blacktown City has a proud Indigenous history, with about 10,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people calling our City home. We are also proud of our cultural diversity, with our people representing more than 180 different countries and languages. While we acknowledge the growing calls to change the date of Australia Day, I urge everyone to reflect on our history- the highs and the low points - respect the stories of others and celebrate our achievements."

The day will kick off with a Wake Up with the Wildlife Breakfast at Featherdale Wildlife Park in

Doonside, where families can grab a bite to eat with beautiful Australian animals across three sessions, starting at 7.30am.

Dozens of residents will then take the final step in their journey to becoming an Australian at a special Citizenship Ceremony at Bowman Hall.

Mayor Bleasdale will honour some of the City's most outstanding people at the Australia Day Awards Ceremony, where individuals and businesses will be recognised for their incredible contributions to their community.

The celebrations will continue at the Rooty Hill with an evening of entertainment, amusement rides and food stalls, from 4pm.

The popular annual event will feature performances from Aussie icons Mike Whitney and Wayne Pearce, much-loved singer Dami Im, and rock legends The Angels, before ending with a bang - Western Sydney's best fireworks display.

Australia Day 2022 is a family friendly, alcohol free and COVID-19 safe event. This is a free ticketed event and bookings are essential.

Tickets available online here: [www.blacktown.nsw.gov.au/Events-and-activities/2022-Australia-Day-Concert-Fireworks](http://www.blacktown.nsw.gov.au/Events-and-activities/2022-Australia-Day-Concert-Fireworks)

Media coverage is invited for any or all of Blacktown City's Australia Day events or celebrations. Please contact Council's Media Unit for passes.

## EVENT DETAILS

### WAKE UP WITH THE WILDLIFE BREAKFAST

There are only 3 session times available (7.30am - 9.00am, 9.30am - 11.30am, and 12pm - 2pm).

Tickets cost \$7 per person (children aged 0-2 free) and will be available to purchase online from 17 January here: [www.blacktown.nsw.gov.au/Events-and-activities/Australia-Day-Wake-Up-with-the-Wildlife-Breakfast](http://www.blacktown.nsw.gov.au/Events-and-activities/Australia-Day-Wake-Up-with-the-Wildlife-Breakfast)

Breakfast will be available for purchase at the event, or can be added when booking tickets.

Due to COVID-19 regulations currently in place, all patrons will be required to vacate the park once their booked session time has ended.

Bookings are essential and limited tickets are available for each session.

### AUSTRALIA DAY AT THE ROOTY HILL

4.00pm – 9.30pm

The Rooty Hill, Eastern Road, Rooty Hill.

The event will play host to an outstanding stage program including performances by Oz Icons Mike Whitney and Wayne Pearce, Dami Im, and rock legends, The Angels.

There will also be free kids amusement rides, food trucks and stalls, ahead of one of Western Sydney's most spectacular firework displays.

### STAGE PROGRAM

4pm - Welcome & Nulungu Dreaming

4.45pm - Oz Icons

5.45 pm - Out of Salem

6.45pm - Dami Im

8pm - The Angels

9.10pm - Fireworks

## BELLA VISTA FARM AUSTRALIA DAY (PRE COVID PHOTO)





# WE'RE ALL GOING ON A SUMMER HOLIDAY

*Hawkesbury Regional Gallery and Nepean Arts and Design Centre, TAFE NSW have collaborated to present a free exhibition titled 'We're all going on a summer holiday!' – a timely reflection of what a summer holiday is all about.*

11 artists have created works in a range of media ranging from photography to ceramics, painting, installation and drawing. *Ilona Bruckard, Annette Bukovinsky, Sarah Frost, Lynn Godfree, Chris Hunter, Freya Jobbins, Elisha Schnell, Mike Wall, Bianca Walsh, Teresina White, Annette Wilcox.*

This year the Summer Art Lab has an underwater theme and artists Nicole Ashton and Sarah Mitchell, have been working with our education and public programs team to create the drop-in activity space for children, and the young at heart!

The artists are final year diploma and who were asked to respond to the idea of a summer holiday.

What's the first memory that springs to mind when you reminisce about your holidays? Long car journeys, bunk beds, the McDonalds pit stop, staying up late? Big Bananas and Pineapples? Salty hair and skin and Sunburn? Most of us will have a least one of these things

cemented in our Australian holiday memories. Or is it something darker and more personal?

Cath Barcan, Head Teacher Visual Arts says: "This has been a wonderful and tangible professional opportunity to work with the team at the Hawkesbury Regional Gallery. We are very lucky to have such a strong arts community in the region".

We all need a collective summer holiday! Come and be part of ours.

**EXHIBITION DATES:** Open until Sunday, 6 February 2022

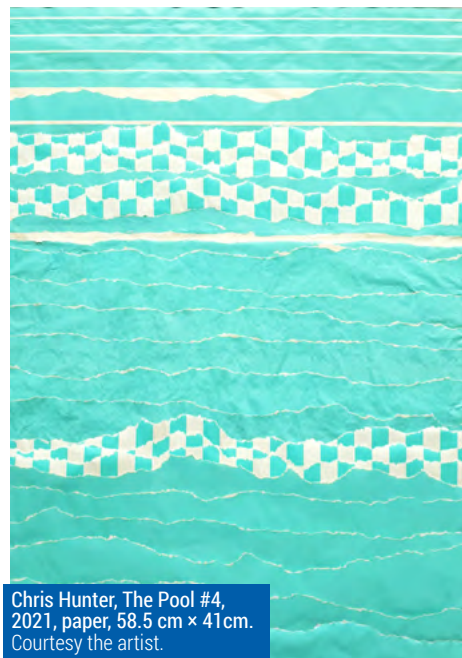
**WHERE:** Hawkesbury Regional Gallery, 1st floor, Deerubbin Centre, 300 George Street, Windsor

**COST:** Free

For further details on hours of opening, exhibitions and activities go to [hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/gallery](http://hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/gallery) or [facebook.com/hawkesburygallery](https://facebook.com/hawkesburygallery)



Teresina White, My mother's kitchen - 1950's, 2021, oil on canvas, 60 cm X 50 cm. Courtesy the artist.



