

# DOORAL ROUNDUP



AUGUST 2023

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# Wear your PJ's to support little kids with BIG dreams!



## NATIONAL PYJAMA DAY

BY MARK COUPAR

Following the success of National Pyjama Day back in late July it seems quite a few people are not aware what great work this organization does in our community and why kids in care need our support more than ever.

National Pyjama day was held on July 21st but runs July to September so you can easily participate and is all about wearing your favourite pair of PJs to help The Pyjama Foundation raise much needed awareness and funds for children in foster care.

Any money raised will go towards helping over 1000 children, fund educational resources and help provide stable, positive relationships. Feel free to host your own Pyjama Day any time between July and September and make a donation and get your friends and colleagues involved and have some fun.

The Pyjama Foundation was founded in 2004 to give children in foster care the opportunity to change the direction of their lives with life skills and confidence.

So, are you game to complete the challenge in your PJs to raise awareness for kids in care.

It is something simple to do and a bit of fun with a great outcome.

Donate today at <https://fundraise.thepyjamafoundation.com/event/npd/donate>

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# Hills Charity Gala

Save the date... The Hills annual Charity Gala Ball will be held at Biviano's Dural on Thursday August 31st and is set to sparkle for an important cause.

This year's gala ball will support the Hills-based Positive Vibes Foundation (PVF) and its work with mental health and well-being programs and Biviano's is proud to be the prime sponsor.

The three-course bespoke dinner will include live and silent auctions and raffles and will be followed by live entertainment and dancing.

The first Hills Annual Charity Gala Ball was organised by Biviano's Dural in 2016 and has since raised over \$300,000 for local charities.

Supporters include Federal Member for Mitchell Alex Hawke, Federal Member for Berowra Julian Leeser, Hills Shire Mayor Dr Peter Gangemi, Hills Police Commander Supt Darrin Batchelor, Chair of the Positive Vibes Foundation and former Hills Mayor Dr Michele Byrne and Dr Jim Taggart, OAM, MC and auctioneer on the night.

The Positive Vibes Foundation was established in 2014 and works to promote positive mental health and wellbeing in communities through connections and conversations.

Its programs include the Hills Women's Shed, companion dog visits to aged care homes and educational forums for high school students.

Psychiatrist Dr Mark Cross who uses his own lived experience to engage, entertain and educate will be keynote speaker on the night.

The author of two books, Dr Cross was the lead psychiatrist on two series of the ground-breaking ABC series Changing Minds and was also the medical consultant on the eight-part ABC drama series Wakefield.

He has worked in Psychiatry for 25 years and is a Senior Lecturer at UNSW as well as acting conjoint lecturer at UWS. He's also



Dr Mark Cross

created The Anxious Shrink page on Facebook which has reached around a million people.

Dr Michelle Byrne said: "Events like the Biviano's Gala Ball are vital not only in terms of raising funds for important mental health programs such as the ones run by Positive Vibes but also in terms of ensuring we continue

to have important conversations in the community around positive mental health and well being.

"The funds raised from the evening will go towards the running of our programs including the Hills Women's Shed, Paws Visits, community engagement and the Healthy Minds Youth Forum as well as towards the expansion of the Women's Shed to provide more opportunities for local women to join the Women's Shed.

"We are also looking to expand Positive Vibes Foundation's line up of programs to also include a focus on veterans."

Owner Biviano's Raj Kumar said he and staff appreciated the community's support of what will be an "excellent night, communicating, and having lots of fun" at the same time.

So, come and enjoy great food and wine in a great setting, mingle with great community-minded people and support a great cause at the Hills "Event of the Year".

There is also a chance to win a \$5,000 Robert Cliff Master Jewellers' gift card.

**The Hills Gala Charity Ball by Biviano's for the Positive Vibes Foundation is on Thursday 31st August, 6pm for a 7pm start at Biviano's, 628 Old Northern Rd, Dural. Tickets are \$140 each. To book visit [trybooking.com/CJFZO](http://trybooking.com/CJFZO)**



**BIVIANO'S**  
RESTAURANT DURAL

## The Hills Annual Charity Gala Ball Invitation

Proudly supporting



Join us as we work together to raise funds for Positive Vibes as they make a difference to mental health in our community.

The Positive Vibes foundation was established in 2014 and works to promote positive mental health and wellbeing in communities through connections and conversations.

### Supported by

The Hon Alex Hawke MP, Federal Member for Mitchell | Mr Julian Leeser MP, Federal Member for Berowra  
Clr Dr Peter Gangemi, The Hills Mayor | Supt Darrin Batchelor, Commander The Hills Police |  
Dr Michelle Byrne, former Hills Mayor & Positive Vibes Chair | Dr Jim Taggart, OAM, MC & Auctioneer

Date: **Thursday 31st August 2023**

Time: **6:00pm for 7:00pm start**

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## 70 YEARS STRONG



John and Barbara Fuller, both 91, will celebrate their 70th Wedding Anniversary on 31 July 2023.

Recently, Julian Leeser MP, Federal Member for Berowra, visited John and Barbara to congratulate them on this impressive milestone and to hear about their life together.

John and Barbara first met after a choir practice at the local church in 1948, when they were 16. John, who had recently arrived in Australia from the UK, asked Barbara to an upcoming dance.

"It wasn't quite love at first sight, but we quickly became firmly attached. We courted for 5 years and very much grew into each other." John said. They married in 1953. John and Barbara have lived in Beecroft and Glenhaven for 55 years. Throughout that time, one of their biggest constants has been their involvement with the Beecroft Bowling Club, which Barbara first joined 34 years ago. For 12 years, Barbara also helped in the kitchen preparing meals for special events at the club. John still bowls several times a week, as well as going for a run every morning. It's those ties to the community that have kept John and Barbara connected to this area for so many years.

When asked about the secret to their long marriage, John and Barbara said they benefited from a bit of luck and a lot of give and take.

"John always brings me a cup of tea in bed in the morning as well. That helps! When he doesn't, that's when I know he's unhappy with me!" Barbara said. Mr Leeser said "It was wonderful to meet John and Barbara. It was a particular pleasure to see the beautiful photos of their three children, eight grandchildren, and eight great-grand-children that fill their home."

## HIGH SCHOOL LEADERS VISIT NSW PARLIAMENT WITH MATT KEAN MP

I recently had the honour to host our local High School Student Leaders for Lunch at Parliament House. Students from Asquith Girls' High School, Asquith Boys' High School, Hornsby Girls' High School, Galston High School, Northholm Grammar School, Pacific Hills Christian School, Cherrybrook Technology High School, Tangara School for Girls & Barker College accepted the invitation to visit Parliament House and viewed the proceedings of the Parliament from the public galleries. I valued the opportunity to hear first-hand from our school leaders about the issues of concern to them and their peers. After lunch they visited Government House to meet with Her Excellency, the Governor Margaret Beazley AC KC. As well as providing a personal view of how the Parliament operates, I hope it was an enjoyable experience before the serious work of study and exams begin.



## ADVERTORIAL

## SPRING IS ALMOST HERE – IS YOUR GARDEN READY?

Preparing your garden for spring sets the foundation for a successful and vibrant growing season. Our friends at Sydney's Plant Market share their tips for anyone wanting to be "garden-ready" come Spring.

