

FREE

# DOORAL ROUNDUP



DECEMBER 2024

Official Publication of the Dural Chamber of Commerce  
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**Mitchell Hann**  
0424 484 119  
mitchell.hann@raywhite.com



**Sarah Sibtain**  
0450 035 253  
sarah.sibtain@raywhite.com

**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.

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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."



**As 2024 draws to an end, Christmas decorations burst into bloom and shop front windows look spectacular.**

At home, we put up pretty lights, wreaths on the door and the Christmas tree takes centre stage for the family gatherings. Many of us will sing carols by candlelight, watch Love Actually for about the 10th time and listen to How to Make Gravy by Paul Kelly.

Highlights of 2024 include the overall success of the Australian team at the

Paris Olympics, Penrith winning another Grand Final, and deja-vu with Donald Trump back in the White House.

Around the globe there are conflicts and heartbreak, yet wherever we are, we can extend the hand of goodwill, love our neighbours, and strive every day to be the best we can be.

We thank all our wonderful advertisers and contributors, as we endeavour to keep the *Dooral Roundup* cheerful and informative, and most of all, relevant to the citizens of Dural and surrounds.



*Wishing you a joyous Christmas and may all your plans come to fruition in 2025!*

**Warmest regards,  
Lara van der Wall, Karen Taylor  
and Mark Coupar**

**Dural Chamber and Dooral Roundup Contacts**



**MARK COUPAR**

Membership

✉ info@duralchamber.com.au

☎ 0497 014 950



**KAREN TAYLOR**

Sales Consultant

✉ advertising@dooralroundup.com.au

☎ 0487 111 868



**LARA VAN DER WALL**

Editor

✉ editor@dooralroundup.com.au

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# Glenhaven Carols by Candlelight 2024



Glenhaven Carols by Candlelight returns on Sunday 8th December 2024 for its twenty-fourth year transforming Glenhaven Oval into a festive wonderland. The event has become a fixture of Christmas in Glenhaven, with the oval filling with thousands of residents to celebrate the festive season.

"We are truly grateful for what the Carols event has become and the support the community shows each year. There is excitement building yet again!" said Louise Hedges, of Friends of Glenhaven's Carols Committee. "We look forward to seeing all the friendly faces."

"Each year the community comes together on this great night to relax and celebrate. It is a real community event; with our local Glenhaven Rural Fire Service and The Hills SES Unit assisting on the night.

Friends of Glenhaven's Carols Committee organise the event that also showcases local talent, further promoting a sense of community and "Carnivale" atmosphere with rides, amusements, local performers and a fireworks spectacular.

Up to 4,000 people are expected, and as the limited parking spaces are in great demand, attendees are encouraged to park in neighbouring streets off Glenhaven Rd or walk to the event if possible. Visit the Glenhaven Carols By Candlelight Facebook page for FAQs and further information.

Generous supporters include The Hills Shire Council, Harvey Norman, fireworks sponsor Louis Carr Real Estate, West Pennant Hills Sports Club, Kindalín and Eden Brae Homes. Talented entertainers include Reid the Music, Jenna's Singing School, Sister 2 Sister School of Singing, NorthWest Wind Ensemble, Castle Hill RSL Youth Wind Orchestra and the Hills District Pipe Band.

Glenhaven Carols by Candlelight 2024, Glenhaven Oval, Glenhaven Rd.  
 Sunday 8th December 2024. Starts 4pm. Santa will be coming to town and the firework finale starts at 9.00pm.  
 Entry fee is a Gold coin donation to our emergency services volunteers at the gate.







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# Celebrate Christmas at Illuminate The Hills



Illuminate The Hills will decorate the Queen Elizabeth II Memorial Rose Garden with festive cheer from Thursday, 28th November 2024 – Thursday, 2nd January 2025.

The glittering garden will be lit with thousands of twinkling fairy lights, lined with magnificent Christmas installations and adorned with a dazzling nativity scene.

Mayor of The Hills Shire, Dr Michelle Byrne said Illuminate The Hills was a beloved Hills Christmas tradition.

"I'm really looking forward to seeing the rose garden in all its splendour this holiday season," Mayor Byrne said.



"Join me on opening night to watch the lights get switched on and enjoy free coffee, ice cream and sausage sizzle.

"There will also be traditional Christmas carols and a visit from Santa and Mrs Claus. It's the perfect way to kickstart the festive season with family and friends."

The lights will be switched on from 7:30pm on **Thursday, 28th November** and will light up the rose garden each night until **Thursday, 2nd January 2025**.

The Queen Elizabeth II Memorial Rose Garden is one of the largest of its kind in NSW, with over 4,000 roses from 80 different species. The garden also features concrete pathways, making it accessible for wheelchairs and prams.

The rose garden is located on Roxborough Park Road, Baulkham Hills next to Waves Fitness and Aquatic Centre.

For more information, visit [www.thehills.nsw.gov.au](http://www.thehills.nsw.gov.au) and search for 'Illuminate the Hills'.

## ILLUMINATE THE HILLS

**WHEN:** From 7:30pm on Thursday 28th November 2024 – Thursday 2nd January 2025. On opening night, enjoy FREE coffee, ice cream and sausage sizzle (limited availability) and see Santa, Mrs Claus, Rudolph, carollers and more.

**WHERE:** Queen Elizabeth II Memorial Rose Garden, located next to Waves Fitness & Aquatic Centre on Roxborough Park Road, Baulkham Hills.

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# Food instead of fines for Mayor's 2024 Christmas Appeal

Hills Shire Library members with overdue library books now have a unique opportunity to have their fines waived, as part of the Mayor's 2024 Christmas Appeal and Library Fine Amnesty.

