

# DOORAL ROUNDUP



MARCH 2024

Official Publication of the Dural Chamber of Commerce  
[www.duralchamber.com.au](http://www.duralchamber.com.au)

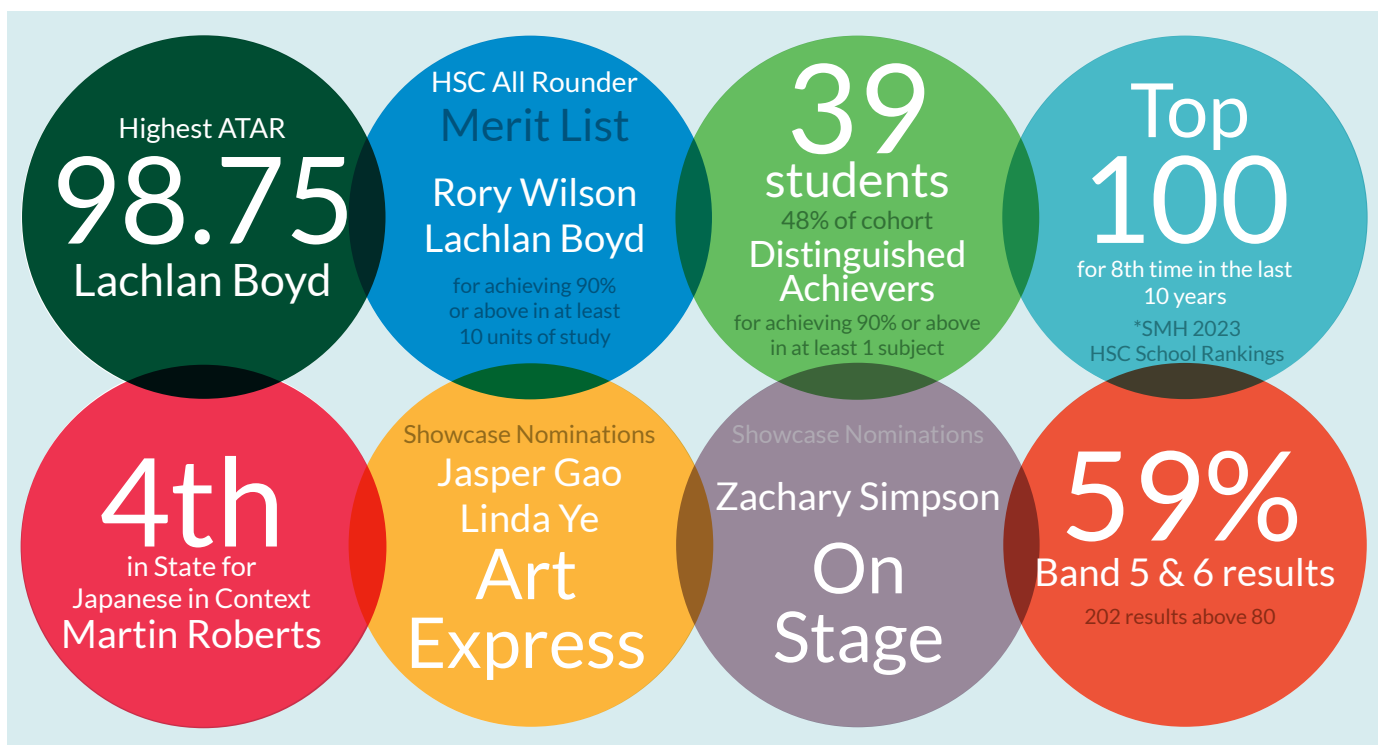


## Meet our Hills Grammar Originals

Open Day | Friday 22 March | Register Online

Dural | Mid-Dural | Round Corner | Cherrybrook | Annangrove | Kenthurst | Glenhaven  
Hills | Arcadia | Glenorie | Galston | Oakhill | Nelson | Maraylya | WPH

# Hills Grammar's Extraordinary Class of 2023



Please join us in congratulating the Class of 2023 for their excellent HSC results.

- Two HSC All Rounders
- Three Showcase nominations (Drama On Stage, Art Express)
- 57 Band 6 results
- 29 students listed as Distinguished Achievers

Hills Grammar always looks at a wider set of measures than the “Top 100” when it comes to defining our success (Top 100 is based on the percentage of Band 6). It is therefore particularly pleasing to see Hills Grammar has once again placed in Top 100 schools for the 7th time in the last 8 years, showing the consistency of our performance over time.

The Class of 2023 achieved 202 results in the Bands 5 and 6 range (80% and above), representing 59% of all HSC attempts. Further, more than 39% of the Class of 2023 completed at least one challenging extension course as part of their pattern of study. That is a sure sign of ambition and opportunity at Hills Grammar, and when combined with the high proportion of 80+ marks, makes a difference to ATAR for our students.

## HSC All Rounders and Highest ATAR

Lachlan Boyd – Lachlan achieved Band 6 / E4 results in all 4 of his subjects, including Advanced English, Extension 1 and 2 Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry.

Lachlan received this year’s highest ATAR of 98.75, which would place him in the top 3.5% of all students in the state.

Rory Wilson – Rory achieved Band 6 / E4 results in all 6 of his subjects, including Advanced English, Advanced Mathematics, Economics, Geography, Modern History and History Extension.

Rory was this year’s joint School Dux for his performance on internal assessments. He received an impressive ATAR of 98.65, which places him in the top 3.5% of all students in the state.

## Showcase Nominations and Prizes

Zachary Simpson was nominated for Drama Onstage for his monologue performance ‘Politics is a Religion’.

Zengxun (Jasper) Gao was selected for Art Express for his artwork titled ‘Resonance’, expressive form-designed objects (Hazelhurst Arts Centre)

Linda Ye was selected for Art Express for her artwork titled ‘To Live’, expressive form-photo media (Ngununggula, Southern Highlands Regional Gallery, Cowra Regional Art Gallery)

Rory Wilson received second place in the 2023 HTA History Extension Essay Prize. Rory’s essay was entitled ‘From Artefacts to Algorithms: The Value of Digital Technology in Reshaping the Traditional Museum Experience’.

Martin Roberts came 4th in the State in Japanese in Context.

Whatever their results, we are proud of all our students. A Hills Grammar education is broader than an ATAR, and there are many paths and definitions of success. We look forward to following their exciting futures in the years ahead!



**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."

# What does Easter mean to us in Australia?

BY MARK COUPAR

Easter in the truest sense is the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus on the Sunday after his crucifixion, in the Christian religion.

Easter is always determined by the Sunday following the first full moon after the equinox. For example, this year the equinox is on 20th March and following full moon is on the 30th March, therefore Easter falls on the 30th March.

The resurrection of Jesus aligns with the new Spring growing season (in the northern hemisphere).

The Easter Bunny character found its way to America in the 1700s by German immigrants with the tradition of an egg-laying hare, so the story

goes. Eggs, chicks and bunnies in ancient times were symbols of fertility and new life in the Spring.

In every supermarket Easter eggs surround me. Egg hunts are being planned across the suburbs, and I also remember Easter Bonnet parades at school when I was a kid.

Over 25 million hot cross buns were sold in Australia last year – a lucrative sector, which is probably why they start selling them in December.

I wonder how many of our children know the true meaning of Easter – it's not just a time to eat as much chocolate as possible in the shortest space of time.

