

DOORAL ROUNDUP

FREE



DECEMBER 2023

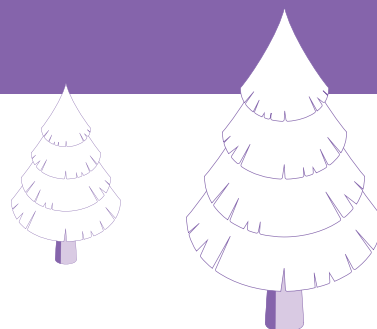
Official Publication of the Dural Chamber of Commerce
www.duralchamber.com.au



CAPTURING THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT WITH CHRISTMAS BUSH

See page 6

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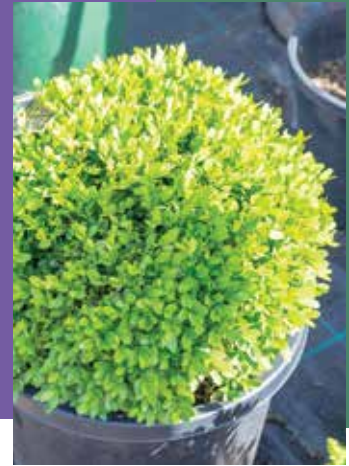
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The Dooral Roundup loves to receive contributions from our community!

Guidelines for contributors:

- Please send stories in editable text, eg Word or email (no PDFs), maximum 250 words.
- Please email pictures as separate files (not embedded into Word document).
- Deadline for community stories: 15th of the month.
- Deadline for advertisers providing your own art: 22nd of the month.
- The paper is distributed in the first few days of the new month.

Our beloved "FREE" paper is paid for by our loyal advertisers.

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If you are promoting an event with paid ticket sales, consider taking out an advertisement, however small.

Not for profit events can have a 30 word listing in "What's On."

CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

BY MARK COUPAR

Starting to notice some shop windows are putting in Christmas Windows and I always start to feel excited.

We generally celebrate Christmas Day by enjoying a Christmas lunch or dinner with our closest family and friends.

Growing up in our home I can always remember the searing heat outside and smell of a roast wafting through the house by mid morning.

As far as Christmas traditions go, lots of traditions are pretty much the same in the Northern Hemisphere, except they have snow!

Homes put up pretty lights and wreaths on the front door and decorate the tree and watch carols by candlelight on Christmas Eve.

I always like to hear "All I want for Christmas is you" from Love Actually and a newcomer as an Aussie playlist must have is "How to Make Gravy" by Paul Kelly.

This year has been tinged with sadness around the world by events which are out of our control but impact many families both here and abroad. On the flipside we have had some uplifting moments like the women's football world cup that literally stopped our nation and made household names of our Matildas.

On behalf of all the staff of the Dural Chamber and the *Dooral Roundup*, I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and safe and peaceful New Year.

Thank you for reading my stories each month!



Dural Chamber and Dooral Roundup Contacts



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CAPTURING THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT WITH CHRISTMAS BUSH

Amidst the festive buzz and the approach of warm, sun-soaked days, now is the ideal moment to enhance your outdoor space with the timeless allure of the Christmas Bush. Beyond its renowned seasonal display, this iconic plant holds more charm than meets the eye.

Standing tall at heights of 3 to 5 metres, the Christmas Bush takes centre stage in any garden. Its glossy green leaves create a verdant backdrop, paving the way for the true showstopper – the vibrant red bracts, a spectacle that graces gardens from November through Christmas and into February.

A PRACTICAL GARDEN COMPANION

The choice of Christmas Bush extends beyond aesthetics; it's a pragmatic decision. This native beauty stands resilient in Sydney's climate, demanding minimal upkeep and proving suitable for water-conserving gardens. Thriving in sunny to partly shaded spots, whether in the ground or a pot, it endures with modest watering throughout the season.

PLANTING AND CARE

For optimal results, plant the Christmas Bush in well-drained soil, basking in sunlight for the brightest bracts or in partial shade for a subtler charm. Enhance its settling by adding compost during



planting and applying mulch to deter weeds and retain moisture. Maintenance is a breeze; a light January or February pruning, post-bract display, followed by a nourishing mix of compost or manure with a hint of blood and bone.

NATURAL DECOR

Beyond its garden allure, the Christmas Bush transforms into a centrepiece for your dinner table. With a sharp set of secateurs, cut stems at an angle and arrange them in your favourite vase. Regular water changes can extend the festive display for up to three weeks.

Make your garden the perfect backdrop for Christmas celebrations. NSW Christmas Bush is on special during December at Sydney's Plant Market for only \$25 each.

Visit us at 184 Annangrove Rd, Annangrove, or explore our offerings at www.sydneyplantmarket.com.au Happy Gardening!

SPORTS NEWS AT THE CENTRE

The Centre is a sports hub in the heart of Dural, focusing mainly on social Futsal and Netball competitions. We run multiple competitions for varying skill levels. Part of this is our Holiday Clinics for the young ones to grow their skills and love of sport. We have Boot Camps for mums to socialise while they reignite their love of fitness after babies, and Action Kidz, for our little ones to get a taste of a variety of sports they may enjoy when they get older.

When we start up again after the Christmas holidays, in Term 1, both our current junior and senior competitions, Futsal and Netball, will be midway through their summer competition. If you and your team would like a late start into this competition, get in contact with us as we will plan on having a new intake.

How about having a kick around on a lazy Sunday afternoon, with a social Futsal Open Men's competition and Mixed Team competition to round out your weekend? Everything else will be starting fresh in the new year with early morning Boot Camps, Over 55's movement



classes our Future Starz programs. We also have some new exciting, never seen before, programs and competitions like our J league Netball competition, for High School aged boys.

It is certainly going to be a busy start to the year. For more information, phone 8989 0000 or visit <https://thecentredural.org.au/>

The *Dooral Roundup* has so many stories, we can't print them all!