From November 16th, until **December 15th**, library members can return overdue books and have their fines waived, if they bring a non-perishable food donation to Anglicare's Mobile Community Pantry.

Mayor of The Hills Shire, Dr Michelle Byrne said the donations provide affordable food options to individuals and families who need it most.

"This initiative supports a great cause and gives back to members of our community who are doing it tough," Mayor Byrne said.

"It also offers Hills Shire Library members a chance to return long-overdue books.

Last year, 2196 food items were donated, and 167 lost books were returned to the libraries.

"Even if you don't have an overdue library book to return, please donate to this worthy cause to help families who need it most and make their festive season a little brighter."

Overdue books can be returned at any library branch during opening hours. Bring along a food item from the list below to donate, and present your library card or app to staff at the Customer Service desk at any of the Hills Shire Library branches in Baulkham Hills, Castle Hill, Dural and Rouse Hill.



### Acceptable non-perishable food item donations include:

- Christmas cake or pudding (500g or 700g)
- Tinned ham or chunky soup (450g)
- Tinned salmon or tuna (415g)
- Tea (100pk)
- Coffee (100g)
- Packet of biscuits (no chocolate biscuits)
- Dried pasta (500g)
- Pasta sauce
- Long-life milk
- Long-life custard
- Tinned fruit and vegetables (425g)
- Jam (500g)



Chocolate or chocolate-covered items will unfortunately not be accepted, as they are likely to melt.

**For more information about the Mayor's Christmas Appeal and Library Fine Amnesty, visit [www.thehills.nsw.gov.au/Library](http://www.thehills.nsw.gov.au/Library)**

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# Police News

Anyone with information about incidents is urged to call Crime Stoppers NSW on 1800 333 000 or <https://nsw.crimestoppers.com.au>

## DRIVER DIES AFTER KENTHURST CRASH

A man has died after being critically injured in a single-vehicle crash at Kenthurst last week. Emergency services had been called to Kenthurst Road about 10.30pm last Friday (15th November 2024), after a blue Ford XR6 Falcon sedan left the roadway and hit a power pole.

The 18-year-old driver suffered multiple injuries and was taken to Westmead Hospital in a critical condition.

The front-seat passenger, a 19-year-old man, suffered a head injury, while the back-seat passenger, also aged 18, escaped with minor injuries.

Officers attached to The Hills Police Area Command initiated inquiries, assisted by the Crash Investigation Unit (CIU).

Police have now been advised the driver died yesterday in hospital.

The older man remains in hospital in a stable condition, while the third man was released. All three are from Glenwood.

A report will be prepared for the information of the Coroner.

Information is treated in strict confidence. The public is reminded not to report information via NSW Police social media pages.

## Galston CWA Christmas Stalls

- 5th December 6-8pm at Dural Bunnings
- 10th December 10am-2pm at Moran Aged Care, Goodison Street, North Kellyville.

Come along for some Christmas gifts. Our members have big hearts and great energy, sharing the joy of helping others.

*We wish you all the best for Christmas and 2025!*

We always appreciate any donations of fruit and vegetables for our jams and relishes!

Please call Anne Chartorisky 0404 228 209 or Patricia Holdsworth 0412 948 787.





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# Festive Season, Home Security and Safety

PROPERTY & YOU –  
BY PAUL MCKENZIE, ABS CONVEYANCING

Going into the summer period, please make sure your home is safe and secure.

In bushfire season, make sure your home has adequate insurance cover, and is clear of dead tree branches and organic material. Make sure there is a buffer zone between your house and any bushland area.

Also, make sure your home is secure. Lock all doors when going out to Christmas and New Year parties, and even when you are asleep at night. Burglaries in the local area are now an issue, since the Metro stations and north west railway line has opened. Make sure your home insurance also covers burglaries damage and theft.

Ensure children are safe and secure, especially around swimming pools. If you are creating a bushfire plan, include steps to keep pets and livestock safe and secure.

The festive season is a good time to catch up and meet new residents in your street or neighbourhood. Especially during summer bushfire and storms, great neighbours help each other in times of emergency.

*We wish all our Dooral Roundup readers a Merry Christmas, best wishes and regards for 2025.*



Yes, ABS Conveyancing will be open during the business days between Christmas and New Year, for any festive property conveyancing, with buying and selling.



## Fitters & Assemblers ... We Need You!

Local company Aussie Pumps has moved into its newly refurbished facility in Norwest as part of their strategic expansion plan. The drive now is to increase production efficiency and meet the growing demand for Aussie-built, high-quality pumps and pressure cleaners.

Aussie Pumps plans to expand their production team and is looking for fitters and assemblers. They are interested in hearing from locals keen to work near home with the benefits of reduced travel time and improved convenience.

"We're proud to be an Australian manufacturer and stand by the quality of our products," said Operations Manager Mal Patel. "We have a positive, enthusiastic team that needs to grow. We give full on the job training under the guidance of experienced technicians and fitters."

If you, or someone you know, is keen to find a position that is rewarding, stimulating and enables them to make a positive contribution then Aussie have got the right job for you.

**Interested? Give Mal Patel a call or send your resume to [operations2@aussiepumps.com.au](mailto:operations2@aussiepumps.com.au)**







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*Merry Christmas & Best Wishes for 2025!*







# Smooth Sailing: Mobility Solutions for a Perfect Cruise

BY REJIMON PUNCHAYIL



Dreaming of a relaxing cruise holiday? Don't let mobility challenges hold you back. With the right tools and a little planning, you can enjoy a stress-free and memorable experience.