*Wishing all our readers a safe and blessed Easter.*

## Dural Chamber and Dooral Roundup Contacts



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# Computer Pals for Seniors Open Day

**Computer Pals – The Hills Inc** is a not-for-profit community organisation run entirely by volunteers. We have many knowledgeable members teaching a broad range of subjects, and a Help Desk where members can seek solutions to their computer and technology issues.

Our next Open Day is on **Tuesday 19th March 2024**, 10am to 3pm. Come along and bring a friend, have a cuppa, and a guided tour by our dedicated volunteers.

Our club is situated in The Old Caretakers Cottage near the Harvey Lowe Pavilion in the Castle Hill Showground.

**Meet other seniors learning computer technology, including:**

- Smart devices, Phones, Tablets and Avoiding Scams.

- Basic Windows, Files & Folders, MS Word, MS Excel.
- Apple Computer Basics and applications.
- Google Chrome, Gmail, Google Docs, Google Calendar.
- Internet and Cloud Computing, PC Care and Maintenance.
- Data Backups and Password Managers.
- Smart Devices Community Club.
- Photobooks and Family History Group.

Manuals or handouts are supplied for most courses. Courses are usually run AM and PM on a Tuesday and Thursday. Study one-on-one with a Trainer, or in a classroom situation, in a friendly and relaxed environment.

**Computer Pals for Seniors The Hills Inc, established 1998. For more information call 0479 137 131 or visit our website [cphills.org.au](http://cphills.org.au)**

## Rotary Club of West Pennant Hills and Cherrybrook

Our enthusiastic members have been busy with many community projects.

In November and December our Club ran their Trees of Joy in Cherrybrook and Westleigh Shopping Centres providing some 1,500 presents to children. Our members also donated non-perishable food for Hands & Feet, a charity providing food to the underprivileged, at the Cherrybrook Uniting Church. Thank you to everyone who donated.

On Friday 2nd February members from our Club attended the 'Welcome Home Dinner' for international Exchange Students at Muirfield Golf Club, North Rocks.

An International Night on Monday 26th February outlined a project to build approximately 70 toilets and water tanks in Flores, Indonesia. Donor Clubs also attended.

Members of our Club took part in Clean Up Australia Day on **3rd March** together with Cherrybrook RFS, Cherrybrook 1st Scouts and Cherrybrook Girls Guides.

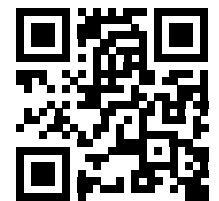
Upcoming, the Rotary District Conference is on Friday, Saturday **15th-16th March** at Terrigal and the theme is "Beach Party". This will be attended by some 350 Rotarians from the District. There is also a Domestic and Family Violence awareness walk prior to the conference.

**If you would like to know more about Rotary, be involved or join us for dinner please call 0412 064 336. Rotary Club of West Pennant Hills and Cherrybrook [wphcrotary.org](http://wphcrotary.org)**



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/](http://dooralroundup.com.au/latest-news/)



Read this month's "What's On" online at [dooralroundup.com.au](http://dooralroundup.com.au)



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Growing up in Porters Road Kenthurst and attending Hills Grammar, Aaron Zerefos has always been competitive.

Many lads aspire to be racing drivers, but Zerefos, who learned to drive on the 5 acre property, has made his dream a reality.

"Racing is in my blood man – I love it and I'm always here for the competition!" said Zerefos.

Now living in Los Angeles, Zerefos is returning to Australia to compete in the 2024 Repco Bathurst 12 Hour race. Regarded as Australia's international endurance race, it attracts the world's bests drivers including Valentino Rossi who will make his second start in the event.

It will be Zerefos' ninth start in the marathon endurance race at Mount Panorama, and he is excited to be returning to the holy grail of Australian motorsport.

"I look forward to what the Mountain has in store for 2024," Zerefos said.

Aaron will join Griffith Racing team, driving the #56 Ginetta G56 GT4 alongside English drivers Colin White and Owen Hizey. The car features a Ginetta built 6.2 litre V8 engine, with a power output of 500 hp.

"I got a good feel for the Ginetta – it's going to be a good package for the long-distance race and it has plenty of Torque good for Bathurst's long straights.

"The race pace is going to be potentially the fastest it's ever been. Hopefully we can keep our head down, look after the equipment and come home with a good result."

# Kenthurst lad racing at Bathurst



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PANORAMA  
BATHURST

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# Galston Pool Reopens

Excitement was in the air at the official grand reopening of the newly upgraded Galston Aquatic and Leisure Centre (GALC) last Saturday, 3rd February.

Delivered with support from the NSW Government through a Greater Cities Sport Facility Fund grant, the refurbishments to GALC included the installation of a new roof and the addition of a large, family changing room as well as a multi-purpose changing area equipped with hoists and adult changing tables – greatly improving accessibility for people with disability or undergoing rehabilitation.

Modernisation of the Centre's aesthetics makes for a more comfortable, family-friendly environment suitable for the diverse needs of the surrounding community, from the



learn-to-swim families, attendees of the popular aqua fitness classes as well as squad training and events for local swimming groups.

"It was an honour to cut this ribbon today and reopen the doors to such a treasured community asset in Galston. The Galston Aquatic and Leisure Centre is an important amenity of the area and crucial for our local children to learn to swim and be pool-safe," said Hornsby Mayor Philip Ruddock.

For more about Galston Aquatic and Leisure Centre, visit: [hornsby.nsw.gov.au/galc](https://hornsby.nsw.gov.au/galc)  
To read the full article at <https://dooralroundup.com.au/latest-news/>

## Glenhaven Social Wellness Centre



Groups of wonderful local seniors join us each week for social connection and to enjoy activities, group discussions, craft, dancing and music, cognitive activities, games and gentle exercise.

Our centre also provides meaningful engagement for those with dementia, combining mental, social, and physical activities. We work closely with the Dementia Advisory Services to offer a seven week "Making A Difference" program to help support clients living with mild dementia and to assist with prevention.

Our services can be accessed via government support, so the client only pays \$25 for the day, and this includes a home cooked hot lunch and dessert. We can also provide transport in many cases, depending on location. Anyone interested is welcome to join us for a free trial day!

**Glenhaven Social Wellness Centre**  
593 Old Northern Road, Glenhaven 2156  
02 9846 2895 / 0437 927 659  
[christina.thomas@anglicare.org.au](mailto:christina.thomas@anglicare.org.au)

# Children's Forest planned for Fagan Park

Hornsby Council has a section in Fagan Park that was used for growing saplings of varying native and exotic tree species. This area became known as "the tree farm".

Once these trees reached maturity they were replanted in an appropriate area. However, if any of the trees developed a defect of any kind, that made it unsuitable for replanting, it was simply left growing in the tree farm. Over the years this has created a unique eclectic forest of trees in an underutilized section of Fagan Park.

Hornsby Shire Council has taken the opportunity to open up the old tree farm area and make it a place for children to get closer to nature, create and discover.



The children's forest is being developed in stages as funding becomes available with stage one nearing completion. This is being funded through a government grant secured with the support of Matt Kean.

Once fully complete this natural adventure play space will include tree climbing, a cubby building area, treetop canopy walk, bird hide, tree house with a slide and much more.