Chris Hunter, The Pool #4, 2021, paper, 58.5 cm x 41cm. Courtesy the artist.

**Rediscover life's soundtrack**  
 (02) 9159 6122 | [earstudio.com.au](http://earstudio.com.au)  
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*Passion for Hearing*





# HAWKESBURY'S HERITAGE

The Hawkesbury region has an abundance of attractions to delight visitors young and old.

The Hawkesbury Regional Museum is home to a diverse range of historical artifacts for you to explore – the collection will spark interest and conversation across all generations as everyone in the family can enjoy looking at the many other interesting items such as dance cards, period clothes and the telephone exchange –Visitors are encouraged you to pass on stories across generations and discuss the things that have changed and the things that have stayed the same.

The Museum is located in Baker Street, Windsor and is open Monday to Friday (closed Tuesdays) 10 am to 4pm and weekends 10 am to 3pm. Entry is Free.

Windsor night Whilst in Windsor its worth taking the family for a walk around the town. So

many buildings have been preserved and luckily unlike other historic locations around Sydney the streetscape hasn't been altered with high rise buildings and intrusive motorways.

Walk from Thompsons Square through George St pedestrian mall lined with historic buildings and interlinking alleyways. You will pass the historic waterwheel that used to used to grind flour on the riverbank of the Hawkesbury. It certainly complements the old-world atmosphere of the town.

Windsor has retained it's history with it's many colonial buildings and you can discover them for yourself on a self-guided walk through the town. Windsor Heritage Highlights is a must for those interested in the towns history and includes an easy to follow map and a rare collection of historic photos. The booklet is FREE and available for download or you can



pick one up at the Hawkesbury Visitor Centre or Hawkesbury Regional Museum.

Loder And if the kids are getting a bit bored with the history lesson head into one of our favourite historic buildings in the mall, Loder House (126 George Street, Windsor). This impressive Georgian house was built in 1834 for George Loder II, farmer and storekeeper and member of an influential Windsor family. Over the years it's been a restaurant, a fabric store and even a hat shop.

It now houses a quirky shop and creative space called Hawkesbury Remakery which is a destination to visit within itself. The Remakery is a creative reuse centre to support creativity, sustainability and well-being. It has exhibition and retail space to support local makers in the region.

For more information about things to do in the Hawkesbury visit Hawkesbury Visitor Information Centre Ham Common, 328 Hawkesbury Valley Way, Richmond 2753 (opposite the RAAF Bas. [www.discoverthehawkesbury.com.au](http://www.discoverthehawkesbury.com.au)

## SCHOOL FEES

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# PET CHARITY'S MISSION

Australia's first Parvovirus detection system is signing up vet clinics to report Parvo cases.

National pet charity Paws for A Purpose has developed an innovative online alerting system to help eliminate the deadly Parvovirus and protect over 20,000 puppies and kittens that are infected every year.

Co-founder of the charity, Paws for A Purpose, Dr Mark Kelman says that with half of all Parvovirus cases ending in fatality, the first step to stopping Parvo is reporting of cases.

"Vets can quickly and easily report any canine or feline Parvo case they see, on our new detection, tracking and outbreak-alerting website ParvoALERT.com," said Dr Kelman.

"This rapid tracking of outbreaks means we can quickly advise communities and move to raise vaccination levels where the disease is spreading."

"Best of all, the website is completely free for vets to use and for the community to be informed about outbreaks as they occur."

"With the help of vets around the country, we believe we can eliminate Parvo, one pet at a time," said Dr Kelman.

Dr Kelman said that during a Parvo outbreak, seeing puppies dying from a preventable virus is heartbreaking, making Parvo ALERT all the more important.

"We're encouraging vet clinics to diligently record cases, playing their role in this nationwide fight.

**Key features of ParvoALERT.com include:**

- **Parvo mapping:** Mapping of all cases, so anyone can see where cases have occurred and where the high-risk areas are for disease transmission
- **Media alerts:** Sending comprehensive media alerts to the mainstream media, to notify the public of Parvo outbreaks and further raise awareness of the need for urgent vaccination in these areas
- **Email alerts:** Creation of an email alert to be notified when outbreaks occur in your designated area
- **Parvo graphing:** Graphing of Parvo cases to see where disease outbreaks are worsening
- **Parvo hot-spotting:** A unique tool that reports in real-time on the highest-risk regions for Parvo
- **Easy and fast to use:** The website works on PC, Mac, or smartphone device.

Paws for A Purpose are a young, national charity organisation with the mission of helping people and pets in need. They achieve their mission through research and development, and embracing technology, community and entrepreneurship to implement innovative solutions.



**TOGETHER,  
WE CAN STOP PARVO  
IN AUSTRALIA.**

PARVOALERT.com

## ONLINE BOOKINGS NOW AVAILABLE!

Formerly known as  
Bligh Park Veterinary Hospital!

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# BRITISH COMEDY AT ITS BEST AT THE PAVILION THEATRE

## ENTERTAINING ANGELS

FROM 21 JANUARY – 12 FEBRUARY

After a COVID-enforced 'rest', Castle Hill Players begin their exciting 2022 season with their latest laugh-fest: *Entertaining Angels* by UK playwright, Richard Everett (*Four Play, Demons*).



