

# DOORAL ROUNDUP



NOVEMBER 2024

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



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The Dooral Roundup loves to receive contributions from our community!

Guidelines for contributors:

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

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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."

# Was life easier in the 70s?

BY MARK COUPAR

I read an article just recently, asking: Was life easier back in the 70s? It made me think of things that were once important in my daily life, but now long gone.

Looking back, I thought to myself, how did I ever survive in the 70s, with no Internet, no Netflix no mobile phone, and Grease was the movie to watch.

I can remember seeing a car phone for the first time, it was enormous, in the car of the owner of a business I worked in during school holidays. Later on the first mobile phone, nicknamed "the brick" came onto the market!

Who fondly remembers their old rotary phones? We memorised many numbers and bad luck if someone was trying to ring you whilst you were on the phone as message bank wasn't around... but an upside was you could always find your phone!



Typewriters were an essential piece of kit but they only came in one weight – HEAVY and the delete button of the 70s was Liquid Paper, with many assignments saved by this invention. If you wanted to research a topic there was no Google, but we had to visit the local library, search for the books we needed, lug them home, and cop a fine if you forgot to return them in time.

Now it seems the future has arrived, as we see electric cars, environmental advancements, new and better medical developments.

For the children of the 70s, what bygone joys do you wish your kids and grandkids could have experienced?

It appears we have turned out ok living through the 70s so I feel very positive about the younger generations turning out ok as well.

I will leave it at that for now, and see if I can find my old LP records..

## 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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# Hornsby Shire Mayor and Councillors at first Council Meeting of the new term

Hornsby Shire Council held its first general meeting of the 2024 to 2028 council term on 23rd October, with the Mayor and Councillors taking their Oath or Affirmation of Office.

The new Council is made up of Nathan Tilbury, Jane Seaglove and Olivia Simons for Ward A, Janelle McIntosh, Sallianne McClelland and Monika Ball for Ward B, and Dr Verity Greenwood, Ben McSweeney and Matthew Conley for Ward C.

"I am incredibly proud to have taken my oath today alongside my fellow Councillors. Together, we are committed to working for the benefit of the entire community," said Mayor Waddell.

"I look forward to collaborating with this talented team to achieve meaningful outcomes that will enhance the lives of everyone in our Shire. I am particularly happy to have nominated Councillor McIntosh as Deputy Mayor and look forward to working closely with her."

**The full agenda of the meeting, along with details of each item discussed, can be found at [hornsby.nsw.gov.au](https://hornsby.nsw.gov.au)**  
**The video recording of the meeting will be available from Friday afternoon 25th October.**

# Dr Michelle Byrne Returns as Mayor of The Hills Shire Council

The NSW Electoral Commission has officially confirmed the results of The Hills Shire's Mayoral election, declaring Dr Michelle Byrne as the popularly elected Mayor for the new term of Council.



Mayor, Dr Michelle Byrne and General Manager of The Hills Shire Council, Michael Edgar at the Swearing-In Ceremony on 3rd October 2024

A mother of three and proud longtime Hills resident, Mayor Byrne has been a dedicated representative of the community for many years.

First elected to The Hills Shire Council in 2008, she became the youngest Mayor in the Council's history at the age of 33 in 2012. In 2017, she made history again as the first popularly elected Mayor of The Hills Shire, and now returns for another term in office.

Mayor Byrne said she was grateful for the community's continued trust and support.

"I am deeply honoured by the overwhelming support received in the September election," Mayor Byrne said.

"Your confidence and trust in me are invaluable, and I am committed to working as hard as I can to ensure Council delivers for our community over the next four years.

"Our priority will be delivering essential infrastructure and facilities, such as parks and sports fields, and improving our local roads to support the rapid population growth particularly in The Hills' designated growth areas."

Read more at <https://dooralroundup.com.au/latest-news/>

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# Rent out your vacant property to help homeless women

## Do you own a home which is vacant?

The Hills Community Transitional Housing project is run by volunteers and is privately funded, networking with other agencies in the Hills and beyond. We are on the lookout for compassionate home-owners with vacant property who are willing to offer their property for rent, to accommodate homeless women.