- Clean up:** Remove any fallen debris, leaves and dead plant material. Clearing the garden will prevent diseases and pests from settling in, allowing your plants to start fresh.
- Soil preparation:** Assess the condition of your soil and replace as needed. Loosen soil with a fork or trowel to improve aeration and drainage. Add some compost or leaf mulch to enrich the soil with nutrients for healthy root growth.
- Plan your garden layout:** Decide which plants you want to grow and where. If you need advice on the best plants for your space and conditions, visit Sydney's Plant Market and chat with one of our friendly team members.
- Pruning and trimming:** Prune any fruit trees and bushes to remove dead or damaged branches and shape them for better growth. This will help with healthy new growth during spring.
- Weed control:** Prevent weeds from taking over your garden by removing them right at the beginning of spring - before they become established. Use mulch to stop regrowth.
- Fertilisation:** Speak to us to work out which fertiliser is best for the types of plants in your garden. Be careful not to over-fertilise as this can damage your plants.
- Pest management:** Inspect your garden for signs of pests and take preventative measures.



**Follow these tips for a successful planting season ahead. Whether you're a seasoned green thumb or just starting your plant journey, visit us at Sydney's Plant Market for more gardening advice and a huge range of affordable plant options. Open 7 days, 7am-5pm, 184 Annangrove Rd, Annangrove or visit [www.sydneyplantmarket.com.au](http://www.sydneyplantmarket.com.au)**

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# MORE THAN JUST A PHARMACY



Westleigh Pharmacy is a community pharmacy owned and run by husband and wife team David (B. Pharm.) and Margaret Wood (B. Pharm.).

David and Margaret both have over 40 years of experience in the business and have been at Westleigh Village since 2005 after operating in Parramatta for two decades.

They are joined by pharmacy assistants Leanne, Chelle, Naomi and Rih.

Their emphasis is on providing professional, personal, and friendly advice to the local community. They aim to maintain the community orientation of their pharmacy which is important to both them and to their customers in the face of a rapidly changing industry.

As well as providing all your medical needs, Westleigh Pharmacy prides itself on its range of the latest quality and unique giftware, homewares, beauty and jewellery in-store. They also offer Australia Post products.

*'So far we have had 18 wonderful years serving the Westleigh community. Our customers are more like family and*



*we appreciate every one of them.'*  
Margaret Wood (B. Pharm.)

Please drop by and say hi to the wonderful team at Westleigh Pharmacy.

**Located at Westleigh Village - Shop 17,  
4/8 Eucalyptus Drive, Westleigh Ph 9481 9354**

## PROPERTY & YOU – BY PAUL MCKENZIE, ABS CONVEYANCING

# FIRST HOME BUYERS - NEW STAMP DUTY RATES & RULES

As from the 1st July 2023, the new NSW State Government has changed the First Home Buyers stamp duty rates and rules. The new rates, there is a full stamp exemption for First Home Buyers for sale prices up to \$800,000 and a partial exemption for sale prices up to \$1 Million.

The partial exemption concession of stamp duty guide for First Home Buyers, between \$800,00 and \$1 Million is as follows (Source: Revenue NSW).

The rules for First Home Buyers on stamp duty exemptions and concessions also have changed. You must live in the property, soon after settlement for at least 12 months. Revenue NSW are strict, in the terms and conditions for First Home Buyers stamp duty exemptions and concessions. Serious consequences and ramifications, if not complying and breaching the rules.

PURCHASE PRICE	STAMP DUTY WITHOUT FHBAS	NEW STAMP DUTY WITH FHBAS	SAVINGS
\$650,000	\$23,985	\$0	\$23,985
\$750,000	\$28,485	\$0	\$28,485
\$800,000	\$30,735	\$0	\$30,735
\$850,000	\$32,985	\$9,934	\$23,051
\$900,000	\$35,235	\$19,868	\$15,367
\$950,000	\$37,485	\$29,801	\$7,684
\$990,000	\$39,285	\$37,748	\$1,537

For further details: <https://www.revenue.nsw.gov.au/grants-schemes/first-home-buyer/assistance-scheme>



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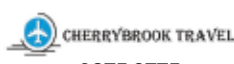
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## ARCADIAN QUILTING NEWS

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## PROBUS KENTHURST

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## CASHFLOW MANAGEMENT

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## COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Now is the time to think about who you would like to thank for their tireless work in the community.

## COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM

Not-for-profit community groups in The Hills Shire can receive a much-needed funding boost.

## COMPUTER PALS FOR SENIORS TURNS 25

First formed in March 1998, the Club began teaching in a spare classroom at Oakhill College, with "hand-me-down" computers.

## COUNCIL DELIVERY PROGRAM

Following the challenges of recent years, Council is focused on remaining financially strong and building a resilient Shire, well prepared for a growing population.

## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNITY PROJECT

Pennant Hills Market Place ran an exciting new community initiative that promoted sustainable practices and raised awareness about environmental issues.

## FIT KIDZ DURAL NORTH

Residents of a local aged care home were invited to join our children for morning tea and play.

## GALSTON CWA

Visitors are very welcome to attend the meeting, and our craft days.

## HILLS \$70K GRANTS

Two crucial community service providers will benefit from the biggest grants allocated in The Hills Shire Council's history.

## HILLS MEN SHED

Commentary on the improper use of tools in the machine room.

## JOHNSON ROAD, GALSTON DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION

Council SHOULD HAVE consulted with Galston community...

## MS FUNDRAISER

The Galston500 has raised over \$33,000 in past years for research into finding a cure for MS.

## NATIONAL TREE DAY

The Hills Shire Council is set to plant almost 4,500 native trees.

## OPTUS HILLS TEENAGERS GRANT

Optus is awarding 64 grants to recipients located all over the country.

## ORANGE BLOSSOM FESTIVAL

Enjoy a taste of spring at The Hills Shire's biggest community event – the Orange Blossom Festival.

## PROBUS CLUB OF THE HILLS INC

We look forward to welcoming new members and meet at the Galston Club on the second Wednesday of each month.

## RURAL LANDS STUDY

Council managing rural lands into the future to protect and enhance rural values.

## SOLAR LIGHTS UP

Solar initiatives are part of Council's Sustainable Hornsby 2040 Strategy.

## SYDNEY HILLS GARDEN COMPETITION

A showcase of the Hills District Finest Gardens

## THE DISH DAY OUT

The day was such a success, a couple of day trips each year will be in the planning.

## KENTHURST ROTARY

Please join, make new friends and share in the wonderful community spirit.

## ROTARY CLUB OF WEST PENNANT HILLS AND CHERRYBROOK

The Club held its change over dinner and the new Board was inducted.



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# RUDDOCK PARK UPGRADES ON 48TH BIRTHDAY

A day after the 48th anniversary of when Ruddock Park, Westleigh was opened in honour of former Shire President, the Hon Max Ruddock, an impressive suite of upgrades was yesterday officially unveiled by his son, Hornsby Shire Mayor, the Hon Philip Ruddock AO.

Funded by the NSW Government through the Public Spaces Legacy Program in association Hornsby Shire Council, the upgrades include a new Learn-To-Ride play area, pathway upgrades, a basketball half court, new five-way swing, new seating and picnic shelters, planting, lawn areas and an outdoor gym, and refurbishments to Westleigh Tennis Club.