The first stage of this unique play space will be available for adventurous children shortly and I will advise as soon as it is available for families to visit.

**COUNCILLOR NATHAN TILBURY**



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## from the Mayor's Desk

There has been much coverage in the media recently about the NSW Government's housing reforms, in particular around low and mid-rise housing, and I wanted to share with you Council's response to these and how we are advocating for our community.

Following the December 2023 announcement by the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) to exhibit its *Explanation of Intended Effect: Changes to create low and mid-rise housing*, we resolved to make a submission on the proposal, outlining our concerns and recommendations. We will encourage the NSW Government to set clear housing targets and allow councils to develop and implement their own responses having regard to the character of their local area and community expectations.

Our submission will highlight our concerns that the density of development proposed under the state-wide approach to deliver housing will impact the character of the Shire's suburbs, heritage, environment and tree canopy, infrastructure and over-development in hazard areas (prone to risks such as bush fires and flooding) and parts of the Shire without adequate supply of wastewater as well as sewerage infrastructure.

It will also underscore our commitment to deliver a diverse range of housing under our adopted Local Housing Strategy which has been prepared following extensive consultation with our community. We will request an exemption from the proposed changes to progress our own local medium density housing strategy.

We are committed to continuing to deliver housing to meet the needs of our community. But we're concerned by the 'one size fits all' approach that is outlined in the proposal. The density of development that would be permitted would simply be far too great and would be devastating to other objectives of environmental and heritage conservation in Hornsby Shire. As your Mayor, I am committed to ensuring that we achieve our housing targets appropriately, and I hope the state government works with us to ensure this is achieved.

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

## What's on

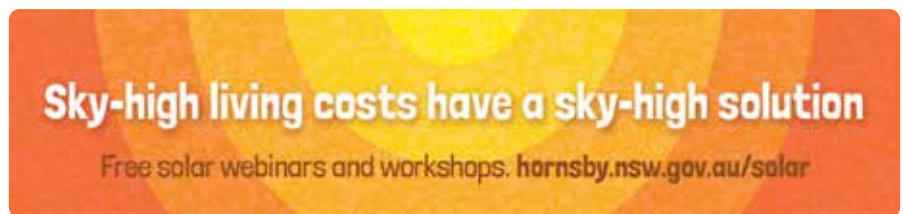


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**NSW Seniors Festival**  
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For more information visit:  
[hornsby.nsw.gov.au/seniorsweek](https://hornsby.nsw.gov.au/seniorsweek)



**FREE NATIVE PLANT GIVEAWAY**

Friday 15 and Saturday 16 March  
Collect your 4 FREE native plants

Bookings essential to book your plant collection time, visit:  
[hornsby.nsw.gov.au/plants](https://hornsby.nsw.gov.au/plants)



**WASTE EVENTS**

**Hand Sewing & Mending Workshop**  
Saturday 16 March, 10.30am-12pm  
Storey Park Community Centre

**Repair Café – Electronics/Furniture**  
Saturday 16 March, 11am-1pm  
Storey Park Community Centre

**Clothing Swap**  
Saturday 23 March, 9.30am-11am  
Thornleigh Community Centre

**Meal Planning Workshop**  
Wednesday 27 March, 10.30am-12.30pm  
Hornsby Library

For details and bookings visit:  
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Maide Welch,  
*Still Life with Pomegranates*

## INSIDE/OUT

### Maide and Chris Welch exhibition

5 – 17 March 2024. Wallarobba Arts and Cultural Centre

An exhibition of works by Maide Welch, winner of the 2022 Wallarobba Outstanding Local Artist Award, and her husband Chris Welch



**YOUR SAY**  
HORNSBY  
JOIN THE CONVERSATION

**HORNSBY SHIRE SOCIAL PLAN** – Register to attend a community forum or come along to a pop-up in March.

**CLASSIFICATION OF PUBLIC LAND** – Peats Ferry Road and Bridge Road, Hornsby. Submissions close: 08/03/24

**WOLLUNDY PARK, PENNANT HILLS** – Playground upgrade. Comments close: 11/03/24

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



**REMAGINE ART PRIZE**  
Theme: 'Crossroads of Consumption'

**CALL FOR ENTRIES**  
Entries close: 21 March 2024  
[hornsby.nsw.gov.au/remagine](https://hornsby.nsw.gov.au/remagine)

Ross Tamlin,  
*Scrap Metal (detail)*, 2023



# Centenary celebrations for Magdalena

Dural resident Magdalena Hessel Bach celebrated her 100th Birthday on 27th of January 2024, at her local, the Dural Country Club.

Magdalena Hessel Bach was born in 1924 at Sulzthal in Barvaria. During the war, Magdalena had to work in a job stipulated by the government, in the office of Kugelfischer in Schweinfurt.

Magdalena married Polish man Richard Kwiatkowski in 1945 and soon their daughter Anka Maria was born.

The young family set sail in 1949 on board "The Canberra" to a new life in Australia.

On arrival, the family stayed at Bathurst Army Camp as a foreigners, and then moved onto Wallangarra to make a living on a farm.

Magdalena worked as a fruit and vegetable packer whilst Richard worked first for the railways, and later the abattoir whilst young Anka Maria was at school.

A move to Sydney was next, and after numerous relocations, Magdalena finally settled in Dural.

Magdalena is surrounded by her beloved children, grandchildren and great grandchildren too. Magdalena has lived it all, and is still living it all!

The *Dooral Roundup* has been her family's local newspaper for decades and they always look forward to reading each edition.



# Parents helping their child to buy their first home

PROPERTY & YOU –  
BY PAUL MCKENZIE, ABS CONVEYANCING

**As Sydney's residential property prices are getting more expensive, young people are finding it harder to save that the first home property deposit, to afford their dream.**

Becoming the trend now, parents helping their kids out, young people, financially and other ways, to help them save for that deposit. Also, with other assistance along the first home buying journey.

A first home savings plan, between the young person and their parents, is a great way to achieve that dream and housing affordability. Such planning and achieving that first home purchase goal, is further assisted by choosing the right mortgage broker. They can guide you, in the right direction, as well as shop around for the right home loan, to turn the first home dream, into reality.

Speak to us at ABS Conveyancing, to refer you to the right mortgage brokers.

As of July 2023, Revenue NSW has the following incentives for first home buyers in stamp duty – full exemption of stamp duty up to \$800,000.00. A partial exemption from \$800,000.00 to \$1,000,000.00. Subject to any future change with NSW government policy.

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# Hell is other people. Stuck in a caravan.

*"A hilarious Aussie comedy that will guarantee a laugh"*  
*Bernard Teuben, Director*

From actor and playwright Donald Macdonald comes a quintessential Australian comedy that takes a light-hearted look at relationships, ageing... and the holidays that should never be taken.

Parkes Robinson loves his "luxury" caravan almost as much as his wife Penny.

Eager to show it off, Parkes invites their good friends Rodney and Monica Rice, and single gadabout Pierce, on a two-week vacation at a secluded beachside spot. But a storm is on the way – and we're not talking about Pierce's much younger new girlfriend Gwendolyn.

Trapped by horrific weather in the cramped caravan, the best friends, (and Gwendolyn), attempt to enjoy their holiday with the help of a libation or three. But in the confined space, heads are banged, tensions rise, indiscretions are revealed, relationships crumble and the laughs begin.