**A Walking Companion:** For those who need a little extra support, a foldable walking stick or a wheeled walker can be a game-changer. These mobility aids come in various styles and designs, so you can choose one that complements your personal style.

**A Portable Solution:** A foldable transit wheelchair is a versatile option for longer excursions or days when you want to conserve energy. These lightweight and easy-to-store chairs are perfect for navigating the ship and exploring shore excursions.

**The Ultimate Cruise Companion:** For maximum mobility and convenience, consider a portable or foldable mobility scooter or

a power chair. These compact devices that are ultra-light offer a smooth and effortless way to explore the ship and its surroundings.

Remember, the key to a successful cruise is choosing the right mobility solution to suit your specific needs. Consult with your healthcare provider or a mobility specialist to determine the best option for you.



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# Dural and District Historical Society Inc.

## News from History Cottage



David Jehan

Our well attended meeting on the 9th November was the last for the year. Our guest speaker, David Jehan told part of the fascinating story of the Hudson Brothers and Clyde

Engineering. His research and knowledge, together with many old photographs, recalled earlier days for many. Who can forget those mighty trains of the steam era. The distinctive smell of the sheep and cattle vans coming down from the country, the sturdy coal bins from the Hunter and Illawarra, the luxury of the sleeper trains, and the coal dust in the eyes when someone forgot to close the window approaching the tunnels. David's talk showed how much more he had to offer and he has kindly offered to come again next year; one the Society is most happy to accept.

Another part of David's talk covered the building operations. Our district has a number of the Hudson Ready Cut homes which form part of its architectural heritage. Sandra and Ken Gregory are the custodians of one such buildings and they brought along a painting to show (see photo).

In his report to members, the President drew attention to the fact that our audience comprised people who were members of a so many different organisations. The common thread was a dedication and concern for our community in so many ways; garden clubs, volunteer fire brigades, progress associations, bush regenerations, church associations, to name but some. He felt that this concern had in expression in Local History, where it is recorded. The Society is constantly being given photos and organisation records to preserve the work of others who have gone before and which can be seen by all.

After a Christmas lunch the Society will finish for the year, opening with the first meeting of the 8th February 2025 in the Galston Uniting Church at 2.00pm when the guest speaker will be Professor Don Napper. who will talk on Nicola Tesla.



Sandra and Ken Gregory

Enquiries to Michael Bell 02 9653 1365.

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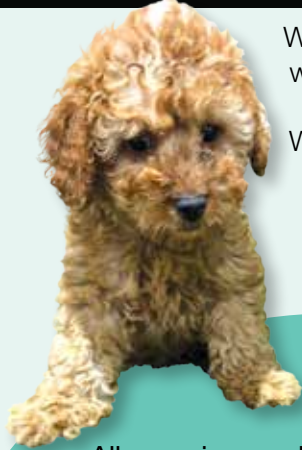


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# Latest News



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## from the Mayor's Desk

As a longtime resident of the area, I am incredibly proud of Hornsby Shire's unique mixture of urban towns and rural villages. While serving as a Councillor I maintained a commitment to ensuring our public spaces are safe, functional and attractive. So, I'm incredibly disappointed when I see our public spaces defaced by graffiti, a sentiment that I know is shared by much of our community.

I am keen to tackle this growing problem, so I have asked Council to prepare a report outlining options for a Shire wide strategy, with a strong focus on community involvement in preventing unwanted graffiti and its removal from private property.

I have been impressed at just how efficient Council's own team are at dealing with graffiti on Council owned assets. The problem however is much greater than this and will require collaboration with the community, private property owners, and the NSW Government. I look forward to sharing more information about this important issue in the coming months.

The revitalisation project at Galston Village is another example of how Council is upgrading our village centres to make them places people want to meet and gather. Following the exhibition of the Galston Village Public Domain Plan, refinements have been made based on community feedback. The next steps are to develop a detailed design and tender for construction. The proposed improvements are expected to commence in mid-2025, subject to final design approval by TfNSW, (former RMS).

As the year draws to a close, we look forward to some down time in order to celebrate and enjoy time spent in our beautiful Bushland Shire. From paddling in our waterways, to enjoying our parks and playgrounds, there is so much to experience right here on our doorstep.

I hope you, like me, will enjoy spending time with family and friends. I wish you all a cheerful and joyful holiday season and a prosperous new year.

**Warren Waddell**  
Mayor of Hornsby Shire

## What's on

### SEASON'S GREETINGS

Council opening hours  
Christmas and New Year 2024-2025

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



## SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

### READ AND WIN!

5 December 2024 – 23 January 2025

**READING ROCKS** – Kids category

**SUMMER READS** – Adults and teens category

Join the challenge to win prizes this summer. Enter online or pick up a form from the library.

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



## Community Recycling Centre – Opening Hours

Closed from 25 December 2024, reopening 2 January 2025

Expect changed traffic conditions and possible delays

Remember to prepare for your visit:

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

## WASTE EVENTS



### Rural E-Waste Drop Off Day

Saturday 7 December, 8am-3pm.

Rural Sports Facility, Galston,  
entry via Mansfield Road

### Chipping for Mulch – Westleigh

Sunday 8 December, 7.30am-12.30pm

The Old Dog Pound, next to 8 Warrigal Drive, Westleigh

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

## YOUR SAY HORNSBY

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

### ROFE PARK OFF-LEASH DOG PARK EXTENSION

Submissions close: 4 December

### PROPOSED TOILET UPGRADES – UPPER MCKELL PARK

Submissions close: 11 December

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

Next Council meeting Wednesday 11 December, 6.30pm

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

ADVERTORIAL

# Aussie Bushfire Survival Guide



The Aussie Bushfire Survival Guide is an indispensable tool for bushfire preparation

Aussie Pumps has produced a new 2024 'Bushfire Survival Guide' that can assist communities preparing for this fire season. The guide is loaded with invaluable

information to help property owners make informed choices for their bushfire plan.