Wesley Community Housing manages the tenancy agreements, and the benefits to the home-owners include:

- Secure rent guarantee, no arrears to chase up.
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- Limited tenancy management follow up.
- Reduced inspection challenges.
- The opportunity to save lives during this homelessness pandemic and partner with a trusted housing community provider.

## Helping homeless women

Seven years ago, two committed friends, one from Kenthurst Rotary and one from Annangrove RFS, became alarmed at the plight of women and children sleeping rough in the Hills and beyond.

They started a project called the Transitional Community Housing (The Hills) project.

Some 110,000 women aged over 45 in NSW are either homeless or in danger of becoming homeless. The fastest growing cohort of homeless people in Australia are women over 55, either due to domestic violence or they have no super to cover skyrocketing rents.

The Hills Shire is close to Penrith and Blacktown LGAs with reported DV cases, yet the homelessness minister's office tell us that there is no transitional, affordable or social housing available in this LGA.

There is a major problem with Women's Community Shelters turning away 30 women each week; Mary's House in North Sydney much the same and the CEO of Wesley Mission tells us that the homeless shelters are full.

For more information, contact Dennis van Someren, Chair, The Hills Community Transitional Housing, and member of Kenthurst Rotary club, 0421 825 265 [dennis.vs@bigpond.com](mailto:dennis.vs@bigpond.com)

You don't need to own property to help! To Donate, please visit: <https://www.wesleymission.org.au/get-involved/donate/help-older-women-leave-homelessness-behind-for-good>

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# Kenthurst Probus Club

Our members and guests met on Monday 21st October to hear an address from Jo Shipley and Denny Pearson from Group Homes speak on the topic of Dementia, an affliction that happens to many of us in the Community.



L-R: Our guest speakers Jo Shipley and Denny Pierson from Group Homes.

Prior to our guest speakers, President Rosalie Challoner was pleased to induct Trish Shipley into Club membership. The Club's next meeting will be at

9:30 am on **Monday 18th November** at our regular venue, the Uniting Church building on the corner of Jones Road and Kenthurst Road, for some fellowship and a short address by long time Club Member Jean Churchward on her experiences as an international airline hostess.

**Visitors are always welcome, and for more information, contact our Club Membership Director Burt Stuu on 9652 1239 or 0424 247 003.**

# Probus Club of Round Corner

Our club had a very informative visit to the new Western Sydney Airport. We were all amazed at the changes to the area and the infrastructure is incredible.



The first stage will open in 2026 with the last of the 4 stages opening in 2060. After the presentation we made our way to a local hotel for lunch and some members carried on to Warragamba Dam for a trip down memory lane.

Our club meets at the Galston Club on the 2nd Monday of the month at 10am. New members are most welcome.

**Enquires contact Lei Farrar on 04 1258 5741.**

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# Property Purchasing – Cooling Off – Inspection Reports



PROPERTY & YOU – BY PAUL MCKENZIE, ABS CONVEYANCING

When purchasing residential property during a Cooling Off period, it is always very important to obtain a building/pest inspection report. If you are purchasing a strata or townhouse, you also need to obtain a strata inspection report.

To obtain these reports is part of your own due diligence during cooling off. Nasty surprises that arise after settlement can cost you dearly.

For example, obtain a building and pest inspection report from a reputable inspector, to make sure the state and condition of the property is satisfactory during cooling off, to proceed smoothly to settlement. One client told me “She’s right mate”, didn’t bother to obtain a building and pest inspection report, and it ended up costing him an additional \$35,000 after settlement because of a water leak problem.

Here’s another example. For a townhouse or apartment, a strata inspection report from a reputable inspector is essential to

make sure the strata scheme is clear of any defects, major repairs, special levies or court/tribunal action.

One client told me “She’s right mate”, didn’t bother to get a strata inspection report, and after settlement it cost her an additional \$14,000 in strata special levies, because she was not privy to the building remediation works.