Scan to go straight to our Latest News page at dooralroundup.com.au/latest-news/



Read our December "What's On"

online at dooralroundup.com.au



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This modern residence blends timeless design with industrial elements. Warm and tactile sandstone, timber and steel accents invite you into the home. The spacious entry features double-height glass and skylights, bathing the interior in natural light. The handcrafted steel staircase leads you to the upper level. The kitchen, living and dining areas are connected by oversized doors blurring the line between interior and exterior spaces and directly flowing into the pool and garden areas. Premium finishes throughout the home reflect skill and elegance, making it an exceptional showpiece property.

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A trip to Japan has had a lot of interest, so Cherrybrook Travel have a few tips. First, embrace the rich cultural tapestry by mastering basic Japanese phrases; locals appreciate the effort. Respect local customs, like bowing and removing your shoes indoors. Cash is still king, so have yen on hand. Lastly, indulge in Japanese etiquette—wait for everyone to receive their meal before starting, a gesture appreciated in this culture.



For a limited time only Cherrybrook Travel have created 'Japan, The Silversea Way' 14 Days adventure, departs **1 October, 2024**. You will take in some of Japan's most intriguing destinations aboard Silver Nova. Start with a day at sea to relax, before Osaka beckons you. Enjoy Hiroshima next, before being seduced by the heady cocktail of hot springs, gourmet food, abundant nature and spiritual history in Kyushu Island. Then South Korea, followed by an overnight in Kanazawa. Aomori, Hakodate and a day at sea complete your cruise.

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from the Mayor's Desk

As the year draws to a close, we look forward to down time with our family and friends to celebrate, reflect on the past year and make new goals and plans. With many experiencing financial strain, we can take advantage of what the Shire has to offer this summer at no cost. From paddling in the water to enjoying the serenity of the trees around us or one of our new or upgraded playgrounds, there's so much to experience right here on our doorstep. I will appreciate some time with my family and hope you enjoy the time with those around you.

With the increased risk of bushfires, I trust you have all prepared your homes to reduce the risk to your property and belongings. We are so fortunate to live in a place with abundant bushland, but it does come with its risk, especially this year when the grass and bush is so dry. Don't forget to have a plan for what you would do in an emergency and know what you will take with you and where you will go. There is lots of information to help you prepare on the new bush fire education section of Council's website: hornsby.nsw.gov.au/bushfireaware

Summer is a great time to read a good book, and in saying that, the Hornsby Shire Library's Summer Reading Clubs for children and adults run from 6 December until 23 January to encourage all ages to explore the amazing world of books. Register on the library's website for reading recommendations and for the chance to win great prizes.

To conclude, thank you for your support of Council and for all the time taken to give your feedback and suggestions. I wish you a cheerful and joyful holiday season and a happy new year.

Philip Ruddock AO
Mayor, Hornsby Shire Council

What's on

SEASON'S GREETINGS

Council opening hours
Christmas and New Year 2023-2024
Visit hornsby.nsw.gov.au/christmasopeninghours



THE BIG Summer READ

CHILDREN'S SUMMER READING CLUB

6 December 2023-23 January 2024

Weekly prizes to be won! Join online via Beanstack or collect your log book from your local Hornsby Shire library.
Visit: hornsby.nsw.gov.au/library

HORNSBY SHIRE LIBRARIES Summer READS

ADULT SUMMER READS

6 December 2023-24 January 2024

Win prizes for adults and teens 12+. Adults and teens are invited to join the summer reading fun. Enter online or pick up a form from your local Hornsby Shire library.
Visit: hornsby.nsw.gov.au/library



JOIN OUR GREAT TEAM

Become a learn to swim instructor or lifeguard. Casual positions available. Call 9847 6306 or email us at hornsbyaquatic@hornsby.nsw.gov.au

WASTE EVENTS



Bicycle Repair Workshop

Saturday 16 December
9.30am-12.30pm
Storey Park Community Centre

Chipping for Mulch – Westleigh

Sunday 10 December
7.30am-12.30pm
The Old Dog Pound, Westleigh

For details and bookings visit:
hornsby.nsw.gov.au/waste

YOUR SAY HORNSBY
JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Brickpit Park Playground Concept Plan

Submissions close: Monday 4 December

Fagan Park Off-leash Dog Park

Submissions close: Tuesday 12 December

Public domain upgrades Asquith to Mt Colah Stage 1

Submissions close: Friday 15 December

Planning for a Resilient Wisemans Ferry Drop-In Info Sessions

Thursday 7 and 14 December, 6-7pm
Wisemans Ferry Bowling Club



Bush Fire Aware

Be Aware, Then Prepare
for Bush Fire in our Shire

hornsby.nsw.gov.au/bushfireaware



GOOD NEWS IS HERE

For some people an early reindeer sighting can induce Christmas-related panic attacks...

Apart from one house I know that leaves their lights up all year, the first Christmas decorations I noticed this season went up in October!

Marketing experts call it 'season creep' where events like Christmas 'creep' earlier each year. I did get a shock on Boxing Day last year when my supermarket had hot cross buns on sale. (naturally I bought some...I'm only human).

December 25th is the day we mark Jesus' birth, when God himself come into the world.

Why did God feel the need to come into the world at all?

Jesus himself provides the answer. And in doing so he draws a close connection between Christmas trees and hot cross buns: "...God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him." (John 3:17)

It's hard for many people like us to admit we need anything. As we have everything under control (more or less), our tendency is to believe that God can be safely ignored. According to Jesus, our self-confidence is dangerously misleading – it's an illusion really.

Through his miraculous birth, perfect life, sin-bearing death and life-giving resurrection, Jesus demonstrates his readiness to forgive.

This well-known carol captures the good news...

**Hark! The herald angels sing, Glory to the newborn King,
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled.**

I hope to see you at St Judes over the holidays. Happy Christmas!

Dougal Michie, Senior Minister – Dural Anglican Church
See www.duralanglican.org.au for a full list of Christmas services.

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS AT THE CENTRE

The Centre is organizing a Christmas extravaganza this December, and the entire community is warmly invited to join the celebrations. There are various activities planned for people of all ages to enjoy.