It covers the basics of preparing a home or property regardless of whether the owner intends stay or leave. It also assists with fire pump selection, setting up sprinkler systems, and routine maintenance to keep gear primed ready for an emergency.

A quality firefighting pump like the Aussie Fire Chief is key to setting up a protection system. It's capability that counts. Unfortunately, not all pumps are designed to deliver top performance. Second rate gear can risk property, pets, stock and even lives.

The 'Survival Guide' deals with product selection but stresses the need for an adequate water supply to be available and for the property to be fully prepared to be defended.

The Aussie Bushfire Survival Guide is free and is available from Aussie Pumps directly or through your local Aussie Gold Distributor.

# Christ is the King of Christmas



I recently went on a short holiday to Bali. It was my first time visiting there. I felt a lot of anticipation and excitement even before I left. You may agree that a strong first impression will stay with you for a long time. Well, Bali sure left a mark on me. The moment I landed at Bali airport; the heat hit me like a ton of bricks. The crowd and the traffic chaos were a bit overwhelming at first, especially since I was looking to escape my usual hectic routine. In addition, I'll never forget my first morning there. I saw many Balinese people performing rituals, making offerings to their gods and visiting temples. They're mostly Balinese Hindus and very religious. It was mind-blowing to see how their daily lives revolve around their faith.

Here in Australia, many of us are gearing up for a break during December and January. The festive season is in full swing with Christmas and New Year's Eve just around the corner. But it's a bit of a shame that the true meaning of Christmas often gets lost in all the hustle and bustle, with secularism and materialism taking over.

So, I believe it's a good time for you to reflect on what Christmas is really about. If you're keen, come along to our church's Christmas services. We've got a Christmas Eve Worship Service at 7:30pm on the 24th of December and a Christmas Day Worship Service at 9am on the 25th. Everyone's welcome!

Rev Peter Chung, Cherrybrook Uniting Church

*Merry Christmas!* 🎄🔔



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# Swim Safely This Summer: The Best Way to Protect Your Ears During the Festive Season

AN ARTICLE FROM THE TEAM AT EAR STUDIO



As the festive season approaches, Australia comes alive with the joys of summer. The days are long, filled with golden sunshine, and the sound of laughter echoes from backyards and beaches. Families gather for barbecues, children run through sprinklers, and friends cool off in sparkling blue pools. Whether you're diving into the ocean, lounging by the river, or enjoying a lazy afternoon swim, the water is an irresistible escape from the summer heat. But while the season brings plenty of fun, it also carries certain risks for our ears, especially with increased swimming.

Spending more time in the water can lead to trapped moisture in the ear canal, a common culprit behind ear infections like swimmer's ear. Combined with excessive ear wax, this can create a perfect storm for discomfort and hearing issues. One of the best ways to prevent these problems is by ensuring your ears are clean and free of wax buildup. That's where professional ear wax removal comes in, offering a safe, effective solution to keep your ears healthy.

## DIY Methods: A Cautionary Tale

At-home methods for ear wax removal often seem convenient but can be risky.

- **Peroxide and Oil:** These substances are frequently used to soften ear wax. However, they can cause irritation, discomfort, or even push the wax deeper into the ear canal, worsening the blockage.
- **Ear Candles:** This method, which involves placing a lit, hollow candle in the ear, is not only ineffective but also hazardous. It can cause burns, leave candle residue, or push wax deeper into the ear.
- **Foreign Objects:** Tools like bobby pins or even cotton buds are often misused. Cotton buds can leave fibres behind, and bobby pins can cause trauma to the delicate ear canal. We often see patients needing help to remove cotton pieces lodged in their ears.
- **Cameras with Tools:** While these gadgets might seem innovative, their sharp edges and poor design can lead to significant injury if not used correctly.

## Why Choose Micro Suction?

Micro suction offers a professional, safe, and efficient solution for ear wax removal. Here's why it stands out:

- **Precision and Safety:** Micro suction uses specialised equipment with magnification

and lighting, allowing trained professionals to remove wax with great accuracy.

- **Painless and Quick:** The procedure is comfortable and efficient, minimising discomfort and ensuring the complete removal of wax.
- **Adaptable Techniques:** At Ear Studio, while dry micro suction is our primary method, we can employ other techniques if needed, always prioritising your safety and comfort.

## Prevention and Peace of Mind

This summer, protect your ears from potential issues by starting with a clean slate. Regular ear wax removal can help prevent blockages and reduce the risk of swimmer's ear or other infections.

## Trust the Experts at Ear Studio

Don't risk your hearing with unproven and potentially harmful DIY methods. Schedule a micro suction appointment with Ear Studio to ensure your ears are in the best possible condition for the summer season.

Visit [www.earstudio.com.au](http://www.earstudio.com.au) or call **02 9159 6122** to book your appointment today. Enjoy a safe and sound festive season!

*Merry Christmas*  
from our team at  
**EAR STUDIO**  
*Passion for Hearing*

Our last clinic day for 2024 is Monday the 23rd of December  
and we reopen on Monday the 6th of January 2025

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wellness rooms designed to enhance and  
support your active lifestyle.