Both examples above were painful experiences to both clients, for not ordering and obtain inspection reports, during cooling off. Be smart when buying and do your own due diligence.

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/)



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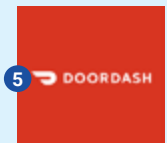
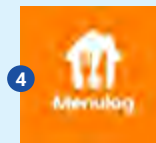
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## Spring into a Clutter-Free Life

BY REJIMON PUNCHAYIL

Spring is a time for renewal and fresh starts. Just as nature sheds its winter coat, it's the perfect opportunity to declutter your home and mind. While sentimental items hold value, excessive clutter can pose health risks. Studies link hoarding to tripping hazards, increased stress, anxiety, and even depression.

The good news: decluttering offers significant benefits. Research shows it creates a safer environment, reduces stress hormones, and contributes to overall well-being. Dr. Craig Sawchuk of Mayo Clinic confirms the real health advantages of clearing clutter.

Imagine a serene living space where everything has a purpose. Decluttering can improve focus, decision-making, and emotional resilience. Letting go of unnecessary possessions can be a transformative step towards a healthier and happier you.

Tips for Spring Cleaning:

- **Start small:** Begin with one room or area at a time.
- **Donate or sell:** Give away items you no longer need or use.
- **Digital declutter:** Organize your computer files and delete unnecessary emails.
- **Mindful decluttering:** Consider the emotional attachment to each item.

Assistive technology (AT) can play a significant role in decluttering and organizing your home.

Consider the evidence-backed benefits of decluttering as you embark on this transformative journey. Create a living space that supports your well-being, free from the hazards of excess possessions. If you like to discuss this or related topic, please speak with one of the friendly AT Specialists at [www.karislife.com.au](http://www.karislife.com.au)



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This incredible display of support will make a huge difference. Through Anglicare's network of community chaplains, frontline workers and the mobile community pantry program, these items will be distributed to needy people across Sydney.

Why do the people of Dural Anglican run the food drive? Because we are committed to sharing Jesus' love with others.

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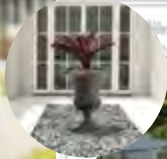
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# Kenthurst Artist inspired by Australian country life

Max Mannix is an Australian artist who paints stories or 'yarns', based on his years growing up in Victorian country towns and working on cattle stations in the Queensland outback.



These experiences and the colourful characters along the way have provided Max with an endless flow of inspiration for his artwork, depicting Australian country life in a light-hearted vein with keen insight and gentle humour.

Max is a highly collectable and published artist, whose work is exhibited in one-man and group shows and owned by private and corporate collections around the world.

Max's work is predominantly painted in oil on specially prepared canvas board, but he also uses acrylics and pen and inks as well as creating etchings and figurative sculpture.

The Mannix Studio Gallery is located in, 'The Sandstone Church', at the front of his residential property in Kenthurst, New South Wales.



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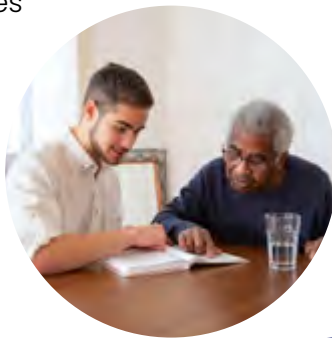
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# Latest News



To lodge, view and track the latest Development Applications in your area please visit: [hornsby.nsw.gov.au/property](https://hornsby.nsw.gov.au/property)



## from the Mayor's Desk

It is a great honour and a privilege to be chosen to serve my community and to represent the interests of the people of Hornsby Shire as your new Mayor. After two rewarding terms serving as a Hornsby Shire Councillor, including a period as Deputy Mayor, I am looking forward to taking the next step to ensuring our beautiful Shire continues to thrive.

As someone who was born and bred in the area, I am passionate about Hornsby Shire and our people. I was born in Hornsby Hospital and attended Galston Public School and Galston High School. I am the fifth generation of the Waddell family of fruit producers and have enjoyed a career in a range of small business entities, including the oversight of our ongoing family business. I am also a former board member of the Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Women's Shelter.