The British are renowned for their ability to laugh in the face of triumph and tragedy – it's how they've survived famine, war and disaster for centuries. It's also highly entertaining: and a good British play is a great night out! That's exactly what awaits theatre goers when Castle Hill Players present Richard Everett's *Entertaining Angels* from Friday 21 January at The Pavilion Theatre.

By her own estimation, Grace (Julie Mathers) has poured two hundred thousand cups of tea, made four thousand six hundred medium-sized quiches and personally baked two tons of light crust pastry... but for what?

She has lived the life of a clergy wife and, now in widowhood, should be enjoying the new-found freedom of being able to do and say exactly as she pleases. Not so fast!

Enter her eccentric older sister, Ruth (Linda Young) back from Africa with an inconceivable revelation, daughter Jo (Amy Austin) with some life changing issues of her own plus the ever-present spirit of her husband, Barty (David Schad). What follows is plenty of acerbic wit, sharp-edged banter, thought-provoking comedy and heartfelt discussion. Add to the mix the arrival of a new vicar who requires Grace's exit from the Vicarage and we begin to see how complicated things become when a confession and the act of forgiveness meet head-on... and go toe to toe! With Michelle Masefield as 'Sarah'.

*Entertaining Angels* is a thoroughly entertaining and deceptively profound comic play with twists aplenty, which will surprise and delight in equal measure!

Castle Hill Players presents *Entertaining Angels* by Richard Everett. An amateur production by arrangement with Origin Theatrical on Behalf of Samuel French, Ltd, 21 January to 12 Feb – Wed, Fri, Sat 8pm & Sun 4pm. The Pavilion Theatre, Doran Drive Castle Hill. Tickets: \$25 Bookings: [www.paviliontheatre.org.au](http://www.paviliontheatre.org.au)

The Pavilion Theatre is located within Castle Hill Showground, adjacent to the new Metro Hills Showground Station; enter at the lights between Gilbert & Carrington Rd and Doran Drive. For more information, interviews, great images by Chris Lundie, review tickets and more, contact Geoff Sirmay Arts Publicity ph (02) 9345 0360 m: 0412 669 272 e: [geoff@sirmai.com.au](mailto:geoff@sirmai.com.au)

FAMOUS CHARITY TOURS CHEEKY HIT PLAY THROUGH NSW – FREE!

## 'THE SILVER TUNNEL'

### A hell of a play in a holy place

PRESENTED BY THE REV BILL CREWS FOUNDATION

*The surprise theatre hit of 2020 is set to tour 12 NSW suburban and regional centres in early 2022 with free performances, carrying its inspiring message of 'choosing life'. It arrives in Windsor in February 2022.*



The rollicking one-act thriller presented by legendary hero of the homeless, Rev Bill Crews, debuted in Covid-controlled conditions last year when lockdown saw him turn his inner west Sydney church into a theatre! Set in a graveyard, heaven and hell - yet performed in churches - this sparkling production confronts suicide by celebrating life - with lots of laughs along the way. The Silver Tunnel is indeed "a hell of a play in a holy place".

Sydney's oldest graveyard: seven tombstones...all suicides from the time of the First Fleet. Old Harry is their 'keeper'.

He's tended their graves for 34 years. He talks to them. They talk back. Now, he's digging an eighth grave... who is it for?

Jason the suicidal apprentice gravedigger arrives - because the voices have called him in.

Harry can't hear them anymore. Why not? And who will end up in the eighth grave?

Writer-director Warwick Moss won the Premier's Literary Award in 1984 with the comic mystery thriller *Down An Alley Filled With Cats*.

Yet the veteran actor, writer and filmmaker is best known for hosting the long running TV series 'The Extraordinary' which delved into ghostly matters. The larrikin storyteller performed in *The Silver Tunnel's* original 1987 production in a Manly Disco!

Rev Bill Crews (left) has been fighting for the poor, homeless and needy for almost 50 years. Starting with the street kids of Kings Cross in

the 1970s, he worked with the Wayside Chapel until he moved to Ashfield in the '80s and opened his now famous Loaves and Fishes free restaurant in the grounds of the Uniting church.

To this day, thousands of free meals are served every week to those in need, while providing free dental, medical and social services. The food and health services are now mobile as his work spreads far beyond its Ashfield roots.

"What a couple of years it's been eh?" says Rev Bill. "Time for a bit of hope and entertainment! A play set in a graveyard performed in a church? Fabulous!"

*Continued on page 26*



## FIRST DAY ON THE JOB AS MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT

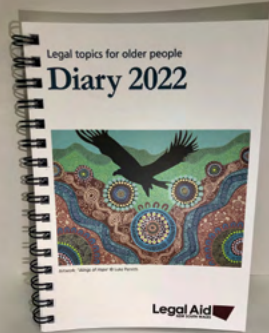
I joined my colleagues, Paul Fletcher and Stuart Ayres to announce a \$1.8 billion contract has been awarded to commence work on the new Sydney Metro-Western Sydney Airport line. This will connect St Marys to the new Airport at Badgerys Creek and create local jobs and ease congestion for Western Sydney residents in the long term.



## THE 2022 SENIORS DIARY IS NOW AVAILABLE.

It's packed with information and useful tips about a wide range of legal issues, including aged care, age discrimination and advice on preparing a will. A free copy of the 2022 Diary is available for collection from the Baulkham Hills Electorate Office at 25-33 Old Northern Road, Baulkham Hills.

For more information or to arrange a collection, please phone the Baulkham Hills Electorate Office on (02) 9686 3110.



The Hon **David Elliott MP**  
Member for Baulkham Hills  
Minister for Police and Emergency Services

As your local Member in the NSW Parliament, I am here to help.

- Assisting with accessing NSW Government services**
- Preparing congratulatory messages**
- Providing Justice of the Peace Services**
- Attending your local community event**

Please contact my office if I can be of assistance.