Councillor Tania Salitra, Hornsby Shire Mayor Philip Ruddock AO, Councillor Janelle McIntosh

Ruddock Park was opened on 28 June 1975 as a tribute to Max Ruddock's role in the establishment of Westleigh and in recognition of his work as a councillor and former president of Hornsby Shire Council. Thousands of people flock to the park each year for its well-equipped, boat themed playground, large oval, mature, shady trees and picnic areas.

"Ruddock Park is of great significance to myself and my family. It is a tangible commemoration of the significant contribution that my father made to Westleigh and Hornsby Shire as a whole. It is particularly dear to me as, not only does it bring back fond memories of him, but it's also somewhere I visited with my own children when they were young.

"I'm incredibly proud and excited to officially launch these upgrades, just in time for the school holidays. They raise the bar for what people can enjoy at the park, give it longevity and are a significant boost for the local area.

**For more information about the upgrades at Ruddock Park, visit [hornsby.nsw.gov.au/ruddock-park](https://hornsby.nsw.gov.au/ruddock-park)**

## PROBUS PONDERINGS – COMBINED PROBUS CLUB OF CHERRYBROOK

A large group enjoyed lunch at the Wallacia Hotel followed by an outing to the Western Sydney International Airport site. A visit to the Cumberland State Forest, and a guided tour of Allianz Stadium concluded with excellent food, drink and company!

More energetic activities of lawn bowls and golf are balances with craft, book club, cards and games and the Money Matters group.

The coming weeks are promising to be action packed with a two-night Christmas in July extravaganza, and the Club's 24th Birthday concert and cocktail party.



If you are an able bodied, semi-retired or retired couple and have promised yourselves to get out, meet new people and have new experiences, the Combined Probus Club of Cherrybrook could be for you.

Our meetings are held at the Cherrybrook Community and Cultural Centre on the first Thursday of each month.

**For information please contact Ross on 0411 104 863. We look forward to warmly welcoming you to our Probus Club to share the good times.**

## NEW SPORTS COMPLEX IS UNDERWAY IN NORTH KELLYVILLE

The Hills Shire Council is celebrating the first major construction milestone at a soon-to-be-built sports complex in North Kellyville.

Machinery is now on-site at Stringer Road Reserve and carrying out bulk earthworks that will soon transform the vacant space into a thriving place where residents and visitors can play team sports, enjoy recreational activities, socialise and stay active and healthy.

Mayor of The Hills Shire, Dr Peter Gangemi said he was proud to see work commencing on the new complex,

which is anticipated to open in the second half of 2024 (weather permitting).

"This facility will not only cater to the growing community but will also support grassroots sports and promote active and healthy lifestyles," Mayor Gangemi said.

"It will benefit local residents and teams in the short term and have long-lasting effects on the community for years to come. It also has the potential to produce future champions, including Olympians and Paralympians.

"I look forward to seeing this facility taking shape over the next few months and then being utilised when it opens to the community in 2024," he said.



Mayor Gangemi pictured at Stringer Road Reserve.

Once complete, the sports complex will include four multi-purpose natural turf fields that can be reconfigured into two ovals. There's also an amenities building with accessible toilets, change rooms, a kiosk, a referee room and storage.

The facility has also been designed to include two full-sized basketball courts, a car park, spectator seating, pathways, and a children's playground with a picnic shelter.

# GLENHAVEN GREEN MARKET DAY

Glenhaven Green Retirement Village is celebrating it's 15th Birthday with a Market Day.

It is being held on 9 September from 10am to 2pm.

We are at 607 Old Northern Road, Glenhaven, next to Flower Power.

All are welcome, bring your friends and family and enjoy your early Christmas shopping for gifts, clothing, accessories, plants and many more stalls

There will also be a pop up cafe and a sausage sizzle.

## ADVERTORIAL

# WHY IS MY PRINTER USING SO MUCH INK OR TONER



Does it seem like you are constantly having to buy ink (or toner) for your printer? This can be very stressful as you feel you are being ripped off.



1. Small capacity cartridges in an old printer: Older style printers could only print a few hundred pages at most due to the cartridge capacity. Modern printers now have much larger capacity cartridges (for almost the same price!!) due to customer demand.
2. Quality of your print: For your normal day to day printing you may have the quality setting too high. Look for Draft or lower the Dots Per Inch (DPI) setting. A higher quality setting will use more product.
3. Using Colour needlessly: Did you know that when selecting Black & White you are still using colour? Try to find Greyscale, Greyscale will only use black ink.
4. What you are printing has a huge effect: If you are printing images or photo's then you will be tearing through ink or toner. Consider getting your photo's printed at one of the big chains like Harvey Norman or The Good Guys. Also, the amount of text you are putting on a page is a big factor as I said previously.

It's really important to understand how "yield" is calculated. Every printer company benchmarks their products against an industry standard of 5% product deposition on an A4 sheet of paper. To put that in perspective, all the text in this blog would be about 7%. It's not a lot of printing. But then again, look at a new car at the dealer, the manufacturer reckons you will go 100 clicks on a litre of petrol too!

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## from the Mayor's Desk

As we continue to move through the cooler months, I wanted to highlight some of the wonderful winter experiences we have on offer here in the Shire. Despite the chill still in the air, there are plenty of reasons to get out and about in the community.

I encourage you to get outside and enjoy our beautiful and unique environment. Discover the beauty of the Bushland Shire, with its diverse range of flora and fauna, by heading out on one of the many bushwalks available. Or take the family to one of Council's upgraded parks, playgrounds or ovals, with a range of equipment and facilities for people of all ages to enjoy.

You could take your beloved four-legged friend to an off-leash dog park to enjoy the winter sunshine or organise a coffee catch-up with friends at a local café. Or learn to swim in the heated pool at Hornsby Aquatic and Leisure Centre.

If you are looking for a more relaxing option, why not catch up on some reading? Winter is always a great time to get cosy with a new read, so head to one of our Council libraries to borrow a book. Berowra Library has just unveiled a new 24/7 book locker, with the click and collect system now open for members to collect items at any time, day or night.

Meanwhile, we celebrate Local Government Week 2023 from Monday 31 July to Sunday 6 August across NSW. This is a time when we recognise the invaluable role that local government plays in our community.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the many committed Council staff who serve the area, working tirelessly to improve the life of our residents and make Hornsby Shire the special place that it is.

**Philip Ruddock AO**  
Mayor, Hornsby Shire Council

## What's on



## THIS WINTER...

Enjoy the winter sunshine at our playgrounds.

[hornsby.nsw.gov.au/playgrounds](https://hornsby.nsw.gov.au/playgrounds)

## COMMUNITIES, CREEKS & CRITTERS – A call out to citizen scientists young & old.



Photography by Matthew Burke

Curious about what lives in and around your local Bushland Shire creek?

Rare opportunity to join this innovative creek investigation project using cutting-edge environmental DNA technology.

Training and support provided. DNA sampling scheduled for Spring & Autumn.

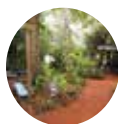
Register your expression of interest today!

For more information visit [hornsby.nsw.gov.au/citizenscience](https://hornsby.nsw.gov.au/citizenscience)

## Waste & Sustainability Workshops

Learn something new this August!