My priorities as Mayor include:

- Ensuring Hornsby Shire remains a place where our natural beauty is preserved, and our neighbourhoods are safe, attractive and functional.
- Advocating for responsible renewal of our neglected urban corridor and the enhancement of our public domain.
- Ensuring that every voice in Hornsby is heard, contributing towards transparent decision-making that reflects the needs and aspirations of all our residents.
- Building a strong future for Hornsby Shire and its next generations.

I would like to acknowledge the Hon Philip Ruddock and all the Councillors who served on the previous term of Council – thank you for your significant contribution to the community. And congratulations and welcome to all our incoming Councillors. I look forward to collaborating with everyone, new and reappointed, to serve our community.

I look forward to meeting you all over the coming months as our new Council gets down to business. If you see me out and about, please don't hesitate to come and say hello. And if you have any enquiries or concerns, I am always happy to hear from you at [wwaddell@hornsby.nsw.gov.au](mailto:wwaddell@hornsby.nsw.gov.au).

**Warren Waddell**

Mayor of Hornsby Shire

## What's on

**HORNSBY ART PRIZE 2024**  
25 OCTOBER – 10 NOVEMBER

TUESDAY – SUNDAY  
10AM – 4PM  
FREE ENTRY

Wallerobba Arts and Cultural Centre  
25 Edgeworth David Avenue, Hornsby

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

**EXHIBITION**

**Fear Of Missing Out?**

Never miss a Council workshop, activity or event. Subscribe to our monthly enews.

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

**Energy prices got you down?**  
Time to look up

Free solar webinar: Thurs Nov 7, 7pm – [hornsby.nsw.gov.au/solar](https://hornsby.nsw.gov.au/solar)

**WASTE WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS**

**Rural E-Waste Drop Off Day**  
Saturday December 7, 8am – 3pm  
Rural Sports Facility, Galston, entry via Mansfield Road. Recycle your old televisions, computers and computer accessories.

**Kimbriki Eco House and Garden Tour**  
Thursday 14 November, 9am – 2pm  
Departing Hornsby Park Bus Stop

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

FREE BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

**YOUR SAY HORNSBY**  
JOIN THE CONVERSATION

**CHARLES CURTIS PARK, NORMANHURST PROPOSED RENEWALS**  
Comments close: 15 November

**REVISED COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY**  
Comments close: 20 November

**HAWKESBURY-NEPEAN RIVER SYSTEM COASTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN**  
Submissions close: 24 November

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

**New-Bub Bushcare**

A bushcare group with free baby sitting

Mt Colah Community Centre and surrounding bushland  
Every third Monday of the month

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

**HORNSBY SPRING FEST**

Saturday 16 November, 2pm – 9pm

Dural Lane and Peats Ferry Road, Hornsby

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

NSW GOVERNMENT

Next Council meeting Wednesday 13 November, 6.30pm

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



# Risking It All to Find True Happiness

Castle Hill Players presents "Grand Horizons" at the Pavilion Theatre

Written by Bess Wohl and directed by Jason Darlington

50 years of married 'bliss'. Then one simple request for divorce sends a close-knit family into chaos.

Nancy and Bill have settled into their retired lifestyle at Grand Horizons. One evening, after dinner, Nancy asks for a divorce. Bill agrees, unfazed.



Kate Mannix and Brett Joachim in rehearsals. Photo by Penny Johnson

Their decision sends shockwaves through the family, particularly for their two middle-aged sons, Ben and Brian. The "kids" descend on Grand Horizons to "fix" their parents' relationship, or at least talk them out of divorce. Ben grapples with his therapist wife, Jess and her 'expert' suggestions for repairing Bill and Nancy's marriage. Meanwhile, younger brother Brian is dealing with his own identity crisis. A hilarious exploration of family relationships, marriage, love, growing old and discovering one's true happiness.

This Tony nominated comedy bursts with all the joy and pathos of everyday life; theatre at its most enjoyable and familiar.