Suite 1, 25-33 Old Northern Road, Baulkham Hills NSW 2153

02 9686 3110 baulkhamhills@parliament.nsw.gov.au davidelliott.com.au

Proudly serving the people and communities of Baulkham Hills, Bella Vista, Carlingford, Castle Hill, Kellyville, North Rocks, Norwest and West Pennant Hills.

Authorised by David Elliott MP, Suite 1, 25-33 Old Northern Road, Baulkham Hills NSW 2153. This publication is funded using parliamentary entitlements.

## THE HILLS SHIRE IS SET TO RECEIVE ITS SHARE

The Hills Shire is set to receive its share of the NSW Government's \$10 million investment in state-of-the-art technology for TAFE NSW classrooms, providing students with the best possible opportunity to learn. The Hills Shire will benefit from a \$90,000 investment as part of the program, which will deliver over 80 new devices across Baulkham Hills and Castle Hill campuses.

Each new late model computer will come equipped with a keyboard, mouse and a large 27-inch monitor with the capability to view several windows at once.

The new technology, which is faster and more powerful than before, enables students to access a wider range of computer applications and allows teachers to deliver the highest quality education and training.

I hope you all had a great Christmas and New Year celebration after the challenges of last year.

I was pleased to be able to join so many of you for end of year community events including the famous Glenhaven Carols which celebrated its 21st year!

At the end of last year, I hosted Bridget McKenzie, Minister for Emergency Management and National Recovery and Resilience and Minister for Regionalisation, Regional Communications and Regional Education.

Minister McKenzie announced phase 2 of the Strengthening Telecommunications Against Natural Disasters program at the Hornsby RFS. The object of this program is to improve telecommunications resilience in communities at risk of natural disasters and to enhance the capability to restore services to areas affected by bushfires or natural disasters.

This is so important in communities like ours which face natural disasters and bad telco on a regular basis.

Andrew Gee, Minister for Defence Personnel and Veterans' Affairs also visited the electorate.

Minister Gee laid a wreath in memory of General Rawat, India's Chief of Defence Staff who died in a helicopter crash, at the Anzac Jawan Cenotaph in Cherrybrook, before meeting with veterans at the Hornsby RSL.

In another important announcement, the Government will assist more than 4600 Australians to buy their first home under its home guarantee scheme.

The scheme helps first home buyers and single-parent families get into their own home sooner with a deposit of as little as five per cent or two per cent respectively. Go to [www.nhfc.gov.au](http://www.nhfc.gov.au) for more info.



Make sure you are up to date with your COVID-19 vaccinations so we can continue to be one of the most highly vaccinated communities in Australia. Go to [www.australia.gov.au](http://www.australia.gov.au)

# JULIAN LEESER MP

Federal Member for **Berowra**

Level 11, 423 Pennant Hills Road, Pennant Hills NSW 2120

9980 1822 julian.leeser.mp@aph.gov.au

julianleeser.com.au julianleesermp

## As your MP, I am here to:

- Assist with accessing federal government services**
- Attend your local community event**
- Arrange congratulatory messages**

**Please contact my office if I can be of assistance.**

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





By LAWRENCE MACHADO

## NEPEAN FA TURNS 60

*The Nepean Football Association, which administers the game for the Hawkesbury, Penrith, St. Marys, and Blue Mountains districts, recently celebrated their diamond jubilee, with plans to enhance their presence and reach in the future.*

The association oversees a passionate and busy membership with more than 1110 teams competing in the winter competition, catering to around 13,000 players. During summer competitions, numbers could increase, making this one of the biggest organisations in Sydney.

The association said while the COVID-19 pandemic stole their opportunity to celebrate their big 60 years milestone in style, it didn't dampen the enthusiasm of their two wholly-owned entities, Nepean Representative Football Club and Nepean Referees Group, to continue to develop their strategic plan for the districts.

NFA boss Linda Cerone congratulated the new board of directors for 2022, and the management committees for Nepean Representative FC and Nepean Referees Group, who were elected during the recent AGM.

France Refalo was selected chairperson of the eight-person NFA board of directors, while Dominic Michallef is the president of the Nepean Representative FC management committee.

"We encourage all members of the club to consider becoming involved in some way," Cerone said. Nathan Marlan will head the Nepean Referees Group committee, with Steve Baskett as his vice president. The 2022 season is expected to be off and running by April, if all goes according to plan.

**NFA Board of Directors:** Frances Refalo (Chairperson); Greg Beuchner; Stacey Fanella; Steve Hurley; Gail Macleod-Jones; Martin Ryan; Dianne Skuthorpe; Alana Spicer  
**NRFC committee:** Dominic Michallef (president); Branka Popovic (Secretary); Financial Officer (casual vacancy)  
**NRG committee:** Nathan Marland (president); Steven Baskett (vice president); Brian Scott (education and training officer); Robert Young (appointments officer); Graham Chapman (memberships & recruitment officer); Liza Buckley (general Committee).

To join the committee or support the association, please email: [supportadmin@nepeanfootball.com.au](mailto:supportadmin@nepeanfootball.com.au).

## YOUNG STARS RESET GOALS

By LAWRENCE MACHADO

For rising Hills athletes, Isabella Fisher, Xavier Hennessey, Sarah-Anne Koot and Olivia Moresi, training at the Little Athletics Australia Team Camp under national coaches, should have been their most exciting time.

Unfortunately, the under-15 camp to have been hosted by Gold Coast this month, was cancelled due to COVID-19 risks. So now, these Cherrybrook LA stars are putting aside their disappointments, to prepare for other big opportunities this year.

"It would have been a unique opportunity for the up-and-coming dual Little Athletics and senior competitors to train with some of the nation's top coaches," a Cherrybrook LA club spokeswoman said.