Unleash your creativity with our annual wreath-making morning. Warm up your vocal cords as we sing everyone's favourite Christmas Carols. Immerse yourself in the magical atmosphere of European Christmas markets.

Release some of that holiday energy with our Christmas-themed Inflatable World sessions, featuring special guests from the North Pole. Finally, join us on Christmas morning to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

The Centre is a unique church where we encourage the community to have fun inside our church. Instead of meeting in a traditional church building, our services are held on our playing courts. Our regular worship services are held on Sunday mornings at 10 am; everyone is welcome to join. If you are interested in learning more about the hope Jesus offers, come along at Christmas to learn about the true meaning of Christmas.



THE CENTRE, 1 Pellitt Lane, Dural. 02 8989 0000,
thecentredural.org.au

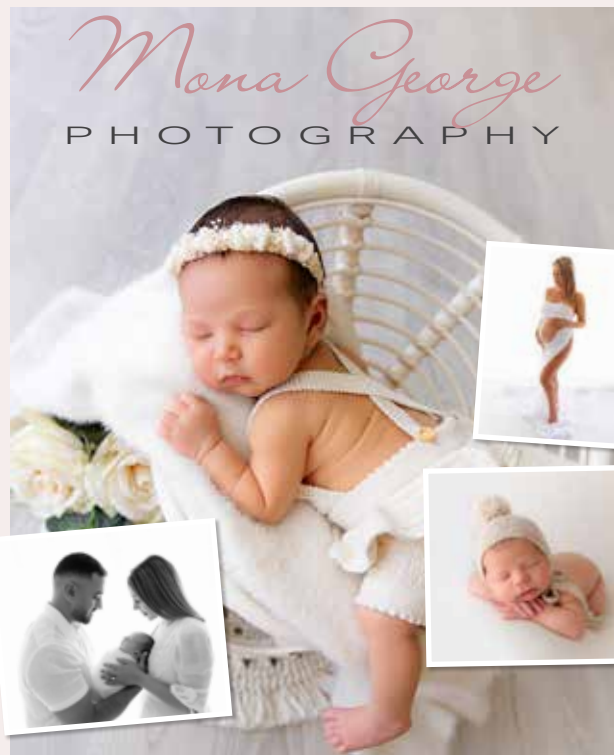
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DO YOU REALLY NEED A HEARING AID?

In cases of hearing loss, the most common treatment a hearing care professional will offer is a hearing aid, as they help to maximise the hearing a person has left. Hearing aids work on enhancing sounds a person may no longer hear naturally, making it easier to hear important sounds for communication and environmental awareness.

If you or a loved one is recommended a hearing aid, a very natural question is, "do I really need a hearing aid?" However, considering it takes the average person seven to ten years to act upon their hearing loss, it's obvious that many of us feel less certain about an answer.

Another important question is, "what do I risk by not acting now to improve my hearing?" Consider the consequences of NOT choosing to get an aid – the latest research shows there are significant consequences both in the medium to long-term for those who decide to delay intervention.

THOSE WITH HEARING LOSS:

- who don't wear hearing aids are 50 per cent more likely to develop mild cognitive impairment, a precursor to dementia, than those with hearing loss who wear hearing aids;

- who opt to not be fitted with hearing aids need to exhaust additional cognitive resources (ie. brain power) engaging in challenging social situations, resulting in additional exhaustion and mental fatigue when with company;
- who don't wear hearing aids are at greater risk of social isolation, loneliness and depression;
- without hearing aids are more likely to live sedentary lives with less physical activity.

MEANINGFUL CONNECTIVITY

Modern hearing aids provide a number of technological benefits. They can be directly connected to media and phone sources of sound via Bluetooth technology in a similar way to earphone products, and can also access special accessibility settings of the phone, allowing for an enhanced phone or media experience, and greater connectedness to social and other entertainment activities.

Choosing to adopt hearing aids earlier saves the need for investing in other methods of hearing augmentation, such as TV entertainment system upgrades, earphones/headphones or assistive listening apps.

In adopting a hearing aid, there is a lot to gain from acting quickly, and a lot to lose if the decision is delayed. Watch out for the early warning signs that should



prompt you to act: Voices are audible but not clear – people tend to sound like they are mumbling.

Situations with background noise are becoming increasingly more difficult. You find yourself asking friends and family to repeat themselves often. Your TV, car radio or phone are turned up loud.

If you find yourself noticing any of these signs, or have more questions about your hearing ability, book your next appointment today.

To book, phone (02) 9159 6122, email: reception@earstudio.com.au or visit www.earstudio.com.au. Ear Studio is located at Suite 9/60 Cecil Avenue, Lawton House in Castle Hill. TRADING HOURS: Monday to Friday 9am to 6pm, Saturday by appointment only. Proudly independent and locally owned

EAR STUDIO

Passion for Hearing

Our last clinic day for 2023 is Friday 22nd December and we reopen on Wednesday 3rd January 2024



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NEW NAME - SAME COMPASSIONATE SERVICE

For nearly four decades, Comfort Discovered has been an integral part of the local community, serving its needs with dedication and care. In 2018, the business relocated to a state-of-the-art facility in Hornsby. The move was a pivotal moment in the brand's history, setting the stage for its evolution into Karis Life.

Rejimon Punchayil sheds light on the inspiration behind the new name, Karis Life. "Compassion," he notes, "is what our customers have always identified as our defining trait." The name 'Karis' draws its roots from the Greek word 'Charis,' signifying goodwill, loving-kindness, favor, and grace. It encapsulates the nurturing approach with which Karis Life addresses each customer's unique circumstances. Listening attentively and understanding individual needs are the cornerstones of our philosophy, enabling us to offer tailored, dignified, and independent living solutions.

Karis Life is your partner in the journey to regain independence with dignity. With decades of industry knowledge and experience, the team at Karis Life is dedicated to providing life-changing assistive technology solutions that enhance the overall quality of life for every customer.

Rejimon Punchayil, the founder, is a seasoned professional with a wealth of experience spanning continents and industries, including manufacturing, international trade, and marketing. His vast expertise and genuine commitment to community well-being drive a knowledgeable and passionate team. Together, they provide exceptional service and product solutions, while Rejimon remains at the helm, anticipating and addressing future challenges and trends within the assistive technology landscape.