L-R: Daniel Ferris, Vanessa Henderson, Jason Spindlow, Jade Brimfield, Ben Wheeler.

Photo by Abby Bishop

**Castle Hill Players presents  
Caravan by Donald McDonald,  
directed by Bernard Teuben  
5 April – 27 April  
Wed, Fri, Sat 8PM, Sun 4PM**

Pavilion Theatre, Castle Hill, located within the Castle Hill Showgrounds.

Tickets \$30, Concession \$25  
**Bookings [paviliontheatre.org.au/](http://paviliontheatre.org.au/)  
Caravan or call 02 9634 2929**

Enquiries call 02 9634 3846 or email [admin@paviliontheatre.org.au](mailto:admin@paviliontheatre.org.au)  
Media enquiries email Abby [marketing@paviliontheatre.org.au](mailto:marketing@paviliontheatre.org.au)

## Galston Concerts supports children's hospital charity

On Sunday 17 March The Galston Concerts begins their 2024 line-up with a charity fund-raiser concert *I Dream a World*.

Classical pianist Tonya Lemoh, an Australian resident born in Sierra Leone, will play the Galston Uniting Church grand piano to launch her new ABC Classic CD of popular music inspired by children - Schumann's *Scenes from Childhood*, Elena Kats Chernin's *Piano Village* including *Eliza's Aria* and much more.

The chance choice of St Patrick's Day allows for some bonus Irish music - folk-style Percy Grainger and magical John Field.

The concert supports a very worthy cause: all proceeds are destined for the Children's Hospital in Bo, Sierra Leone, established by Tonya's late father, a leading Sierra-Leonean paediatrician who studied medicine in Sydney and raised his family in Australia.

A 2 pm start at Galston Uniting, a concert without interval till 3ish before afternoon tea in the foyer and an opportunity to purchase copies of the CD to further support the fund-raising cause - music and medicine across continents and cultures.

**Advanced booking will assist catering plans so please search Galston Dream on [trybooking.com](http://trybooking.com) or phone Robert Harris on 0428 248 348.**



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## Dural and District Historical Society Inc. News from history cottage

The Dural and District Historical Society Inc archives are the custodian of a great deal of family and local history. It is through the interest, generosity and concern for local history that members of our community can assist in understanding and preserving our unique community.

We have one priceless diary, recording the voyage of a young man starting a new life in a strange country. "Left Northern Ireland Tuesday 13th November 1894."

After recounting events of the journey, the diary ends with the lines: "December 31st 1894 entered Sydney Harbour at 7.00 o'clock in the morning and cast anchor at half past 7. Charlie came on board at eight. Commenced work in Galston on 1st January 1895".

The guest speaker at our March meeting will be local identity and published researcher, Trevor Knight. He will tell of his visit to Germany and Switzerland and the solving of a long unanswered family mystery.

**Join us on 10th March 2pm in the Uniting Church, School Road, Galston. All are welcome. Entry is free with a gold coin for afternoon tea. Enquiries 9653 1365.**



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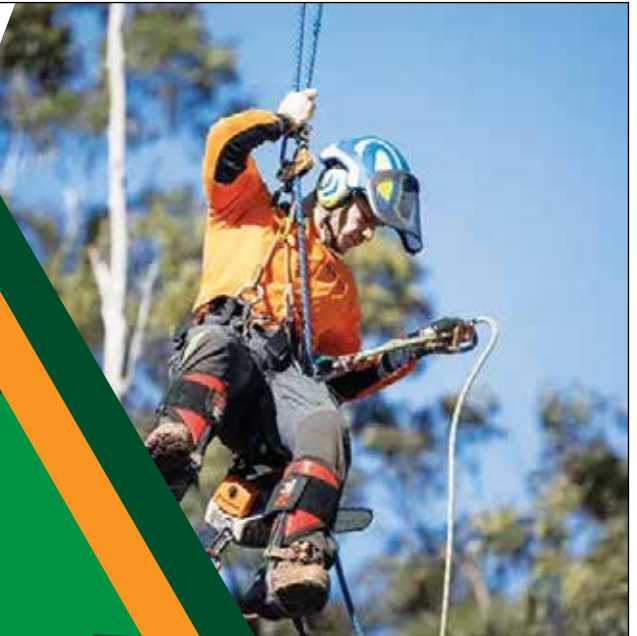
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# What's with the Chocolate Egg?



**MURRAY LAMBERT – PASTOR AT THE CENTRE DURAL**

If you visit the Cadbury Museum (sounds dangerous) they have examples of chocolate hens, bells, fish and EVEN PIGS which were all the rage at Easter in the early 20th century. Eventually, the egg

became the dominant shape due mostly to convenience in production (an egg is definitely easier to make out of chocolate than a pig).

The modern Easter egg has taken on a life of its own. These days there's Crunchie eggs, Caramello eggs, Turkish Delight eggs, Cream eggs, Humpty Dumpty eggs with the smarties in them – I can't keep up!

But I still hold a special place in my heart for the humble, empty Easter egg. Why?

Because just like the empty egg, Jesus' tomb was found empty that first Easter Sunday. It's not only why we celebrate Easter, it's why we hold onto faith as Christians - it's why we meet on Sundays!

Without an empty tomb, our faith is also empty – that's what Paul writes in **1 Corinthians 15:14**. "And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty."

Ultimately something's gonna turn out empty.

Either Jesus' tomb was empty, or our faith is empty.



**And if you'd like to explore a faith that is full of hope, love and life, we'd love to have you join us for one of our upcoming Easter Services; Good Friday 29th March at 10am Easter Sunday 31st March at 10am. Or email me at [murray@thecentredural.org.au](mailto:murray@thecentredural.org.au)**

## Self-confidence in the world today

Everyone has a desire to be recognized. There are people in life who constantly want to be validated for what they have done. Today, many people check to see how many people have clicked the 'Like' button or left a nice comment after posting something on social media. If they don't get much response, they feel like they're worthless and they've lost touch with people. They even feel lonely and isolated.

We could say that people who are always thirsty for approval and praise from others are not free because their happiness is dependent on others. If you are truly confident in what you have done, then no matter what the outcome is, you should be proud of it, acknowledge it, and accept it positively. That's why we ourselves need to recognize who we are. We should not be who the world says that we are. I want to share a Bible passage from the letter of Paul to the Galatians, "Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ." (Gal 1:10)

You are invited to find your confidence in life again and see who you are and whose you are before God this Easter.



- ✓ Good Friday Worship Service at 9.30am, 29th March
- ✓ Easter Sunday Worship Service at 9.30am, 31st March

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# Find your dream lifestyle!

Announcing the Northern Sydney & Central Coast Retirement Village & Resort Expo – Sunday 24th and Monday 25th March, at the Hornsby RSL, 10am to 3pm, both days.


This free event is the perfect opportunity to discover the fantastic lifestyle benefits of contemporary retirement living and the many impressive options now available in the sector.


Retirees have changed and so has retirement living. The end of work is no longer about slowing down. These days, it's the beginning of a new, adventurous phase of life where seniors are more active than ever, celebrating their freedom and embracing new experiences.


Modern villages and resorts are designed with this generational change in mind. They support independent, healthy lifestyles with sought-after amenities like gyms, cafes and swimming pools. They offer a huge range of social activities as well as communal areas to entertain visiting family and friends. Perhaps most importantly, they offer flexible, low-maintenance living, freeing up residents to enjoy more fulfilling lives unburdened by overgrown gardens and leaky roofs.


