

Hills to Hawkesbury

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Local Stories, Local Events, Local People and Local Businesses



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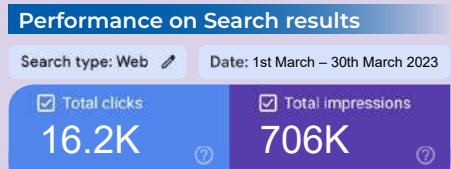
If you like reading the latest news all in one place, well now you can. The Hills to Hawkesbury Community News is now featured on Google News. With the Google News app (or via a web browser) you can now read local, national and international news all in one place. Just search our name, then 'follow' us. Often we carry the same local stories as some of the larger outlets, but ours are free and not behind a paywall.



If you prefer other channels to read news, we are also now on Telegram. Search our channel "Hills to Hawkesbury Community News". The nice thing about Telegram is you see all our news in date order. Unlike Facebook who use an algorithm so THEY decide what you see in your news feed. You can also read our latest news on twitter.

Why Advertise with Hills to Hawkesbury

Having our news published on different platforms means we are consistently increasing our website traffic month on month. Last month 46,000 readers visited our website, So if you are thinking of advertising with us, your ads will be seen by up to 46,000 users per month. We also send our weekly newsletter to over 6000 subscribers. In March our website was shown in search results to 706,000 potential new readers, who clicked through to our website 16,200 times.



Wilberforce Flood Information and Recovery Support Hub

Flood Information and Recovery Support will continue to be offered on the following Wednesdays: 24 April, 1 May, 8 May, and 15 May, from 10am to 2pm at Wilberforce School of Arts – 531 Wilberforce Road, Wilberforce

Services available:

- Service NSW
- Service NSW Business concierge
- NSW Reconstruction Authority – Disaster Relief Team
- Local Land Services
- Multicultural NSW (face to face translating for Cantonese and Mandarin)
- Rural Financial Counsellor
- Red Cross
- Salvation Army
- Anglicare
- Peppercorn Recovery Services & Peppercorn Mental Health Support
- Western Sydney Community Legal Centre/ Legal Aid
- Disaster Recovery Clinicians for mental health support and referral
- Hawkesbury Nepean Valley Disaster Adaption Plan team

Additional information:

- Assistance is also available via www.nsw.gov.au/emergency/floods/recover or by calling Service NSW on 13 77 88 for remote assistance on Monday to Friday between 7am and 7pm.
- Donations can be made through the NSW Government's Official Donation Management Channel



FLOOD WASTE ACCEPTED FREE OF CHARGE BY HAWKESBURY CITY COUNCIL

The Hawkesbury City Waste Management Facility is accepting flood waste free of charge from Hawkesbury residential properties impacted by the recent floods. Residents who are attending the Waste Management Facility are asked to show patience, kindness, and respect to all onsite staff. Traffic control will be in place over the weekend.

Flood waste should not contain prohibited items like soil, fibro, or asbestos. Loads will be checked at the weighbridge as usual. Loads containing asbestos or any other prohibited waste will be rejected. These cannot be accepted even if it is flood waste.

The Waste Management Facility is open to Hawkesbury Local Government Area residents from 8am to 4pm, 7 days a week (excluding public holidays). Please bring proof of address such as a Driver's Licence or Rates Notice. Please note that charges apply for all other waste that is not flood waste and for residential properties that are not flood affected.

The NSW Reconstruction Authority's Pop-Up Flood Recovery Centre that was at Windsor Function Centre is now closed.

Community Hubs

Hawkesbury City Council's Community Partnerships team continues to run active Community Hubs to help residents in the Hawkesbury for details see www.yourhawkesbury-yoursay.com.au/hc

Hills to Hawkesbury Community News

Local Stories, Local Events, Local People and Local Businesses

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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.

Memorial Ave Upgrade

BY BEV JORDAN

Years of roadworks at Memorial Ave Kellyville should finish by the end of 2024 as Stage 1 of the \$224 million project ends and stage 2 begins.

Recent wet weather delayed the planned opening of six lanes on Old Windsor Road at the junction with Memorial Ave this week.

Preliminary work on Memorial Ave, which connects Old Windsor Road and Windsor Road, started in 2019 with electrical works undertaken but public consultation started in 2013.

The busy 2.2km stretch of road, which was used by 30,000 drivers a day before work started and housing development expanded, has been a major road blackspot over the years with multiple accidents.

A report in 2015 detailed that in a five year period there had been 72 crashes resulting in one fatality and 54 people injured.

Civil Engineering Group Daracon was awarded the contract for the main Memorial Ave works in 2020. The finished project will see the two-lane road expanded to four lanes with a future capacity to expand it to six lanes as the area develops.

Stage one the new road has been constructed on the southern side of the existing Memorial Avenue between Old Windsor Road and Hector Court, and on the northern side between Hector Court and Windsor Road.

The first of the twin bridges over Strangers Creek was also built during stage 1, and traffic was aligned onto the eastbound bridge and new road to allow construction of Stage 2.

As Stage 2 starts it will see the new road built opposite Stage 1 and the second part of Strangers Creek bridge to be completed. The wide central median strip will be landscaped, and traffic will be realigned to provide two lanes in both directions.

Labor Spokesperson for Kellyville, Peter Primrose MLC said the new lanes at the intersection of Old Windsor Road will help improve traffic flow and save motorists time.

“The Memorial Avenue upgrade is well on the way, and once complete, will be a game-changer for our growing community.”

“This upgrade will help to manage current traffic as well as allow for the expected increases in traffic with residential and commercial development in the area.”

Castle Hill MP Mark Hodges said he was pleased that the project, announced by the former State Government in 2020, was nearer completion.

“I am pleased motorists travelling between Blacktown and Castle Hill will now see the benefits of the improved network.

The Memorial Avenue upgrade will reduce travel times and congestion for motorists and improve road safety.

The key benefits to the community include:

- Increasing road capacity to cater for traffic growth;
- Improving safety for motorists through the installation of traffic lights and a central median to separate traffic travelling in opposing directions;
- Improving safety for cyclists and pedestrians by providing off-road shared paths;
- Improving travel times between Blacktown and Castle Hill;
- Improving access and travel times for road freight;
- Improving bus accessibility at traffic lights;
- Improved street lighting and landscaping; and
- Facilitating the development of the Balmoral Road release area precinct.



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THE HILLS SES ON ANZAC DAY

SES ADVICE

The SES is warning that coastal showers are predicted to increase over the coming days and are urging people to:

- Trim overhanging trees and branches
- Clean gutters, downpipes and drains
- Check the condition of your rood and fix any issues or leaks

Find out more about how to prepare your home: <https://www.ses.nsw.gov.au/.../before.../prepare-your-home/>

Keep an eye on the Bureau of Meteorology's website for weather forecast updates throughout the week and ensure you have 'Watch Zones' set up on Hazards Near Me App to get notified about any warnings that affect your location.

The NSW SES continues to work closely with the Bureau of Meteorology and monitor the weather situation. We will advise if any further action is needed.

<http://www.bom.gov.au/nsw/warnings/>

STABBING DEATH

A 26-year-old man has been charged with murder following a stabbing in Quakers Hill on Friday 26th April.

Emergency services were called to Narcissus Avenue, Quakers Hill, following reports of a stabbing at about 8.25pm.

Officers attached to Riverstone Police Area Command arrived to find a 28-year-old man with stab wounds to his chest. He was treated at the scene by NSW Ambulance paramedics before being taken to hospital in a critical condition, however he died on the way.

On Sunday (28th April) at about 1.35pm officers attached to Burwood Police Area Command stopped a vehicle on Nipper Street, Strathfield, and arrested a 26-year-old man.

He was taken to Burwood Police Station where he was charged by detectives attached to Riverstone Police Area Command and the State Crime Command's Homicide Squad with murder.

Anyone with information about this incident is urged to contact Crime Stoppers. Information is treated in strict confidence.

STOLEN SUV

A boy is due to appear in children's court today charged after a SUV stolen from Baulkham Hills crashed and caught fire at Seven Hills early on Sunday morning (28th April).

Officers attached to Cumberland Police Area Command were patrolling Goodall Street, Pendle Hill, about 12.05am when an SUV passed them without headlights.

Police attempted to stop the driver; however, they allege the direction was ignored, and a pursuit was initiated.

The SUV continued along the Cumberland Highway and onto Old Windsor Road before turning onto Seven Hills Road, allegedly at high speed.

As the vehicle turned onto Abbott Road it hit an electrical box and caught alight with the driver – and sole occupant – running away.

A perimeter was established and a short time later a police dog tracked down a 15-year-old boy who was arrested and taken to Granville Police Station.

The teen was charged with police pursuit – not stop – drive recklessly, and drive conveyance taken without consent of owner. He's been refused bail and will appear in Parramatta Children's Court today.

The SUV was reported stolen from a home in Baulkham Hills on Thursday 25th April.

DV SUPPORT

The Hills Police Area Command, in partnership with the Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service (WDVCAS), are continuing an initiative to support vulnerable women who are subjected to domestic violence that require additional support and are not able to attend a Police Station.

If in immediate danger call 000, however if you are not able to come to the station, or have Police come to your home, there is a safe space setting within the Hills, that Police and specialist DV Support Workers will meet with you.

Call or SMS 0421670020 or email oloa.savaiinaea@wscls.org.au (WDVCAS)

CHARGES LAID

Detectives attached to Strike Force Sweetenham have charged one adult and two teens following inquiries into the alleged theft of two luxury vehicles from a Dural property.

Police say a white convertible Ferrari and a BMW sedan were allegedly stolen from a property on Old Northern Road, Dural between 3am and 3.45am on Tuesday 16th April.

Following inquiries, officers located the vehicles parked outside premises on Perigee Close, Doonside, later that day.

At about 2am on Friday (19th April), a Mazda CX-9 was allegedly stolen from Constitution Hill.

The vehicle was sighted on Richmond Road, Prospect, and briefly pursued by officers attached to Highway Patrol before being terminated on the Great Western Highway.

About 2.30am the vehicle was sighted abandoned on Doig Street, Northmead.

A short time later – with the assistance of Polair and the Dog Unit – three people were located in bushland near Hood Street, Northmead.

An 18-year-old man and two boys, aged 15 and 17, were arrested.

The 15-year-old was charged with 15 counts of break and enter offences, 14 counts of stolen vehicle offences, as well as being the first person charged under Section 154K – performance crime offence (Post and Boast), and breach of bail.

The 17-year-old was charged with aggravated break enter and steal, and be carried in conveyance without consent.

The 18-year-old man was charged with aggravated break enter and steal, and be carried in conveyance without consent.

About 9.40pm on Friday 19th April he was charged with a further 12 counts of aggravated break and enter offences, 10 counts of stolen vehicle offences, and charged under Section 154K – Performance crime offence (Post and Boast).

Officers from the North West Region Response Squad supported by Hills Police have arrested say the break and enters included: Murrayfield Ave, Kellyville April 6th, and Bernabeau Street North Kellyville on April 7th.

Nurses Protest

BY BEV JORDAN

Staff at Hawkesbury District Health Service are celebrating a huge win after Health NSW agreed to transfer leave entitlements when the running of Hawkesbury Hospital transfers from St John of God to the Department of Health at the end of June.

The announcement came on Tuesday (April 30th) following months of anxiety.

Hawkesbury District Health Service has been operated by St John of God Health Care for the past eight years since the service was transferred from Catholic Care which had run the hospital since 1996.

Over 700 staff at the 131-bed hospital were informed in March that their accrued annual and long service leave would not be transferred due to legal implications between private sector and public sector systems.

Nurses and midwives protested outside Hawkesbury Hospital at Windsor in their own time last week calling for a smooth and seamless transition, fearing they wouldn't have any leave available from July 1.

Branch secretary of the NSW Nurses and Midwives Association Hawkesbury District Health Service, Ben Wright, (representing over 200 staff) said the decision was a "huge relief".

He said over 100 people had joined last week's rally outside the hospital which was supported by both Liberal State MP Robyn Preston and Federal Labor MP Susan Trepleman.

"We ran a petition on change.org which received more than 2,000 signatures in just a weekend." He said locals were very supportive of their stance.

He said the letter informing staff that entitlements could not be transferred but would be paid out was a "massive shock" to staff members and would have affected the "most loyal and hardworking" staff.

He said some staff had accrued hundreds of hours to take when they needed for surgery and recovery, family reasons or transition to retirement option. "It wasn't about the money but about the time available to them and the tax bill."

Staff were told on Tuesday afternoon (April 30th) that their entitlements would be transferred.

"We are so grateful," said Ben.

NSWNMA Hawkesbury District Health Service Branch Delegate, Ann Jackson, who has worked at the hospital for almost 30 years, said it showed what could be achieved when members and the community banded together.

"So many healthcare workers and their families came together to support our own-time rally last week, and it really demonstrated what a fantastic community we have in the Hawkesbury.



Nurses protest outside Hawkesbury Hospital

Time off with our families is priceless. We are so pleased the government has now recognised this and has found a solution that allows us to keep our well-earned leave entitlements," she said.

"We are very appreciative to the NSWNMA, NSW Health and St John of God Health Care for working together to resolve this for us."

NSWNMA General Secretary, Shaye Candish, said it was a fantastic result for Hawkesbury's hardworking nurses and midwives. "We thank the NSW Government and St John of God Health Care for working collaboratively with us on this issue to achieve a positive outcome for staff. We know this has been an incredibly stressful and anxious time for our members, so this decision means a lot to them and their families."



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Artist redefining Graffiti

By Sophie Poredos

Local South Windsor Artist and TAFE teacher, Cameron Marbus, is looking to change the public perception of graffiti art.

As a TAFE teacher for Signwriting, Cameron partnered up with his friends, Andrew and Paul, to paint a free mural outside the back of FoodWorks in South Windsor. This particular street-art, like many of Cameron's around the area, has been praised by the local public for its positivity and uplifting image.

"I live local and I've always seen the wall and asked Allen, the owner of Foodworks, do you mind if we do something for free? It was a great Easter weekend, we spent the whole thing laughing and doing what we love. That's something that money can't put a price on.

Another recent project over Christmas in 2023, was the revitalised Heritage Water Tank along the Windsor promenade in conjunction with Windsor Rotary club. This joint project sought iconic symbols from Windsor's rich agriculture but also aimed to bring a sense of youth culture to the historical area.

"My biggest drive wasn't money, but trying to prove what graffiti actually was. A lot of us

are quite skillful in the art and have gone to build professional careers".

However, Cameron acknowledged the stigma surrounding graffiti art, and with 27 years of experience, he has seen firsthand the lack of respect with tagging culture. "I don't blame anyone for thinking what they do about graffiti, until they've met someone like me where I can kind of shake that grey area away. Years ago, the public thought we were all the same. It's been a hard 10-15 years, but my friends and I have all grown up here and believe that going around doing these free murals has really shifted the perception. Now, people come up to us and compliment our work, even offering free cold drinks!"

Winning the Hawkesbury Business Award in 2023 and 2022 for 'Entertainment and the Arts', Cameron runs his business Aerosol Obsessions and praises Graffiti for building his confidence. A lot of his work features an emphasis of 'Lettering', a street-art style that focuses on bright and bold text as the centrepiece for his work.

Changing the stereotype for young people, Cameron partnered up with one of his friends, Paul Zoeller from Paul.Riot to create the 'Walls Out West Paint Jam' in 2023.

This event aimed at celebrating Western Sydney Street Art for emerging artists and had a live painting of over 20 murals. At present, Cameron is also working with Blacktown Council to create a series of workshops to create safe spaces for young people to practice, with ambitions for more and asks people:

"Don't just write us off as delinquent and don't write the kids off either!"

You can visit Cameron and his fellow artists' Minion mural at the back of Foodworks

South Windsor, on Mullinger Lane and the Water Tank Mural in Windsor can be found along the corner of Johnson Street and The Terrace.

The Spectacular Hawkesbury Show

by Sophie Poredos

The annual Hawkesbury Show, "Where the Country Meets the City", celebrated its 137th show as Sophie Poredos explored what the show had to offer.

The humble origins of the Hawkesbury Show in 1845 at Clarendon marked its establishment as an Agricultural Show. With crowd popularity, it eventually formed as the Hawkesbury District Agricultural Association in 1879. Ever since then, the Hawkesbury Show has been hailed as a family favourite and has been put on almost every year.