For bookings visit: [hornsby.nsw.gov.au/waste](https://hornsby.nsw.gov.au/waste)



### Kimbriki Resource Recovery Centre Tour

Thursday 10 August, 9am-2pm.

See how your green waste is transformed into a usable garden product.



### Rethink Your Wardrobe

Wednesday 23 August, 11:30am-12:40pm.

Hornsby Library  
Learn how to sustainable source and dispose of your clothing.



### Book and Clothing Swap

Saturday 19 August, 11am-1pm.

Thornleigh Community Centre  
Did you know that 6 tonnes of clothing are thrown out every 10 minutes?



### Hand Sewing & Mending Workshop

Saturday 26 August, 10:30am-12pm.

Hornsby Library  
Learn some simple hand sewing and mending skills.



## Chipping for Mulch

Sunday 20 August 7.30am-12.30pm

Council Depot, Johnson Road, Galston

Bring your garden prunings and branches that don't fit in your green bin and have them chipped into mulch.

HORNSBY  
ARTPRIZE  
HORNSBY

## HORNSBY ART PRIZE 2023

CALL FOR ENTRIES

ENTRIES CLOSE 5 SEPTEMBER

[hornsby.nsw.gov.au/artprize](https://hornsby.nsw.gov.au/artprize)

# MILD BUT NOT INSIGNIFICANT HEARING LOSS

Did you know that mild hearing losses are the most prevalent type of hearing loss in the world? While some people report no problems when they have a mild or minimal hearing loss, for others, it can cause difficulties when listening in day-to-day situations. These people often experience greater perceived lifestyle limitations, reduced emotional well-being and decreased sense of independence.



Minimal hearing loss is defined as a hearing loss that is just outside of the normal range of hearing, or a hearing loss in one ear or one that is only at the high frequencies or pitches. The terms 'minimal' and 'mild' can lead to confusion because it can imply that they do not have large or negative impacts or consequences. Research has identified though, that any degree of hearing loss can adversely affect people's lives; by impacting on social, cognitive, and educational factors. Untreated hearing loss is further considered a risk factor for brain atrophy and cognitive decline.

The most noticeable impact of a minimal hearing loss is the increase in listening effort which means that more attention is required to follow conversation. When someone is recognised to have a mild or minimal hearing loss, it is likely they will receive little or no intervention. However, it is important if any type or degree of hearing loss is having an emotional or social effect on an individual, this should be addressed. It is our job as professionals to

understand the impact on the individual and ensure we provide the best care regardless of how small the problem may seem on paper.

People with minimal hearing losses may benefit from using hearing aids, or they may not. This outcome will not be known without trialling devices. Additionally, other management options such as assistive listening devices, auditory training and communication strategies could reduce listening fatigue and increase hearing enjoyment for the individual.

Hearing is one of our most important abilities and directly impacts the quality of our lives. A person with mild hearing loss may

hear well in quiet situations. While in other situations, they are not hearing as well and struggle to understand another person talking. People may attribute this problem to the situation and not to their own hearing. It can be years later before the individual discovers that it is their hearing that is responsible for the loss of clarity and not the situation only. It is important that as soon as hearing problems like these are noticed, a hearing test is completed. Here at EAR STUDIO, we assess all aspects of hearing, and we consider with care what impact a hearing loss has on their life. Together, we can discuss if a hearing solution is appropriate at this stage or may be useful in the future.

**If you are experiencing any hearing concerns and would like to have your hearing professionally assessed, come and see us at our clinic in Castle Hill. Bookings via 02 9159 6122 or at [earstudio.com.au](http://earstudio.com.au)**

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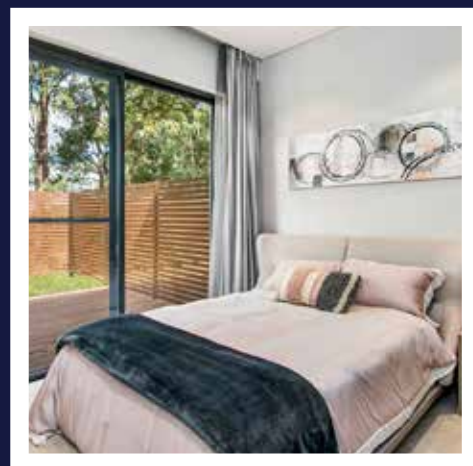
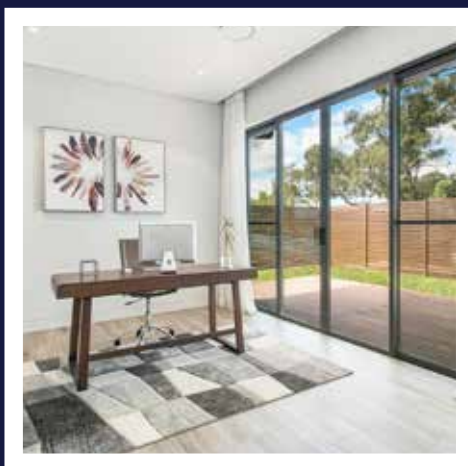
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# GALSTON CONCERTS ARE 'SPREADING THE WORD'

The Galston Concerts program planner Robert Harris enjoys 'spreading the word' to Hills and Hawkesbury residents.

"We want to be sure that audience numbers continue to grow so we're always happy to meet with local groups to share the news of future concerts."

"The next concert on 10 September presents WorldWinds, a program for flute, bassoon and piano with music by Beethoven, French composers and a clever narrated story-in-music."

The final program on 5 November will have a piano focus with Tonya Lemoh playing 'Top 10 or 20' familiar Classics.

A pipe organ prelude at 1.30pm, a pre-concert talk before the 2 till 3ish main concert and post-concert afternoon teas make for an enjoyable Sunday afternoon.

**Advance bookings on [trybooking.com](http://trybooking.com) are available in the month prior to every concert – just search Galston and each date. Tickets can also be requested via the Galston Uniting Church office on 9653 2039 for 'pickup-&-pay on the day'.**

# CASTLE HILL ART SOCIETY

**ORANGE BLOSSOM FESTIVAL ART SHOW 2023  
15TH – 17TH SEPTEMBER**

Castle Hill Art Society has been part of the Orange Blossom Festival since the 1960's and will once again be holding the Annual Art Awards and Sale this year from **Friday the 15th to Sunday the 17th of September** 9am -4pm.

We invite all artists to enter the competition and we have many categories to give everyone a chance! The Mayor will be opening the OBF presentation on Thursday 14th at 7pm.

The children show will take place on the **22nd of September**. Come and visit this great annual art event!

For artists the entry forms will be available at [www.castlehillartsociety.org.au](http://www.castlehillartsociety.org.au)



# LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE!

On July 8, clarinetist, Anna Chung, held a fundraising concert in support of the Cherrybrook Uniting Church Outreach Ministry. Many people in the audience were able to enjoy clarinet music written by different composers including Mozart, Kovacs, and Bassi. In particular, this concert was an opportunity to reaffirm the role of the church as a member of the local community and as a neighbour.

The Church seeks to be salt and light in our communities. It is not simply our purpose to convert non-believers into Christians, but we are committed to our ministry and life in the hope that true hope, comfort and peace may be brought to all, even in a single moment of their lives.

When Jesus taught His disciples in His Sermon on the Mount, He told them, "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:14-16). We will continue to lift the light of God high and



strive to bring you hope, comfort, and peace. We hope you want to be our neighbours too.