Karis Life is not your typical mobility store. In addition to providing top-notch products, they conduct training programs for therapists, enhancing their knowledge and understanding of innovative



solutions in the industry. These programs, presented by industry experts specializing in allied health products, empower participants with valuable insights into the highest quality and most innovative products available in the market.

"Live Life Better Seminars for Seniors" is a community initiative offered by Karis Life. These friendly, informative 90-minute seminars are designed to educate seniors about health, well-being, and independent living. The seminars include a wellness segment, easy-to-use exercise items, trivia to spark discussions, and a conversation about solutions to everyday issues related to independence and mobility.

Karis Life also offers professional Assistive Technology assessments conducted by licensed independent Occupational therapists. These assessments alleviate the concern of selecting appropriate equipment and securing the necessary funding, ensuring peace of mind for customers.

Karis Life's journey is a testament to the power of compassion, knowledge, and community, and they continue to be a beacon of support and innovation for all those they serve.



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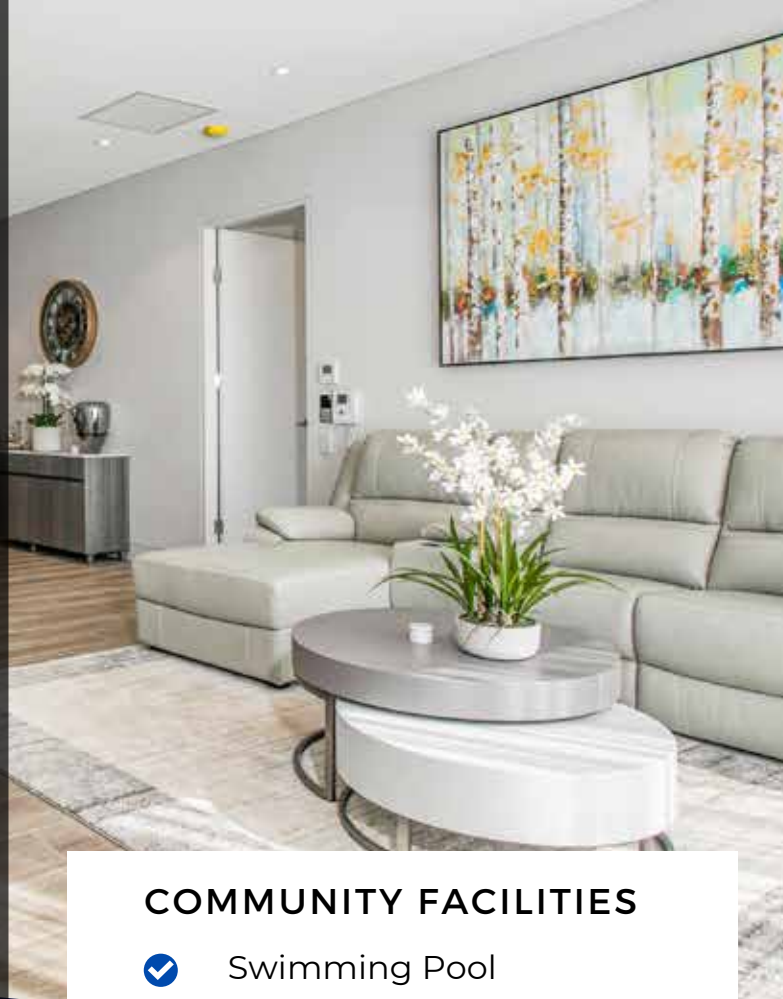
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SOCCER CLUB PROMOTES COMMUNITY WELLBEING



The Hills Hawks Football Club was founded more than 30 years ago, and has become a cornerstone for the well-being of individuals and the community.

In an era where many of us have sedentary careers, soccer offers a fun and engaging way to stay active, improving cardiovascular health, muscular strength, and agility. Regular participation in community soccer leagues also gets our kids off their digital devices for a few hours a week!

The inclusive nature of community soccer fosters widespread participation.



Soccer is affordable and accessible to people of all ages and abilities. Our very own O35 Social comp is home to ex-Premier League players, through to those who enjoy a kick with their mates on a Saturday afternoon. This creates a sense of camaraderie as players of diverse backgrounds come together, breaking down barriers and forging connections that extend far beyond the final whistle.

Local soccer leagues become a hub for social interaction, fostering friendships and creating a shared identity among participants. By embracing the sport at the local level, communities not only invest in the well-being of their residents but also create lasting bonds that strengthen the social fabric.

The Hills Hawks are keen to welcome new players in 2024 and encourage everyone in the community to support our great club.

Our home field is Hayes Park, Galston Rd, Galston. For more information call 0419 632 105 or visit hillshawksfc.com

DURAL BOWLING CLUB



MITCHELL PLATE COMPETITION

Dural was presented with the Mitchell Plate for the Ladies competition on Tuesday 17th October 2023 by the President Lan Lim, Match Chair Lyn Skeers and Secretary Elizabeth Whelan from the Mitchell Zone. Dural secured the championship on September 13th with some close wins. It is very exciting for the Dural Bowling Club as the Mitchell Plate will be replaced next year in a revamped competition by Bowls NSW.

JACK ATTACK AT DURAL

Dural Bowling Club four-week Jack Attack Competition took place between October 13th and November 3rd with prizes donated by the new parent club Parramatta Leagues. Jack Attack is a lawn bowls game similar to Barefoot Bowls, but played over a number of weeks as a competition. Players are mostly inexperienced bowlers, participating for fun, friendship and lovely prizes! The teams of three give themselves imaginative names.

OPEN GENDER PAIRS

Competition is currently taking place with the finals scheduled for November 25th.

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



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At Oakhill College, we inspire our students to aspire to greatness. Whatever your child's interest or whatever their talents lie, there is an opportunity for them at Oakhill College. Established in 1936 and part of the global De La Salle network, our College blends holistic education with Catholic values, preparing students for a dynamic world. Focused on 21st-century learning outcomes and excellence, we provide a diverse range of opportunities and an exceptional range of curricular, co-curricular and extra-curricular offerings as the largest Catholic school in NSW.