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illustration purposes only

# Dural Bowling Club News

The Men's Major Single Final took place on Saturday 9th November and the winner was Phil Laing who defeated Mike Keane 25-15. Last year Phil defeated Mike by the same score. The game was much closer than the score indicated with the lead changing many times throughout the game. Mike was leading 14-12 at one stage, then Phil found the right line and length and managed to score 13 shots whilst Mike could only manage 1 shot.



The Ladies Major Singles was played Tuesday 12th November with a very close, competitive game between Lyn Luxford and Terri Hezlett.

Terri defeating Lyn with the score of 25-23. As the score indicated the lead changed many times during the game keeping the other bowlers playing on the day on edge.

Our congratulations to Phil and Terri and commiserations to Mike and Lyn. The next event for Dural Bowling Club will be the presentation day and Christmas lunch on December 14th.



Anyone interested in playing bowls please contact Robert on 04 1137 5580.



## Join the Dural and District Business Chamber today!

The Dural & District Business Chamber offers a great opportunity to be part of a growing and exciting network of members over a diverse range of businesses. You will meet other members who also share the same passion as you for their business and an opportunity to interact in a bigger team.

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

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

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

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Dooral Roundup: [www.duralchamber.org.au/dural-roundup/](http://www.duralchamber.org.au/dural-roundup/)

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# Dural Cub - scout Activities

Dural Cubs have been busy and challenged with all kinds of activities and outings last term earning them a number of awards. These included:

- Outdoor Cooking at the hall
- Fun on a Gyroscop
- Indoor Rockclimbing
- Parramatta Walkathon and Ramble
- Adventure Hike for the Peak Award.
- Halloween Night
- Visit to Mid Dural RFS



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

Please contact Phiroza: 0411 731 976 or [phiroza@bigpond.net.au](mailto:phiroza@bigpond.net.au) or Simon: [thewolf\\_1stdural@bigpond.com](mailto:thewolf_1stdural@bigpond.com)

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# Celebration Sing Out 2024 at Dural Public School



On Sunday 27th October, the 5/6 Dolce Singers and 3/4 Giocosio Singers with Miss Rosolen, Mrs de la Harpe and Mrs Anderson, performed in Celebration Sing Out 2024!

This concert raises money for Westmead Children's Hospital's music therapy program. Since it began in 1993, it has raised over \$1,000,000 to support the health and wellbeing of children. The DPS choir students were part of a massed primary choir that included students from public and private schools. The primary choir then joined the secondary choir, adult choir and orchestra for a magnificent sound in the second half of the show. The Dolce and Giocosio Singers beautifully represented DPS and should be very proud of their effort in rehearsals this year as well as their outstanding performance in the concert. Thank you to all the choir families for organising transport and supporting this wonderful event.



## Pacific Hills Christian School Is Christmas Outrageous?



Dr Stephen Fyson, part of our Pacific Hills Christian School community, shares an insightful look into the Christmas story.



"Christmas has so much loveliness within it. That includes the actual story – a tiny baby born in a manger to loving parents. More than that, there are angels singing, exotic visitors and promises from God delivered by His messengers.

Yet, part of that first Christmas carries a detail that would have been considered outrageous by any serious thinkers of the day.

No promised king, leader, or deity would have been welcomed into the world in a "manger." Why? Because that manger was a hovel – probably a muck-stained wooden trough or a carving in a rock face where animals were given some kind of shelter.

Can you imagine it? Can you see Joseph and Mary stopping at the entrance, seeing (and smelling) the mess, and wondering if this was the spot? But they accepted this as their lot, because God had sent messengers to them to trust Him. And they did.

What was outrageous 2000 years ago brought change to the world. A God who loves so much that He was prepared to humble Himself by being born in a smelly cave is a God who loves all people. In this baby, Jesus, there is no difference between us, if we see things as He sees them.

And that is why Pacific Hills Christian School has students and staff doing outrageous things at the end of this end and over the break. Instead of being comfortable, there are teams going to Cambodia, India and Vanuatu to share God's love. That is not normal. That may seem strange.

But if Christmas reminds us of God's outrageous love towards us, what might we do that shows outrageous love to someone this Christmas?"

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## Clr Mitchell Blue

THE HILLS SHIRE COUNCIL

The Hawkesbury River is a jewel in the crown here in The Hills.

So, it is important that we continue to ensure the river quality is at its best. Many of the creeks and tributaries here in The Hills flow into the Hawkesbury so what you do at your home, may have an impact further down the river. It is one of my priorities to implement regular water quality testing of our creeks and tributaries. It has been great to talk to river users, whether they be commercial fishers or boating groups. These groups are a great source of knowledge and information.

With that in mind, I am glad to see the progression of the Hawkesbury Nepean River System Coastal Management Program. In August 2018, Council entered a Memorandum of Understanding with the Hawkesbury Nepean River System Coastal Management Program and has partnered with five other councils to deliver this. The HNCMP is currently at stage 3 of 5, which is to prepare, exhibit, finalise, certify and adopt. This stage requires Community consultation. The HNCMP is in the community consultation period, where a long list of actions are publicised for comment, as well as being open to suggestions from the community. This is done over 10 weeks and concludes 24/11/2024. There is an online map based portal that is open to the public to gather feedback. I encourage those interested to have a look. More information can be found on Council's Have Your Say website.

As Christmas is just around the corner, I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Please spare a thought for those doing it tough this Christmas and for those working on Christmas Day to protect us.