However, the Hawkesbury Show in 2024 conjures images of chip-on-a-stick, decadent show bags and elaborate face painting. I attended the opening Friday evening on the 19th of April and was incredibly inspired by the young exhibitors in the main arena including the Hot Wheels Stunt Team and the show jumping competitors.

Pursuing the rows of beautiful market stalls, there was something for everyone, from candles, honey and surprisingly, a computer-read tarot experience. Even the showbag warehouse seemed to draw an endless crowd, with crowd favourites such as Bertie Beetle making their appearance.

But perhaps the most unique and overlooked experience isn't the daring roller coasters that made you sick simply by staring at them - but the sense of community that the Hawkesbury Show seems to ignite.

As NSW's biggest regional agricultural show, I spoke to some of the craft stalls within the Hawkesbury Pavilion to understand the role



The Ferris Wheel Ride at the Hawkesbury Show is a must!

of the community within exciting events like these. With their products out for display, the community was invited to share in their various crafting endeavours.

Concluding the evening with a fantastic set of fireworks next to the adorable pony rides, the Hawkesbury Show was a jam-packed event of animals, people, and community. Next year might be the time when I finally upgrade from the Ferris Wheel to a rollercoaster!



Jim Green (right) showcasing his art in his stall, Jimbo's Metal Art. To the right is his metal dragon sculpture.



Kurrajong Handspun Crafts items on display for sale



Liz Germani in front of a newly repurposed exhibition truck to showcase their artists' products.

Funeral for FARAZ

BY BEV JORDAN

An estimated 1,000 people attended the funeral to honour security officer Faraz Tahir at Baitul Huda Mosque at Marsden Park on Friday (26th April).

Faraz lost his life trying to protect people from a knifeman at Westfield Bondi Junction on Saturday, 13th April.

Five women stabbed on that day also died, Jade Young, Ashlee Good, Dawn Singleton, Pikria Darchia, and Yixuan Cheng. Twelve others were wounded, including Ashlee's nine-month-old daughter and security guard Muhammad Taha. He left Royal Prince Alfred Hospital to attend the funeral in a wheelchair. He said: "It's very painful. I can't even sleep. Lots of nightmares."

Faraz, a refugee from Pakistan, would have turned 31 this week. He was a member of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community and volunteered his time with a Muslim youth organisation. It was his first day shift at Westfield Bondi Junction when a 40-year-old knifeman started attacking people that Saturday afternoon.

Faraz's family members, including his three brothers, travelled from overseas to be at the service. His eldest brother Mudasar Bashir said: "He was very brave and he was strong ... he was the bravest person I've ever seen."



Inamul Haq Kauser, President of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community of Australia said: "His sacrifice has been recognised by all Australians. Although he was a stranger in this country ... he sacrificed his life for all Australians."

He said an annual blood donation program has been set up in Faraz's name ... giving blood to save others.

Mourners at Friday's service included Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Premier Chris Minns.

GIVING BLOOD

The campaign, Faraz's Gift, has been established in partnership with Red Cross Lifeblood to encourage Australians to give blood.

Adnan Qadir, President of AMYA, said: "With 'Faraz's Gift,' we honor Faraz and the five courageous individuals who lost their lives, by inviting Australians to help continue their legacy. This blood drive is a tribute to their spirit of community service and bravery."

There are several pop-up Lifeblood collection centres in the Hawkesbury, Hills and Blacktown areas. To find out where and how to donate contact Lifeblood 13 14 95 or visit <https://www.lifeblood.com.au/donor-centre>

Mr Albanese said Faraz's life was about giving back.

"His kindness uplifted all those it touched – and it inspired all those who witnessed it.

"It is so fitting that the Ahmadiyya Muslim community are helping honour Faraz Tahir's life with a blood drive.

"Faraz Tahir gave everything to help others: his time, his energy, his optimism and dedication, his heart and his soul. And on that devastating Saturday afternoon at Bondi Junction, he gave his life. Running toward danger, to protect people he had never even met. Without doubt, he helped save lives that day. Without question, Faraz Tahir died a hero."

Following the ceremony Faraz was buried at Riverstone Cemetery.

ANZAC Services

All over the Hills and Hawkesbury thousands of people young and old gathered to pay their respects to the fallen.

There were services leading up to ANZAC Day and services from Dawn to dusk on ANZAC day as people showed they wouldn't forget. The following have come from several sources.

More on page 17.



Anzac Glenorie



ANZAC Day Windsor



ANZAC March Richmond



Richmond Dawn service

Help, Where did my hearing go?

RECOGNISING AND ADDRESSING SUDDEN SENSORINEURAL HEARING LOSS

Sudden sensorineural hearing loss can catch anyone off guard. It can affect one or both ears, it may leave you feeling like your ears are underwater or blocked, and possibly accompanied by ringing or buzzing sounds. This can happen to people with or without a previous hearing loss. For those wearing hearing aids, it may appear as a technical issue. But how do you know if it's happened to you?

The key sign is a rapid change in your hearing, occurring within minutes to hours or over a couple of days. If your hearing alters significantly within 24 hours, don't delay – get it checked. Don't "sleep on it" or take a "wait and see" approach to see if it improves on its own; seek advice promptly from an audiology clinic.

Why an Audiologist or Audiometrist?

GPs may lack the tools to diagnose sudden hearing loss. While they certainly can inspect your ears, most do not have the equipment to perform detailed hearing tests identifying if a sudden sensorineural hearing loss may be the cause for your complaint. Our clinicians can assess various parts of your hearing and ears comprehensively, pinpointing issues like a sudden hearing loss and advise the best course of action.

Why the urgency?

Sudden sensorineural hearing loss is indeed a medical emergency. The sooner targeted treatment can commence, the more likely a successful outcome is, and your hearing can be restored. In some cases, the hearing loss may recover partially or not at all, which is why it is important to seek treatment maximising the chances of recovery.

Sudden sensorineural hearing loss can be caused by swelling in blood vessels supplying the inner ear. Treatment is prescribed by your GP or ENT and aims to reduce swelling and restore blood flow to the affected area promptly, therefore minimising any permanent damage. The causes of sudden hearing loss can vary, often it remains a mystery. However, swift intervention is the key for recovery, regardless of the cause.

Don't ignore sudden changes in your hearing.

Take the proactive step of scheduling an appointment with a clinician at an audiology clinic – no referrals are needed for adults. They'll conduct assessments, report and collaborate with your GP on treatment plans, and refer you to specialists if necessary.

Hello?



While sudden sensorineural hearing loss requires urgent attention, other ear issues like infections or wax blockages may produce similar symptoms but are less time-sensitive. Treatment pathways of course will depend on the individual situation and can range from a wax removal in our clinic to a referral with a specialist.

If you believe you may be suffering from sudden hearing loss, don't hesitate to reach out to our friendly team at Ear Studio on 02 9159 6122. We will consider your concerns and ensure you receive the care you need promptly. Don't let hearing loss catch you off guard – act swiftly to safeguard your hearing health. You can visit www.earstudio.com.au for more information or to book online. We are happy to help find a time that is suitable for you. We are open Monday to Thursday from 9am to 5pm and Fridays from 9am to 4pm and are located at Lawton House in Castle Hill (Suites 9-10 / 60 Cecil Ave). "Proudly independent and locally owned"

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At Ear Studio we understand that there are many reasons why you may have stopped wearing your hearing aids. Please take the time to read our article above explaining 3 benefits of wearing your hearing devices all day. Our highly skilled team at Ear Studio are here to assist you and help you hear well again - Call us today to book in your consultation.



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Hills domestic violence awareness and fundraising evening

BY DR MICHELLE BYRNE

After the incredible success of the inaugural Hills domestic violence awareness and fundraising evening in 2023, the event returns to Norwest Rydges on May 16.

The event forms part of the domestic violence prevention month, which aims to raise awareness of the devastating impact domestic and family violence has on individuals, families and the community at large.

In the past two weeks we have seen the alleged domestic violence murders of Molly Ticehurst, Emma Bates and Erica Hay. We have seen the outrage and the numerous rallies that have been held around the country including right here in the Hills.

According to Destroy the Joint, a Facebook page committed to recording the deaths of women as result of violence, 28 women already have lost their lives this year across Australia – almost double the number of deaths since the same period in 2023.

The domestic and family scourge is getting worse not better, and more has to be done to bring the violence to an end.

This year's speaker at the Hills domestic awareness and fundraising evening is Gwen Cherne, the inaugural Veteran Family Advocate Commissioner. Gwen's career has taken her all around the world, including the US, Australia, Afghanistan, Africa, Central and South America, and the Caribbean. She also has her own lived experience of military family life, mental health issues and recovery, family and domestic violence and intimate partner violence.

The funds raised from the event will go to support the DV programs run by Hills Community Aid (HCA) and the Hills Transitional Housing Project.

In the past year alone there has been a 28% increase in the number of people asking HCA for help as a result of domestic violence. From the funds raised from last year's event 74 clients have been helped so far.

One example is Suzie*, a client of HCA who recently escaped with her 6 children from domestic violence. Her ex-partner burnt all their clothes and threatened to burn the children's Christmas gifts. He has since been charged with damage and assault and the family have some assurance of safety now that an AVO is in place against him. Through funds raised from the DV Fundraiser HCA assisted Suzie and her children in purchasing new clothes, and essential food items.

Another example of the people the funds raised from last year is Carly*, a single parent with 3 dependents aged 17, 13 & 12 years who had fled the family home because of domestic violence. As a result of funds raised from last year's event, HCA was able to assist Carly with vouchers to purchase food and essential items for her and the children.

Mici Beer, CEO of HCA is encouraging as many people as possible to attend this year's event.

"We need your support! Our community needs your support! Every year we are experiencing an increase in the number of people who are experiencing Domestic and Family Violence who need our assistance. Please purchase a ticket and join us at The Hills Domestic Violence Fundraiser on 16 May" she said.

As a result of funds raised from last year's event the Hills Transitional Housing project now has two houses in operation and is housing women and children who would have otherwise been homeless.

This important event is sponsored by Rydges Norwest and Castle Towers.

For more information about the Hills DV awareness and fundraising evening or to purchase a ticket go to <https://hca.org.au/event/c/>

*Names have been changed to protect their identities.




Celebrate
Connections
to our Heritage at Bella Vista Farm

Sunday, 5th May 9.00am-3.00pm

Corner of Norwest Boulevard and Elizabeth Macarthur Drive, Bella Vista

Satisfy your curiosity about this iconic heritage property.

- Devonshire Teas
- Sausage Sizzle
- Music played by members of the HSSO
- Tours of the House
- Heritage garden
- Free Parking

Bushwalking adventures in the beautiful Hawkesbury!

The Hawkesbury region offers a variety of bushwalking tracks for outdoor enthusiasts. Whether you're a novice or an experienced hiker, there's something for everyone. Located so close to Sydney, it is a hidden gem!

The Hawkesbury region boasts beautiful world heritage locations, impressive rivers and more national parks than any other part of Sydney. The Hawkesbury is cradled by four gigantic parks - the Blue Mountains National Park to the west, Yengo and Dharug National Parks to the north and the mighty Wollemi National Park to the north-west. These parks provide a stunning backdrop for walking.

Bushwalking allows you to connect with nature, plus the serene environment, the crisp fresh air, and natural vistas gives you the opportunity to enjoy a break from the hustle and bustle of busy life.

Bushwalking delivers an opportunity to spend time with friends and family. Sharing an experience with others enhances the enjoyment and heightens the fun of exploration. People love to see new places. Bushwalking takes them to unspoiled environments, hidden trails, and scenic vistas that they might not encounter otherwise. And of course there are some spectacular spots for that enviable Instagram post!

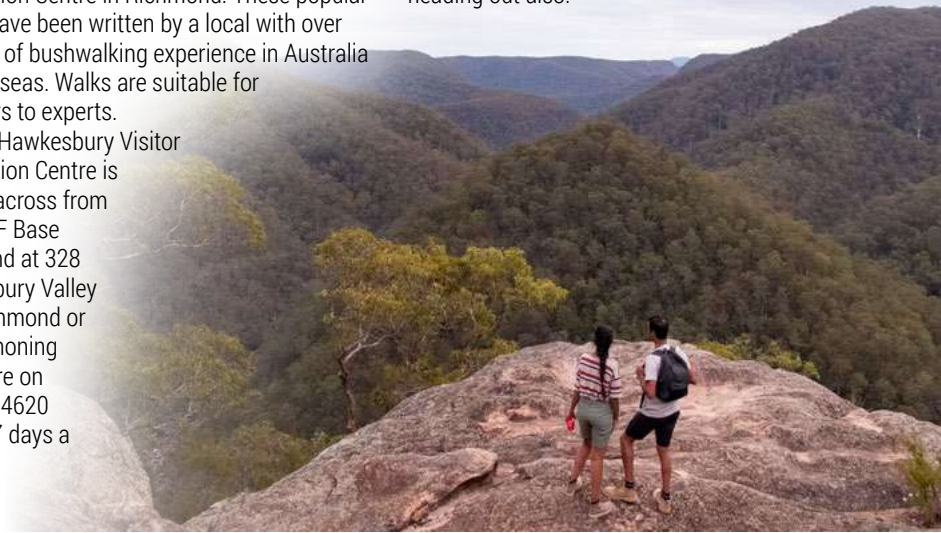
Many people head up to the Blue Mountains to go hiking but we think the bushwalks around the Hawkesbury region are just as good!

You can explore foothills, gorges, valleys, and lookouts. Some areas you may cover during your hikes include the Colo River, Wisemans Ferry, Bowen Mountain, Grose Vale, and Mount Wilson.

We suggest investing in copies of the "Best Bushwalks Around the Hawkesbury" Editions 1 and 2, available from the Hawkesbury Visitor Information Centre in Richmond. These popular guides have been written by a local with over 35 years of bushwalking experience in Australia and overseas. Walks are suitable for beginners to experts.

The Hawkesbury Visitor Information Centre is located across from the RAAF Base Richmond at 328 Hawkesbury Valley Way Richmond or by telephoning the centre on 02 4560 4620 (9-4pm 7 days a week).

Check out this additional resource on the Hawkesbury Visitor Information Centre website: <https://www.discoverthehawkesbury.com.au/trending/daypackinshape> It will help plan your day out in the bush – the article outlines suggestions and is a guide for what to take on a daywalk. Remember to check the National Parks website for any trail closures before heading out also.

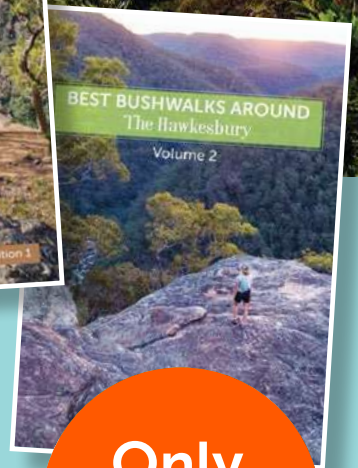


With the weather cooling down it's the perfect time to get out and explore the Hawkesbury's best bushwalking tracks.

Our best-selling guides are suitable for beginners, intermediate and experienced bushwalkers.

The guides cover over 20 walks in the Hawkesbury region and include useful maps and advice.

Areas to discover include the Colo River, Grose River, Wisemans Ferry, Bowen Mountain and Yarramundi.



Only \$6 each



**Available from the Hawkesbury Visitor Information Centre,
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**Scan for more information or visit
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Tiny Home Expo 2024

The third annual Tiny Home Expo is coming to the Hawkesbury Showgrounds, Clarendon, from Friday 24th May - Sunday 26th May.



Expo organisers say the event is gathering more and more interest as people seek alternative solutions to a multitude of pressures from rental stress, the housing crisis, aged care alternatives, and options for young people wanting to save rental money.

“While initially the tiny house movement was in the realm of alternative lifestyles, a greener solution and coming from the aspect of having less ‘stuff’, in more recent years it has attracted a much wider audience in search of solutions to an array of issues, the most obvious one being the housing crisis,” said expo organiser Phae Barrett. “The tiny houses are also a hit for hospitality set-ups such as Farm Stay and AirBNB, enticing many acreage owners to utilise space as an income stream”.