Our Lasallian values are central to everything that we do. At our large campus, we aim to provide excellence in academic pursuits, faith-based learning opportunities that develop our students' spiritual capacities, pastoral care, sport and a rich life beyond the classroom. We use the latest advancements in technology, consistently update our learning pedagogy, and our staff are committed life-long learners at the forefront of change. Students immerse themselves in a vast range of activities offered to help nurture the important values of resilience, loyalty, confidence, and pride. Our programs offer considerable learning opportunities and stretch and enhance students moving them out of their comfort zone in a safe environment, and allowing them to find their place and strengths while remaining humble and building resilience.

While our teaching is world's best, we have ensured that our facilities reflect the demands that our students will face in careers that haven't been established as yet. Our Innovation Hub opened in 2023, is a state-of-the-art learning environment that provides spaces for hybrid workshops, computer and graphics workshops and science and laboratory spaces allowing students to become knowledge creators and thrive in a rapidly changing world.



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FROM CLASSROOM TO CROWNING CHAMPIONS



YEAR 10 NATIONAL STEM CHALLENGE CHAMPIONS SHINE BRIGHT

The Science and Engineering Challenge is a nationwide STEM program presented by the University of Newcastle every year providing Year 9 and 10 students with unique science and engineering experiences beyond the classroom setting.

The National Championship assembles the best of the best, with the top eight schools from across Australia, each sending 32 students (256 in total). These eight teams have earned their place in this prestigious one-day National Final.

This year, the Pacific Hills Christian School Year 10 students were crowned the 2023 Science and Engineering Challenge champions.



A team of 31 Year 10 Pacific Hills students participated. They were divided into eight teams. It was game on as our students competed in the eight exhilarating challenges, going head-to-head against the other seven schools. Some of their challenges included building a bridge that could withstand eight kilograms of weight, constructing an eco-friendly house to collect maximum water supply and capable of withstanding an earthquake and typhoon, providing electricity to a city, communications through coding and other challenges. Across the day, students undertook eight STEM challenges.

Adapting to the unexpected, each of the eight Pacific Hills Christian School teams were formed randomly requiring our students to work as entirely new teams whilst undertaking the challenges that were also randomly assigned. This tested their capacity to adapt to unpredictable circumstances, persevere and work as unified teams to cross the line as number one. "The teamwork of our students was excellent, and their innovative ideas to solve problems was inspirational. They showed resilience, perseverance and they fought hard in every challenge", said Dr Quee, Science Research Coordinator at Pacific Hills. "Students were determined to positively spur each other on to claim first place."

We celebrate the bright minds and God-given talent of our Year 10 STEM team. This accomplishment was remarkable and demonstrates their dedication, resilience, and commitment to excellence.

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



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FUTURE PROOFING CHERRYBROOK COMMUNITY CENTRE

DR VERITY GREENWOOD - COUNCILLOR, HORNSBY SHIRE COUNCIL

Twenty-six years ago, I visited the Cherrybrook Community Centre in Shepherds Drive to watch my daughter perform as an 'angel' in her school play. I remember this visit well because the Centre, then six years old, had excellent parking options for families, good facilities inside, the main hall roomy and the foyer large enough for parents to mingle.

I have crossed this Cherrybrook venue threshold many times since to attend various events. As a Hornsby Shire Councillor and Hornsby Council Art Group member, I decided to examine the Cherrybrook venue, without the crowds, to understand the scope of its facilities.

The sign at the front entrance of the building is facing Greenway Park and not visible to the public. Another sign is needed at the rear driveway to direct visitors to the entrance.

The children's playground is in urgent need of a renovation and modernisation of the equipment. The 'Junior Toilet' is a great facility but needs a blind on its windows for privacy.

The main hall and stage can accommodate 300 sitting and 420 standing. The kitchens and bathrooms are well equipped and my 'behind the scenes' tour indicates the venue has many multi-function rooms on offer.

The rear of the Community Centre overlooks the unleashed dog park. A dirt track between the dog park the car parking needs to be widened and paved. A proper distance should be allocated between the dog park and parking area so parked vehicles do not cover the footpath.

I have requested Hornsby Council staff to put in place my recommendations to ensure the Cherrybrook Community Centre continues to meet the future needs of residents.

Finally, in walking around the Cherrybrook Community Centre surrounds, I was



impressed with the new lighting on the pathway leading to the Cherrybrook shops. The exercise equipment near Greenway Park is a great example of what can be easily installed in other areas of Hornsby Shire.

MY FINAL VERDICT:

The Cherrybrook community is very fortunate to have such great community facilities on their doorstep.

If you have any concerns or suggestions where I may assist, please contact me at vgreenwood@hornsby.nsw.gov.au



HILLS COUNCIL NEWS UPDATE

CLR MITCHELL BLUE

As the year comes to an end, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Thank you for your ongoing support throughout the year and know that I have enjoyed working with many of you on North Ward issues and those across the Shire.

Enjoy the Christmas period, hopefully you all can take a break, enjoy what is hopefully an Aussie summer. Get out and about and enjoy all that The Hills has to offer.

If there is anything I can be of assistance with, please let me know. Merry Christmas!

Deputy Mayor Councillor Mitchell Blue

Councillor – North Ward Mobile 0400 449 324

clr.blue@thehills.nsw.gov.au

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RURAL ROUNDUP NEWS UPDATE

CLR WARREN WADDELL

It was once again a privilege to represent Hornsby Shire Council at Remembrance Day services at both Galston and Glenorie.

It was a pleasure to attend the morning service at the recently restored Galston cenotaph. The service was performed by Bill Rosier of the Hills RSL sub-branch and supported by volunteers from Galston RFS and John Graham on pipes.