Visitors to the expo are encouraged to take their time and engage in detailed conversations with representatives from the different retirement communities, to get a real sense of village life in a no-pressure environment. There's no need to drive hundreds of kilometres to research the market. At the Expo, the market comes to you.


For more information visit [retirementexpo.com.au](http://retirementexpo.com.au)  
It could be the first step to making your dream retirement lifestyle come true.

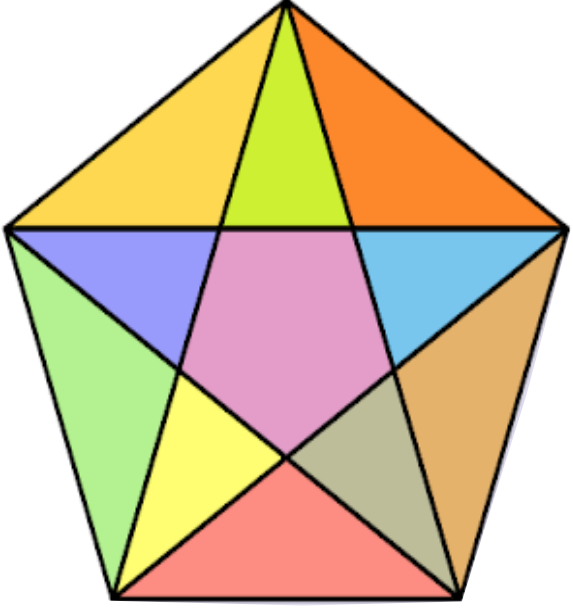
  
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.com.au](http://eludegames.com.au)

  
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## The Northern Sydney & Central Coast Retirement Village & Resort Expo

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> & Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024, 10am-3pm daily  
Hornsby RSL Club, 4 High St, Hornsby | FREE ADMISSION

On display will be the latest resort style developments, as well as established villages from many different organisations. All offering a wide range of services & facilities, sizes, prices & locations, all under one roof with free admission.

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

Wonderful opportunity to ask questions and gather information

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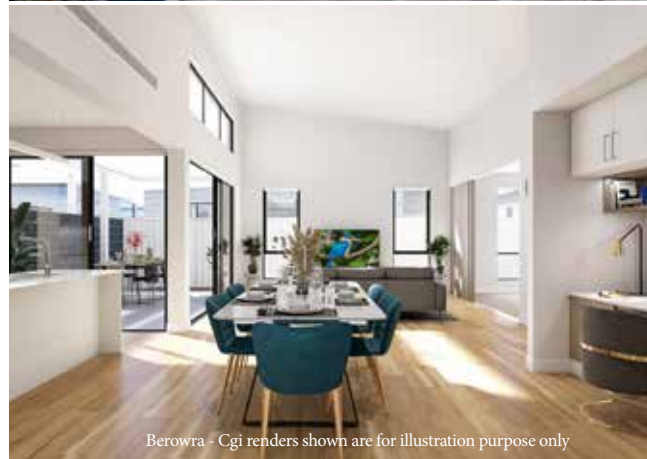
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# Understanding the lifespan of Hearing Aids: How long should they last?

When it comes to investing in hearing aids, understanding their lifespan is crucial for optimal usage and cost-effectiveness. Usually, hearing aids last about 5 years. But, how long they last depends on how well you take care of them.

Firstly, it's essential to note that most manufacturer warranties cover repairs for up to 3 years, leaving users with 2 years where any repairs would typically be out-of-pocket expenses. Given the considerable cost of hearing aids, it's important to take proactive steps in caring for them.

Daily maintenance plays a significant role in prolonging the lifespan of hearing aids. Keeping them clean and free from wax buildup is essential. Additionally, storing them in a dry environment away from moisture is crucial. Since humidity can affect the functionality of hearing aids, we strongly advise that you store them in an appropriate environment away from moisture or humidity (for instance do not store them in your bathroom, kitchen, laundry or even an open window).

Sometimes it is difficult to avoid humidity in the warmer months or even sweat can interfere with your devices – Therefore we recommend

attending your hearing services provider for your review appointments. At Ear Studio we help our clients take care of their devices and have particular methods and machines that we can remove debris and humidity build up to keep their devices working to their optimal level of performance. Just as you regularly service your car to keep it running well, it's important to maintain and service your hearing aids too.

Comparing the lifespan of hearing aids to other technologies, such as mobile phones, offers valuable perspective. While 5 years may seem relatively short, considering the rapid advancements in technology, it's consistent with the lifespan of many consumer electronics. What was once considered cutting-edge technology in hearing aids may become outdated within a few years due to ongoing innovations.

You also may discover, after 5 or 6 years, repair options can become limited as manufacturers may discontinue certain parts. This can pose challenges for individuals seeking repairs beyond the typical lifespan of their devices.

From the Australian government's standpoint, it's provision of hearing aids for eligible pensioners every 5 years supports this timeframe as a reasonable life expectancy for hearing aids. This shows that hearing

"Comparing the lifespan of hearing aids to other technologies, such as mobile phones, offers valuable perspective"



aid technology keeps changing and over time particular devices may even become unsuitable for the wearer as their needs may also change. This supports the fact you will occasionally need to update them.

At Ear Studio, we understand the importance of addressing hearing health needs comprehensively. As a privately owned and independent audiology clinic, we offer support to individuals at various stages of their hearing journey, whether they are just beginning or seeking upgrades. Whether you're eligible for government subsidies or privately funding your devices, our dedicated team is here to assist you.

**If you're considering a hearing test or contemplating upgrading your hearing devices, we encourage you to reach out to our friendly team. You can contact us on 02 9159 6122 or visit our website [www.earstudio.com.au](http://www.earstudio.com.au) for more information or to schedule an appointment online. We look forward to partnering with you on your journey to better hearing.**

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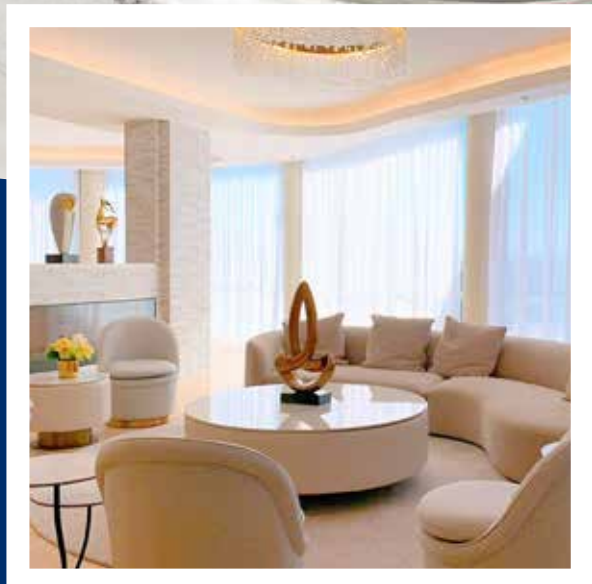


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## SPORT NEWS AT THE CENTRE DURAL

# Boys take to the netball court!



Boys around NSW are embracing their speed, agility and coordination playing Netball with their peers. Local Mum Jenni has an almost 12 year old who has been playing Netball in the local junior competitions. She said "He's absolutely loved the game and being a part of a team for the first time. He's developed skills he didn't know he had and it's been great to see him finally find a sport he enjoys."