“Few people realise how easy it is to find land to use and how simple it is to live in such a small space, and fewer people realise how life-changing it can be to have peace of mind and no mortgage, less stuff and a simpler living arrangement. Whilst some council areas are making it difficult to live in a tiny house, other councils such as Shell Harbour are mirroring VIC and WA councils who have successfully implemented Tiny House policies”.

It is understood from the Australian Tiny House Association that 11 more NSW councils are looking in to Tiny House policies right now - something that could possibly make a huge impact on those struggling to find housing in the region.

TINY HOME EXPO

Hawkesbury Showgrounds

24, 25, 26 May

FRI: 10AM-3PM

SAT 9AM-5PM

SUN 9AM-5PM

TICKETS

Tickets online or at the gate
www.tinyhomesexpo.com.au

“
 SO MANY
 HOMES IN
 ONE PLACE
 ”



“
 BOUGHT
 MY FIRST
 TINY HOME
 ”



“
 WHAT A
 WONDERFUL
 SHOW
 ”



"They're such a tangible item – something that needs to be seen, touched, felt and stood in – so it is awesome that people can come to an expo and be able to physically view so many different designs and spaces as well as talk to each builder in person," said Lance, another of the organisers. "We have micro tiny rooms/offices/backyard pods and large modular style suites that can be used as Granny Flats. And everything in between. Many are on wheels and are either single storey or have upstairs bedrooms. The layouts are quite diverse."

In addition, the expo features talks and advice on finding land; dealing with councils; how to go totally off-grid with solar, water and toilets; towing; finance, glamping, small space design and general ideas.

"It really does open your mind to many possibilities, and people are often mind-blown

by the quality and spacious, modern and luxury feel of these houses," said Jodie, who attended last year's expo and has chosen her tiny house builder. "I am super-excited to start living tiny and changing my life."

The Tiny Home Expo is at Hawkesbury Showgrounds on Friday, 24 March, from 10am-3pm, Saturday and Sunday, 24th-26th May, from 9am-5pm. The expo has a staggered ticketing system to reduce queuing into display houses, with tickets ranging from \$20-\$35; children are free. You can also find a comprehensive Q&A section at www.tinyhomesexpo.com.au



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Thanks for seeing us at the 2024 Hawkesbury Show – our best ever!

More than 17,000 people came to see the displays at the Hawkesbury City Council tent at the 2024 Hawkesbury Show, watch nature shows, receive a free plant, and find out about Council's latest projects.

The Mayor of Hawkesbury Sarah McMahon said a record number of people visited Council's tent over the three-day event.

Council's exhibit also won Second Prize for Best Public Service Exhibit. At the Council tent:

- 450 people pledged to be river safe
- 300 people provided feedback on how they want Council to communicate with them
- 900 native plants were given away by Hawkesbury Community Nursery

More than 3,000 people learned about and provided feedback on current projects on exhibition including the Cultural Plan, the multimillion-dollar Western Sydney Infrastructure Grant projects and Council's Community Strategic Plan. To see more information about these current projects, and to Have Your Say, visit www.yourhawkesbury-yoursay.com.au

"Thank you everyone who met us at the Show and saw our wonderful displays and enjoyed our activities," Mayor McMahon said.

"Everyone had a great time learning about bugs and frogs and spiders with the fun workshops with Tom from Hooked by Nature. Visitors to the Council tent had the chance to pat a cockroach and see frogs and spiders. The nature workshops included learning how Habitat is important for native fauna.

"We're so glad that visitors to our Show tent, both local and beyond the Hawkesbury, come back to see us each year to find out the good work we are doing, to do the fun Passport activity and to meet us. We are proud to sponsor this major event in the Hawkesbury."

The Hawkesbury Show Passport activity saw more than 1,500 passports given out, with children and their families going on a special mission to meet all the Emergency Services personnel – Richmond RAAF, NSW Rural Fire Service, NSW Police Force, Fire and Rescue, St John Ambulance and Peppercorn Services Inc. at their displays to win a prize. Council also participated in the Grand Parade, with Paulie the garbage truck driver proudly driving the Council Garbage truck as part of the big procession.

Visitor Information Centre staff told everyone about Bilpin's Apple Pie Trail and volunteers promoted the great things

happening at the Hawkesbury Regional Gallery, Hawkesbury Regional Museum and Hawkesbury Library Service. The Community Services team was on hand talking about flood recovery and community support.

Council also launched its first ever Bin Bunch colouring in competition during the Hawkesbury Show. The competition is to introduce its new characters Captain Recycle, General Waste and Gardener Green.

The colouring in competition is still open, to download an online colouring in picture and to see terms and conditions, visit www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/for-residents/waste-and-recycling/bin-bunch-colouring-in-competition The competition is open to students up to Year 6, in five categories – Preschool, Kindy, Year 1 to Year 2, Year 3 and 4, and Year 5 and 6. The winner in each category will win a Lego Duplo, Friends, City.

Councils welcome Transport for NSW taking on Lower Portland Ferry

The Hills Shire and Hawkesbury City Councils have welcomed the NSW Government's announcement that it will accept the management of the Lower Portland Ferry, with the transfer anticipated to occur later this year.

The announcement follows years of advocacy work by both councils and the Member for Hawkesbury Robyn Preston MP calling for the ferry to be managed by the State Government like the other ferries on the Hawkesbury River.

Hawkesbury City Mayor Sarah McMahon said the decision made perfect sense.

"Hawkesbury City Council has been asking Transport for NSW to take on the management of the ferry for some time, and this decision is very much a welcome one," Mayor McMahon said.

"This is a win for the Council and a win for the community. This will allow for the seamless and efficient coordination of all ferry services in the Hawkesbury and The Hills under one authority to deliver a more predictable service for motorists.

"Until now, Lower Portland Ferry was one of the very few in NSW that was still being managed at the local government level. This

decision brings this ferry in line with the vast majority of others across the State."

Mayor of The Hills Shire Council, Dr Peter Gangemi said this outcome would be beneficial for the community.

"Alongside Hawkesbury City Council and the Member for Hawkesbury Robyn Preston, The Hills Shire Council has been advocating for Transport for NSW to take over this service for many years," Mayor Gangemi said.

"The decision paves the way for greater collective local and state government investment in the rural parts of The Hills Shire and the Hawkesbury Local Government Areas.

"I would like to thank the residents, Robyn Preston and the Councillors and staff of both councils who have been tirelessly fighting for this outcome."

Member for Hawkesbury Robyn Preston MP stated: "I have been a strong advocate for

preserving the ferry service since becoming the Member for Hawkesbury. This has resulted in securing funding to keep the ferry running, followed by the NSW Government taking over the ferry's management. I am grateful to the community and both the Hawkesbury and The Hills councils for supporting my efforts. This is a great outcome for the community, and it will benefit residents, businesses, and tourism in this beautiful section of The Hills and the Hawkesbury."

Transport for NSW will commence management of the ferry from 1 October 2024, with negotiations for an earlier transfer currently underway.

Lower Portland Ferry is currently out of service while essential maintenance is carried out. Work is on track to be completed in late April/early May.



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HILLS RELAY FOR LIFE

BY BEV JORDAN

Former Castle Hill High School Captain Lachlan Forrest was in Year 9 when he took part in his first Hills Relay For Life event.

Lachlan, who now volunteers on the Hills Relay For Life organising committee said the 2019 Relay was "mind blowing".

He said supporting the event, which raises funds for the Cancer Council, is important to him as he was three years old when he lost his dad, Jeffrey, to cancer.

"I always wanted to be involved in supporting the Cancer Council," he said.

The youngest of the three children (his brother was six years old and his sister four) when his dad died.

"My dad had kidney cancer diagnosed in June 202, two months after my brother was born, and had his kidney removed. He had an 18-hour operation in August 2004 (when cancer returned) and had radiation therapy. In 2008 he was diagnosed yet again with cancer in his chest, had another round of radiation and died later that year. He's the reason I Relay," said Lachlan.

He said taking part in Relay was an opportunity to do something positive.

"I went from having an individual pain to a shared pain and we are all motivated for the same outcome. The atmosphere is amazing, it is a very different experience and very hard to explain."

JOIN RELAY

The 2024 Hills Relay For Life will be held at Castle Hill Showground starting at 9am on Saturday May 18th with the first lap for survivors and carers at 10am. It will be followed by a packed program of entertainment and activities on the day. The moving candlelight Hope Ceremony will be held at 6pm.

On Sunday, May 19th dog morning returns. The last lap for the 2024 Hills Relay is just before 10am on Sunday May 19th.

Hills Relay for Life chair Lisa Carruthers said it is a wonderful community event to be part of with the committee reflecting the diversity of the people who walk, run and visit Relay.

Registration for over 18s is \$30. Student registration (14 to 17) is \$20 Youth (8-13) is \$15. Children under 7 are free.

An information session is being held on Tuesday, May 7th at Castle Hill RSL at 6.30pm. To register online visit <https://www.relayforlife.org.au/event/hills-2024/home> or email yvette.haines@nswcc.org.au or call 9354 2007.

Lachlan says walking the track with friends from his school and others has been a highlight.

Castle Hill High School students and staff have been supporting the Hills Relay For Life since the first event held at Castle Hill Showground in 2001.

Several other local schools have been involved for many years.

Lachlan now volunteers on the community organising committee and is co-ordinating schools at the event.

This year eight high schools have registered to join the 2024 Hills Relay For Life which starts at 9am on May 18th and finishes on Sunday morning. Castle Hill High will be joined by students and staff from Crestwood High at Baulkham Hills, Kellyville High, Rouse Hill Anglican College, Glenwood High, The Kings School and Hills Grammar at Kenthurst. Baulkham Hills High is also supportive.

Schools have been fundraising at a furious pace with Glenwood High already raising over \$11,000, Castle Hill High over \$7,000, Rouse Hill Anglican College over \$5,000 and Kellyville High nearly \$3,500.



Lachlan Forrest at the 2023 Hills relay with Dougla the Relay bear.

WHY WE RELAY

Holly Ruffell, (pictured on the cover with Hayley Mitchell and 12-week old Billie Mitchell at the 2023 Hills Relay For Life) was around 8 years old when she took part in her first Hills Relay For Life around 20 years ago. She had lost two grandparents to cancer but since then has lost other people to cancer including a very close friend.

"I love the whole community feel of Relay", says Holly. "I love going round to all the different stalls and getting everyone together."

"When I was young I loved putting the Handprints on the HOPE sign. Now I love the Box Car rally. The silent disco is also a lot of fun. Writing on the Hope Bag is a special time."



Pipers leading the Survivors and Carers lap at the 2023 Hills Relay For Life

Hills Relay For Life

CELEBRATE. REMEMBER, FIGHT BACK.

REGISTER TODAY!

Sat 18 & Sun 19 May 2024
9am - 9am

Help us achieve a cancer free future by starting or joining a team! Celebrate cancer survivorship, remember loved ones lost and fight back against cancer.

Every dollar raised will go towards funding world-class research, prevention and support services, as well as helping patients both today and in the future.

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Join us at Hills Relay For Life 2024

Sat 18 & Sun 19 May
9.00am - 9.00am

Castle Hill Showground
Castle Hill

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yvette.haines@nswcc.org.au (02) 9354 2007

Celebrate
 Remember
 Fight back

www.relayforlife.org.au/event/hills-2024

www.facebook.com/groups/289806063683739



Veterans Rees John and Cheryl Hill with Hills Shire Mayor Peter Gangemi

ANZAC DAY CASTLE HILL

Thousands of people stood silently to honour those who have served their country at a service organised by Castle Hill RSL sub-branch at the Centenary of ANZAC Reserve on Thursday.

Commodore Terry Morrison paused his address at the Dawn service as a C-130J Hercules Aircraft flew over the 10,000 plus crowd.

It was the first time the service was live-streamed. Castle Hill Sub-branch President Cheryl Hill said as well as the 10,000 plus who attended the Dawn Service in person another 2,500 watched the live stream.

"The flyover was spectacular and totally unexpected. We would like to thank the Police, SES, St John's Ambulance and all the volunteers who helped make ANZAC Day such a special occasion to remember our fallen heroes," she said.

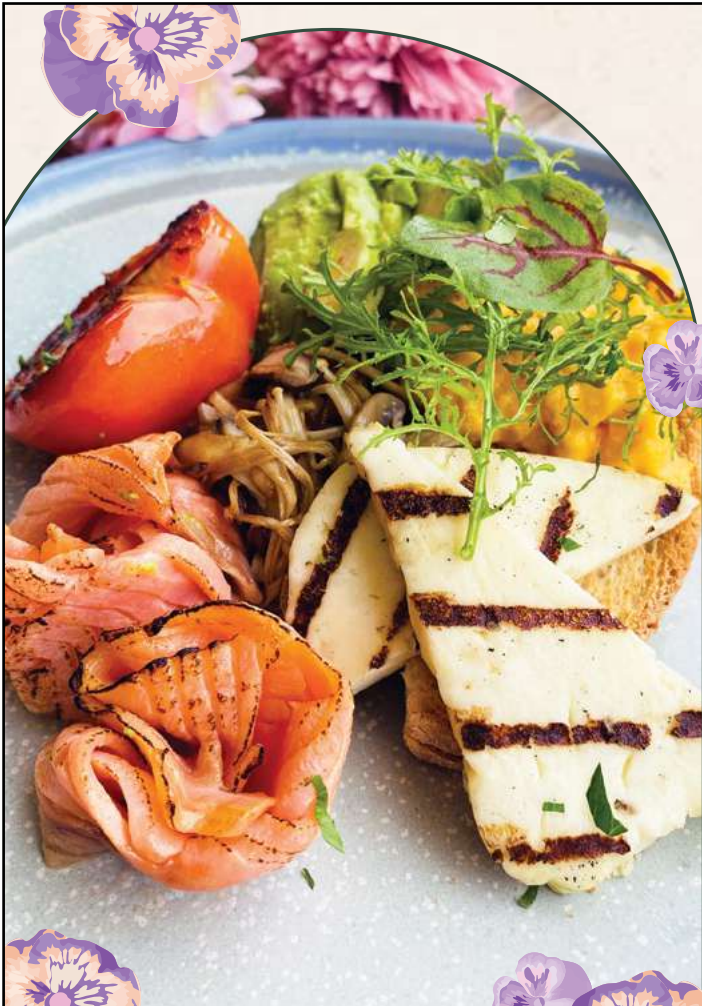
There was also a good turnout at a Dawn Service organised by the Parramatta RSL sub-branch.



Commodore Terry Morrison with his Sea Cadet daughter



Hills Anzac Day Ambassadors: Anika Pandey, Jacob Carr, Isabelle Henderson and William Go



12TH MAY 2024

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Mother's Day
 12 May, 2024

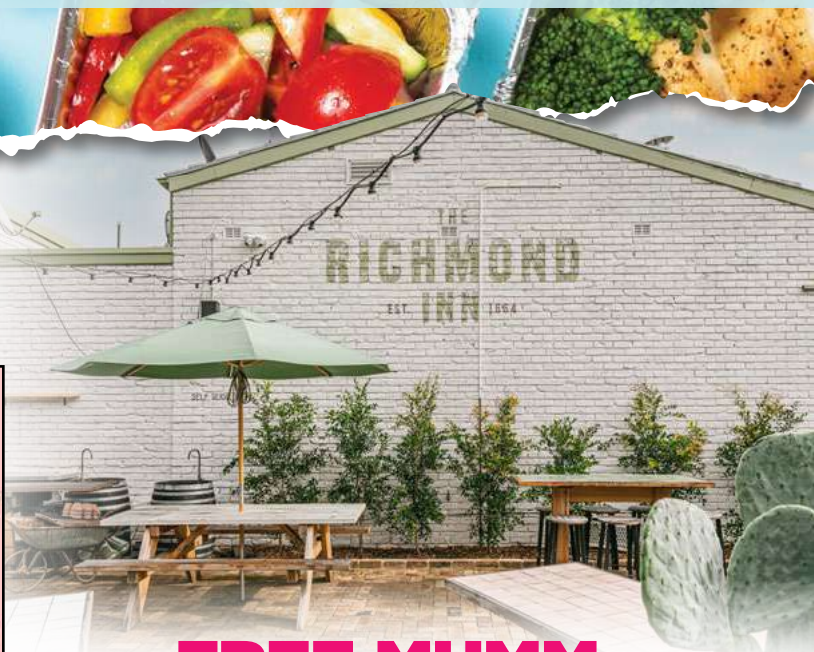
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MOTHER'S DAY at the Galston Club!