The afternoon ceremony was held in the grounds of Glenorie RSL Club and featured the traditional "Ceremony of Beating the Retreat," a military ceremony dating back to 17th century England. Thank you to Graham Bruce and the Glenorie RSL sub-branch for organising this event and showcasing the talents of the Baulkham Hills High School Cadets and the Hills District Pipe Band.



BY WAY OF UPDATES...

- The long awaited off leash dog park planned for within Fagan Park is due to start. The first step is the exhibition of the proposal for comment. Residents and stakeholders are encouraged to click on the, "Have Your Say", window found on the HSC Website to view the proposal.
- The Galston Aquatic centre has reached completion and will be handed back to Council on or around the 24th November. However, it will not become accessible to the public until the certifier provides the occupation certificate ensuring full safety and operational compliance. This could take a further couple of weeks. Call 9847 6340 for confirmation and further updates.
- The take up of State funding tied to rectifying flood affected roads continues. Most recently the completion of work in Loughtondale Gully Rd and Mansfield Rd Galston.
- The latest draft plan for Galston Village public domain upgrade will be presented by staff at the next AGRA meeting. This is scheduled for 7pm Thursday 30th November at The Galston Club. It's important that business owners and village users alike prepare to make comments on this project.
- I would also like to extend congratulations to the organisers of this year's Arcadian Artists Trail. This event just goes from strength to strength as so many of our local artists demonstrate such diversity in their work. Special thanks to those that open their homes for the event and accommodate the thousands of visitors.

I look forward to many more community events as we approach the holidays.

As always, happy to assist with any issue via the contact details below.
waddell@hornsby.nsw.gov.au | Ph: 0499 004 861

Whats on 2024?



There are lots of new options to keep active at **The Centre Dural** starting up in the new year!

 Group Fitness	 Kids Classes	 Sports Comps
<p>Boot Camp NEW MON WED FRI 6am & 7am Push your body with morning group fitness</p> <p>Ladies Boot Camp NEW TUES FRI 10am Supportive fitness class with child minding</p> <p>Movement Class (over 55s) NEW TIMETABLE MON TUES WED THURS FRI 10am Supportive, functional strength and balance</p>	<p>Action Kidz (Ages 2-4) TUES FRI 9.30am Preschool multi-sport</p> <p>Future Starz (ages 6-10) WED 4pm Netball & Futsal coaching</p> <p>Future Starz + (ages 8-12) MON 4pm Selective Futsal coaching</p> <p>School Holiday Programs BOOK NOW FOR JANUARY Sports Clinics & Inflatable World See website for dates, details and to book</p>	<p>J League - Boys Netball NEW WED from 4.15pm Boys only Netball for high school years 7-10</p> <p>Mens & Mixed Futsal NEW SUN from 3pm Sunday afternoon comps for men & women</p> <p>Netball & Futsal Comps 2024 INTAKE MON TUES WED THURS FRI Junior from 4.15pm Senior from 6.15pm Join ongoing comps, fresh points table for 2024 teams</p>
<p>thecentredural.org.au 1 Pellitt Lane, Dural 8989 0000</p>		



REFLECTING ON THE PAST YEAR AND THE YEAR TO COME

MEMBER FOR BEROWRA

Every year has its challenges, and 2023 has been no exception.

Families, households and businesses across Berowra have all experienced financial pressure.

Thirteen successive interest rate increases, and wages not keeping up with prices have put most households under pressure.

Young and old are experiencing the financial vice – with interest rates and rents going up and up.

As your federal MP, I want to assure you that the number one, two and three issue that I'm focused on is the economy. Productivity, workplace relations and keeping government spending under control really matters.

My view is that it is better that government tightens its belt than households having to tighten its belts.

During such times when we are all under stress, our sense of community and attachment to community matters more than ever. Getting involved with community groups, like mums' groups,

Men's Sheds, bushwalking groups and many of the service organisations can all help alleviate the sense of isolation that can strike in such times.

These groups are important not only for the service they provide our community but the bonds they create across Berowra. It's why I've been proud to work with over 65 local groups this year in securing federal funding to help them in their work.

We live in a bushfire prone area, and with summer approaching I want to encourage to freshen up their fire plans for the summer. If you haven't ever done one, you can find out more at myfireplan.com.au

Please read up on this, it could save your life.

As Christmas nears, I want to thank all our emergency services personnel and volunteers for everything they have done over the year and will do over the summer.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone across Berowra.

I look forward to continuing to serve you in 2024.



FROM THE DESK OF MATT KEAN

MEMBER FOR HORNSBY

I have been overwhelmed with positive feedback I have received on the proposal to have a safe pedestrian/cycle access along Old Northern Road between Glenorie and Dural. This is clearly a piece of infrastructure that, once delivered, residents will use and enjoy. My office will continue to pursue getting this on the Active Transport Strategy agenda with the support of both Hornsby and Hills Shire Councils.

I was very pleased to host the Primary School leaders in parliament house last month. I have to say this annual event is one of the highlights in my agenda and over the years I have watched with interest as previous year's attendees have progressed on to great things. Student leader representatives from schools right



across the Hornsby electorate attended including Arcadia, Galston, Middle Dural and Cherrybrook.

Finally, I'd like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a safe holiday period. I'd also like to thank the community for their support as we continue to ensure Hornsby is the best place to live, work and raise a family.



Matt Kean MP

Member for Hornsby

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- Communicating your issues to the relevant Ministers
- Organising Justice of the Peace applications
- Recognising State achievements



Contact
Matt

(02) 9476 3411 | hornsby@parliament.nsw.gov.au
PO Box 1687, Hornsby Westfield NSW 1635

Authorised by Matt Kean MP. Funded using parliamentary entitlements.

Wishing you and your family a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

JULIAN LEESER MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR BEROWRA

02 9980 1822 | julian.leeser.mp@aph.gov.au
julianleeser.com.au | [julianleesermp](https://www.facebook.com/julianleesermp)

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



MARK HODGES

MEMBER FOR CASTLE HILL

I was very pleased to attend the Dural and Castle Hill McDonald's Restaurants for McHappy Day this year. I was joined by The Hills Shire Councillors, Deputy Mayor Mitchell Blue, Councillors Reena Jethi, Frank De Masi, and Jessica Brazier.