Even though there are more boys playing netball than ever before, it's not easy to find pathways to continue once they reach the age of 12. Netball NSW in conjunction with Men's Netball NSW has been seeking to create more opportunity for high school aged boys to embrace this sport. The Netball NSW Schools Cup in 2023 had a

big turn out of boy's teams keen to participate and showcasing their skills.

The Centre at Dural, with Netball NSW and the Dural Warriors Netball Club, is looking forward to offering boy's social Netball Competitions for high school aged boys in 2024. Boys can form teams with their mates and enjoy playing this intense and highly-skilled sport. Maybe the next generation of Men's Netball Superstars will be grown right here in our local area.

**If you have a boy interested in finding out more about Netball, see [thecentredural.org.au/sports-competitions](http://thecentredural.org.au/sports-competitions) or call the sports team on 8989 0000.**



## Dural Bowling Club News

Jack Attack is returning in 2024 and will take place between 16th February and 2nd March, with prizes donated by our parent club Parramatta Leagues. It is pleasing to see some returning teams that took part in the competition of last October and November 2023.

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. Anyone interested in playing Jack Attack can contact Robyn Scoble on 0416 035 655.

A mixed triple competition had been scheduled to start on 10th February. Unfortunately, the wet weather has caused for the first round to be postponed and has been rescheduled for 17th February.

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

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# Find the right school for your child at the (bigger!) Hills Schools Expo

THE HILLS SCHOOLS EXPO WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY & SUNDAY  
MARCH 16TH – 17TH, 10AM – 4PM, AT CASTLE HILL RSL

Attention parents! The Independent Schools Expo is coming to a new venue this year. Due to growing demand, the Expo has moved from its traditional Showground home to Castle Hill RSL. With a bigger space, and air-conditioned, child-friendly facilities, the Expo will showcase more schools to more families than ever before.

This free event is a rare opportunity to meet with teachers and principals from Australia's leading independent schools and discover the many options available to local families.

The Hills district has long been home to a huge variety of excellent schools, offering a diverse range of facilities and teaching styles. Now, thanks to the new Metro North-West train line and expanded school bus services, families have easy access to more schools than ever.

At the Expo, parents are invited to engage in detailed discussions with school staff to deeply explore a school's offerings and suitability for their child. From information on scholarships to extracurricular opportunities and specialised programs for gifted and talented students, families can learn everything they need to know to take the next step in their school search.

You can conduct days of research in a single outing while also establishing a personal connection with your school of choice.



Every child is unique. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to find the school to which your child is uniquely suited.

For more information visit:  
<https://schoolexpo.com.au/hills-school-expo.html>

## Hills Schools Expo



Helping  
you find the  
right school  
for your  
child

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2024, 10am-4pm  
Castle Hill RSL, 77 Castle St Castle Hill | Free Entry

Looking for the right school for your child? Then don't miss the Hills Schools Expo! Showcasing Australia's leading Independent Day & Boarding, Single Sex & Co-ed Schools from Pre-K through to Year 12.

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

# Locks of Loving Kindness

## Two Boys Shining Bright - Supporting Wigs4Kids



In a world that is often eclipsed by self-pursuit, it has been inspiring to see the bright light of loving kindness breaking through the dawn of difficulty. At Pacific Hills Christian School, brothers Brayden (Year 9) and Quinn (Year 7) have truly embodied a profound sense of kindness through their commitment to help children living with cancer.

Their remarkable story began with a desire to make a difference in the lives of children battling cancer. Brayden and Quinn recently completed an extraordinary mission. They grew their hair for several years with a heart-warming purpose; to help sick children in need. Speaking with their mother, Mrs Tracey Frendo, it was clear that the boys' have a deep sense of compassion. Mrs Frendo said, "Right from an early age both boys expressed their desire to make a difference in the lives of sick children."

For children facing unimaginable challenges, this act of kindness will have a positive impact. Mrs Frendo commented "I don't think the boys truly grasp the gravity of their actions."

As Brayden and Quinn prepared to part with their 'locks of loving kindness', their message was simple, "We're cutting our hair to donate it to help sick kids throughout Australia".

Brayden and Quinn had their lovely locks cut off and donated it to the Kids with Cancer Foundation supporting Wigs4Kids. These handcrafted wigs boost the confidence and dignity of young cancer patients.

Brayden and Quinn raised an impressive \$645.00 to support children in need.

The brothers used their 'locks of lovingkindness' to shine brightly into the dark corners of adversity, making the path of children with cancer just that bit better.

Before Shot



After Shot

### THE HILLS SCHOOLS EXPO



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## From the desk of Matt Kean

MEMBER FOR HORNSBY

The NSW State Government's proposed changes to the planning rules that are currently before us is a serious threat to life in semi-rural villages such as Dural, Glenorie and Galston. All the work Hills and Hornsby councils have done, together with their communities to set the character of the rural amenity whilst allowing for appropriate development, will be disregarded.

In more positive news, I was very pleased to be part of the officially reopening of the upgraded Galston Aquatic Centre on 3rd February. The community has waited a very long time for this highly valued public pool to be available once again and it is now an impressive modern facility.

Finally, I am pleased to see Hornsby Council moving forward with their *Galston Village Public Domain Plan*. Galston's shopping area is in desperate need of some attention and council's plan is about to go out for public exhibition. I encourage residents to provide council any feedback they have to these plans.

## Hornsby elects new Deputy Mayor

At the February General Meeting of Hornsby Shire Council, A Ward Councillor, Nathan Tilbury, was elected as Deputy Mayor for the remainder of the council term.

Nathan has served as Deputy Mayor twice previously and is currently serving his third term as a Councillor. He also represents Hornsby Council as Vice President of the Northern Sydney Regional Organization of Councils (NSROC).

Well known for his contribution to local community groups Nathan previously served for many years as President of the Hornsby, Ku-ring-gai and Hills District Cricket Association and as Vice President of the Ku-ring-gai Netball Association.

In addition, he was a member of the original committee responsible for delivering the Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Women's Shelter and, once it opened, he served on the Shelter's Board for five years.

He has been Vice President of the Hornsby Historical Society since 2016 and has published several books on our local history.

Nathan is also a passionate bushwalker, cricketer and mountain biker. He lives in Berowra Heights with his Brazilian born wife and two daughters.

His council priorities for the remainder of the term are sensible management of council's finances, ensure council is transparent with its decision making and to continue to move forward in



## Julian Leeser

MEMBER FOR BEROWRA

## My team and I are here to help

People often ask me what my favourite part of this job is. Without trying to sound like a cliché, it is undoubtedly the opportunity to help our community.

While part of that role is representing you in Canberra, another important part is helping members of our community to access and navigate Federal Government services.

I am hearing more and more about people suffering because the wheels of bureaucracy are turning far too slowly. When that happens, we are here to help.

One of the main areas where we assist is with Centrelink, Medicare and the NDIS. For instance, Jess from Mount Colah applied for paid parental leave but, 3 months later, it still had not been approved. My office raised the issue with Centrelink and, four days later, she started getting those much-needed payments.