This Mother's Day, join them at the Galston Club for a celebration like no other!

On May 12th, 2024, join them for live entertainment, indulge in their special Mother's Day cocktail, and enjoy their delicious a la carte menu.
 Don't miss out – book your table now for lunch or dinner by calling 9653 2017. We look forward to seeing you!



FREE MUMM TASMANIA BRUT at the Richmond Inn

They hear that all mum wants for Mother's Day this year, is delicious seafood and bubbles...

On Sunday 12th May, they're treating mum to a FREE glass of Mumm Tasmania Brut* on arrival, and bottles for just \$59. Try their delicious *Fishermum's* basket for just \$35, with Beer Battered Barramundi, Squid, Fresh Tiger Prawns, Baked N.Z Green Lip Mussels with Herb Butter & Breadcrumbs, Chips, Lemon, Tartare, and Cocktail Sauce.

Book now to treat mum with the best Mother's Day in the Hawkesbury, only at The Richmond Inn.

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Death by Chocolate

This May, Richmond Players presents *Death by Chocolate*, a play which combines all the elements of classic murder mysteries with scathing satires of the 80's health crazes, technology and fashion.



Joel Baltaks as John Stone and Emma Taite as Lady Riverdale. Photo credit Penny Johnson.

Members of a newly renovated Health Resort are dropping like flies. On the eve of the grand re-opening of the resort it's up to manager John Stone (Joel Baltaks of North Richmond) to find the cause - and the murderer.

The clues point to a sinister box of chocolates, and the suspects include all the outlandish characters working for the resort.

Director Penny Johnson of Norwest said she chose the show to make her directorial debut as it was the same show she made her debut in community theatre.

"I had such fond memories of the show so when I had the chance to direct my first show with Richmond Players, I naturally went for this play," she said.

"It's such a fun story, full of one-liners and characters that range from sweet to very salty. I really hope that the audiences enjoy the fun and naturally try to work out who is the bad guy. You'll never look at a box of chocolates the same way again."

Details: Performances run on Saturdays, 2pm and 7.30pm on May 4, 11, 18 and 25, at the Richmond School of Arts, West Market St, Richmond.

Ticket Prices: Concession (Seniors/Pensioners/Students): \$30; Adult (Standard): \$35 (Plus 50c ticket fee). Depending on availability there may be some tickets still available at the door.

Book online at www.richmondplayers.com.au or at <https://www.trybooking.com/CMQME> or visit <https://www.richmondplayers.com.au/death-by-chocolate.html>

INSTANT ASSET WRITE-OFF

ATTENTION PLUMBERS, TRADIES, AND SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS..... Don't let the end of financial year to creep up unnoticed. Aussie Pumps are alerting small business owners to the **Government's Instant Asset Write-off support which finishes on 30th June 2024**.

Aussie Pumps is urging business owners to consult with their tax agent to determine if they are eligible. Companies with a turnover of less than \$10 million can get the benefit of instantly writing off assets bought this financial year worth individually up to \$20,000.

The benefits are enormous! Now is the time to buy and take advantage of these tax incentives, particularly plumbers looking to upgrade their jetter or replace their electric Eel.

AUSSIE JETTER SALE

Aussie Pumps has been able to double production of Jetters since moving to their new facility in Norwest. This has led to increases in efficiency and they can now offer exceptional pricing as we head to the end of financial year.

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Award-winning crime writers headline Sydney Writers' Festival

An international best-selling crime writer, an award-winning true crime podcaster and the inaugural Parramatta Laureate in Literature headline a huge lineup in Parramatta for the 2024 Sydney Writers' Festival.

This year's festival includes eight exciting events across five Council venues at Parramatta, Granville, Epping and Wentworth Point from Wednesday 22 May – Sunday 26 May, 2024.

International crime novelist Michael Connolly (Resurrection Walk) will explore the compelling genre as part of a high-level discussion, while fan favourite ABC Radio Sydney's Thank God It's Friday returns with host Richard Glover presenting a special Sydney Writers' Festival edition of the program, with both on show at Riverside Theatres.

Australian journalist and award-winning podcaster Hedley Thomas will provide a behind-the-scenes look into the making of his captivating hit true crime podcast The Teacher's Pet at PHIVE.

City of Parramatta Lord Mayor Cr Pierre Esber said the line-up is a real coup for the City.

"This line up really celebrates and backs Parramatta's reputation as an international City at the forefront of the arts and culture scene," Cr Esber said.

"For the past few years, Parramatta has starred as a location for the Sydney Writers' Festival, and we hope this inspires other event organisers to look west and consider the City as a future destination for their event."

"This is also a great opportunity to visit some of Parramatta's best venues including Wentworth Point Community Centre and Library, Epping Library, PHIVE, Riverside Theatres and the new Parramatta Artists Studios at Granville.

"I encourage everyone to come and see how much the City has grown in such a short time."

For the first time, Parramatta Artists' Studios Granville will host a major event as part of the festival. Eat Your Words combines delicious food, stories and conversation in the City's newest creative hub.

Other highlights include an in-conversation event at PHIVE with the inaugural City of Parramatta Laureate in Literature, Yumna Kassab. Parramatta's Laureate in Literature recognises the contribution of a local writer to

Australia's cultural identity and impact on the global stage. Yumna will share her love for her city and Western Sydney, its writers, and her football club following the release of her latest novel *Politica*.

Author, storyteller and television presenter Holly Ringland will also be hosting an exclusive conversation about her latest book *The House That Joy Built* at PHIVE. It follows her bestselling debut coming-of-age novel, *The Lost Flowers of Alice Hart*.

School students also have the chance to expand their writing skills and are encouraged to think outside the square with Riverside Theatres hosting its School Days activities on the 23 and 24 May.

For tickets and more information about Sydney Writers' Festival events in Parramatta, please visit at parramatta.com/sydney-writers-festival



HILLS MOWERS OFFERS Satellite Controlled Robotic Mowers



With the move comes specialisation in Kress products. Kress are leaders in robotic mowers and professional battery garden tools.

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They can be programmed to mow to your requirements (day and night). They can cover large acreage properties with ease and can deal with uneven ground. So no more petrol fumes and noise pollution. Take back your weekends, enjoy more family time and sit back and watch your garden being maintained automatically.

For a free demonstration and quotation, drop into to Hills Mowers and Irrigation or phone 0416 104 660 or email info@hillsmowers.com.au

Hills Mowers have moved to Unit 3, 829 Old Northern Road (the old Bike and Power premises). The entry is via Quarry Road.



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*with 2 x 4.0 Ah batteries.



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Women's Wellness Hub Castle Hill



The Women's Wellness Hub, an initiative of the Mind Connections Foundation offers a place for women to come together, to make new friends, share resources, learn new skills and ultimately find a place to belong.

The aim of the Women's Wellness hub is to promote positive health outcomes, both physically and mentally by offering weekly wellness-focused and information sessions that encourage social cohesion and reduce social isolation amongst women.

Every week a different activity is run from canvas painting to dance to tai chi to harmony day celebrations and luncheons as well as drop-in sessions, an annual weekend retreat, ukulele lessons and everything else in between. There is literally something for all women to engage with and enjoy at the Women's Wellness Hub and it is a place I also enjoy visiting.

Although there are activities planned, the main draw card for the Women's Wellness Hub is the opportunity to also sit enjoy a cup of coffee and piece of cake and chat to other women from across the Hills and from different age groups.

For many of the women who regularly attend, the Women's Wellness Hub has become an important part of their lives providing a huge social connection, friendships and a support network that helps with navigating the challenges that life throws at all of us.

Dr Padmini Howpage, Chair and Founder of the Mind Connections Foundation is proud of the difference the Women's Wellness Hub, also known as the Women's Shed – Hills Shire is making in the lives of women.

"We saw how popular the Men's Sheds are and the important role these sheds are playing in reducing social isolation and ultimately mental health challenges and we wanted to create something similar for women" Dr Padmini Howpage said.

"The Women's Wellness Hub is about bringing women together to reduce social isolation, to create friendships and connections with others and to have fun. I am proud of the difference Mind Connections Foundation is making in the community through the Wellness Hub and I hope more women will join us" she added.

A PLACE WHERE WIT AND WHIMSY MEET

Castle Hill Players presents

Almost, Maine

at the Pavilion Theatre from 24 May – 15 June

Written by John Cariani and directed by Meredith Jacobs

Almost, Maine . . . where wit and whimsy come together. On a deeply cold midwinter night the townsfolk of Almost experience the life-altering power of the human heart. Under the mystical energy of the aurora borealis relationships begin, end and change immeasurably as strangers become friends, friends become lovers and lovers turn into strangers.

Almost, Maine is a series of 9 interlocking tales about love, with myriad characters who are humorous, plain-spoken, thoughtful, and sincere.

Kate Gandy &
Chris Scarpellino.
Photo Abby Bishop



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paviliontheatre.org.au/almostmaine

The Pavilion Theatre Hills Showground

WELCOME TO MAINE

BY ARRANGEMENT WITH MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL AUSTRALIA PTY LTD, ON BEHALF OF DRAMATISTS PLAY SERVICE

The Mind Connections Foundation established in August 2020 aims to improve mental health and wellbeing of the Hills community through awareness programs and research and runs programs including Pawsitive Steps, mental health first aid courses, a men's mental health program, research collaboration with Western Sydney University and of course the Women's Wellness Hub.

The Women's Wellness Hub is open to women of all ages and runs every Thursday between 12:30 and 2:30pm at the Community Hub located at Castle Towers.

For more information on the Women's Wellness Hub and the Mind Connections Foundation go to <https://mindconnectionsfoundation.com.au>



Make Mum feel fabulous at Viktoria's Accessories

Treat your special Mum to the perfect gift this Mother's Day, at our brand new clothing store! We are a one-stop-shop and have everything to make your Mum feel loved and appreciated.

From stylish clothes, to gold plated and silver jewellery and even Spanish pearls, a gift from Viktoria's Accessories will ensure your Mum has a Mother's Day to remember.

If you're in a rush, we have presents already wrapped, so all you need to do is decide which one!

Have you ever dreamt of starting your own business? I did, and let me tell you, it's been a journey full of passion and creativity!

When I was recovering from cancer, I needed something to keep me busy and lift my spirits. I also realised the confidence that comes from dressing with care.

You don't need to be sick to agree that most people have increased confidence on the days they "dress up."

I invite you to join me in this exciting adventure, as I bring you the latest trends and styles that will make you feel confident and fabulous every day. Embrace your inner fashionista and support a small business by checking out my collection - because when you look good, you feel good!



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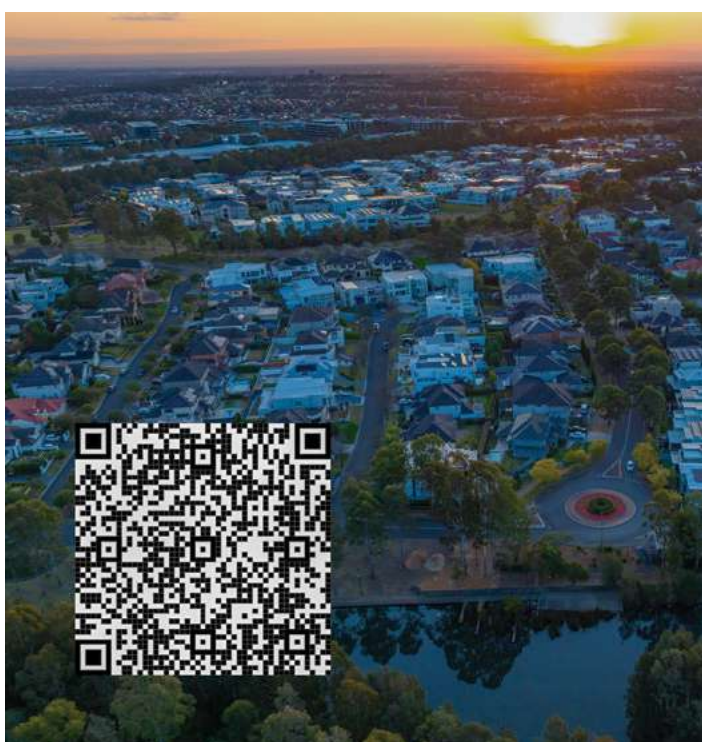
The Hills Shire Council News

Tell us your thoughts on Housing and Infrastructure

Have your say on the rate of development in the Hills and the infrastructure to support this.

Our Local Government Area (LGA) is growing, and we want to ensure that our community's needs are met. We need your feedback to better understand your priorities and concerns.

Visit hillshaveyoursay.thehills.nsw.gov.au or scan the QR code below to have your say today. Submissions close 11:59pm Friday 31 May 2024.



Apply for a Community Grant



Council's 2024/25 Annual Community Grants are now open for community groups to apply for funding between \$2,501 and \$25,000.

The program focuses on providing grants to groups that provide services to the community in four priority areas:

- Events, concerts, theatre, and arts programs designed to engage key community members that entertain the broader community
- Domestic violence prevention and recovery
- Mental health and suicide prevention
- Disability, youth, seniors, and cultural projects that support community participation opportunities.

There are also training sessions available to provide information and assistance to applicants. Visit Council's website and search 'Grants' to find out more.

Fox Baiting at Reserves

Please note that the regional fox baiting program will be undertaken at the following reserves:

- Excelsior Reserve
- Ted Horwood Reserve
- Eric Mobbs Reserve

Pet owners must take extra precautions to ensure that their pets do not enter the above reserves during the baiting period of Monday 6 May – Friday 21 June 2024. Penalties of up to \$1,100 apply under the Local Government Act (1993) Sect 632 (2) (d). The poison used is lethal to cats and dogs.



WARNING

1080 poison is lethal to Cats and Dogs.

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



Calendar Photography Competition

Local photographers are invited to enter a competition to have their photos featured in the 2025 Waste and Recycling calendar.

Showcase your creative talent and have your photograph featured in Council's calendar which is distributed annually to all households across The Hills Shire.

All are welcome to make a submission, from hobby photographers to professionals, from youth to seniors.

There are prizes up for grabs for all winning entries. Prizes are:

- \$100 Coles/Myer voucher for the front cover
- \$50 Coles/Myer voucher for month feature photographs

Please ensure that your photograph meets the following criteria:

- Must be a minimum 300dpi resolution
- Are either new or existing (taken within the last 2 years)
- Must be taken within The Hills Shire Local Government Area
- Feature natural environment, parks/sporting fields/playgrounds, or built environment
- Does not include people/faces in the photograph

Visit Council's website and search 'photo competition' for more details and to enter. Entries close on Sunday 23 June 2024 at 11:59pm.

Business Health Check

Want to know how your business is going? Sign up for a FREE business health check to help you identify opportunities and potential pitfalls.

The health check is one-on-one and face-to-face, going for approximately 60 minutes. To find out more and to register, visit Council's website and search 'business health check'.



Council Meetings

Tuesday 14 May 2024 at 7pm

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



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



THE HILLS
Sydney's Garden Shire

TECH SAVVY SENIORS FREE sessions in May and June

Technology keeps on changing, so come along to one of the 'Tech Savvy Seniors' workshops being offered by Hawkesbury Library Service every Thursday 10am to midday during May and June to help you keep up with the changes to technology. Each workshop focuses on a different skill each week. You can come along to all four workshops or you can choose the session that interests you.

Week 1 – Emails and Messaging
Learn all about email and messaging using your mobile or tablet.

Week 2 – Photos and Images
Learn how to save, edit and share images and photos.

Week 3 – Accessibility
Do you have problems seeing the text on your phone? Are you missing notifications because you can't hear them. Come along and learn the accessibility options available on your phone or tablet.

Week 4 – Applications.
Make the most of your technology by using applications. Learn how to install, manage and delete applications.

May workshops (10am to midday)
Week 1 – Thursday, 9 May
Week 2 – Thursday, 16 May
Week 3 – Thursday, 23 May
Week 4 – Thursday, 30 May

June Workshops (10am to midday)
Week 1 – Thursday, 6 June
Week 2 – Thursday, 13 June
Week 3 – Thursday, 20 June
Week 4 – Thursday, 27 June



The workshops are available for Library members aged 60+ only. If you are not a member, it's free to join at <https://aurora.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/library/Join.aspx> or visit the library during opening hours.