Mark Hodges, centre, with Mitchell Blue at left and Reena Jethi at right

The great work Ronald McDonald House Charities does in the wider community to support our children can never be underestimated. When a child is diagnosed with a serious illness, it impacts the whole family. Ronald McDonald House Charities provide a range of programs to help families stay together and close to the care they need. I commend the efforts and work of the Ronald McDonald House Charities and all those who provide care for

children and their families in difficult situations. It was great to see so many enthusiastic Hills Shire residents enjoying the day and supporting Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC). For every Big Mac sold on Saturday 18th November, \$2 was donated to the charities.

It was wonderful to see the support from the community for this cause and I would like to especially thank Deputy Mayor Mitchell Blue, Councillors Reena Jethi, Frank De Masi, and Jessica Brazier for giving up their time on McHappy Day to support Ronald McDonald House Charities.

ALERTS AND WARNINGS ON HAZARDS NEAR ME SMARTPHONE APP

"Hazards Near Me" updates major incident activity, such as bush and grass fires, where there is a threat to the community.

If you see a fire without a fire truck in attendance, please call Triple Zero (000).



21 active fires across NSW on 2nd October 2023

MARK HODGES MP

MEMBER FOR CASTLE HILL

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DURAL RFS NEWS

ANNUAL SANTA RUN

Dural will be holding its annual Santa Run on the afternoon of the **17th of December!** Come meet up with us as Firefighting Santa rides along in our firetruck with a crew of Dural members. We will be spreading the festive spirit and handing out goodies on the day.

After our Santa Run is over, we will be inviting residents to get a family photo with Firefighting Santa. Check out Dural Rural Fire Brigade on Facebook or duralrff on Instagram to find out where we will be and when.

BUNNINGS CHRISTMAS FAMILY NIGHT

Come visit us and our truck at the Dural Bunnings Christmas Family Night, on **Thursday 7 December** from 6pm-8pm at Dural Bunnings. We will be happy to discuss your bushfire survival plans and any questions you have about the fire season.

KEEP YOURSELF PREPARED THIS FIRE SEASON

With the fire season well and truly underway and with the state already seeing many emergency bushfires throughout late October and early November, it's important to stay on top of your bushfire preparations. Keep your bushfire survival plan up to date and let your family know if anything changes. Just as importantly, continue maintaining your property to keep it bushfire safe by keeping grass mowed, moving flammable material away from your house and cleaning your gutters regularly.

Reach out to us if you have any questions, or attend the Bunnings Family Night to have a chat.

For more information, contact Amy Swainston, Dural Community Engagement Officer, NSW Rural Fire Service, 38-40 Quarry Road Dural NSW 2158 | P 0459 040 088 | E community.dural@hkrfs.org.au | www.rfs.nsw.gov.au | www.facebook.com/nswrfs | www.twitter.com/nswrfs

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Aussie Pumps' Hamish Lorenz with an Aussie Fire Chief, as a local resident he has first hand experience of fighting bushfires and defending his home

"This is a big thank you to the residences of the Hills and Hawkesbury area for the terrific support they have given us", said Aussie Pumps Operations Manager, Hamish Lorenz. "Our pumps outperform all others and are substantially better value than competitor products like Davey Pumps. 25% more performance and a substantially lower price makes the Aussie better value," he said.

"The Aussie Fire Chief is the best lightweight portable fire pump in the world", said Hamish.

Aussie have a number of local dealers supporting residents in the Hills District with advice as well as stock of the Aussie Fire pumps and hose kits to suit.

"We understand how important it is to buy local," said Hamish. "Especially when you'll need back-up for service down the track to keep your pump and hoses in optimum condition."

All Aussie Gold Distributors have plenty of free copies of the Aussie Bushfire Survival Guide to give away. It's Aussie's essential guide to preparing a property protection plan, choosing a pump and setting it up. Check the Aussie Pump Fire Ready ad for your local stockist.

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KENTHURST NEWS AT THE FIRE STATION

As the fire season starts our state has been under serious threat. Our Hills District fire fighters have been asked to help in areas under threat in Tenterfield and Glenn Innes.

The Hills district has many fire fighters on their way for deployment throughout the Mid North Coast on section 44 wildfires and there will be more deployments during this volatile fire season.

AWARDS NIGHT

More than 20 members of the Hills District RFS have been recognised for their dedication and achievements at a special ceremony held at the Dural Country Club.

Commissioner of the RFS Rob Rogers joined the Hills District Manager Superintendent Glen McCartney to present three National Emergency Medals, 1 Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal, 13 National Medals and 5 Long Service Medals to the members at the ceremony.

The National Emergency Medal is awarded to persons who rendered sustained or significant service during nationally significant emergencies in Australia, including the 2019-2020 bush fires.

The commissioner said "Members of The Hills District have always answered the call, not only assisting with incidents

locally but also to communities in need across the state."

Kenthurst RFS proudly honours two extraordinary members of our team, Sue Talbert and Anthony Papallo for their exceptional commitment and service.

Sue has been awarded her 2nd Clasp for the National Medal, marking over 35 years of service.

Anthony has earned his 10-year Long Service Medal.



L-R: Robyn Preston MP, Anthony Papallo, Commissioner Rob Rogers



L-R: Councillor Mark Hodges MP, Sue Talbert, Commissioner Rob Rogers

Their unwavering dedication to our community is absolutely inspiring.

They are both shining examples of the spirit that defines the NSW Rural Fire Service. We are immensely proud of your remarkable achievements and deeply grateful for your service.

ARE YOU READY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO YOUR COMMUNITY? BECOME A NSW RFS VOLUNTEER

The NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) is the world's largest volunteer fire service, made up of more than 70,000 dedicated volunteers right across NSW.

NSW RFS volunteers are ready to respond to emergencies 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, all year round, attending a range of incidents from bush and grass fires to house and structure fires, road accidents and assisting at other events like floods, storms, and searches.