**As always, if I can be of any assistance, please let me know.**  
**Councillor Mitchell Blue 0400 449 324** [Clr.Blue@thehills.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Clr.Blue@thehills.nsw.gov.au)  
[www.thehills.nsw.gov.au](http://www.thehills.nsw.gov.au)

## Hornsby Shire Mayor wages war on graffiti

Hornsby Shire Council's newly elected Mayor, Warren Waddell, has issued a call to arms to Council and the community to tackle the problem of graffiti.

"Graffiti is becoming an increasingly pressing issue, particularly along major roads, town centres, public spaces, and community facilities. This not only mars the visual appeal of our neighbourhoods but also contributes to a broader perception of neglect and disorder, detracting from Hornsby's character, diminishing its natural beauty and the well-maintained public spaces that the community cherishes," said Mayor Waddell.



"I have been impressed at just how efficient our own teams are at dealing with the presence of graffiti on Council owned assets. The problem however is much larger than this and needs addressing."

Actions to be investigated include; quick and simple reporting, rapid removal, and how greater collaboration with the State government can better manage the removal of graffiti on state owned assets.

"I have been buoyed by the interest of the whole community to support this war on graffiti which will contribute to a more vibrant, safe, attractive, and culturally rich community for all residents of Hornsby Shire," Mayor Waddell said.

To read Mayor Waddell's full Mayoral Minute visit [hornsby.nsw.gov.au](http://hornsby.nsw.gov.au)



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## James Wallace

HORNSBY MP

### A reminder, there will be a bushfire season this summer

Over the past few weeks since being elected, I have been spending a lot of time getting around to the many different local organizations across the Hornsby electorate, as I get acquainted with the community and gain a better understanding for the issues and challenges facing our residents.

Recently I had a meeting with Superintendent Dan Meijer, the Acting District Manager for Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Rural Fire Service, at their recently upgraded Headquarters at Cowan.

With 19 brigades, 65 vehicles (including 6 boats) and a total of 1,318 volunteers, the Hornsby Ku-ring-gai RFS District is the Hornsby Electorate's largest volunteer organization. The District volunteers are supported by 12 professional staff.

This calendar year, the organisation has responded to 557 fire calls, trained an additional 498 volunteers and held 56 training courses for the existing members. They have also undertaken 14 hazard reduction burns of around 225 hectares.

I was very impressed to go through the details of what Dan and his team have done to prepare for the 2024/25 bushfire season.

However, please do not solely rely on the RFS to save you and your property in the event of a nearby dangerous bushfire.



Every resident should be "bushfire ready" and every property should be prepared for the bushfire season.

If you not ready, it is not to late and you can find more information at [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au)

### 20th Anniversary for Hornsby's Relay for Life



I was very pleased to support Hornsby Relay for Life's twentieth successive event at Rofe Park last month. It was once again an overwhelming success as they exceeded their goal of fundraising \$110K. The annual event has now raised over \$1.8 million for cancer research since it commenced. It is a 24-hour family festival, with a full program of live entertainment, ceremonies, kids activities, food and lots of fun.

Congratulations to Robyn Twigg OAM who has participated in all twenty relays. Robyn is a 24-hour walker and an inspiration to many with her passion and fundraising prowess.

An incredible 59 teams and 435 walkers participated. Along with Robyn's team, Pink Ribbons II, other teams included the Rangers Baseball, Hornsby Men's Shed, Waitara Girl Guides, Cherrybrook Girl guides and Pennant Hills High School.

Well done to the organisers including Nicola MacGee, Ruth Swadling and Karen Humphries for a successful event. It was a privilege to walk with them as part of the Survivors and Carers Walk, along with my mother who recently battled cancer.



## Julian Leeser

MEMBER FOR BEROWRA

### I recently visited a fantastic organisation in our area, and I'd like to share a little bit about them.

Warrah Disability Services is located in Dural, and it is a fantastic not-for-profit service which is dedicated to performing particular services for people with disability. Importantly, Warrah is providing opportunities for people where they may not previously have had the chance to participate fully as a member of our community.

Their work began back in the sixties, with Warrah operating as a special school by day and a group home by night, but times have changed.

Nowadays, Warrah offers supported independent living for adults across 13 homes with 24/7 care, community support services and in-home support. Along with that, Warrah is the only Steiner specialist school operating in Australia, providing K to12 education with 31 students currently enrolled. Warrah also operates a biodynamic farm and operates an organic farm shop which I had the chance to learn more about on my visit. More recently, Warrah has assisted with the creation of microenterprises, including candles made by Rohan, who is a regular participator at the Dural

Men's Shed. Ben and Jim have also started mowing lawns with the assistance of the team at Warrah.

When I visited Warrah recently, I caught up with the CEO Delia Gray, school principal Anna Wetzel, farm manager Steve Tennikoff and property manager David Sharkie and I really learned a lot so I'm grateful for the time they spent talking with me. I also met students, Talara, Harry, Max and Jasmin and saw the positive impact that Warrah's programs are having.

Along with the staff, we talked about the organisation's history, the fantastic work that Warrah is doing right now and about their plans for the future which will provide even more opportunities for people living with a disability, but also involve more members of our broader community outside of Warrah's participants and students. The way they want to achieve this is by developing a small farm animal management practice which would be open to the public while teaching participants about animal husbandry and have a positive impact on our environment – I think it sounds great and already know my children would love the chance to visit.

I'm excited about Warrah's plans to expand, open new learning opportunities and bring our community along the journey. Right now, I'm working on a plan to support them as they grow and continue to support people in our community to lead an engaging and fulfilling life and I know our community will be backing them too.





**Jane Seaglove**  
HORNSBY COUNCILLOR

## Rural Roundup

**I am truly humbled and consider it a great privilege to be elected to represent A ward in Hornsby Shire.**

As a long-term resident of Dural, I am keen to keep the residents of the rural area up to date with current issues.