The four young stars shone at the 2021 NSW All School Championships in December: Moresi won silver in the 14 girls high jump, Hennessey took silver in the 14 boys triple jump and Koot landed bronze in 14 girls 200m hurdles. Fisher ran a close fifth in the 14 girls 400m. Moresi and Hennessey were also picked for the NSW Merit team.

"It (the camp) is something we were all really looking forward to so it's disappointing, but it was encouraging just getting to that level and hopefully there will be other opportunities this year," Moresi, 14, said.

The Cheltenham Girls High student finds track events "intense" but says when she is high jumping, "I just have fun all the time!". Moresi is keen on following in the footsteps of Tokyo Olympics silver medallist Nicola McDermott.

Gilroy College's Hennessey, 14, said: "It was a great honour to have been chosen ... I was a bit devastated the camp was cancelled. I was really looking forward to spending time with the other athletes and improving my triple jump technique. But I look forward to competing across the rest of this season."

Fisher, 14, loves the 400m, and hopes to compete internationally at the highest level. Fisher, who moves from Mount St Benedict's College to Barker College this year, said being chosen for the Australian Team Camp had been "unexpected" given the calibre of competition in her event, but "made me realise I was actually good enough".

Koot, 14, who studies at The Cherrybrook Technology High, said hurdles "just feels right" to her, and has lofty ambitions like her team-mates.

Hennessey said he was "surprised" to be selected in triple jump – an event he really started becoming competitive

last season. Hennessey recently broke the club record in his age group, and said he is "getting better each week".

"It gets you nice and sweaty and off screens, and I like being able to hang out with friends between events," he said.

The four camp selections provided Cherrybrook Little Athletics one of the largest representations of any NSW club.



Olivia Moresi, Isabella Fisher, Sarah-Anne Koot and Xavier Hennessey have lofty ambitions.



# EVENTFUL EVENTS

By Ivor Jones

To many, the last two years may seem to have been eventful, but have they really? A number of what was once regular or annual events failed to go ahead or were curtailed due to COVID. Spring, Summer and early Autumn one would normally come across many events from School and Church fete, garden shows, carnivals and the like.

As we are now into January, one regular event has been the Australia Day celebrations. Australia Day has not always been celebrated on January. Other states and territories celebrated on various dates. In New South Wales the 26<sup>th</sup> January had been called "Anniversary Day" up to 1866 but also in early colonial times, the 26<sup>th</sup> was also called 'First Landing Day' or 'Foundation Day' by some, and would be celebrated by European immigrants (particularly ex-convicts) by holding anniversary dinners. Other states and territories also had anniversary or similar days set aside for celebration on the anniversary of the founding of the state or territory. Names for the particular day in those states and territories were "Settlement Day", "Foundation Day", "Proclamation Day" and in the case of Tasmania it was the "Hobart Regatta Day" on the 1st December which celebrated the discovery of the island by Abel Tasman in 1642.

The first ever official national day that was actually named Australia Day was July 30 in 1915, and was instigated to raise funds

for the World War I effort. It was not until 1994 that all states and territories decided to celebrate what we now call Australia Day on the 26<sup>th</sup> January. Some states still maintain their own celebrations for the anniversary of their foundation. Tasmania now celebrates "Hobart Regatta Day" but in January instead of December.

One of the highlights during past years of Australia Day in the Hills and Hawkesbury regions has been the fireworks displays. The venue has also changed for celebrations during recent times. I can recall when the major celebration for the Hills district was at the Castle Hill showground, one year it was at the Balcombe Heights sports grounds at Baulkham Hills whereas more recently it has been celebrated at the Historic Bella Vista Farm heritage grounds which has become one of the major showcases for events in the Hills. The major event in the Hawkesbury region is held at Governor Philip Park alongside the river at Windsor, where again one of the major attractions is the fireworks display.

Apart from the fireworks, Australia Day is also the day that showcase the talents of young and old performers in concert and many newer arrivals are confirmed as Australian Citizens with citizenship ceremonies held throughout the land. Prominent citizens also receive Awards for charitable or notable deeds.



At the time of writing this piece I cannot say whether Australia Day celebrations will be either live or on-line due to the Covid situation that we are all forced to live with. Perhaps by the time this article is published on 14<sup>th</sup> January it may be clearer as to whatever changing rules and regulations will allow. If not, get in touch with your local council closer to the date either by visiting their website or telephoning them. But whatever you do I wish each and everyone of you a Happy enjoyable "Australia Day" whether you are having a quiet day at home or enjoying a family bar-b-que.

## 'THE SILVER TUNNEL' from page 23

The church becomes part of the set! Like all our endeavours, this inspiring touring production is primarily aimed at raising awareness and funds for the poor and disadvantaged people we protect – as well as to introduce our services to new areas.

At the 2020 premiere season, our homeless, often struggling, guests sat side by side with 'normal' theatre goers. They all loved it and got the same message ...the wonder and value of life."

This 3,000k tour is an entertaining, travelling billboard for the work of the Rev Bill Crews Foundation. The production tours in its own branded van and features the same top cast as in 2020: high profile singer/actor Ric Herbert (Jesus Christ Superstar, The Rocky Horror Show, The Full Monty, Equus, A Hard God, Underbelly, Wild Side and Sweet and Sour) and talented newcomer Tim Matthews (Studio 3, Disney Channel).

### TOUR DATES FOR WINDSOR

WINDSOR UNITING  
CHURCH – FEBRUARY  
Cnr Macquarie and  
Fitzgerald Streets  
Windsor 2756

Fri 18th 8pm  
Sat 19th 4pm & 8pm





# AS WE WERE

PHOTOS FROM THE PAST

COLLECTION COMPILED BY  
**IVOR JONES** SHOWING LIFE IN  
 THE HILLS AND HAWKESBURY  
 AREA DURING PAST DECADES.