Volunteering with the NSW RFS offers you the opportunity to learn new and valuable skills that will not only assist you in your voluntary role but in day-to-day life and even your workplace. It is also an opportunity to meet people you wouldn't normally meet. For many of our members, it's also about being part of a wonderful tradition and an organisation with a very proud history.

Anyone wishing to join meet at Kenthurst Fire station on Saturday at 1pm or call 0402 114 628.

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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 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.

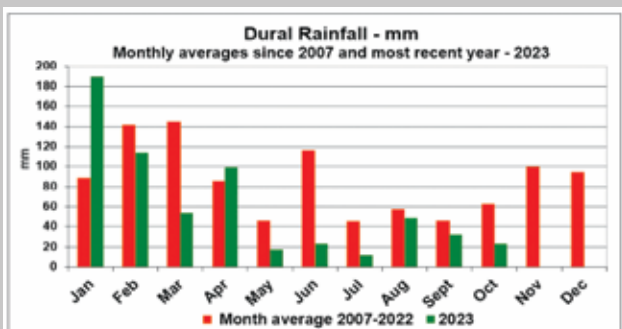
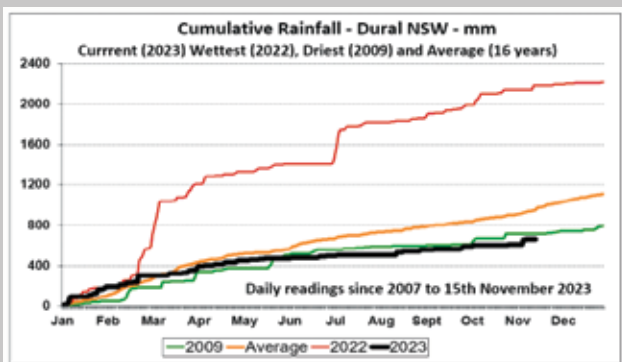
HERE ARE SOME BASIC MAINTENANCE TIPS TO PREPARE YOUR PROPERTY:

- Clean your gutters of leaves and twigs
- Install metal gutter guards
- Repair damaged or missing tiles on the roof
- Install fine metal mesh screens on windows and doors
- Fit seals around doors and windows to eliminate gaps
- Enclose the areas under the house
- Repair or cover gaps in external walls
- Attach a fire sprinkler system to gutters
- Keep lawns short and gardens well maintained
- Cut back trees and shrubs overhanging buildings
- Clean up fallen leaves, twigs, and debris around the property
- Have hoses long enough to reach around your house
- If you have a pool, tank, or dam, put a Static Water Supply (SWS) sign on your property entrance, so firefighters know where they can get water
- Check and maintain adequate levels of home and contents insurance. Ensure it is up to date

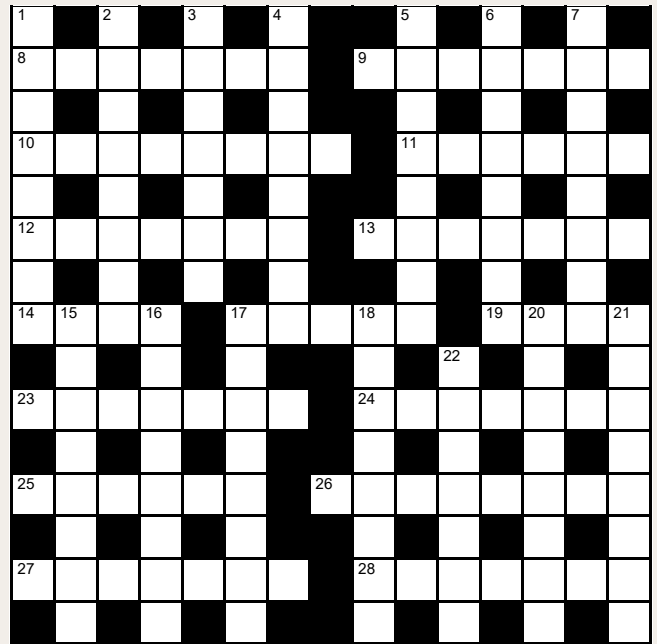
These tips are also available in our Prepare Your Home fact sheet. <http://assessmyrisk.rfs.nsw.gov.au/>

DURAL RAINFALL CHARTS

BY HANS KUNNEN



CROSSWORD PUZZLE



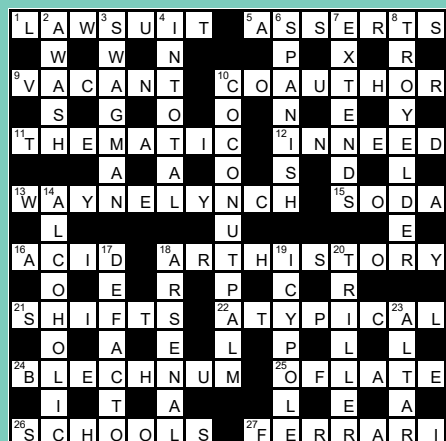
ACROSS

- 08 Burn (7)
- 09 Illusory pointer to gold (7)
- 10 Used in cooking (8)
- 11 Bring forth (6)
- 12 Bring up (7)
- 13 Very detailed (2,5)
- 14 Dark-grey waterbird (4)
- 17 Second largest stringed instrument (5)
- 19 Youth charity (1,1,1,1)
- 23 Impacts (7)
- 24 Asks over (7)
- 25 Gets up late (4,2)
- 26 Shrill (8)
- 27 Comments (7)
- 28 Frequent-flyer perk (7)

DOWN

- 01 Explosively violent (8)
- 02 Cattle station trainee (8)
- 03 Pride young 'un (4,3)
- 04 Not far away (4,4)
- 05 Inherited (4,4)
- 06 Wholly (8)
- 07 Kind of medicine (8)
- 15 Assistant (8)
- 16 You know what I'm drinking (3,5)
- 17 In a rage, you might get as mad as one (3,5)
- 18 Behave in a vulgar way (4,2,2)
- 20 Like unicorns (8)
- 21 Designated (8)
- 22 Unremarkable (7)

ANSWER FROM NOVEMBER ISSUE



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