*"A family comedy with heart. It's about risking it all to find true happiness."* Jason Darlington, Director

**Castle Hill Players presents Grand Horizons**

*By Bess Wohl, directed by Jason Darlington*

15th November – 7th December | Wed, Fri, Sat 8PM, Sun 4PM

Pavilion Theatre, Castle Hill

Tickets \$30, Concession \$25

The Pavilion Theatre is located within the  
Castle Hill Showgrounds, Castle Hill

Bookings [paviliontheatre.org.au/grandhorizons](http://paviliontheatre.org.au/grandhorizons)  
or call 02 9634 2929

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

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**Bess Wohl's**  
**Grand Horizons**  
Directed by **Jason Darlington**

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at Checkout (step 3) when booking online (adult/concession only)  
OR mention code when calling  
Box Office 02 9634 2929

**15 Nov - 7 Dec 2024**

[paviliontheatre.org.au/grandhorizons](http://paviliontheatre.org.au/grandhorizons)  
The Pavilion Theatre Hills Showground

**Content Warning: Adult themes, coarse language**

**THE PAVILION THEATRE**  
CELEBRATING 70 YEARS OF THE CASTLE HILL PLAYERS

# Overcoming Dinner Table Frustration: Combating Isolation Caused by Hearing Loss

AN ARTICLE FROM EAR STUDIO

Imagine this: you're gathered around the dinner table with your beloved family. The room is bustling with chatter, laughter, and the clinking of cutlery. It's chaotic, but it's filled with the warmth of your loved ones. However, amidst the noise and commotion, there's a silent struggle that often goes unnoticed – the isolating effect of hearing loss.

In such a lively setting, where multiple conversations intertwine and background noise competes for attention, individuals with hearing loss can feel isolated. Even with advancements in hearing aids, the battle to discern speech from noise can sometimes remain a challenge. The clatter of plates, the shuffle of chairs, and distant music create an environment that makes hearing more challenging in larger groups.

Seating arrangements play a crucial role, as those with hearing loss may rely on lip-reading and facial cues to follow conversations. Depending on where they sit, visibility of speakers may be limited, worsening their sense of disconnect from the conversations unfolding around them.

Trying to follow several conversations around you can be hard on your brain and can be quite tiring. Feeling unsure where to focus attention or struggling to keep pace with fast-paced discussions adds another layer of complexity to the dining experience. In these circumstances, a conscious effort from family members to engage and accommodate those with hearing loss can make a significant difference.

Thankfully, technological innovations in hearing aids offer a glimmer of hope. Directional microphones and technologies capable of identifying and reducing ambient noise can enhance the listening experience in noisy environments like family gatherings. These devices adapt to various environments making it easier to listen even amidst bustling surroundings.

Supplementary accessories can further enhance communication for individuals with hearing loss. These would include items such as a table microphones for meetings for example or a lapel-mounted mic for an improved one on one coffee shop meal with your partner. These devices pick up sounds closer to its origin and send it directly into hearing aids, which makes it easier to follow the conversation.

Recognising the signs of hearing loss and seeking professional assistance is the first important action. Taking proactive steps to address hearing concerns is essential for maintaining meaningful connections with your loved ones. While it may be tempting to lean on the thought that it is normal that our hearing reduces as we age, it does not improve or address challenges and frustrations you or a loved one experiences.

At Ear Studio, a locally owned and independent audiology clinic, we understand the impact of hearing loss on social interactions and relationships. Our friendly and dedicated team is committed to providing personalised solutions to help combat frustration and isolation. If you or a loved one are experiencing challenges at the dinner table, we encourage you to schedule a comprehensive hearing assessment with us.