Tech Savvy Seniors is an initiative of the NSW Ageing Strategy and is funded through a partnership between the NSW Government and Telstra, and with the assistance and participation of Hawkesbury Library Service.

All sessions will be held at Hawkesbury Central Library, 300 George Street, Windsor. Bookings are essential and can be made via <https://hawkesburylibrary.eventbrite.com> or call the Library on 4560 4460 to book.

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Newcastle Memorial Park—Northern Suburbs Memorial Gardens—Pinegrove Memorial Park
Rookwood Memorial Gardens—Tweed Heads Memorial Gardens

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KINTYE

"It's good to laugh"

Suzanne, aged 81



Aged care that's personal

Suzanne is always on the go and enjoys being outdoors looking at the plants, hearing the birds and in her own words, "maybe have a little seat somewhere that's got the sunshine coming on it" she says. Even more than the outdoors though, Suzanne loves being with people: "Friends are important to exchange ideas with. Having a laugh is most essential. It's good to be able to laugh with someone". Suzanne can be found chatting and sharing ideas with all her friends at the place she calls home, The Donald Coburn Centre. Scan the QR code to hear more of Suzanne's story and to meet some of the other wonderful residents.



The Donald Coburn Centre
15 Blue Gums Way, Castle Hill
1300 111 278
anglicare.org.au/tdcc



Anglicare

Still Creek Landcare

BY NICK CHARTORISKY

GET IN SOON FOR FREE NATIVE PLANTS! Our Current Trees for Weeds program is ending

We still have a few weeks left before our Trees for Weeds Program must come to an end.

So if you live in our local area and are improving your Land, Verge, removing weeds or just want more native plants in your plot, Contact us!

We still have stock of Free Locally Sourced Native Plants for those who need it.

We supply plants for properties in an around the Still Creek Catchment. This includes areas in both Hornsby and Hills Shires like Galston, Arcadia, Berrilee, Glenorie and parts of Dural running in or about Old Northern Road. We'll even consider supplying worthy project further afield or at least help you source plants for your project.

Our plant giveaway is now in its 8th year and we've provided thousands of plants for land improvement projects all over our districts.

Our help doesn't stop with simply providing plants. We can guide you to plants fit for your soil types and the purpose you want from them.



Whether you need shade trees, wind breaks, bush regeneration help or want to attract wildlife with shelter and feed plants, we can help!

After you've decided on what plants you'd like, we can advise on how to plant, protect and maintain the young plants so they have the best chance at survival. So, if you're just new to our plant giveaway or a return customer, don't

hesitate to contact us for a site visit and find more about how we can help.

If you would like help or further information, contact Nick on 9653 2056, via email StillCreekLandcare@inet.net.au or visit Still Creek Landcare at <http://www.stillcreeklandcare.com.au> or on Facebook.



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"I love my gardens"

Carrie, aged 92

Aged care that's personal

Carrie is an absolute green thumb who brought her passion for gardening with her when she moved into The Donald Coburn Centre a few years ago. "I do love my gardens" says Carrie, "Half the things that are up there are cuttings from my own garden". A beloved member of the Anglicare community, Carrie hates to sit around doing nothing and can often be found playing with The Donald Coburn Centre's resident cat, Duchess or mingling with the staff and her friends. "They've shown me love in just about every way they can. This is my home." Scan the QR code to hear more of Carrie's story and to meet some of the other wonderful residents.



The Donald Coburn Centre

15 Blue Gums Way, Castle Hill

1300 111 278

anglicare.org.au/tdcc



Anglicare

PETS OF THE WEEK

The Hawkesbury Companion Animal Shelter (CAS) is at 10 Mulgrave Rd, Mulgrave. Call 4560 4644 for opening hours or visit the new webpage <https://hawkesburycas.com.au/>



AT A GLANCE

NAME: ARABELLA
SEX: Female
BREED: Staffordshire Terrier
AGE: 4 yrs 3 mos
PRICE: \$49

ARABELLA is a beautifully natured girl with lots of love and fun to bring to her new home according to staff at the Hawkesbury Companion Animal Shelter. Staff say that at four years old Arabella is past puppy stage but it doesn't mean that this bright, bubbly girl doesn't want to have fun. They say Arabella has a gorgeous smile and a friendly, outgoing personality and would be a "wonderful" addition to the family that chooses to adopt her. Her adoption price has been reduced to \$49 and includes the first vaccination, desexing, microchipping and lifetime registration.

Hawkesbury Council's Rehoming Organisation Number is: R251000145.



AT A GLANCE

NAME: GRILLED CHEESE
SEX: Male
BREED: Domestic cat
AGE: 5 yrs 1 mo
PRICE: \$49

GRILLED CHEESE is not a snack, he's a beautiful cat looking for a forever home. Staff at the Hawkesbury Companion Animal Shelter say Grilled Cheese loves to have a chat with you and displays affection by giving head bumps. If you can think Grilled Cheese would be a perfect fit for your home then please come to the shelter to meet him. His adoption price has been reduced to \$49 which includes his first vaccination, microchipping and lifetime registration.

Hawkesbury Council's Rehoming Organisation Number is: R251000145.

Vet Open Day!

Join Us for a Day of Fun and Fur!

SATURDAY, 11TH MAY | 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:



Hospital Tours:

See Behind the Scenes!



Goody Bags:

For pets and pet parents!



Stalls:

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Ice Cream & Fairy Floss:

Yummy Treats!



Puppy Training Introduction:

11:00 AM & 1:00 PM



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472 WINDSOR RD BAULKHAM HILLS - Parking available, opposite us on Roxborough Park Rd -



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ROSES in the Netherby Garden

Many visitors know and love the roses that grow in the Netherby homestead garden. These roses have been here for many years, withstanding droughts, excessive rain, and Covid, when there were no visitors or gardeners for months.

At either side of the entrance to Netherby stand large bushes of a fragrant pink heritage Tea rose, named the Comtesse de Laplante, welcoming visitors to a bygone era. The multi-petalled flowers nod down, a soft contrast to the old paling fence.

Walking towards the house, the path curves to the right, beside the west verandah, enclosing a wide garden bed. This protected site is perfect for roses, with abundant sunshine.

Here you'll find The Fairy, a low growing rose from 1932, with clusters of very small bright pink flowers and a slight apple fragrance. In this garden modern and heritage roses mix happily, a testament to both the origin of Netherby, built in 1900, and also to its long life as home to the Fagan family, until 1980, when Bruce Fagan and his sister Ida donated their property to the people of NSW.

The generous spirit which inspired this gift makes the house and garden very special. A team of four gardening members of the Friends of Fagan enjoy caring for the Netherby garden, keeping it blooming for visitors.

The path passes bright pink Bonica, then three large bushes of that great favourite rose, Iceberg, in burgundy and white. The

combination of the warm bricks of the old home and the bright profusion of flowers are a pretty background for visitors' photos.

The front of the house faces south, with beautiful old camellias which flower in Autumn. Further around, the east side gets morning sun. Here grow a mix of roses, names unknown, with a new planting of Perle d'Or, an apricot rose with pink undertones, and a strong fragrance. Known as an excellent robust rose with good disease resistance, the team believes this rose will grow to rival the established roses on the west side.

Over one of the old iron sheds below the house we've planted two Renae climbing roses, hoping their fragrant blossoms will one day cover the entire shed and fill the air with perfume.

Our most recent introduction is Queen Elizabeth, planted in front of the original cottage, in the spot where a large palm tree used to grow. Surrounded now by lavender and succulents, our new rose is thriving.

Autumn is a great time to see roses in flower before they rest for the winter. We hope you pay a visit soon and enjoy all the roses of Netherby.





Hills Relay For Life

DOG MORNING

RAISING MONEY FOR CANCER COUNCIL

Sunday 19th May PRIZES

SCAN CODE TO REGISTER BEFORE 18TH MAY \$30PP



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Sydney Animal Hospitals Gazebo

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8am-9am	Walk Laps with your pooch
9am	Judging of Awards
9.30am	Relay Final Lap & Closing Ceremony

For more information see sydneyanimalhospitals.com.au/Hills Relay

Another outlet where you can pick up your copy of **Hills to Hawkesbury Community News** at **CASTLE TOWERS**



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Scan the QR code for magazine locations.

WHAT'S ON

IN THE HILLS TO HAWKESBURY



03
MAY

The Hills Community March for Change
by *Soroptimist International of The Hills*
07:00 AM to 09:00 AM
Castle Hill RSL, 77 Castle Street, Castle Hill

Domestic and family violence is a community problem in Australia. We need to work together to end this violence. We will march for change and call for an end to domestic and gender-based violence in the Hills during Domestic Violence Awareness month in May.



04
MAY

Bromeliad Autumn Show 2024
by *Bromeliad Society of Australia*
May 04, 2024, 09:00 AM to May 05, 2024, 04:00 PM
Castle Hill Showground, Castle Hill

The Bromeliad Autumn Show will be held at the Federation Pavilion, Castle Hill Showground on Saturday, 4th May between 9am-4pm and Sunday 5th May between 10am-3pm.

- 20+ sales tables continually restocked
- Bromeliad Competitions on Display
- Lucky Barrel Draw
- Literature, information and advice
- Plenty of Parking – EF TPOS

05
MAY

Wheelie Park Bushcare Group
by *The Hills Shire Council*
09:00 AM to 12:00 PM
Connelly Way, Kellyville, 2155

Everyone welcome. No experience necessary!

Wheelie Park was planted with over 5,000 plants on National Tree Day 2023. This group will be maintaining these plantings and infill planting with native groundcovers and shrubs of the Cumberland Plain to increase connectivity and provide habitat and food for native animals.

Come along and help us. Morning tea biscuits provided.



05
MAY

Bella Vista Farm Open Day
09:00 AM to 02:00 PM
Bella Vista Farm Park, Elizabeth MacArthur Drive, Bella Vista

What are you doing on Sunday?

Interested in having a look around Bella Vista Farm?

The historic homestead will be open for tours. Our volunteers from the Friends of Bella Vista farm are available to chat and answer any questions about the Farm and its history.

There's plenty to do at the Farm. Relax in the gardens and say hello to the Farm's resident sheep. Visit the Trash & Treasure stall and watch a spinning demonstration.

You can also explore the heritage farm buildings and enjoy a Devonshire Tea or bring a picnic, whilst you listen to music by chamber groups from the Hills Shire Symphony Orchestra.

Annangrove Park Bushcare
by *The Hills Shire Council*
09:00 AM to 12:00 PM
Annangrove Park Reserve, Currie Avenue, Annangrove

The Stevenson Creek Bushcare Group works in Annangrove Park Reserve.

Annangrove Park is unique in that it contains a number of different vegetation communities including the Critically Endangered Ecological Communities; Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest and Shale Sandstone Transition Forest.

There are also a number of threatened plant species found within this reserve, as well as an uncommon and very interesting hanging swamp.

Stevenson Creek Bushcare
by *The Hills Shire Council*
09:00 AM to 12:00 PM
Stevenson Creek, Cook Street, Baulkham Hills, 2153

The Stevenson Creek Bushcare Group works in Excelsior Reserve in an area of Sandstone Gully Forest along the creek line in Baulkham Hills.

This area provides habitat for the Powerful Owl and Grey Headed Flying Fox which are both listed as Vulnerable under State legislation.

Tree Frog Bushcare
by *The Hills Shire Council*
09:00 AM to 12:00 PM
Oxlade Reserve, Oxlade Street, North Kellyville

The Tree Frog Bushcare Group works in Oxlade Reserve, North Kellyville.

The reserve is situated between Cumberland Plain Woodland and Shale Sandstone Transition Forest, which are both listed as Critically Endangered.

This group is helping maintain a planted area by removing weeds and continuing infill planting, which will increase the connectivity between these two plant communities.

Everyone is welcome. No experience necessary.



07
MAY

Step Aerobics
by North West Community Services Inc
10:30 AM
Sam Lane Complex,
9 Park Street Riverstone



Join us for Step Aerobics every Tuesday at 10:30am at the Sam Lane Complex on 9 Park Street Riverstone. Exercise classes are back from Tuesday, May 7th. Limited spaces, please register on 9627 3622 or email alex@nwcs.org.au



Golfing for Gabe's
by St Gabriel's School
07:00 AM to 03:00 PM
Castle Hill Country Club, 7 Spurway Drive, Norwest

Gabe's Golf Day is a popular annual event that's been running since 1997. It's a great opportunity for businesses and locals in Sydney's Hills District to come together for a fun day of golfing and networking. The event includes 18 holes of golf at Castle Hill Country Club and a networking lunch.

The funds raised from the golf day go towards supporting the needs of the students in the school. You can participate as an individual or register a team of four, or become a corporate sponsor. The pricing includes 18 holes of Ambrose, golf cart hire, breakfast, and 2-course lunch.

- \$190 – Single Player
- \$760 – Team of Four
- \$85 – Lunch only – 2-course sit-down meal.

Not a golfer? Join us for lunch and a delicious 2-course sit down meal at Castle Hill Country Club.

Seniors Fitness
by North West Community Services Inc
11:30 AM
Seniors Hall, Sam Lane Complex, 9 Park Street Riverstone

Seniors can now join the exercise classes every Tuesday at 11:30am for just \$5. Classes start from 7th May. Limited spaces, please register on 9627 3622 or email hgale@nwcs.org.au

Exercise your mind and body!

Senior fitness class

65+

\$5

Limited spots!!

Mother's Day

12 May, 2024

BOOK NOW FOR LUNCH AND DINNER

Live entertainment at lunch | Raffles
Cocktail of the day | A la carte menu

12
MAY

Mother's Day – Lunch and Dinner
by The Galston Club
11:00 AM
21 - 25 Arcadia Road, Galston, NSW

Celebrate Mum this Mother's Day with live entertainment at lunch, raffles, specialty cocktail and full A la carte menu!
Phone 9653 2017 to reserve a table.

Dural Village Markets
by Skye & Brad Browne
09:00 AM to 01:00 PM
Dural Country Club, 662 Old Northern Road, Dural

Community Markets – Growers, Produce, Artisans and food.

17
MAY

Orchids Out West 2024
by The Orchid Society of NSW
May 17, 2024, 09:00 AM to
May 19, 2024, 04:00 PM
Philip Charley Pavilion, Hawkesbury
Showground Racecourse Rd, Clarendon NSW



Orchids Out West is a beautiful display put on by local orchid societies and individual members. It's a great opportunity to purchase orchids from vendors around Australia and enhance your collection. Don't miss out on the chance to find a special orchid for your collection at the first Orchid Fair of the year.

18
MAY

Hills Relay For Life 2024 : Register Today
May 18, 2024 to May 19, 2024
Castle Hills Showground

Welcome to the Hills Relay For Life! Our 23rd Relay is happening in 2024. This fun and moving event raises funds for the Cancer Council's research, prevention, and support services. It's a chance to celebrate survivors and honor those lost, while supporting a cancer-free future. Join thousands of Aussies in the Relay For Life: start or join a team today!

If you have any questions reach out to your Community Fundraising Coordinator: Yvette Haines – 02 9354 2007 | yvette.haines@nswcc.org.au.



Historic Cemetery tour in Richmond

Connect with the Hawkesbury's heritage on a visit to some of Richmond's lesser-known cemeteries, with Hawkesbury Library Service, on Saturday, 11 May. Journey through time and discover some of the unique stories behind the historic headstones.

The tour will include the small Richmond Presbyterian Cemetery which dates from the 1860s and view the vault of George Bowman, who financed the building of St. Andrews Church, plus the entrepreneur Phillip Charley who made his fortune when he discovered silver and lead at Broken Hill, and built his palatial home at North Richmond, now known as St John of God.