I've long advocated for better telecommunications for our electorate. If you have telecommunications problems, we may be able to help. Recently, Lee from Cherrybrook contacted our office about issues with his phone and internet connection which had continued ever since he moved into his home 6 months before. My office raised the problem with Telstra, who fixed the problem within a week.

Additionally, while we can't influence the migration process, we can draw the Department's attention to applications and seek updates on your behalf. For example, last year, Taylor from Thornleigh's niece applied for a visa to come to Australia for her wedding. When it still was not approved 3 months later, despite her family's visas being granted, our office escalated it with the Department. A few days later it was approved – making for a much happier wedding!

**If I can help you in any way, please don't hesitate to contact me on 9980 1822, or by emailing [Julian.Leeser.MP@aph.gov.au](mailto:Julian.Leeser.MP@aph.gov.au)**



delivering public domain improvements, as well as with both Hornsby Park (the former quarry) and Westleigh Park as high priority recreation projects for the benefit of the entire community.



## Matt Kean MP

Member for Hornsby

### Keen to Help you by

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- Assisting you to access State services
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- Organising Justice of the Peace applications
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PO Box 1687, Hornsby Westfield NSW 1635

Authorised by Matt Kean MP. Funded using parliamentary entitlements.



As your Federal Member, I am here to:

- Assist with accessing Federal Government services
- Attend your local community event
- Arrange congratulatory messages

Please contact my office if I can be of assistance.



**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](mailto:julian.leeser.mp@aph.gov.au) [julianleeser.com.au](http://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

## Kenthurst student is Australia's Youngest Female Author

Ashleen Khela is an inspiring eleven-year-old from the Castle Hill Electorate who graduated from Year 6 in Kenthurst Public School in December 2023.

Ashleen has recently become the youngest female published author in Australia, with her book "17 Stories". She discovered a love of writing at the age of 8 and continued to develop this hobby over the COVID lockdowns.

Ashleen and her family often travel to India, and it was during one of these trips before the lockdowns that she met underprivileged children in rural Punjab, inspiring her to help underprivileged children.

During the lockdowns, Ashleen drew on inspiration from the children in Punjab, using her creativity and imagination to create the 17 Stories. The book is an inspiring and imaginative collection of stories which takes the reader to a land of fantasy and adventure. India's Punjab Education Minister, Harjot Singh Bains described '17 stories' as entertaining and inspirational for many readers worldwide.



Not only did Ashleen author and illustrate the book but she also worked hard collecting drink cans, plastic, and glass bottles which she took to recycling stations to fund the publication costs. All proceeds from her book will be donated to the Cancer Council of Australia and Starlight Kids Foundation as well as contributing funds towards underprivileged children of India and other developing nations.

Congratulations to Ashleen for her hard work and contribution to society.



**Rural Roundup News Update**  
CLR WARREN WADDELL

Several residents have enquired if it would be possible to make the crossing of Arcadia Rd even safer for children. The recently formed road verge and pedestrian island are an obvious benefit, however, the inclusion of a zebra crossing is also up for consideration.

If you would like to comment on this proposal, please go to the Council website or use the following link:  
<https://yoursay.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/>

If the exhibition period should end in the meantime, feel free to email your comments and I will pass them on myself.

While you are at it, Hornsby Council is calling on people of all ages to contribute to a 10-year plan for a socially sustainable shire. The plan will set out clear directions for priorities and actions to support social cohesion, community connectedness, resilience, and wellbeing. To have your say, please use this online link:  
<https://yoursay.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/social-plan>

Free plant giveaways have returned to the community nursery! The nursery located at 28 Britannia St Pennant Hills will open at 9am, Friday 23rd February. Bookings essential:  
[Hornsby.nsw.gov.au/plants](https://Hornsby.nsw.gov.au/plants)

On a broader note, Council has serious concerns over the State Governments plan to increase housing density. The blanket, "one size fits all", approach lacks planning merit and would harm the character



of our Shire's suburbs, heritage precincts, environment, and tree canopy. Let alone a total disregard for lack of infrastructure. We will be making a case to the State planning authority that we already have existing planning strategies that have been developed from the ground up with substantial community consultation.

Our Rural Land Strategy is a merit and evidence-based strategy that seeks to preserve the integrity of our rural area while identifying a sustainable approach to housing, local economy, and our environment. State planning reforms will undermine all of this. I will be working hard to ensure that our community controls its own future in terms of planning.

As always, happy to assist with any issue via the contact details below.

[wwaddell@hornsby.nsw.gov.au](mailto:wwaddell@hornsby.nsw.gov.au)  
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## Renewing the Beecroft Village Green

CLLR DR VERITY GREENWOOD | *Hornsby Shire Council*

Work has finally begun on the revitalisation of the Beecroft Village Green, an important and valued community park. The Beecroft Village Masterplan, endorsed and adopted by Hornsby Shire Council in June 2023, is a result of ongoing community consultation and engagement.



The Community spoke and the Council certainly listened. Over two years ago, the community requested my assistance to ensure the park renewal would become a reality, to preserve the park's heritage character, and ensuring safe, accessible, practical and improved community play, exercise, recreation and social spaces.

Council responded with a detailed design including an upgraded playground, a basketball half court, outdoor fitness stations, picnic shelters and BBQ, water bubbler, bike racks and upgraded public toilets.

Special thanks to the local community who supported my push for the Village Green renewal. With ample seating in rest areas, improved landscaping and walking paths, shaded by turpentine ironbark forest, the park will cater for all ages and abilities.

In speaking to the enthusiastic Council team, it is apparent that creating the new park is not just a job, it is to ensure the Village Green remains relevant for present and future generations.

To view the Beecroft Village Green Masterplan see [D08647065\\_\\_Beecroft\\_Village\\_Green\\_Master\\_Plan\\_FINAL.pdf](#) ([amazonaws.com](https://amazonaws.com))

If you have any concerns or issues where I may assist, please do not hesitate to contact me at [vgreenwood@hornsby.nsw.gov.au](mailto:vgreenwood@hornsby.nsw.gov.au)

## Do you want an apartment block popping up next door to your family home?

COUNCILLOR MITCHELL BLUE | *Deputy Mayor – Hills Shire Council*

That's what the NSW Government is proposing to allow in our family-friendly suburbs as part of their Explanation of Intended Effect: Changes to create low and mid-rise housing.

The proposed changes will apply to areas within 800 metres of Metro Stations and town centres such as Baulkham Hills Town Centre and Wrights Road in Kellyville. These changes could also affect our smaller village and neighbourhood centres such as Knightsbridge in Castle Hill, Glenhaven, and Crestwood in Baulkham Hills.

It will allow for more development, including two-to-six-storey apartments, terraces, and manor housing, to be built closer to or within some of our residential areas. This means these housing options could be constructed next to existing properties, including your family home.

These amendments override years of practical planning work that The Hills Shire Council has done in consultation with our community. We've ensured that different housing options are available in the right locations, supported by the right community infrastructure and public transport. For instance, we've kept apartments in areas within walking distance of our Metro Stations and shops.

Council's goal is to create well-connected neighbourhoods for our residents to enjoy. However, this is all at risk with The NSW Government proposing a one-size-fits-all approach to housing.