**Don't let hearing loss stop you from engaging fully in life's precious moments. Contact our friendly team at Ear Studio today on 02 9159 6122 or you can visit [www.earstudio.com.au](http://www.earstudio.com.au) for more information or to book online.**

*Let's embark on this journey together towards a more vibrant and inclusive future.*



**CONTACT US**

[WWW.EARSTUDIO.COM.AU](http://WWW.EARSTUDIO.COM.AU)

[RECEPTION@EARSTUDIO.COM.AU](mailto:RECEPTION@EARSTUDIO.COM.AU)

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**– Daniel Fechner (pictured)  
Director, Founder & Audiometrist**



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## 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)

Post to PO Box 2 Round Corner Dural 2158

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

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

E: [info@duralchamber.com.au](mailto:info@duralchamber.com.au) or call Mark on 0497 014 950



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# Dural and District Historical Society Inc.

## News from History Cottage

Once again the Society members rose to the challenge with a Show and Tell of their special interests, at the AGM in October. Eighteen spoke on a wide variety of subjects, a New Guinea Coast Watcher, farm clothing made from fabrics at hand, bagpipes saved from the western desert, a shipwreck salvage, the collected art of a renowned botanist and the story of a spoon, to name but some. A most informative and enjoyable afternoon for the nearly fifty attendees.

It has been a remarkable year for the Society, with record numbers attending the monthly meetings. The guest speakers covered many topics relevant to the people and places of our community, while others spoke of individuals who had a marked influence on our society and architecture.

Next year's speakers will deal with inventors international and local, spices, local places, early land holders and World War I soldiers.

The early families had to provide shelter on their selections and turned to whatever building materials were at hand. With huge trees and easily worked sandstone, timber slabs, bark and sandstone huts were soon constructed. A few of each can be seen by the observant eye. The next step up, often after a successful crop, was a small timber cottage, the Hudson Ready-Cut. It was designed for easy prefabricated modular construction by a company that was to become the great Clyde Engineering,



A "Hudson Ready-Cut" prefabricated kit house

started by the Hudson Brothers. Some can still be seen throughout our district and they form part of the architectural heritage, of the small rural farming communities, that is so worth preserving.

At the 9th November meeting the story of The Hudsons and Clyde Engineering will be told by David Jehan BE(Hons), MIE, Railway Engineer and Author.

**Meeting starts at 2.00pm in the Galston Uniting Church, School Road Galston. Enquiries, Michael Bell 02 9653 1365.**

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# Dural Bowling Club news

The result of the Open Gender Pairs final played on Saturday 5th October saw the team of Rob Whiddon and Glen Davey defeating the team of Barry Fisher and Pat Budgen 21-12.



Our congratulations to Rob and Glen and commiserations to Barry and Pat.

The next competitions to be held will be the Ladies Major Singles which commenced on Tuesday 14th October and the Men's Major Singles which will commence on Saturday, 19th October.

On Monday, 30th September Dural Lawn Bowls hosted a successful Triples Carnival sponsored by Living Choice. All twenty-four teams enjoyed a morning of three competitive games. Thanks to the dedicated members who ensured that all bowlers were provided with coffee, tea and lunch as well as handling the duties of umpiring and the calculation of results for the carnival.

On Sunday the 29th September Dural members and visitors experienced the reopening of the new Dural Club. In attendance for the launch were local community members, including Hills Shire Mayor Michelle Byrne, Castle Hill Liberal Party MP Mark Hodges, and councillors Mitchell Blue and Frank De Masi.

Delighted Dural locals enjoyed delicious food, live music, free kids' activities, inflatables and more.

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



## Pacific Hills Christian School Christmas Fair and Carols

Pacific Hills Christian School is excited to present our Christmas Fair & Carols on Saturday, 23rd November, from 2-7pm!

This is promised to be a joyful community celebration for the whole family featuring a free children's concert, heartwarming carols, and an exciting range of activities like face painting, a petting zoo, pony rides and more!

Explore the Christmas markets, where you can find unique gifts and treats, and enjoy a wide selection of delicious food from our food stalls. With something for everyone, you are not going to want to miss this event! Entry is FREE, so come along and join in the fun!