Mayor Warren Waddell and the full Council team have now been sworn in. The first Council meeting took place on the 23rd October and it was immediately down to business.

A unanimous vote to address graffiti as a Shire wide problem went through. Investigations will now begin into how this problem may be addressed more broadly, especially as it relates to non-Council assets.

Coming into Summer, the bushfire threat will increase. Especially in the rural areas of the Shire where our bushland is most prevalent. At the same Council meeting I ensured my involvement in our Bushfire Management and Liaison Committees. My election to these committees will assist in keeping across this very real threat to our highly valued bush encumbered area.

Looking forward, I was pleased to learn that progress on the Galston Village Public Domain plan has occurred. With most investigations complete, it won't be long now before the groundbreaking stages will commence. This project will go a long way to addressing concerns around safety and traffic management. With the added benefit of creating a functional and attractive village centre.

We are also looking forward to the Glenorie Village community engagement process commencing. I will be encouraging all members of the community to put forward their views as we play our role in the enhancement of Glenorie Village.

**I look forward the term ahead. I am happy to be contacted on any issue on [jseaglove@hornsby.nsw.gov.au](mailto:jseaglove@hornsby.nsw.gov.au)**



**Mark Hodges**  
MEMBER FOR CASTLE HILL

## Rising Costs, Struggling Families: Why the Government Must Act Now

**I am acutely aware of the pressures so many in our community face due to the increased cost of living. In November, I moved a motion in Parliament regarding these pressures, which continue to grow across our state.**

The Government's failure to address rising cost-of-living pressures has sparked growing frustration, with 41% of Australians struggling to pay bills, according to SEC Newgate's September 2024 report\*.

Despite public concern, no meaningful action has been taken to alleviate the burden on families.

Under the current Government, essential costs have surged: food prices are up 5.8%, housing costs by 7.4%, and health premiums by 5.1%. In NSW, school canteen prices have risen by up to 50% with over 500 public school canteens now operated by private contractors-despite the Government's stated opposition to privatisation.



Small businesses are also feeling the pressure, with 82% reporting increased time and money spent on compliance.

The Opposition has called for the reinstatement of cost-of-living measures like Active Kids and

Creative Kids vouchers to ease financial strain on families.

Communities are increasingly dissatisfied, and the Opposition urges the Government to listen and take meaningful action to support struggling households.

As these issues continue to affect communities across New South Wales, it's crucial that the government listens to the real-life concerns of its citizens and takes meaningful action.

I encourage anyone affected by these pressures, or who has ideas or suggestions, to reach out to my office. Your feedback is invaluable in shaping policies that matter to our community. I am always available to listen, discuss concerns, and work together to find solutions.

Together, we can push for the change our communities urgently need.



SCAN ME



**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.

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LIBERAL FEDERAL MEMBER FOR BEROWRA

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



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# Hidden In The Hills

## Bushcare

BY LACHLAN TURNER

As you drive along roads that border our bushland reserves, frequently there are signs displayed stating "Bush Regeneration in Progress", or, "Bushcare This Sunday".

If the integrity of our natural bushland scene is to be maintained, and native plants are to be protected, it is necessary from time to time for some form of remediation work to be carried out.

Much of this work is carried out by dedicated bush care workers, many of whom live nearby to the reserve in which they work, in a voluntary capacity.

This important and valuable activity is mainly brought about because of exotic and introduced plants, including shrubs, garden plants and grasses invading the borders of the natural bush areas, stifling the more delicate native vegetation.

Many other garden plants that have abundant seed production can now be found growing along the banks of bushland creeks having been washed there with storm water after heavy rain.

Along these creek lines there can be found infestations of blackberry, lantana and privet that have colonised this favourable



moisture laden habitat. Such woody weeds are extremely difficult to remove and require the persistent efforts of volunteer bush carers.

Experienced bush care workers can be found on a regular basis doing their bit to save and protect our native species from extinction.

Also as you walk along sections of bushland tracks, bushcare work can be obvious. However, where tracks pass nearby to residential properties, there may be evidence of garden refuse and other rubbish that has been dumped into the bushland fringes. It is a shame that the devastating impact of this kind of behaviour continues to occur.

Visit [www.thehills.nsw.gov.au/Services/Environmental-Management](http://www.thehills.nsw.gov.au/Services/Environmental-Management) on the Hills Council web site for further information about Bushcare Groups.

## Bromeliads for Christmas

Bromeliads make wonderful gifts and are perfect house plants to decorate your home for Christmas, as many of the bromeliads currently flowering.

Your last opportunity before Christmas to buy beautiful bromeliads direct from local growers will be on **Saturday, 14th December** at The Bromeliad Society of Australia's final meeting of the year. Plant sales to the public will open from 10am until 12noon at the Federation Pavilion, Castle Hill Showground.

Why not consider a membership to the Bromeliad Society of Australia for a friend or family member for Christmas? Annual membership is \$25 for the digital newsletter Bromeletter, or \$35 for those who prefer a hard copy. For enquiries, contact [MembSec@bromeliad.org.au](mailto:MembSec@bromeliad.org.au)

BSA Meetings include plant sales, club news, raffles and competitions as well as providing an opportunity to meet like-minded people in a friendly and inviting environment.