We have started a new ministry initiative – HANDS AND FEET which provides fresh fruit and vegies at no cost to those who are experiencing financial stress in our local community each Thursday at 10.30-11.30am.

**Please register or for more information, call/text on 0493 707 912.**

**REV PETER CHUNG  
CHERRYBROOK UNITING CHURCH**

# ST JUDE'S BUSY BEES SPRING CLEAN

Alongside our more modern buildings, St Jude's is home to a beautiful sandstone church. Built in 1846, the heritage church is used weekly for our traditional 8am prayerbook service. In the recent school holidays, some of our enthusiastic youngsters came together to clean the church from top to bottom.

After several days and a lot of hard work, the sandstone, plaques, and wood are all gleaming once again.

Alongside our 8am service, St Jude's is a thriving local church, hosting contemporary services at both 10am and 6pm. We offer dedicated kids and youth programs at our 10am service and the 6pm service is a growing community of youth and young adults from across the district.

We'd love you to join us... as each week we remind ourselves of God's love expressed to us in His Son, Jesus Christ...



*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. (John 3:16-17)*

**Dougal Michie, Senior Minister  
Dural Anglican Church [www.duralanglican.org.au](http://www.duralanglican.org.au)**



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# GET READY FOR AN EXCITING SUMMER OF SPORTS AT THE CENTRE DURAL



With outdoor Soccer and Netball heading into finals and wrapping up for the season, it's time to look towards Summer sports.

Futsal, demanding agility, quick thinking, and precise ball control, promises non-stop action and excitement for kids and adults alike. Play during the week, keeping your weekends free. Kids games in the afternoons and Ladies, Mens and Mixed competitions during the evenings.

Netball is played using outdoor rules on full size courts, so there is no need to adjust your play, just bring your team and have fun! The faster paced "Dural 5's" Netball format is also offered as well as Ladies Netball competition on a Wednesday morning, including a free creche!

Indoor sports offer space for improvement and growth while enjoying friendly competition. So gather your friends, form a team, get fit and get ready to experience the joy of indoor Futsal and Netball. Don't miss out- register today and make this summer an unforgettable one for the love of sports.

[thecentredural.org.au/sports-competitions](http://thecentredural.org.au/sports-competitions)  
The Centre, 1 Pellitt Lane Dural, 8989 0000,  
[sports@thecentredural.org.au](mailto:sports@thecentredural.org.au)

## WATCH EVERY GAME OF THE 2023 WOMEN'S WORLD CUP AT ROUSE HILL TOWN CENTRE

"This is a watershed moment for women's sport and football in Australia, with a World Cup down under and women's football enjoying unprecedented support," said Mayor of The Hills Shire Dr Peter Gangemi.

Rouse Hill Town Centre's retailers will be offering refreshments and snacks, with food trucks serving up mouth-watering desserts during the Matildas games.

**What:** Women's World Cup live site at Rouse Hill Town Centre  
**When:** Thursday 20 July – Sunday 20 August  
**Where:** Market Square, Rouse Hill Town Centre

**For more information, visit [www.thehills.nsw.gov.au](http://www.thehills.nsw.gov.au) and search for 'Women's World Cup.'**



(L+R): Regional General Manager of Rouse Hill Town Centre Dave Moreton, Hills Football Member Services Nikki Riddle, Hills Pumas player Emilio, Mayor of the Hills Shire Dr Peter Gangemi and Young Matildas player Gemma Ferris pictured at Rouse Hill Town Centre

## DURAL SQUASH TO HOST NATIONAL TOURNAMENT

Dural Squash is a 12-court squash centre with fitness activities.

This year on 24–25 June we hosted the NSW Masters Squash Titles, and then successfully tendered for the Australian Masters Titles which will be held at our centre in Dural, and Thornleigh Squash on 2–15 September 2023.

This will involve approximately 200 members from all over Australia. Many will be coming with their caravans and visiting our tourist sites such as Wisemans Ferry, Nepean River, Blue Mountains, our Beaches, and City.

There is a Harbour Cruise planned, as well as Castle Hill RSL and other local venues hosting meals and entertainment, and the local caravan parks and accommodation are filled.

This will be an opportunity to showcase our Hills District area and the rest of NSW.



**Dural Squash and Fitness, 895 Old Northern Road Dural 2158.  
(02) 9651 2511.**



# DURAL COUNTRY LAWN BOWLS CLUB NEWS



Dural Lawn bowlers love a party so when Margaret Holden said she was moving to Queensland a group of Tuesday bowlers decided to take her to lunch.

What a happy gathering it was, the weather was pleasant and the company excellent. Keen tennis followers may remember Margaret Gallahar from her days playing with the Aussie squad when Margaret Smith was queen of tennis and the bowlers were often entertained with stories from those days.

Her ball sense and skill are still evident! The good wishes of the club go with her to Queensland. Her sense of fun will be missed.

Minor singles competition started on the 24th June 2023 at Dural Country Lawn Bowls Club. The finals are scheduled for Saturday 15th July. The newer members are looking forward to winning this limited event.

**Anyone interested in playing bowls or having a Barefoot Bowls Party please contact Robert on 0411 375 580.**

# INTERNATIONAL FUTSAL THRILLER IN DURAL!



The Centre in Dural recently hosted 2 International Futsal games between the Solomon Islands and Australia's Futsalroos. The stadium was packed with spectators and buzzing with energy of not just the excitement of the game, but the strong emotional ties Dural has with players from both teams!

Money raised at The Centre helped fund the Futsal league in the Solomon Islands, which grew to become a thriving sport program. The Solomon Island International team went on to play in the last four Futsal World Cups, seeking to qualify again for the 2024 Cup in Uzbekistan.



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# Creativity: Engaging Learners for the Realities of the 21st Century



Tuesday 22 August | 6 - 7.30pm

Professor Michael Anderson



Hills Grammar's Learning Centre Presents Dr Michael Anderson

Join Professor Anderson to consider ways that parents can help meet the educational and developmental needs of our young people to not only survive but thrive, through the development of cognitive interpersonal and intrapersonal dispositions

Register online at [hillsgrammar.nsw.edu.au/success-series](https://hillsgrammar.nsw.edu.au/success-series)

All welcome



Presented by  
Hills Grammar

## A Class with our Local Arcare Residents

This year, Hills Grammar's Senior School English classes and residents from Arcare are participating in an Intergenerational Learning Program.

This weekly program provides enriching opportunities for the students and visitors to connect via a good old fashioned conversation in the comfort of the Senior School Library.

Each visit witnesses interesting discussions about personal heroes, school life in the past and connections with family and friends; talking points highlighting both the differences and similarities between the generations.

Not only are the younger students fascinated by the stories told by the Arcare residents, they are especially intrigued by the concept of not having any form of technology to entertain oneself (a common theme that is revisited over and over and over again).

It was endearing to see how well students adjusted their conversation style to adapt to the individual needs of each resident, and is especially touching to see the enthusiasm of the students and their 'Grandfriends' as they greeted each other each week.

It is such a unique connection between the generations, and one that we will continue to watch flourish as the year goes on.





# HI-TECH AGRICULTURE AT PACIFIC HILLS

Pacific Hills Christian School at Dural has installed a state of the art computerised agricultural science research station called the iFarm. This is part of the School's expansion of its Agriculture program.