WE LOVE SEEING PHOTOS CAPTURING THE  
 PAST OF THE HILLS AND HAWKESBURY AREA.

EITHER EMAIL IVOR AT  
**IVOR.JONES47@OPTUSNET.COM.AU**

OR WRITE TO  
 17 ROSE ST, BAULKHAM HILLS NSW 2153.

All photos by myself with two exceptions  
 which are images from "Bing" images



# COMMUNITY groups

## 2nd Castle Hill Rovers

www.gwsrovers.com.au

## Annangrove Environment Centre

02 9654 3571 (Thurs) |  
02 9843 0533 (Wed-Fri)  
gnolan@thehills.nsw.gov.au

## Arcadian Quilters

Meet in Galston Community Health Centre 1st and 3rd Wednesday mornings, evening group 2nd and 4th Mondays. New members welcome

Carole | 9894 7749

## Castle Hill Art Society

Castle Hill Art Society offers a place of art practice for artists of all ages, either in groups of various art media or classes for adults and children. Demonstrations and workshops by well-know artists are held monthly and members can participate in several exhibitions during the year. New members always welcome.

9899 3179 (ans. machine)  
www.castlehillartsociety.org.au

## Castle Hill Senior Citizens Club Inc.

Club members invite anyone over 55 to come and meet a very active and friendly group of Seniors who play Carpet Bowls, Cards and Rummikub. The Club building is on the corner of McMullen Ave. and Old Northern Rd., Castle Hill (opposite the new Metro station) with parking at the rear.

9680 3958  
castlehillseniors@gmail.com

## Combined Probus Club of Cherrybrook

We are a mixed gender club and have an active membership of over 170 retirees and semi retirees. Our meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month at the Cherrybrook Community and Cultural Centre.

Ross | 0411 104 863  
rossfitzpatrick@icloud.com  
www.probusouthpacific.org/  
microsites/cherrybrook/Welcome

## Cumberland Bird Observers Club

The Club conducts three outings a month to observe birds in their natural environment. General meetings are held at Castle Hill on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. New members are always welcome.

Peter 0412 770 757 or Cathy 9809 5668  
www.cboc.org.au

## CWA of NSW - Galston Branch

Monthly meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month from 10am at the Galston Health & Resource Centre.

Jann | 0439 222 217

## CWA of NSW - Castle Hill Branch

Holds its monthly meeting every second Tuesday at the CWA Hall, 2 Annangrove Road, Kenthurst (off Angus Road) from 10am. We also hold our Craft mornings for members on 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month from 10 to 12.

Maureen | 0411 724 925

## Dural and District Prostate Cancer Support Group

Meets on the 3rd Monday of the month at the Blue Gum Centre, ARV Glenhaven Green, 599-607 Old Northern Rd, Glenhaven. For details of future meetings call.

Denis | 9629 2645 or Maurice | 9654 2138

## Dural Country Club Bowls

04 2131 5074

## Dural Men's Shed

04 0247 8498  
www.duralmensshed.org

## East Kurrajong School of Arts

First Tuesday each month 10am to 1pm. Bring along any sort of craft activity you're interested in, bring pencils or brushes to practice your drawing or painting with Ruth, browse the library for a book to read or simply just relax, have a cuppa and enjoy a chat from 10am to 1pm. Gold coin donation for morning tea.

Ann | 02 4576 5031

## Galston VIEW Club

Raises money for The Smith Family "Learning for Life" program. New members are always welcome.

Merle 9634 2378 | 0412 110 698.

## Girl Guides Australia

There are great programs for girls aged 6 to 18. They meet once a week in groups relevant to their age groups which are run by trained Leaders and Unit Helpers. There are several Girl Guide Groups meeting in the area. To find out more about the best time and day for your daughter

Margo 0417 657 433.

## Glenhaven Probus Club Inc

Meets 10 am on 2nd Tuesday of each month at Castle Hill Bowling Club.

secretary.glenhaven.probus@gmail.com

## Glenwood Men's Shed

Jim | 0438 701 275

## Hawkesbury Artists & Artisans Trail

02 4567 7400  
Leanne@mellowcrest.com  
www.haat.com.au

## Hawkesbury District Agricultural Assn

4577 3591 (BH)  
www.hawkesburyshow.com.au

## Hawkesbury Nepean Chapter of the First Fleeters

Meets on 2nd Saturday of each month.  
Pamela Hempel | 0407 660 579  
www.ffhnc.com

## Hawkesbury Woodcraft Cooperative Ltd

4721 8709

## Hills District Women's Bowling Club

Jenner Street, Baulkham Hills  
9639 2733  
www.thehillswomensbowls.com.au

## Hills Older Men's Network INC

The Hills Older Men's Network Inc (Hills OMNI) meets fortnightly on the first and third Mondays of the month, 10am to 12.30pm at Castle Hill. The group is aimed at retired men over the age of 55 and provides an opportunity to chat in a non-judgemental, safe and supportive environment.

Ron | 0424 462 153  
HillsOMI1@gmail.com

## Hills Toastmasters

Meets every second Tuesday, 7pm. Restore Church: 47 Britannia Rd, Castle Hill. New members welcomed

Terry | 0488 089 951

## Hills/Toongabbie Music Club

Meets 2nd and 4th Fridays 7.30pm Northmead Scouts Hall 17 Whitehaven Northmead. Beginners to professionals all welcome.