More concerning, the NSW Government has not proposed any concrete infrastructure solutions to keep up with the unplanned growth. This lack of support makes it difficult for Council to provide necessary services such as parks, roads, and other amenities for the growing population. These changes will also lead to more traffic on our roads, increased demand for our open spaces, reduced on-street parking and added pressure on our already struggling schools and hospitals.

It could also destroy our unique local character which is one of the key reasons why many families choose The Hills Shire to set up their homes and raise their families.

Join the fight to stop the NSW Government from destroying our family-friendly suburbs.

For more information, visit Council's website or <https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/draftplans/exhibition/explanation-intended-effect-changes-create-low-and-mid-rise-housing>

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# Community garden at The Centre

In a positive new development for the Hills, The Centre at Dural is building a community garden in the land between The Centre and Kenthurst Road.

The community garden has been made possible through a \$10,000 Commonwealth Stronger Communities grant.



Mitch Levington, Julian Leeser, Emily Lambert, and Brian Codrington

As a response to social isolation and cost of living pressures, the garden welcomes all comers to build authentic connections through gardening and shared activity. Fresh produce from the garden will be distributed through the Care and Concern weekly feeding program.

Mr Craig Glasby, General Manager of The Centre, said "The community garden at The Centre Dural would not have happen without Julian Leeser's help. The grant was invaluable to getting the garden up and going."

Mr Julian Leeser MP said, "I am so pleased that the everyone in the community who gathers around The Centre will have the opportunity to benefit from the community garden."

"Congratulations to the Centre for this important initiative."

The Centre Community Garden will open to the community in the coming months.



## Learn how to grow Competition Quality Bromeliads

The next meeting of the Bromeliad Society of Australia will be held at the Federation Pavilion, Castle Hill Showground, Castle Hill on Saturday, **16th March** with sales to the public from 10am and the meeting commencing at 12 noon.

With our annual Autumn Show coming up on **4/5th May**, we will be familiarising bromeliad growers with our updated Competition Schedule,

which is now aligned to the Bromeliad Society International's guidelines. Hints on how to prepare your plants for competition, how the judges will be scoring and how to choose the correct 'Class' in which to enter your plant.

We will also have our usual 'Show, Tell and Ask' session where members and guests can submit plants for discussion, and also have our very popular plant raffle.

**For further details please contact Ian Hook, President BSA on mobile 0408 202 269, email ianhook1@bigpond.com or refer to www.bromeliad.org.au for the latest updates.**

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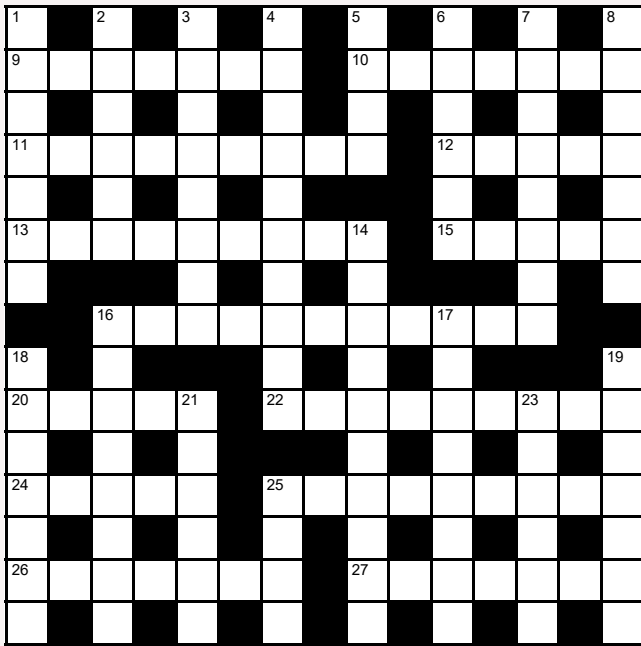
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# CROSSWORD PUZZLE



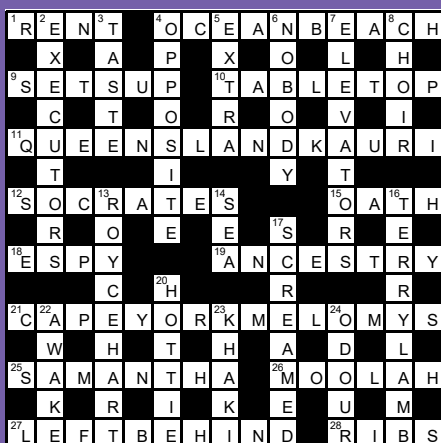
## ACROSS

- 09 Fully owned (4-3)
- 10 Musical entertainment (7)
- 11 Carried on (9)
- 12 Elevate (5)
- 13 Hero type (4,5)
- 15 Storage centre (5)
- 16 Controversial WA settlement between Lancelin and Cervantes (5,6)
- 20 Person used as one's excuse (5)
- 22 Institution for abandoned children (9)
- 24 Prague resident (5)
- 25 Asian ---, a shorebird seen in summer in the North (9)
- 26 Energetic (7)
- 27 Bigger than the rest (7)

## DOWN

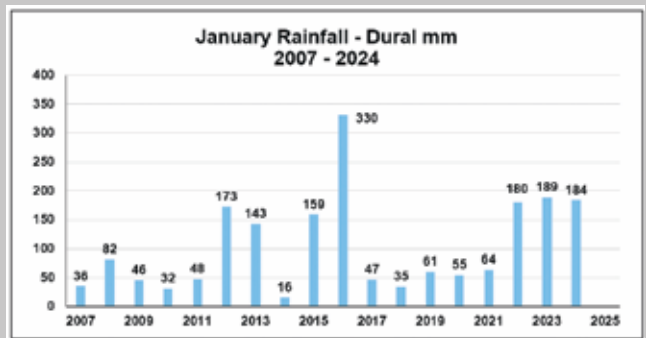
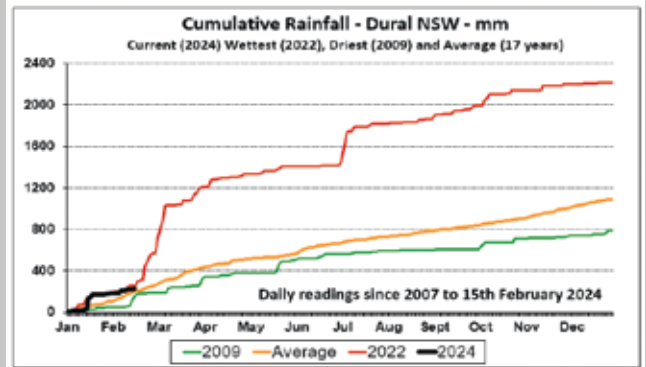
- 01 Discriminating diner (7)
- 02 --- Murphy, radical judge (6)
- 03 Swore (8)
- 04 Nuclear point of detonation (6,4)
- 05 Cricket World Cupper --- Hogg (4)
- 06 Beat the goalie (6)
- 07 Bare (8)
- 08 Canadian oil province (7)
- 14 Olympic gold-winning Hockeyroo forward (4,6)
- 16 Undermine (8)
- 17 Interconnecting devices (8)
- 18 Series of waterfalls (7)
- 19 Rues (7)
- 21 Residence-based (2-4)
- 23 Former tennis Grand Slammer --- John Cooper (6)
- 25 Evade (4)

## ANSWER FROM FEBRUARY ISSUE



# Dural Rainfall Charts

BY HANS KUNNEN



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