The Australian designed and manufactured unit has one aim in mind: helping students to understand the resources required to produce food and fibre, and stimulating their interest in agri-related careers.

iFarm features growing beds with subsurface drip irrigation and overhead watering spray systems, a 2000 litre water tank, moisture and temperature sensors, a weather station, composting worm farm and a digital touchscreen to monitor scientific data. Students will engage in planting different types of crops and monitor variables such as water, fertiliser and plant growth. They will be able to conduct comparative trials to determine best practice methods.

Not only will students learn environmentally friendly farming practices, the iFarm itself has a low carbon footprint. The outer skin is made from recycled plastic and the unit is powered by its own solar and wind energy systems.

The iFarm project is supported by funding from the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry as part of the Educating Kids About Agriculture: iFarm program.



## RURAL ROUNDUP

CLR WARREN WADDELL

The July meeting of Council began with the tabling of a community petition relating to the former pony club site in Johnson Rd Galston. The petition is a strong early indication of how many in the community would like to see this operational land utilised long term.

Through emails, the petition, and two meetings supported by ratepayer associations, GARA and AGRA, many stories and messages have been received highlighting how this parcel of land has been informally facilitating a range of recreational uses. In particular, the process has highlighted the absence of park facilities at that end of Galston Village.

Part of the combined amenity in Johnson Rd is the RFS shed. The AGRA meeting also provided an opportunity for our local RFS branch to share their aspirations for a new shed and how it could better integrate into the site.

Council also resolved to progress the latest stage of the Rural Land Study that had been prepared. The RLS sets the strategic direction for managing rural lands into the future. The latest component will put land use provisions in place that protect what we enjoy about our rural amenity while ensuring innovation and a sustainable local economy.

On another note, it was a privilege to be invited to the Greater Hills Rotary changeover dinner and celebration of volunteers. Most of us are aware of the Rotary bookfair at Galston community centre. Well, this year proved to be another huge success with proceeds being distributed to several worthy causes, including the local women's shelter.

**As always, happy to be contacted in regard to any issues. [wwaddell@hornsby.nsw.gov.au](mailto:wwaddell@hornsby.nsw.gov.au) Ph: 0499 004 861.**

## KINDY IS COMING IN 2024

New Hope is the most modern purpose-built school in the Hills for children with mild to moderate intellectual delay or Autism Spectrum Disorder. Years K-12.



New Hope Christian School is an independent school trading under the Pacific Group of Christian Schools ABN 11001832 828



[enrolments@newhope.nsw.edu.au](mailto:enrolments@newhope.nsw.edu.au)

[www.newhope.nsw.edu.au](http://www.newhope.nsw.edu.au)



## MARK HODGES

MEMBER FOR CASTLE HILL

### CASTLE HILL OFFICIAL OFFICE OPENING

This week the Castle Hill Electorate Office was officially opened. The leader of the opposition in the Legislative Assembly, Mark Speakman SC, MP attended the event and gave a speech and declared the electorate office officially opened.

Alex Hawke MP, Federal Member for Mitchell, and Dr Peter Gangemi, Hills Shire Mayor also each gave an address

to the guests and spoke about our great electorate. It was wonderful to be able to share this exciting event with some of the Castle Hill constituents as well as political leaders from all levels of government.

Along with opening the office, I gave Mark Speakman a tour of some of our electorate, starting with a visit and a meet and greet at the Hills Men's Shed, who hosted a lovely morning tea. We were able to speak with the Shedders and see the amazing work of this community group in our electorate.

The final stop for the day was a meet and greet event hosted by the Sydney Hills Business Chamber. It was good to meet with these people from a wide and diverse range of businesses, to form connections, and offer an ear to small and local businesses.



Thank you very much to Leader Mark Speakman SC, MP for officially opening the electorate office of Castle Hill. It was a privilege to be able to show off parts of our electorate and showcase what the Hills area has to offer.



## JULIAN LEESER

MEMBER FOR BEROWRA

### A BIG WIN FOR PICK-YOUR-OWN FARMS

The NSW Premier, Chris Minns, has announced his intention to scrap proposed restrictions on the number of people allowed to visit NSW farms at any one time. This announcement comes after a community campaign opposing the changes.

Under the proposed changes, the number of visitors to farm gate shops would have been capped to 100 at any one time. The number of visitors who could attend a farm experience - such as a wedding - would have been capped at 50. Farms would need special development approval to exceed those limits.

The local area is home to several long-running and highly popular pick-your-own fruit farms. Those farms include Watkins Family Farm and Fords Farm in Loughtondale, Canoelands Orchard in

Canoelands, and Anderson Farm in Sackville North.

Nicky Alexander has been opening Ford's Farm to visitors for 21 years.

"We're grateful that the State government is listening to the concerns that farm owners have raised, so that our businesses can remain viable and visitors can continue to enjoy the experience." Ms Alexander said.

Just a few kilometres further along the Hawkesbury River, the Watkins family have operated Watkins Family Farm since 1867. Mark Watkins is the 7th generation of his family to farm their land.

Mr Watkins said "We're still waiting for a further meeting to discuss how these restrictions will be wound back. It's crucial that these restrictions are lifted."

The overwhelming feedback from these pick-your-own farmers was that this policy would have made their family businesses financially unviable, and left the fruit to rot on trees rather than being picked by visitors.

Julian Leeser MP, Federal Member for Berowra, strongly opposed the proposed changes.

"I will always fight for my constituents against unfair regulations." Mr Leeser said.



"I want our kids in Sydney to know that fruit and vegies come from farms and not the supermarket. We should be encouraging these farms rather than weighing them down with unwanted and unneeded red-tape."

"If you haven't already done so recently, I would encourage you to visit Watkins Family Farm, Fords Farm, Canoelands Orchard, or any other local pick-your-own farms."

## MARK HODGES MP

MEMBER FOR CASTLE HILL

**AS YOUR STATE MP, I AM HERE TO:**

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

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**As your Federal Member, I am here to:**

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- Attend your local community event
- Arrange congratulatory messages

Please contact my office if I can be of assistance.

**JULIAN LEESER MP**  
 FEDERAL MEMBER FOR BEROWRA

Level 11, 423 Pennant Hills Road, Pennant Hills NSW 2120 02 9980 1822  
 julian.leeser.mp@aph.gov.au julianleeser.com.au julianleesermp

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





## HILLS COUNCIL NEWS UPDATE

CLR MITCHELL BLUE

### Well, what a difference in weather a year makes!

This time last year the Hawkesbury was experiencing a significant flood. Whilst things have begun to return to some normality, we need to ask those impacted 'R U OK?' Mental health is very important, and it is our responsibility as a community to look after one another. I am pleased that works to River Rd have commenced. River Rd was significantly damaged in the multiple floods over the past few years, with parts of the road collapsing into the river. There is plenty of work to do here and council staff, engineers, consultants and now roadwork teams have been working hard to get these issues fixed. Please be patient whilst these works are undertaken.

Council has recently completed the missing section of Janpieter Road along the frontage of Horseworld Equestrian Stadium linking Gables to Maraylya. An important link for those living in and travelling through this area.

Brindle Parkway Reserve in Box Hill is well underway. Works currently being undertaken include; Bulk earthworks, Importation of soil, Stormwater and waste water work,

Preliminary carpark work, Amenities building construction, Waterway channelling work, Sportsfield electrical work.