Contact Ian Hook – mobile 0408 202 269, email: [ianhook1@bigpond.com](mailto:ianhook1@bigpond.com)  
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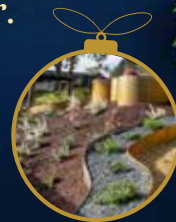
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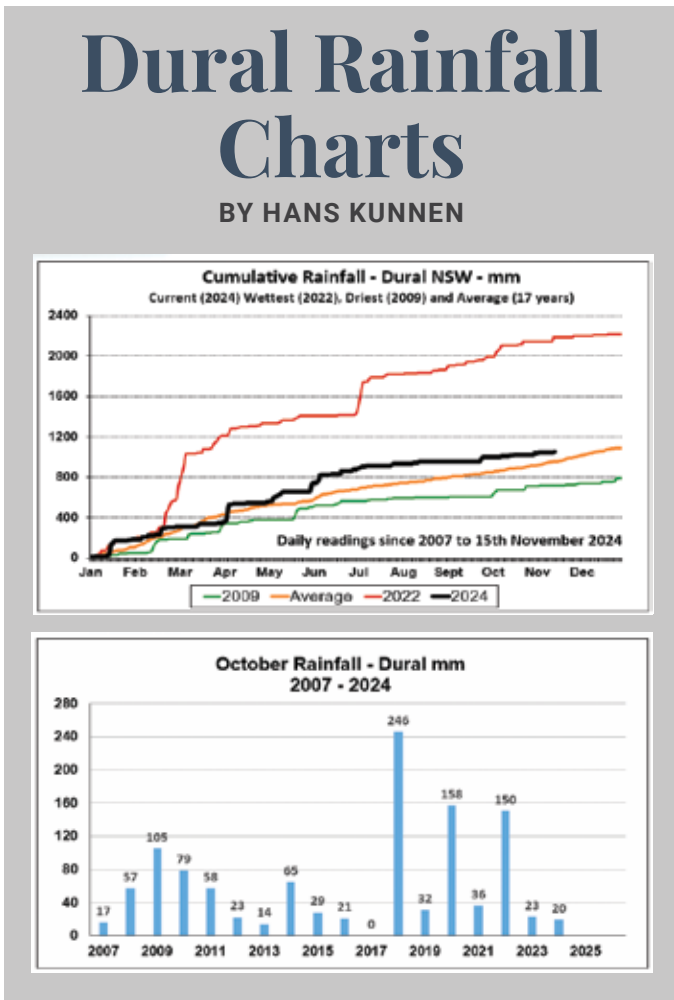
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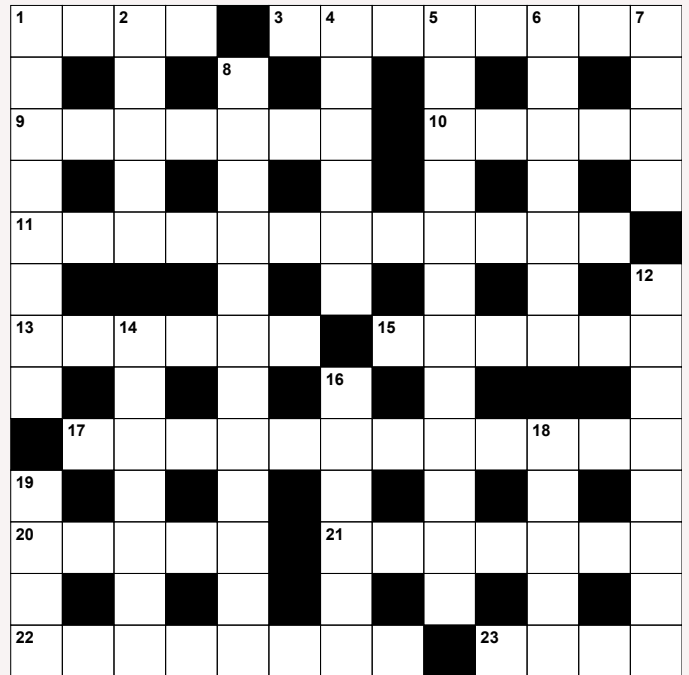
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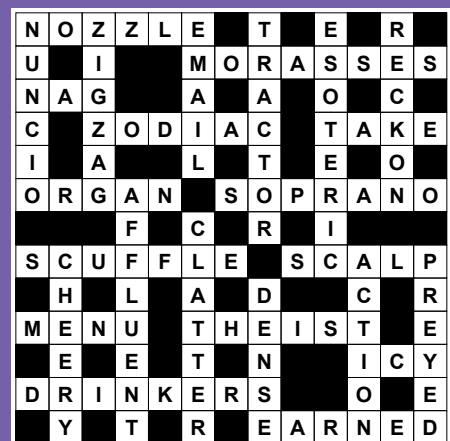
### ACROSS

- |                                   |                                |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 01 Drains of energy (4)           | 15 Accuse; run at (6)          |
| 03 Muddled (8)                    | 17 Female fellow national (12) |
| 09 Contrary to (7)                | 20 Skewered meat (5)           |
| 10 Country in the Middle East (5) | 21 Sailing ship (7)            |
| 11 As a result (12)               | 22 Cowboy films (8)            |
| 13 Push forcefully (6)            | 23 Requests (4)                |

### DOWN

- |                                    |                                  |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 01 Ascot cat (anag) (8)            | 08 Untimely (12)                 |
| 02 Clear and apparent; obvious (5) | 12 Definitions (8)               |
| 04 Move faster than (6)            | 14 Equilateral parallelogram (7) |
| 05 Unseen observer (3,2,3,4)       | 16 Starting point (6)            |
| 06 More straightforward (7)        | 18 Confronts (5)                 |
| 07 Bond movie (2,2)                | 19 Slanting; crooked (4)         |

### ANSWER FROM NOVEMBER ISSUE



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