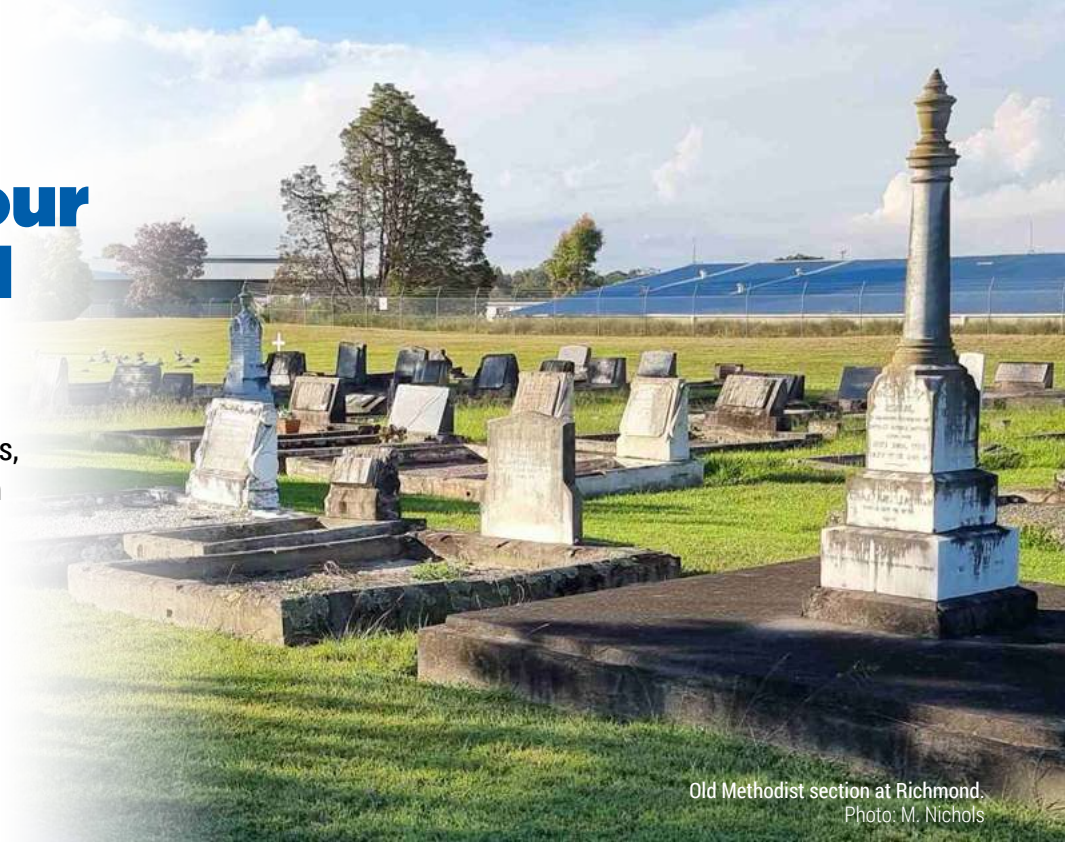
In the Richmond Lawn Cemetery, established in the 1890s, participants will view Richmond's Parish priest Father O'Brien who died 1915 and his very impressive marker, a Celtic Cross. In the Methodist section, hear about Irish born teacher Thomas Sullivan who

was originally buried at Londonderry but later interred in the cemetery with his son William, a bootmaker and Alderman elected to the first Richmond Council in the 1870s. At the Richmond War Cemetery, stories about the RAAF personnel who died when the Lockheed Hudson plane in which they were travelling, crashed in Richmond in 1944, will be shared.

The tour starts at 9:30am and runs for two

hours. Cost is \$10 per person and bookings are essential. To book your place, visit <https://hawkesburylibrary.eventbrite.com> or call 4560 4460 for more information.

The tour is being held as part of the annual Australian Heritage Festival run by the National Trust. For more details visit www.nationaltrust.org.au/ahf/nsw



Old Methodist section at Richmond.
Photo: M. Nichols

Silhouette Soldier Statue and Plaque on Display to Honour Aquatic Centre History

A life-sized steel soldier silhouette and plaque are now on display outside Waves Fitness and Aquatic Centre in Baulkham Hills.

The permanent two-metre installation is an interpretive tribute to the dedication and sacrifice of current and past servicemen and women.

It also acknowledges the former pool's history as a war memorial when it was originally

called 'The Shire of Baulkham Hills War Memorial Swimming Centre.'

"We are proud to announce that the new feature can be viewed by the community, just in time for ANZAC Day. We believe that this tribute will be well-received by everyone," Mayor

of The Hills Shire, Dr Peter Gangemi said. "As a community, we owe a debt of gratitude to our brave servicemen and women who have sacrificed so much for our nation. That is why we have paid tribute to their incredible service in this way.

"I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to the Castle Hill and District RSL sub-Branch for their invaluable contribution in helping Council bring this project to fruition."

President of the Castle Hill and District RSL sub-branch, Cheryl Hill said she is thrilled with Council's decision to acknowledge the former war memorial pool and recognise the brave men and women who have served or are currently serving in our country's defence forces.

"Castle Hill and District RSL sub-Branch is pleased that Council have designed and erected this silhouette and plaque, in consultation with the sub-Branch, to acknowledge the old war memorial pool and to recognise those in the Navy, Army, Air Force and Merchant Navy who have served or are serving in the defence of our country," Mrs Hill said.

The pool, located in Baulkham Hills, was opened on 16 March 1965, during a time when it was common for local pools to be registered as a 'war memorial' to honour those who served in WWI and WWII. The centre's operator later rebranded the pool to 'Waves' in 1996.

The centre was then revitalised over a two-year period from 2020 to 2022 and re-opened to the community as 'Waves Fitness and Aquatic Centre' on 3 September 2022.



Mayor Gangemi pictured with the President of the Castle Hill and District RSL sub-Branch Cheryl Hill and sub-Branch committee members

Driving safely to protect our wildlife

Hawkesbury City Council is joining with WIRES to raise awareness in the Hawkesbury about preventing injuries and fatalities of native animals and treating native animals that are injured.

Key steps to help our wildlife:

- Give way to wildlife
- Be prepared
- Locate surviving joeys
- Prevent further accidents
- Put WIRES in your contacts – 1300 094 737

With autumn upon us and winter days ahead, more people will be driving in times of lower light when many native animals are most active.

This places native animals at higher risk but there are things you can do to reduce the danger to our precious wildlife. The Mayor of Hawkesbury, Councillor Sarah McMahon is encouraging all road users to always drive safely and to be extra vigilant on the roads in low light conditions and especially at dusk and dawn.

"If we drive with caution on both rural and urban roads, we'll not only help to protect ourselves and other people, but also native animals such as wombats, echidnas, koalas, kangaroos, wallabies, reptiles, possums and more," Mayor McMahon said.

"We are so lucky to live in the Hawkesbury where we have national parks and many rural areas with native animals. But with this privilege comes a responsibility to protect them.

"We also have warning signs installed in various areas of the Hawkesbury to encourage drivers to be aware of native animals on our roads and to be alert and slow down."

For safe driving tips, please see www.transport.nsw.gov.au/roadsafety/road-users/drivers/animals

Give way to wildlife

Anne Marks, Macropod Coordinator for WIRES Hawkesbury Branch is one of the local volunteers who attends animal rescue calls at all hours of the day and night. Anne is also encouraging motorists to please help our native animals by driving carefully in known wildlife areas.

"It is especially important to be vigilant in the early mornings when it is darker and often foggy. It's also important in the late afternoon and through the night when so many of our nocturnal native animals are moving about seeking food and water," Anne said.

"Please drive to the conditions and expect the unexpected as wildlife is not road savvy. Whenever possible to safely do so, give way to wildlife".



WIRES - How you can help - Anne Marks and Mayor Sarah McMahon

Be prepared

You can keep these items in your vehicle to be prepared to help native wildlife: towel, torch, cardboard box, pillowcase, hand sanitiser.

Locating surviving joeys

As well as driving safely to prevent wildlife casualties, Anne suggests providing early emergency assistance to any pouch young of injured wildlife.

"Unfortunately, even with careful driving, wildlife car strikes can still happen. Please stop if safe to do so and check if the animal requires emergency assistance," Anne said.

"We advise wearing high-vis or bright clothing when possible, to ensure you can be seen by other motorists. Always approach any animal with care as they can be in shock after a car strike and could behave aggressively if injured."

Contact WIRES on 1300 094 737 for advice on how to check a pouch, especially before attempting to remove any tiny pink joeys still on the teat as this needs to be done by an experienced rescuer. Also check nearby areas for joeys that may have been thrown from the pouch and please note they need to be kept warm and quiet while you call WIRES or a nearby vet for help. Following vet assessment, native animals require specialist rehabilitation care from licensed wildlife carers as soon as possible.

If it is difficult or unsafe to stop and check pouches, please notify WIRES of the location (note the GPS coordinates and/or mark the location with a stick or other suitable item).

During peak periods when phone lines may be busy, you can also use the report-a-rescue

form www.wires.org.au/report-a-rescue to report wildlife emergencies online. Please note that all other forms of WIRES contact, including Facebook, are not monitored for rescues.

Prevent further accidents

Deceased animals attract other native wildlife. This includes Lace Monitors (Goannas) and Raptors such as our protected Wedge-tailed Eagles which then are also at risk of car strike. If safe to do so, put on your hazard lights and move the deceased animal well away from the road. If possible, tie a ribbon, or something similar, to the animal's foot to signal that it has been checked for pouch young. Report deceased animals to WIRES (to collect statistics on high-risk collision areas and species numbers, and to ensure the pouch has been checked adequately). Call Council for removal from public roads on 4560 4444.

"WIRES volunteers help and rescue many native animals – if you can help by also making a donation to WIRES, please do," Mayor McMahon added.

WIRES (NSW Wildlife Information, Rescue and Education Service Inc.) has been rescuing and caring for native animals since 1985. You can help save Australia's native wildlife in the Hawkesbury region by donating at <https://fundraiseforwildlife.wires.org.au/hawkesbury> (Hawkesbury branch specific link) or by calling WIRES on 1300 094 737.

Read the WIRES driver brochure www.wires.org.au/assets/modules/homepage/files/driver-brochure.pdf to find out more.

For more information about WIRES please visit www.wires.org.au




ROBYN PRESTON MP

MEMBER FOR HAWKESBURY

How my office and I can help you

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

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

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Authorised by Robyn Preston MP. Funded using Parliamentary entitlements.

New Ambulance Station for South Windsor

Robyn Preston MP welcomes the announcement by the NSW Government of a new ambulance station to be located on Acacia Close, South Windsor.

NSW Health Infrastructure will now proceed with design, community consultation and seek planning approval from Hawkesbury City Council.

Ms Preston said "This is positive news for our growing community. I understand the site was chosen based on service demand. NSW Ambulance staff deserve the best facilities and latest technology.

I thank our ambulance staff for their hard work in challenging conditions, particularly

through the COVID-19 pandemic and the stress they face every day in such a demanding job.

I encourage the community to engage in the consultation process. This new ambulance station is designed to better serve the Hawkesbury region. The next priority is to secure an ambulance facility on the North Richmond side of the river, and I will be advocating for this outcome."



Local Woman of the Year

Congratulations to Kylie Tzavaras, our 2024 Local Woman of the Year! Since the age of 7, Kylie has dedicated her life to netball. Since 1995 she has been involved in coaching, managing, umpiring, and filling administrative and committee roles at the Baulkham Hills Shire Netball Association. In 2015 she was presented with the Association's Service Award, and in 2019 the Association granted her Life Membership. Kylie was also Awarded the Dot McHugh OAM Administrator of the year form Netball NSW in 2020, and was a runner up in the NSW Government Her Sport Her Way Awards - Local Champion 2020/2021. Kylie has been an inspiration to hundreds of players, coaches and umpires through the Association, and through her leadership the Association has become one of the biggest and most respected in NSW. Well Done Kylie! An award truly deserved.



Anzac Day

It was wonderful to see such a huge crowd at Centenary Reserve on Anzac Day. Together we honoured the people who have served, those who paid the ultimate sacrifice and those who continue to serve in Australia's armed forces. This incredible dawn service is an honoured tradition of Remembrance, and I loved seeing so many school representatives and young families gathering together with their children, keeping the tradition and memory alive. Lest We Forget.



ADVERTISEMENT

Ray Williams MP

Member for Kellyville



As your State MP, I am here to:

- Help you with any State matters.
- Provide Justice of the Peace services.
- Arrange congratulatory messages.
- Assist in accessing NSW Government services, assistance or grants.

🏠 Suite 202, 10-14 Market Lane, Rouse Hill NSW 2155
 ☎ 8882-9555 ✉ kellyville@parliament.nsw.gov.au
 🌐 www.raywilliamsmp.com.au

As your Federal Member for Greenway,
I'm here to help.

Albanese Labor Government Delivers for Greenway in 2023-24 Budget

Minister Michelle Rowland MP

✉ PO Box 8525, Blacktown NSW 2148

☎ (02) 9671 4780

🏠 Level 1, Suite 101C, 130 Main Street, Blacktown

📺 @mrowlandmp

✉ Michelle.rowland.MP@aph.gov.au

🌐 michellerowland.com.au

Authorised by Michelle Rowland MP, Australian Labor Party, Blacktown NSW 2148



A Stronger Services Australia means Better Support for Residents

For too long, our community, along with others, felt the repercussions of previous Coalition Government's decisions to cut vital staff from Services Australia.

The introduction of the flawed and illegal Robodebt scheme and severe staff reductions led to unnecessary hardships for many Australians, often at times when they needed support most.

Under the previous Government, essential payments like JobSeeker, the Disability Support Pension and Age Pension were delayed by weeks or even months.

This was more than an inconvenience: it was a barrier to living with dignity for those who needed help. The Coalition's oversight before

and throughout the COVID-19 pandemic only exacerbated these challenges, leaving Services Australia understaffed and underfunded.

However, with the election of the Albanese Labor Government, we've turned a corner.

Recognising the urgent need for action, the Government has onboarded more than 3,000 new permanent staff members to process critical Medicare and Centrelink claims.

Their impact has been profound and swift, achieving a dramatic reduction of 500,000 claims to Services Australia's backlog in just ten weeks.

For North-West Sydney, this means that residents are receiving support faster, ensuring more financial support gets to Australians dealing with cost-of-living pressures. The

recruitment of new staff has also supported the agency to reduce claims by nearly 40%, including slashing Commonwealth Seniors Health Card (CSHC) claims on hand by almost 60%.

This progress is encouraging, and it's just the beginning.

With the continued work of these dedicated new employees, Services Australia's backlog is on track return to normal levels by mid-year.

Services Australia staff are on the frontline of governments service delivery, and their commitment – including by training and integrating these new recruits – will mean that more Australians can access simple, helpful, respectful and transparent support in a timelier way.

I am confident that the changes we are implementing will ensure a stronger, more responsive Services Australia that can better serve Australians -- including those in North-West Sydney.

Alive Italiano

BY LEONIE DIXON

In recent communication with our wonderful Italian presenter, Angelina Rossi I found out all about her show, Un Tocco D'Italia (A Touch of Italy) which, although commencing at Alive 90.5FM only 12months ago, is actually a 10year old show which made its debut in April 2014 at 2 other Community Radio stations in Sydney. Un Tocco D'Italia airs each Sunday morning at 10-12 on Alive, showcasing Italian music and Italian artists, both local and overseas. It also promotes the Italian Culture to listeners and has a variety of artists as guests on the show. The show promotes Italian events, concerts and community news. The main language spoken on the show is Italian. Angelina has hosted many interviews in the past including Patrizio Buanne, Mark Vincent, Joey Fiammano and the latest David Miller from Il Divo. Community Engagement is constant with Un Tocco D'Italia organising

events at the Italian Club Marconi regularly for a get together with listeners and always reaching out to the Italian Community to help them with any enquiries for events. Angelina's latest Outside Broadcast was at Club Marconi only a couple of weeks ago where the whole club must have been won over to listen in to her program each week, she was so personable. Last month she featured at the Cumberland Chamber of Commerce Diversity in Business event and as a result the station benefitted from onboarding a new presenter and forging links with a media partner, and TAFE NSW. Networking with the community certainly helps with further development at Alive especially when organisations recognise how important community radio can be for their group. There is a large Italian population in our listening area, so if you haven't had the pleasure of hearing Angelina do tune in to Un Tocco D'Italia each Sunday.



CUMBERLAND COMMUNITY RADIO INC.
Building 9/92 Seven Hills Road, Balcombe Heights Estate, Baulkham Hills NSW 2153 Australia

✉ info@alive905.com.au
🌐 www.alive905.com.au

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Hills Bulls Junior Ace Sanders Makes Eels Debut

Parramatta Eels are not having the best of seasons but for former Hills Bulls junior, Ethan Sanders making his debut for the club is a dream come true.