**For more details visit our website [www.pacifichills.nsw.edu.au/](http://www.pacifichills.nsw.edu.au/) community. We can't wait to celebrate the festive season with you!**

### PACIFIC HILLS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Christmas Fair & Carols – FREE ENTRY.  
Saturday, 23rd November, 2-7pm



**SATURDAY 23RD NOVEMBER, 2-7PM**

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- ◆ PETTING ZOO AND PONY RIDES ◆ CHRISTMAS MARKETS
- ◆ SILENT AUCTION ◆ FOOD STALLS ◆ RIDES AND MORE!

BROUGHT TO YOU BY PACIFIC HILLS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL AND NEW HOPE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



**Julian Leeser**  
MEMBER FOR BEROWRA

## Supporting our local clubs and volunteers

**One of the best parts of being your local Member of Parliament is getting to know the kids, families and volunteers involved in Berowra's local sports clubs.**

While the dedication and passion is evident at every match from the kids on the field to the parents working the canteen, BBQ or running the logistics, the reality is that it comes at a cost.

Berowra's local sports clubs do a great job fundraising for new uniforms, running end of year presentations and basically keeping the lights on but right around our area we've got clubs that operate in facilities that aren't up to standard. We have club houses that don't have women's changing rooms. Some clubs have bathrooms that are dilapidated and frankly just aren't equipped for the growth, especially with more young women joining up.

And as anyone involved with winter sport will tell you after the wet winter the drainage on too many of our fields is not up to standard.

Since I have been elected, I've taken up this fight for a lot of local clubs and I'm so pleased with what we've been able to achieve

working together. New club houses, returfing, equipment, storage facilities, bathrooms and upgrades and improvements totalling around \$5 million worth of local investment are some of my proudest achievements as your local MP.

I've lost track of the number of times I've spoken about local sports clubs in Parliament and the reason is because when I'm in Canberra I'm there fighting for Berowra; I'm telling my parliamentary colleagues about the fantastic groups in our area and reminding them that they need support to continue.

Despite how much we've managed to achieve together, there's still lots to do.

Last week I met with representatives from a couple of local clubs and community groups to talk about how they're travelling and what their plans for the future are. I met with representatives from West Pennant Hills and Cherrybrook Football Club – the Lions. The Lions play at Campbell Park, along with West Pennant Hills Cherrybrook Cricket Club which means the facilities are in demand pretty much year-round.

The representatives from the Lions gave me a few really great ideas so I've taken those thoughts and am starting work on a plan on how to support them and other clubs using Campbell Park.

If you're involved in a local sports club, community group or volunteer organisation and think your organisation might benefit from my support for more funding or a small grant then please get in touch with my office to talk about how we can work together.

## Clr Mitchell Blue

THE HILLS SHIRE COUNCIL

## Local Government Election

**Following on from the September 14th election, I am pleased to announce that I have been re-elected as a North Ward Councillor for the 2024-2028 term of Council.**

Being given the opportunity to represent your community is an incredible honour and privilege, and one that I don't take for granted. North Ward is a diverse ward to represent. From retirement villages in the South, to many hundred-acre farms in the North, and Sydney's biggest growth area, Box Hill, in the West - there are many challenges, each being different. Ones that together, we will work through.

I pass on my congratulations to the Mayor and twelve Councillors that have been elected to represent The Hills for the next four years. I look forward to working with you as we progress through the many challenges we will face. I also congratulate those that were not successful. It is an admirable act to put yourself forward for public service and I know how hard all candidates have worked.



To the residents of North Ward who voted for me - from all eighteen suburbs, from Glenhaven to Wisemans Ferry, I say thank you. Thank you for again putting your trust and faith in me to represent you for the next four years. The friendships that I have made and interactions that I have had with our North Ward residents over the past three years of the last term have been enjoyable and I feel that I have been able to contribute to the benefit of the community.

Now that the election is over, I look forward to getting on with the job that the North Ward residents have put me here to do. As Council's motto says; 'In Meliora Contende' - 'To Strive for Better Things'. That itself is what I will work toward each and every day.

One of my priorities in the last term of Council was to highlight North Ward through tourism, and to involve our rural areas in more of Council's events – so, it was pleasing to see a food, wine and produce event held at Wiseman's Ferry as part of Council's Orange Blossom Festival. The event, 'A Taste of Wisemans', was held in Wisemans Ferry Park with the stunning Hawkesbury River in the background. The event was a big winner in the community with people from all over Sydney attending. I look forward to more of these types of events in the future.