The Hills is a special place, some would say the best place in Sydney to live. The Hawkesbury River, the bushland, our topography and of course our sense of community make it the place it is. Enjoying our natural wonders is important. Council has recently installed a picnic shelter at Hawkins Lookout! A great place to have a picnic at what is the best view in The Hills! I would encourage you to have a look at this. The Community Defib Project has also installed a defibrillator at this lookout.

The Rural Fire Service recently undertook the Aloha Hazard Reduction at Sackville North. As we move toward the upcoming bush fire season later this year, we must be prepared. Now is the time to start thinking about bushfire preparedness for your property. Have you got a Bushfire Survival Plan? A well prepared home is more likely to survive a bush fire. Even if your plan is to leave early, the more you prepare your home, the more likely it will survive a bush fire or ember attack. A well prepared home can also be easier for you or firefighters to defend, and is less likely to put your

neighbours' homes at risk. A well prepared home will also give you more protection if a fire threatens suddenly and you cannot leave. For more information visit [rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare](https://rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare)

I am pleased that Council's Community Grants Program has now opened. Not-for-profit community groups in The Hills Shire can receive a much-needed funding boost through the 2023/24 program. The program is open for applications and provides funding between \$2,501 and \$25,000 for community services. Council is seeking applications for projects that can be delivered for local residents by not-for-profit organisations. Council is particularly interested in projects in the following key 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; and
- Disability, youth, seniors, and cultural projects that support community participation opportunities.

I look forward to seeing you around North Ward. If I can be of any assistance, please reach out. Until next time!



## FROM THE DESK OF MATT KEAN

MEMBER FOR HORNSBY

### It was an honour to attend the 50th annual Hornsby Gang Show. This is a wonderful event put on by the local Girl Guides and Scouts which showcases the immense talent of our local kids and young adults.

Congratulations to all who were involved in the amazing show. Local resident and NSW Scouts State Commissioner Penny Becchio has compiled a book detailing the rich history of the show. I encourage you to get your copy at [www.gangshow.com/store](http://www.gangshow.com/store)

Recently, my office has been supplied with a stock of Rapid Antigen Tests from NSW Health. If you or others you may know would like some, please feel free to contact my office or drop in during business hours to pick them up.

I would like to acknowledge the service of Middle Dural Public School Principal Ann Mills to our local community. Mrs Mills has been a vital part of the Middle Dural Public School Community for over 40 years. I wish Mrs Mills all the best in her well-deserved retirement.

I trust all Hornsby constituents received a copy of my recent community newsletter. It contains various updates regarding issues of importance in our local community including New Line Road, Hornsby Hospital and the new Ambulance Station in Cherrybrook.

**If you haven't received a copy, please contact my office on 9476 3411 so that I can arrange for one to be sent to you.**



**Matt Kean MP**

Member for Hornsby

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## Hidden in the Hills

# ROCK FORMATIONS

BY LACHLAN TURNER

As you descend into bushland valleys along the many walking tracks in the Hills region, the presence of large rock formations becomes quite obvious.

Grey weathered sandstone bluffs are interspersed with wind eroded hollows resembling small caves.

Water too has a defining influence on the sculpturing of these rocky overhangs.

The continual breaking down of the sandstone provides much of the nutrients required by so many of the wildflowers and other plants growing in this special environment.



Sandstone ridges and slopes retain rainwater and slowly release moisture through the surrounding soils which in turn helps to nourish vegetation in the vicinity.

There are many plants, such as orchids, ferns and mosses, whose roots can actually grow on the surface of the rocks, taking advantage of small cracks in which to secure a foothold. Other plants depend on the close proximity of these rocky habitats taking advantage of the rock's protection in which to flourish.

The ability of large rocky formations to create a protected and cool environment enables moisture loving plants such as fungi and ground covers the opportunity to flourish in leaf litter beyond the reaches of the sometimes hot sunshine.

On occasions when walking through such rocky places it is possible to be confronted with rock formations that can take on some form of recognisable shape, which could, without too much imagination, be likened to some living or imaginary creature. Several examples accompany this month's column.

Next time if you are out walking along tracks bordered by large rocky outcrops, test your skill by trying to identify one of these rocky features. If you are not sure, move to another position and view your find from a different direction.



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# BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA



The next meeting of the Bromeliad Society of Australia will be on Saturday, 12th August at the Federation Pavilion, Castle Hill Showground, Showground Road, Castle Hill off Doran Drive. Bromeliad sales to the public from 10am with the meeting commencing at 12noon.

Guest speaker will be Glenn Smith, Photographer and his presentation will cover the basics of Flora, Fauna and Fungi photography, and will include getting clean shots and the removal of distracting backgrounds when using iPhones to High end Digital Cameras.

Glenn is an amateur photographer who shoots mainly in the Australian Botanic Gardens, Mount Annan. His interest in photography began at the age of ten, 46 years ago and but became more passionate about his hobby 9 years ago. He won the NSW Canon Light awards Photography competition in 2018.

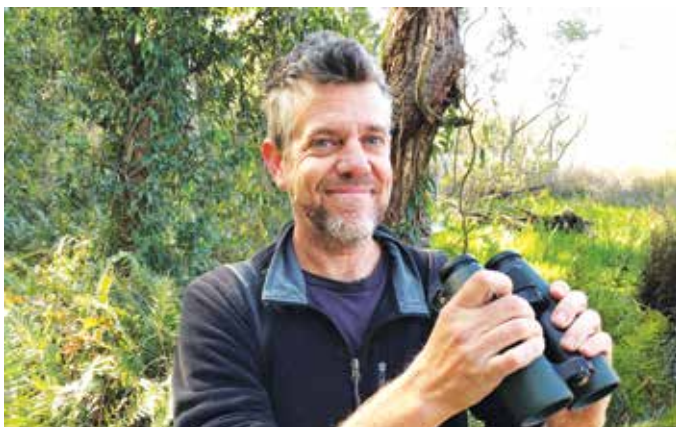
Glenn has run the photography workshops at Mount Annan Botanic Gardens since 2016 and spends many Saturdays out and about attending to his two major projects, photographing each of the 197 bird Species that visit the Australian Botanic Gardens and

to complete a photographic record of the 4,000 Native living collection of flora in the Australian Botanic Gardens at Mount Annan.

**For further information regarding the Bromeliad Society of Australia please contact Ian Hook, President on mobile 0408 202 269, email: [ianhook1@bigpond.com](mailto:ianhook1@bigpond.com)**



## ENDANGERED REGENT HONEYEATER



The Australian Plant Society-Parramatta/Hills Branch is pleased to announce their informative lecture on the Endangered Regent Honeyeater.

The regent honeyeater (*Anthochaera phrygia*) is a critically endangered bird endemic to southeastern Australia. It is commonly considered a flagship species within its range, with the efforts going into its conservation having positive effects on many other species that share its habitat. Recent genetic research suggests it is closely related to the wattlebirds.

**Guest Speaker: Mick Roderick**  
**2:00pm Saturday 23rd September 2023**  
**Gumnut Hall, Gumnut Place, Cherrybrook 2126**  
**All welcome!**  
**Enquiries to Jennifer Farrer (secretary) 0407 456 577**



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# DISTRICT EXERCISE AND NAVIGATION EXERCISE



Last month Dural participated in the Hornsby/Ku-Ring-Gai district exercise, where local brigades come together to prepare for the fire season.