One of the country's most promising half-backs, Sanders, 19, made his NRL debut for Parramatta last Friday though it was a night to forget as Manly Eagles won 32-18.

Sanders, who played for the Hills Bulls in the Under 7's in 2011, always wanted to play for the Eels. "It means a lot to me; it's been my dream for as long as I can remember," Sanders said in a pre-season interview with SMH. However, last week, Sanders confirmed he will be playing next year for Canberra Raiders who have been chasing his signature for months.

The Hills Bulls are immensely proud of Sanders, saying their end of the book report for 2012 mentioned that: 'I think we have a footballer to look out for in the future'. "Well, the future is here and everyone at the Bulls is super proud of you," the Hills Bulls posted on their Facebook page.

Sanders is officially Eel number 845. His form for the Eels junior teams is very impressive, leading them to the SG Ball Cup title, and being named Player of the Match in the final.

The former Patrician Brothers (Blacktown) player starred for the NSW Under-19 side and also led the Eels to their first finals in the Jersey Flegg tournament since 2018, scoring 80 points with 31 tackle busts.

Sanders continued his phenomenal form for the NSW Under-19 team, helping them to retain the title.

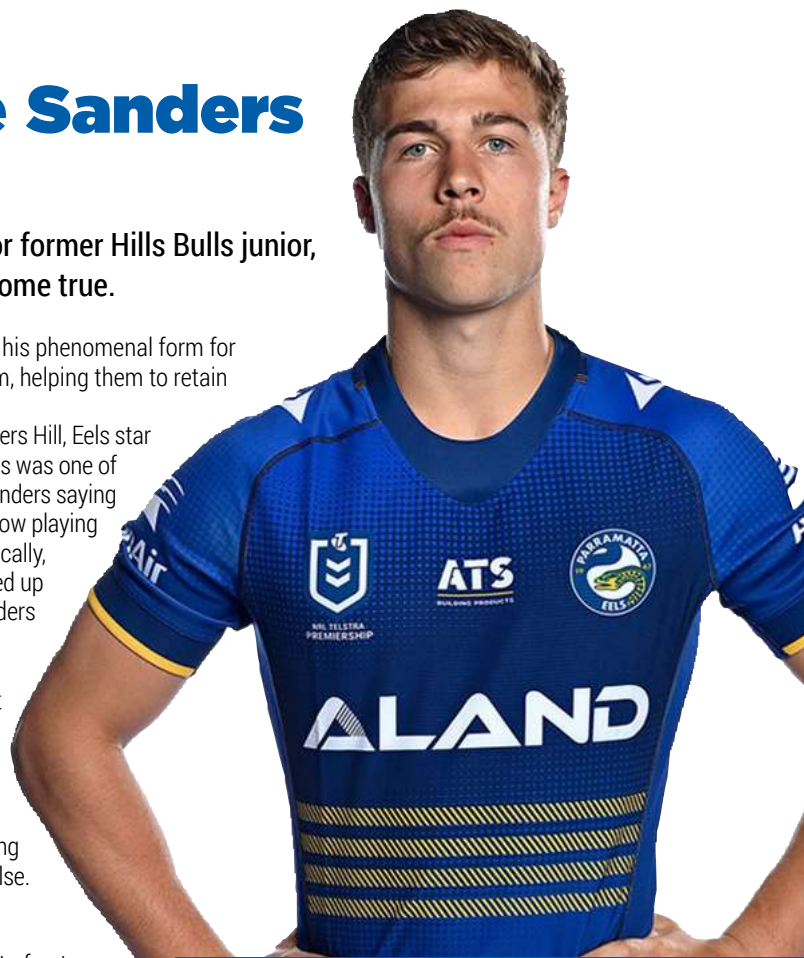
Growing up in Quakers Hill, Eels star half-back Mitchell Moses was one of his role models, with Sanders saying it's amazing that he is now playing alongside his hero. Ironically, Moses' injury has opened up the opportunity for Sanders to play for the Eels.

"Mitchie's been unreal," he added. "I sort of try and double up with Mitchie and ask him as much as I can and try and learn from him, especially his kicking game ... and whatever else. It's been unreal.

"My dad supports Parramatta, and he sort of put a Parra jersey on me since I can remember. It means the world to me."

Parramatta coach Brad Arthur said he is pleased that Sanders has committed to stay with the club until the end of the 2024 season.

"He's come and fronted up and let us know that he'd be moving on," Arthur told the AAP.



Ethan Sanders realised his dream of playing for the Eels. Picture: Courtesy Parramatta Eels

"But he's told me to my face, and his manager has, that he's not asking for a release this year. "It's good. He made an obligation to the team at the start of the year, and that's a sign of the man he is."

Hills Men in Morale-Boosting Win

The Hills men scored a morale-boosting win last weekend over St George City, who were six places higher than them on the FNSW NPL ladder. Former German Bundesliga and A League star Nicolai Muller fired the Hills ahead in the 34th minute by converting from the penalty spot, after St George City's Solomon-Johnn Monahan-Vaika was shown the red card for bundling Hills player Thomas Lopez inside the box, conceding a penalty in the process.

The Hills sealed their fourth win of their debut season during injury time when the busy Sunday Yona found the nets, having threatened to breach the defence earlier. Goalkeeper Ryan Wood was one of the heroes for Hills United, pulling off some splendid saves, and fittingly, he received the Player of the Match award.

The victory will give the Hills side more confidence when they face second-placed Marconi Stallions on Saturday, May 4 at 7pm. The Stallions are one of the most established sides in NPL while the Hills are the newest team in the competition.

Hills United, coached by former Soccerroo Luke Casserly, will have to be at their best throughout the game if they are to topple Marconi, who slammed four past St George FC in their last game. To put that into perspective, The Hills had previously been beaten 1-0 by St George FC.



Sunday Yona was on target for Hills United

Celebration of Female Football

Hundreds of players and officials in The Hills District and Hawkesbury are taking part in the 2024 Female Football Week, which celebrates the immense popularity of this game at all levels and age groups. The May 3-12 event is organised by Football NSW and acknowledges the crucial role played by women in promoting and supporting the sport.

Football is booming in The Hills with the Hills United men's team playing in the FNSW NPL league for the first time and the Hills United women's team setting the pace in the FNSW League One championship.

Football NSW will be hosting a referee training session (Monday, May 6), a coaching workshop (Wednesday, May 8) and a women in sports panel (Friday, May 10) at its headquarters in Valentine Park, Glenwood. All sessions are from 6.30-8pm. For more information on these events, contact the Women, Girls and Schools Coordination Kirsten Prior at kristenp@footballnsw.com.au.

There be will plenty of activities throughout the week including the Festival of Football, free skills clinics, female football rounds and 'come and try' sessions. All associations and clubs are invited to register their events with FNSW. Any which is also requesting extraordinary club members who deserve recognition for their contribution to female football.

Sciberras 'Tricks as Hills United Swamp Nepean FC

Hills United FC continue to light up FNSW League One Women's competition after stretching their unbeaten streak after nine rounds.

Superb attacking skills, backed by a solid defence, have been the key to the Hills' strong early season form and continue from last year where they were one of the teams to beat.

Isabella Sciberras scored a hat-trick as Hills United powered past Nepean FC 7-0 in their round nine clash on Sunday. The brilliant striker found the net in the 47th, 51st and 96th minutes for her first hat-trick of the season as her team ran riot against the hapless Nepean outfit, who are 12th on the table.

The in-form Kaylie Shannon drew first blood for Hills in the 36th minute before Sciberras doubled the tally just before halftime. The floodgates opened in the second session with Bella Donaldson, Bianca Galayini and substitute Ashleigh Heuston-Richardson adding their names to the scoresheet, alongside the brace from Sciberras.



The high-flying Hills United women's team. Picture: Courtesy Hills United Facebook

In their eighth round game, the Hills snatched a 1-0 victory over Blacktown City FC, thanks to Maddison Edmonds' 15th-minute strike.

The Hills women's defence, however, will be severely tested this Sunday, May 5, when they take on table leaders SD Raiders FC in the

match of the round at Ernie Smith Reserve, Moorebank. The Raiders (23 points) leapt ahead of the Hills (20) after four successive wins.

The Hills women and the Raiders are also locked in a struggle for the women's Club Championship with just three points separating them at the top.

SPORT NEWS AT THE CENTRE DURAL

WELCOME BACK!

Time flies when you're having fun, and there is plenty to be had here at The Centre! We were full steam ahead during the school holidays, with Inflatable World, and our sport-based Holiday Clinics.

Inflatable World is always a hit with the children, and being open 7 days a week for school holidays, gives parents a chance to relax for 2 hours while the kids are getting rid of all of their excess energy on the Inflatables.

Our Holiday Clinics were a hit, with 3 hours of specific sport based fun (think soccer/netball drills, skills, and games), a movie and lunch (this holidays we watched all the Toy Story movies), followed by an afternoon of movement and brain games (scavenger hunts, movement

bingo, paper aeroplane competitions, and so much more)

Our Winter sport competitions started back the week of Easter, and are off to a great start! We have Ladies and Mixed Futsal, and Ladies netball on a Monday night, Mixed netball on a Tuesday night, Mens Futsal, and Ladies netball on a Wednesday night, and Mixed and Ladies Netball on a Thursday night. If this is something that appeals to you, get in touch, as we'd love to help foster your love of our sports!

There is always something going on at The Centre, so feel free to pop on over to our website, to check out all the other things we have to offer, <https://thecentredural.org.au/> or phone 8989 0000. That's all for this month!

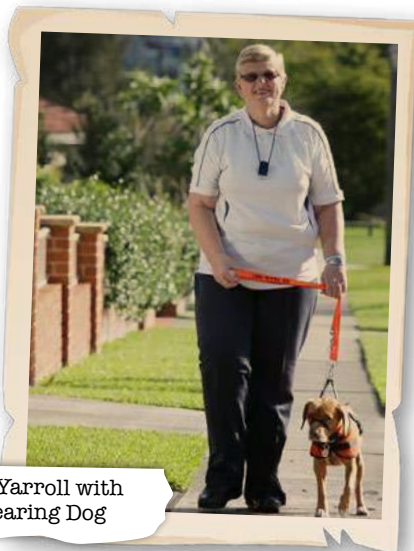


HEARING ABOUT A LITTLE DOG

Most of the “Memories” that I publish in this section of the Hills to Hawkesbury Community News deal with people, events, or products from past decades. Sometimes, someone will mention to me something that is much more recent.

In this case, Greg Dunn, who is a poet who can often be seen and heard at Bella Vista Farm during their Open Days reciting bush poems that he has written. At the April Open Day, he approached and reminded me that I had published a piece in the 9th of February edition of this popular little publication entitled “Sydney” An Amazing Little Dog. The article was a story about Faye Yarroll and her lovely little dog, Sydney. Faye is profoundly deaf, and Sydney is her hearing dog.

Recently, Greg was in Adelaide, and had cause to visit the Adelaide offices of a deaf society. Upon entering the office of the CEO of the Society, he spotted a framed copy of a poem on the wall. It was perhaps a coincidence that the poem was in fact one that Greg had written some time before.



Faye Yarroll with a Hearing Dog

Ivor's comments: I first came across Faye when she was invited to a National Seniors meeting as a speaker in 2023 and then once more when she gave a talk at a Probus Club. Each time she was very entertaining and demonstrated her dog, Sydney's, reaction to a smoke alarm.

If you want to book Faye as a speaker for your Probus or Community group you can contact her at fayeyarroll@optusnet.com.au Telephone 9706 8007 or 0412 830 041

Greg Dunn you can see and hear at most Open Days at Bella Vista Farm. Open Days are usually on the first Sunday of the month between 9am and 3pm.



Greg has provided me a copy of this poem which I have reproduced below.

“In Lions, our projects cover many forms of helping those in need
And most of them involve in the planting of a seed.
The seed that I am referring to, conceived in Colorado
From a USA Convention held some forty years ago.

Brian Carter and Bob Allen saw a need that could be shared;
A training school for dogs to assist hearing impaired.
With property acquired and assistance from The States;
Australian Lions Hearing Dogs soon opened up its gates.

The first dog out was Amber, in Nineteen Eighty Two.
You'd think dogs were human if you saw what they can do.
Like Blind dogs have become your eyes, these dogs become your ears.
To see the love that forms the bond would bring most men to tears.

Their training is substantial, not all pups pass the test.
It's also quite expensive as they only take the best.
Each dog is vaccinated and checked out by a vet;
Implanted with an ID Chip before the programme's set.

The schooling can take eight long months and sometimes even more.
The dog will stay in training until they're very sure.
And then there is reaction between recipient and pup;
So let's see how the puppy feels on how it ended up.

“The lady that they put me with has a very special need
I've told you what they put me through, and I managed to succeed.
The kindness I'm receiving. The affection and the care
Makes me wish I could do more, there's so much we can share

I've learnt to recognise the phone and knocking at the door;
And other sounds around the house and know what they are for.
The smoke alarm however is a special sound
I react, then must not move, 'till a solution has been found.

We have become inseparable, go everywhere as one.
We even go to the park where I can have a run.
I sit with her at meetings, I never leave her side.
I know that she depends on me, my chest sticks out with pride.”

These pups form part of family, a shielding from harm.
A devoted friend who holds your trust and turns storms into calm;
Who understands your every need and loves you to the end
Referred to as a Hearing Dog, but really, **Your Best Friend**

AS WE WERE

PHOTOS FROM THE PAST

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



Faye's current
Hearing Dog "Sydney"



Hearing Dog "Lucky"



Hearing dog "Kalli"



Hearing dog from US



Hearing dog from UK

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 Wed mornings, evening group 2nd and 4th Mon. New members welcome
✉ Carole | 9894 7749

Baulkham Hills Probus

☎ Meets 1st Thurs each month 1.30pm Baulkham Hills Sports Club, 11 Renown Rd Visitors welcome. Activities every Thurs.
✉ Betina | 0419 595 007
✉ probus56830@gmail.com

Bonsai Society of Australia

☎ Club meetings 1st Tues of the month 7.30pm; West Pennant Hills Community Centre, 42 Hill Rd West Pennant Hills.
✉ Ingrid | 0409 963 438

Castle Hill Art Society

☎ Art practice for artists of all ages, either in groups or classes for adults and children. Monthly demonstrations and workshops by well-known artists. Members can participate in exhibitions during the year.
✉ 9899 3179 (ans. machine)
☎ www.castlehillartsociety.org.au

Castle Hill Senior Citizens Club Inc.,

☎ Anyone over 55 welcome to come and play carpet bowls, cards and rummikub. Cnr of McMullen Ave. and Old Northern Road, Castle Hill (opp. new Metro station) with parking at the rear.
☎ 9680 3958 ✉ castlehillseniors@gmail.com

Combined Probud Club of Cherrybrook

☎ We are a mixed gender club of over 170 retirees and semi retirees. Meetings on 1st Thurs of each month at the Cherrybrook Community & Cultural Centre.
✉ Ross | 0411 104 863
✉ rossfitzpatrick@icloud.com
☎ www.probusouthpacific.org/microsites/cherrybrook/Welcom

Computer Pals for Seniors - The Hills

☎ A non-profit club run by volunteers dedicated to providing low-cost tuition for Seniors in a friendly atmosphere, enabling them to stay safe online & become proficient in the many facets of computing.
✉ Colin Wright | 0479 137 131 ✉ cphills.org.au

Cumberland Bird Observers Club

☎ The Club conducts 3 outings a month to observe birds in their natural environment. General meetings are held at Castle Hill on the 3rd Tues 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

☎ Meets 2nd Wed each month at the Galston Community Health Centre, cnr The Glade and 17 Arcadia Rd, Galston. 10am followed by business meeting and BYO lunch. Craft day 4th Wed each month. Visitors welcome.
✉ Jann | 0439 222 217 or Patricia | 0412 948 787

CWA of NSW - Castle Hill Branch

☎ Holds its monthly meeting every 2nd 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

CWA of NSW - Toongabbie Branch.