Allen | 0439 831 531  
alldavisguitar@gmail.com

## Ladies Probus Club of Baulkham Hills

Meetings 10am, 2nd Wednesday of the month. At The Fiddler, Windsor Road and Commercial Road, Rouse Hill. New Members welcome

Suzanne Dennis | 0412 424 593

ladiesprobusbh@gmail.com

## Learning in the Hills

To find out more about the huge range of courses available call 9639 7918

www.hca.org.au/learning-in-the-hills/

## Lions Club of Richmond Inc.

Geoff | 0412 969 651

## Lions Club of Windsor Inc

Pam | 0413 395 145

## Macquarie Towns Garden Club

Meetings are on the 1st Thursday of the month, Tebbutt Room at Hawkesbury Library at 2 pm.

## National Seniors Australia (Hills Branch)

Meets on the first Thursday of each month at Muirfield Golf Club, 58 Barclay Road, North Rocks. 9.30am for 10am. The group has day outings, short tours and interesting speakers. This very friendly group welcomes visitors.

May | 0414 634 572  
maybruce@bigpond.com

## North Rocks Evening VIEW Club

Muirfield Golf Club, 58 Barclay Rd, North Rocks. Visit view.org.au

Toni | 9871 1926 or 0411 693 076, or Margaret on 9872 1405

## North Richmond Probus Club

Our meetings are on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 10.30am at Panthers, North Richmond, Beaumont Rd, N. Richmond.

Joan Bruce | 0404 290 484  
northrichmondprobus@gmail.com

## Norwest Sunrise Rotary Club

We are a breakfast Club and meet every Friday morning at 7.15am. The Rotary Motto is Service Above Self. If you want to meet like-minded people please join us.

norwestrotary.org.au

## Pennant Hills Mens Probus Club

John | 9487 1385

## Pennant Hills Combined Probus Club

Meets at Hotel Pennant Hills every third Monday of the month at 10am. New members and visitors welcome.

Lorene | 0429 396594

## Pennant Hills VIEW Club

Meets for lunch at 11am at Oatlands Golf Club on the second Tuesday of each month. Meetings include a 2 course meal followed by an interesting guest speaker. Visitors and new members are welcome.

Margaret | 9873 2402

## Pitt Town Probus Club

Meets at 10:00am on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at the Pitt Town and District Sports Club, 139 Old Pitt Town Rd Pitt Town. New members welcome.

Denise Fairfax | 0435 447 414

## Probus Club of Round Corner (Dural)

Secretary, Julie  
PO Box 822, Round Corner 2158

## Probus Club of the Hills Inc

Ken | 02 96296459

## Probus Club - Kellyville Castle Hill Mixed

Meets at 10am on 2nd Thursday of each month at Muirfield Golf Club, Barclay Rd North Rocks. New members welcome.

Pam | 0417 667 067  
pamelaloves66@gmail.com

## Probus Club - Winston Hills Northmead Combined

Meets at 10am at Toongabbie Sports Club, 12 Station St., Toongabbie, 2nd Thursday of the month. New members welcome.

winstonhillspobusclub@gmail.com

Membership Officer | 0421 410 305

## Probus Combined Kellyville Club

Meet 2nd Monday of the month at 10am. At The Glenhaven Community Centre: 76 Glenhaven Road, Glenhaven. New members welcome

Glenys | 0419 616 431 OR

Veronica | 0408 025 577  
glenysclarke@hotmail.com

## RDA (NSW) Tall Timbers Centre

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admin@rdanswtalltimbers.org.au

www.rdanswtalltimbers.org.au

## Red Cross - Castle Hill Branch

Meetings 2nd Friday of the month 10.15am to 11.45am at Wesley Uniting Church, 32-34 Showground Rd, Castle Hill. New members always welcome.

0419 431 084.

## Richmond/Windsor VIEW Club

Richmond/Windsor VIEW Club Which Supports The Smith Family Learning for Life meet on 2nd Wednesday of the month starting at 11.30 at The Richmond Club

Christine Walshaw | 0416073483

## Scouts Australia - Greater Western Sydney Region

9639 2488

www.greaterwestscouts.com.au

## Sleep Disorders Australia - NSW

02 9990 3514

www.sleepoz.org.au

## Soroptimist International The Hills

Meets on the 3rd Monday of the Month at Crestwood Community Centre Baulkham Hills 6.30pm for a 7pm start. Visitors are always welcome. Soroptimists International The Hills is the local branch of a world-wide organisation for women that has been promoting advocacy and action for 100 years.

Cathy | 0435 837 118

sithehills@siwp.org

## The Hills Community Aid and Information Service Inc

9639 8620

## The Hills Learning Centre

02 8850 0555  
RSVP | info@thehillslc.com.au.  
facebook.com/thehillslc

## The Hills Shire Garden Club

9624 5034

## The Hills District Pipe Band

Practices at Stamford Hall, Balcombe Heights Estate, Baulkham Hills every Wednesday night from 7pm-9pm. The band warmly welcomes new members and gig enquiries.

Instagram: @hillsdistrictpipeband

Suzie Whitaker

pipeband.hillsdistrict@gmail.com

www.hillsdistrictpipeband.com

## The Hills Trefoil Guild

Elaine | 0417 330 196

## The Inner Wheel Club of Baulkham Hills

Meets at Aveo Retirement Village, Bella Vista on the 4th Monday of each month at 6.00pm (dinner optional), for meeting at 7.00pm.

Robyn | 9639 2742

## The Sydney Hills Branch of the Association of Independent Retirees

Meeting on Friday, at Beecroft Presbyterian Church Hall, Welham Street Beecroft. Meeting commences at 10.45am. The future topics will be Health, Centrelink, Retirement, Technology Safety and others.

Lauris Rennie | 9634 1186 or

Pam | 0412 737 234

airsydneyhills@gmail.com

## Thursday Ladies Tennis Competition in the Hills District

hillsladiestennis.org

## Wanderers Bushwalking and Outdoor Club

Meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 8 pm at Crestwood Community Centre, Cnr Crestwood Drive and Conway St, Baulkham Hills.