Exercises tested navigating and map bearings, calculating the size of fires, medical emergencies, and what to do if a fire was approaching and there was no means of escape.

These scenarios are intended to challenge crews and ensure that all brigades are up to date on firefighting techniques.

It was a great training day for our members and our teams came 5th overall within our district. Great work team Dural and thank you to all those who helped to make the day happen.

# FIRE CATASTROPHE



Unprecedented heatwave conditions in Europe and North America indicate that our next summer is going to be brutal.

Observing the fire disasters overseas should compel Hills residents to be on high alert. Now is the time to prepare for the extreme fire danger we will no doubt be experiencing this upcoming summer.

The last few years of La Nina rainfall has generated a huge fuel load in bush, scrub land and even grasslands. Now the pendulum is swinging back to a drier and hotter El Nino, the threat of bushfires is very real. People living on what the RFS call the "Urban Interface" know that living amongst the gum trees has never been more dangerous!

One Australian company has boosted its fire pump production to make sure they have sufficient product available to protect homeowners from the ravages of what may be Australia's worst and most savage bushfire season.

Australian Pump introduced the Aussie Fire Chief almost 30 years ago. The pump was designed to be better than any other product on the market, with the company making a major effort to improve pump performance, features and value for money.

Aussie Pumps supports Hills homeowners to set up their bushfire protection systems, offering guidance in pump selection and operation. Aussie's website has some excellent and informative videos to help you prepare for bushfire season.



Further information and free copies of Aussie's "Bushfire Survival Guide" are available from your trusted Aussie Gold Distributor, or follow the QR code to download from our website [aussiepumps.com.au](http://aussiepumps.com.au)

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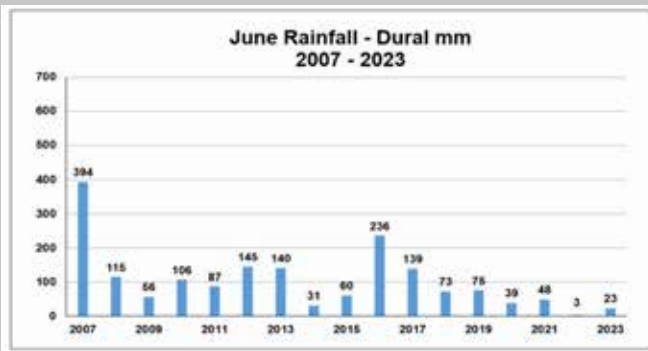
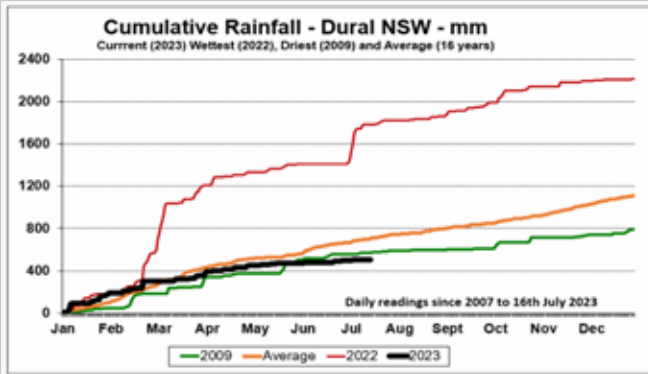
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BY HANS KUNNEN



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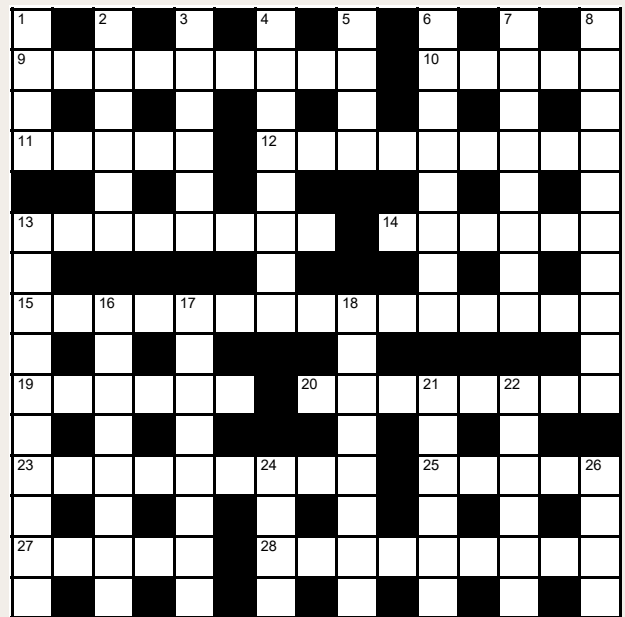
As a Dural & District Business Chamber member you will get to meet people at our regular meetings that you would not normally interact with and have the opportunity to share your skills and experience with others.

**Do you want to grow your business? Network with other local businesses? Call Mark Coupar today 0497 014 950 to find out how.**

[www.duralchamber.org.au](http://www.duralchamber.org.au)

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# CROSSWORD PUZZLE



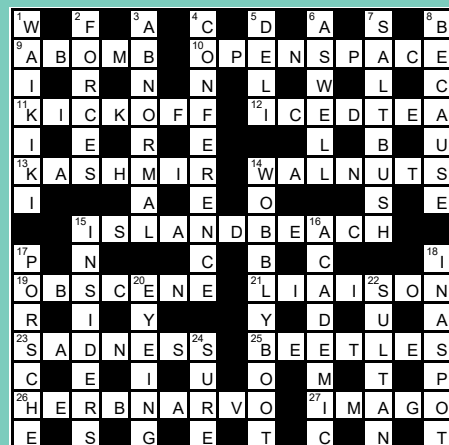
## ACROSS

- 09 Independent kind of writer (9)
- 10 Broadcasting (2,3)
- 11 Hold sway (5)
- 12 Immigrant-processing island (9)
- 13 Somewhere unimportant (4,4)
- 14 Geniality (6)
- 15 Flinders Island climbing challenge (10,5)
- 19 Teach bit by bit (6)
- 20 Egg-laying mammal (8)
- 23 Widespread shrub with petal-less flowers (9)
- 25 Gesture of indifference (5)
- 27 Frequently (5)
- 28 Clover bush (6,3)

## DOWN

- 01 At a distance (4)
- 02 South North American republic (6)
- 03 Completely redone (3-3)
- 04 Short true story (8)
- 05 Mean (4)
- 06 Mallee archaeological site (3,5)
- 07 Meryl Streep musical (5,3)
- 08 Product of an arms factory? (10)
- 13 President saw nothing wrong (10)
- 16 Honours (8)
- 17 Variants (8)
- 18 Pro golfer known as "The Pymble Crusher" (3,5)
- 21 Prepares a salad (6)
- 22 Equivalence (6)
- 24 Corporate image (4)
- 26 Plot holes (4)

## ANSWER FROM JULY ISSUE



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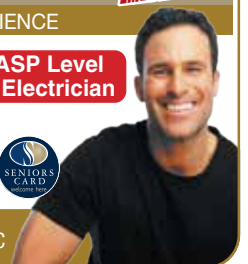
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