☎ Monthly meetings held 1st Tues of the month at Toongabbie Girl Guide Hall in Junia Avenue Toongabbie from 10am. We also hold craft mornings for members on 1st and 3rd Tues of the month from 10-12.
✉ ToongabbieCWA@gmail.com

Dural and District Prostate Cancer Support Grp

☎ We meet on the 3rd Mon of every month 7:00pm for 7:15pm at the Blue Gum Centre, Glenhaven Green, 607 Old Northern Road, Glenhaven
✉ Graham | 8677 7896 or 042421062

Dural Country Club Bowls

☎ 04 2131 5074

Dural Men's Shed

☎ 04 0247 8498 ☎ www.duralmensshed.org

East Kurrajong School of Arts

☎ 1st Tues each month 10am to 1pm. Bring along any sort of craft activity you're interested in, bring pencil's 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

Embroiderers' Guild NSW Inc Hawkesbury Grp

☎ For anyone who loves to stitch or would love to learn. Meetings: 3rd Tues 10am-2pm, 4th Tues 6-10pm Stan Stevens Studio, Deerubbin Centre 300 George St. Windsor (Windsor Library level). Guests always welcome.
✉ Catherine Delaney | 0413340049
✉ cdelaney1@town.com.au

Friends of Hills Library

☎ Meets 2nd Thursday of the month at Castle Hill Library. New members welcome.
✉ Lesley Nelson, President - 0478 000 925

Girl Guides Australia

☎ Great programs for girls 6-18. They meet once a week in groups relevant to their age run by trained Leaders and Unit Helpers.
✉ Margo | 0417 657 433.

Glenhaven Probud 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 ☎ www.haat.com.au
✉ Leanne@mellowcrest.com

Hawkesbury Camera Club

☎ Club meets at 7.30pm on the first 3 Wed of the mo at the Richmond Club, Francis Street, Richmond. Facebook Hawkesbury Camera Club.
☎ www.hawkesburycamerclub.com.au

Hawkesbury District Agricultural Assn

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

Hawkesbury Nepean Chapter of the 1st Fleeters

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

Hawkesbury West Probud Club

☎ Meets at 10:15am on the first Monday of each month at Panthers North Richmond.
✉ Membership Officer Fay | 0414 341 253
✉ hawkswest.probus@gmail.com

Hawkesbury Woodcraft Cooperative Ltd

☎ 9.30am to 2pm Wed. & Sat.
☎ www.hawkesburywoodcraft.org.au
✉ Graham | 02 4576 1517

Hills District Women's Bowling Club

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

Hills Older Men's Network INC

☎ Meets fortnightly on the first and 3rd Mondays of the month, 10am to 12.30pm at Castle Hill. The group is aimed at retired men over the age of 55
✉ Ron | 0424 462 153 ✉ HillsOM1@gmail.com

Hills Shire Symphony Orchestra

☎ Welcomes new players and gig enquiries. Rehearsals Wednesday evenings.
✉ Chris | 0405 994 605
✉ info@hillsshiresymphonyorchestra.org.au
☎ www.hillsshiresymphonyorchestra.org.au

Hills Toastmasters

☎ Meets every 2nd Tues, 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
✉ allendavisguitar@gmail.com

Hornsby Kuring-gai Parkinson's Assoc'n Inc.

☎ A Support group of 30+ yrs. with 100 members from. We have members from Baulkham Hills, Castle Hill and Galston who come weekly and find it beneficial for their condition
✉ Michael Parkin | 0491009557
☎ Parkinson's Choir, www.parkypeople.org.

Kurrajong Hand Spun Craft

☎ Come and learn a beautiful old craft at North Richmond Community Centre. Friendly group just bring yourself. Thursdays at noon.
✉ Margaret | 0403 819 165

Ladies Probud Club of Baulkham Hills

☎ Baulkham Hills Sports Club on Renown Rd, Baulkham Hills meets on the 2nd Wed of the month at 10am and welcomes enquiries about our club.
✉ Suzanne Dennis | 96390324 (home)
0412424593 (mobile)

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

☎ The Club meets at 2 pm on the 1st Thurs of the month, in the Tebbutt Room of Hawkesbury Central Library at Windsor.
☎ macquarietownsgardenclub.wordpress.com

National Seniors Australia (Hills Branch)

☎ Meets on the 1st Thurs of every month at Baulkham Hills Sports Club Renown Rd at 9.30am for 10am. New members welcomed.
✉ May | 0414 634 572
✉ maybruce@bigpond.com

North Rocks View Club

☎ Meetings 2nd Thurs each month at 10.30 am. The Vikings Club, 35 Quarry Rd, Dundas Valley.
✉ Pam | 047 420 4080 or Margaret | 9872 1405

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 pls join us.
☎ norwestrotary.org.au

Pennant Hills Mens Probud Club

✉ John | 9487 1385

Pennant Hills Combined Probud Club

☎ Meets at Hotel Pennant Hills every 3rd Monday of the month at 10am. New members and visitors welcome.
✉ Lorene | 0429 396594

Pennant Hills VIEW Club

☎ Meets at the new time of 10.30am for 11.00am start, at Baulkham Hills Sports Club on the 2nd Tues of each month. An interesting guest speaker will be featured each month. Members can stay for lunch in the Club restaurant. On the 4th Tues of the month a social outing is organised.
✉ Margaret | 9873 2402

Pennant Hills Garden Club

☎ Meets 4th Wed at 10.15am at Pennant Hills Bowls Club. Inquire or just come along to a meeting.
✉ pennanthillsgardenclub@gmail.com

Pitt Town Probud Club

☎ Meets at 10:00am on the 2nd Tues of the month at the Pitt Town and District Sports Club, 139 Old Pitt Town Rd. New members welcome.
✉ Denise Fairfax | 0435 447 414

Probud Club of Round Corner (Dural)

✉ Julie; PO Box 822, Round Corner 2158

Probud Club of the Hills Inc

☎ Is a mixed club and meets at the Galston Club 21-25 Arcadia Road, Galston on the 2nd Wed of each month commencing at 10.30 am. New members welcome.
✉ Ken | 02 96296459

Probud Club - Glenorie

☎ This Club meets every 4th Wed at 11.00am at Glenorie RSL Club. New members are welcome.
✉ Wendy | 9653 1022
✉ wendyreneblack@yahoo.com.au

Probud Club - Kellyville Castle Hill Mixed

☎ Meets at 10am on 2nd Thurs of each month at Baulkham Hills Sports Club, 11 Renown Road, Baulkham Hills 2153. New members welcome.
✉ Ian Sandercock | 0419 567 608
✉ patiansandercock@bigpond.com

Probud Combined Castle Hill Club

☎ General Meetings 3rd Tuesday of the month at 10am at Cherrybrook Community Centre.
✉ Helen | 0403 751 934
✉ enquiries@probudcastlehill.org.au

Probud Combined Kellyville Club

☎ Meet 2nd Mon of the month at 10am. At The Glenhaven Community Centre: 76 Glenhaven Road, Glenhaven. New members welcome.
✉ Veronica | 0408 025 577
✉ Susan | 0400 039 308
✉ ken_n_sue@hotmail.com

Probud Club of Winston Hills - Northmead Combined

☎ Meets at 10am at Toongabbie Sports Club, 12 Station St, Toongabbie, 2nd Thursday of the month. New members welcome.
✉ winstonhillspubclub@gmail.com

RDA (NSW) Tall Timbers Centre

☎ Equine assisted programs, Speech Pathology, Occupational Therapy and Volunteering Opportunities. Located at Gables/Box Hill

☎ 9679 1246

✉ admin@rdanswalltimbers.org.au
☎ www.rdanswalltimbers.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.
✉ Donna | 0416 082 626

Richmond /Windsor VIEW Club

☎ Richmond/Windsor View Club Meets every 2nd Wednesday of the month at The Richmond Club. VIEW (voice, interest and education of woman) supports the Smith Family and Learning for Life
✉ Trish Carter | 0417 010 619

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 of Hornsby Inc.

☎ Meets on the first Wednesday evening of the month at Pennant Hills Bowling Club.
✉ Pam | 0425 229 615
✉ sihornsbymysiseap.org

Soroptimist International The Hills

☎ Meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at Crestwood Community Centre Baulkham Hills 6.30pm for a 7pm start.
✉ Cathy | 0435 837 118
✉ sihehills@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/thehillslclearningcentre

The Hills Shire Garden Club

☎ Meets on 3rd Monday of the month @ 1pm; Barton Hall, 178 David Road Castle Hill.
☎ 9624 5034

The Hills District Pipe Band

☎ Practices at Stamford Hall, Balcombe Heights Estate, Baulkham Hills every Wednesday 7-9pm. 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 St. Joseph's Conference Centre 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

☎ Welcome to Members and Visitors.
✉ Mal Steel | ✉ aairsydneyhills@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 Tues of the month at Windsor RSL Club at 6.30pm. New members welcome.
✉ Les Mison | 0421 821 990

Windsor Probud Club

☎ Meets at 10am on the 1st Wed of the month at Windsor RSL 36 Argyle St, South Windsor.
✉ Ross | 0414450900 or
Secretary Ann | 0414298945
✉ ann.jones@bjff.com.au

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

Dural Scout Receives Bear Award

An important part of Scouting is learning new skills and earning the associated badges.

However, while this is important, the Scout Promise and Law, which we all undertake to live by, emphasises cornerstone qualities that are critical in becoming a valued member of society. These include being respectful, friendly, considerate, and caring for others. The Bear Award is for someone who has these personal qualities and represents the spirit of Scouting.

Kristina Taylor is this year's recipient of The Bear Award. Over the last 12 months Kristina's not only earned her Australian Scout Award, but she has also moved from Scouts to Venturers and is well on her way to earning her Queen's Scout Award. Along the way she has demonstrated the values of Scouting and shown leadership in a variety of ways. Demonstrating personal growth and a commitment to community service she has continued with her role as Assistant Hall Trustee, organizing and running working bees and continuing to learn many new skills.

Kristina has challenged herself across her outdoor activity skills, has completed



her adventurous journey, taken a leadership role at last year's District camp, and has continued to take on leadership roles in running activities at both Venturer level and assisting the Scouts. She's shown her passions through her Special Interest Area badgework in learning barista skills, being involved in Juniors at Galston Rural Fire Brigade and improving her canoeing and cycling skills. Well done Kristina and best wishes for another successful year ahead.

Dural Scout Group has vacancies now for Girls and Boys from 5 to 25 years. Joeys (5yo), Cubs (8yo), Scouts (12yo) and Venturers (16yo).

Please contact Phirooza: 0411 731 976 or phirooza@bigpond.net.au or Simon: thewolf_1stdural@bigpond.com.

New Online Waste Guide and Dashboard launched

Hawkesbury City Council has created a new online Waste Guide and Dashboard to help residents find out whether it is yellow or green bin week!

Council has launched the 'Find Your Bin Collection Day' Dashboard and Waste Guide on its website at <https://data.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/pages/waste-dashboard>.

Hawkesbury residents can now search their address, find their bin collection day and see if it's recycling or garden organics collection week through the Online Dashboard. The new search function will also enable Council staff to respond effectively and efficiently to enquiries and reports of a missed service.

The Waste Guide offers residents the ability to search for different items to know if they can be recycled or need to be disposed of and in which bin or location. It aims to help the Hawkesbury community to reduce contamination in the recycling and organics bins and allow residents to find answers easily. There is also an 'Ask a Waste Expert form'.

See the Waste Guide at <https://data.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/pages/waste-dashboard>



PUZZLE

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

CODE WORD

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

SUDOKU

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

Rating: ★ ★ ★ ★ ☆

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

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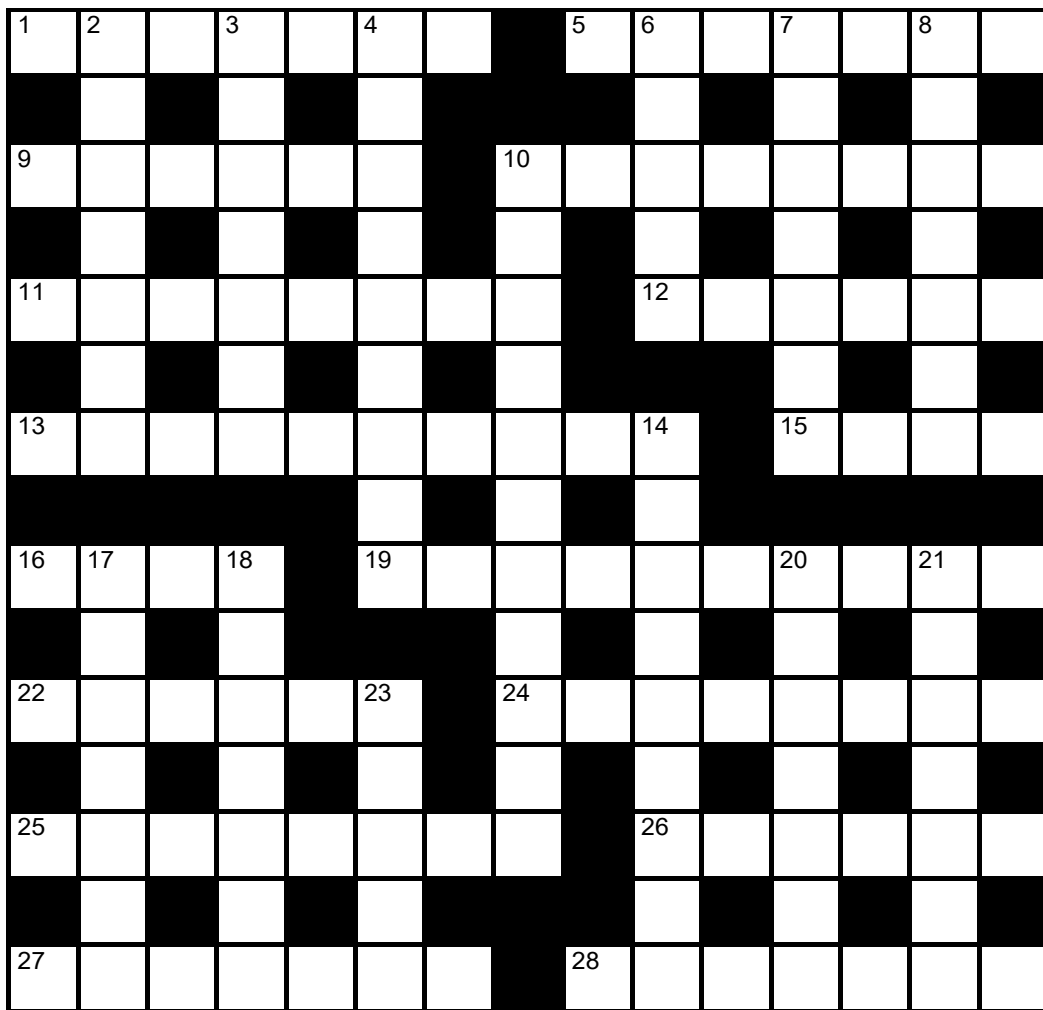
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Across

- 1. Incident
- 5. Arts hub reinvigorated common shrub (3, 4)
- 9. Printers' or Tasmanian
- 10. Fire-resistant tree
- 11. Take it easy! (4, 4)
- 12. Large beer bottle
- 13. Scissors grinder
- 15. Repose
- 16. Global airline body
- 19. Reliance
- 22. Part of a car's steering system (3, 3)
- 24. On the books
- 25. Sydney surfing beach (4, 4)
- 26. Pro bono
- 27. If you're doing it, you're on this (3, 4)
- 28. Unfavourable

Down

- 2. Triumph
- 3. Earth-shaking
- 4. Twisted out of shape
- 6. "The game's ---!" (Shakespeare - and Conan Doyle)
- 7. Chatterbox
- 8. Beach habitués
- 10. Former national cricket captain (3, 8)
- 14. Evasion
- 17. Horizontal bearing
- 18. Popular type of paint for artists
- 20. Overshadow
- 21. Closing items, usually, on TV screens
- 23. Just what the doctor ordered

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WORD SEARCH NEW YORK

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

- | | | | |
|--------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|
| ALBANY | CONY ISLAND | MANHATTAN | QUEENS |
| BROOKLYN | GREENPOINT | MARBLE HILL | SOHO |
| CENTRAL PARK | HARLEM | MIDTOWN | STATEN ISLAND |
| CHELSEA | HUDSON RIVER | MONTGOMERY | THE BRONX |
| CHINATOWN | LITTLE ITALY | MURRAY HILL | TRIBECA |

Answers from last issue

WORD SEARCH

CODE WORD

CROSSWORD

SUDOKU

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

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