Ted | 0429 790 091

www.bushwalkingnsw.org.au/wanderers

## Windsor RSL Fishing Club

Meets on the last Tuesday of the month at Windsor RSL club at 6:30pm. The club has been established for over 40 years and welcomes new members. It holds regular fishing outings including in land water and deep sea fishing.

Les Mison | 0421 821 1990.

## Windsor Probus Club

Meets at 10am on the 1st Wednesday of each month at Windsor Golf Club, McQuade Ave, South Windsor. New members always welcome.

Membership Officer Alan | 0407721461 or Secretary Ann | 0414298945

## Winston Hills Joey Scouts

9862 8482

hsara@optusnet.com.au

## Wisemans Ferry Community Men's Shed Inc

Meeting Tues and Sat 9am - 5pm

Alan Hunt | 4566 4626 or 0428 784 425

Adrian Acheson | 0448 833 781

## YMCA NSW Community Visitors Scheme

9633 8209 or 0402 255 193

## Zonta Club of Sydney Hills

0414 641 408

www.zontadistrict24.org







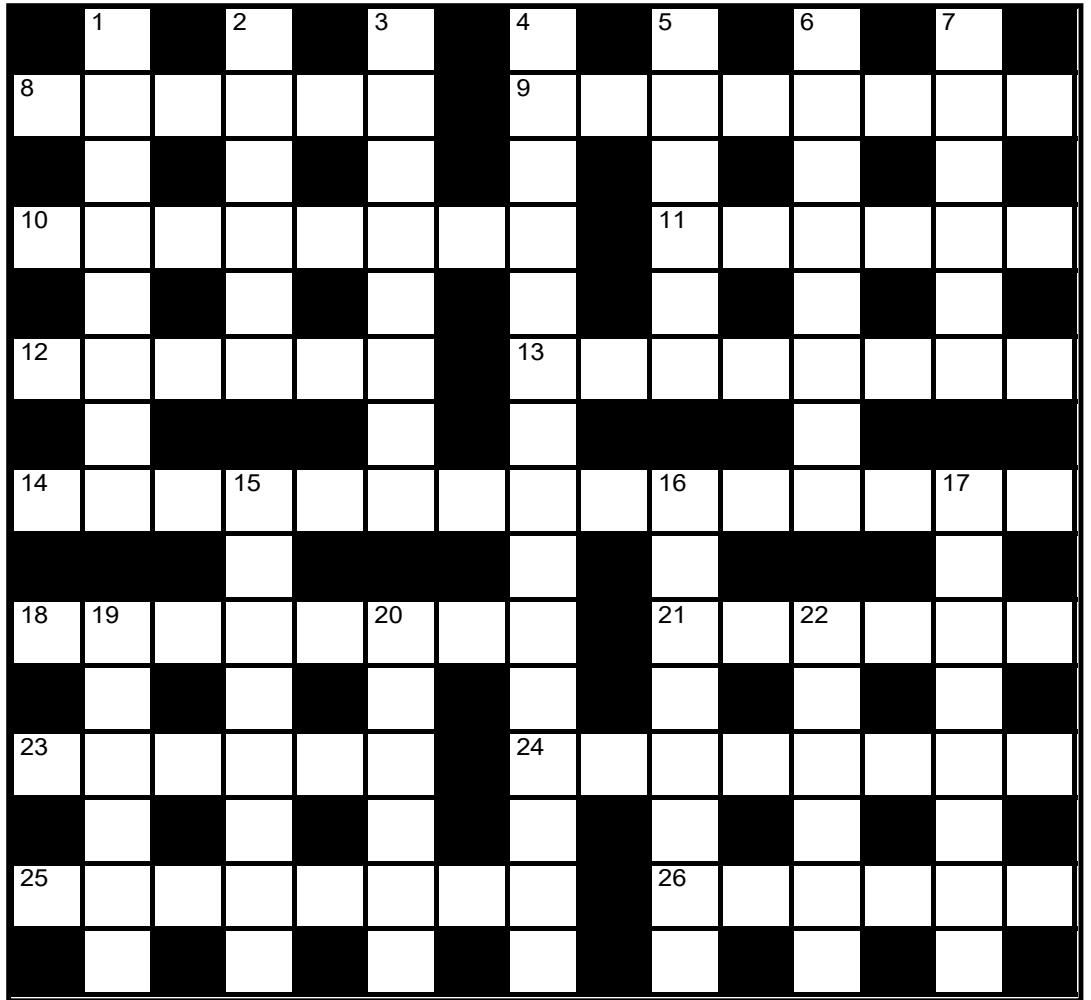
## CROSSWORD

### Across

8. Most intimate
9. Former St. George Dragons pro rugby hooker and national captain (3, 5)
10. "Iron Gloves", Test wicketkeeper (3, 5)
11. Sort of (2, 1, 3)
12. Gun butts
13. What you usually see in a mirror
14. Rare Queensland spider-eating flying mammal (6-6, 3)
18. Patriotic (4, 4)
21. Refuse to accept
23. Deadeye Annie
24. For the few
25. Ghastly
26. SA leader --- Marshall

### Down

1. Not too many (3, 2, 3)
2. Vast
3. Gets cracking (6, 2)
4. Long NW Australian coastal strip (6, 4, 5)
5. Instead (2, 4)
6. Worried
7. East Mediterranean democracy
15. Inhabitants
16. Playful dolphin relative
17. Place for old documents
19. Grounds
20. Give the pink slip (3, 3)
22. Bullying seabird



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

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

Answers from last issue

**CROSSWORD**

S	A	P	S	C	O	N	F	U	S	E	D
T	L	U	U	L	I	R					
A	G	A	I	N	S	T	Y	E	M	E	N
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W	E	S	T	E	R	N	S	A	S	K	S

**SUDOKU**

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

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