**Clr Mitchell Blue, Councillor**  
**THE HILLS SHIRE COUNCIL**  
**0400 449 324**  
**PO Box 7064 NORWEST**  
**NSW 2153**  
**[www.thehills.nsw.gov.au](http://www.thehills.nsw.gov.au)**





**Mark Hodges**  
MEMBER FOR CASTLE HILL

## Let's Talk About Mental Health in The Hills

This October, we highlight Mental Health Month, a national initiative encouraging open conversations about mental health and wellbeing. This year's theme, "Let's Talk About It," focuses on starting those



important conversations. Mental health touches us all, whether through a friend, family member, or ourselves. Now is the time to break the silence-let's make talking about mental health as natural as talking about physical health.

We are encouraged to connect with family, friends, colleagues, and the community. Building these connections and sharing experiences are vital for well-being. Open conversations can improve psychological health and overall wellness.

Through unity and compassion, we can create an environment where everyone feels empowered to discuss mental health, seek support, and find comfort. While Mental Health Month ends soon, the conversation must continue daily.

Let's keep the conversation going- together, we can create a community where everyone feels heard and supported.

*Authorised by Mark Hodges MP, Suite 1A, 19-21 Terminus St, Castle Hill, NSW, 2154. Funded using Parliamentary Entitlements.*

### Local Support in the Hills

#### Headspace Castle Hill:

Counselling for parents with children aged 12 to 25.  
Location: Level 1, 253 Old Northern Rd, Castle Hill NSW 2154.  
Phone: (02) 9393 9800.

#### The Hills Community Health Centre:

Mental health services for adults 25 and older with mental health issues. Offer 24-hour crisis service, with interpreter services available if needed. Address: 183-187 Excelsior Avenue, Castle Hill NSW 2154. Phone: (02) 8853 4500.

#### Lifeline Macarthur & Western Sydney:

Offers 24-hour crisis support helpline for anyone in distress, addressing a wide range of issues. Phone: 13 11 14 (24/7).



**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 🌐 julianleeser.com.au 📺 julianleesermp

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



 **MARK HODGES MP**  
MEMBER FOR CASTLE HILL

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

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

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*Hidden In The Hills*

# Prickly Moses

BY LACHLAN TURNER

Several of the wattle family have an extended flowering period commencing in mid autumn through to near the end of spring. One such plant is Prickly Moses (*Acacia ulicifolia*), which, as its name implies, has rigid narrow "leaves" with a sharp spike at the end.

It has been observed that the spiky nature of the foliage allows small birds a measure of protection from larger aggressive birds that have a tendency to attack them.

This variety of Acacia, mainly flowering from June to September, is often overlooked due to its small inconspicuous flowers found at the end of a short stalk spaced intermittently along the stiff branchlets. The new flower bud appears as a cluster of small yellow balls collected together in a spherical shape at the end of the stalk, this spherical shape being about 5 - 10 mm across.

The small balls open out to create the fluffy cream flower as seen in the adjacent images. They can be up to 15 mm across.

When the flowers mature they slowly turn a somewhat unattractive brown colour before dropping off the branchlets.



Another reason why this wattle is often overlooked is due to its low straggly, untidy habit. At times there can be more spent flowers visible than there are new ones. It is not usual for this wattle to grow more than about 1 metre tall and around 1 metre wide.

It can be cultivated in the form of a low hedge being readily propagated by normal seed raising methods and pruned to a more compact shape.

A similar species flowering a couple of months later is the Golden Prickly Wattle (*Acacia brownii*). This variety has flowers that are a much richer yellow colour than Prickly Moses.

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Premium garden soil mix containing all these things is also ideal to add to these areas and will give vital energy to new or existing greenery. It is also crucial to contain the moisture in the soil as much as possible with the coming heat, so mulching your gardens will be a necessity to keep healthy plantlife.

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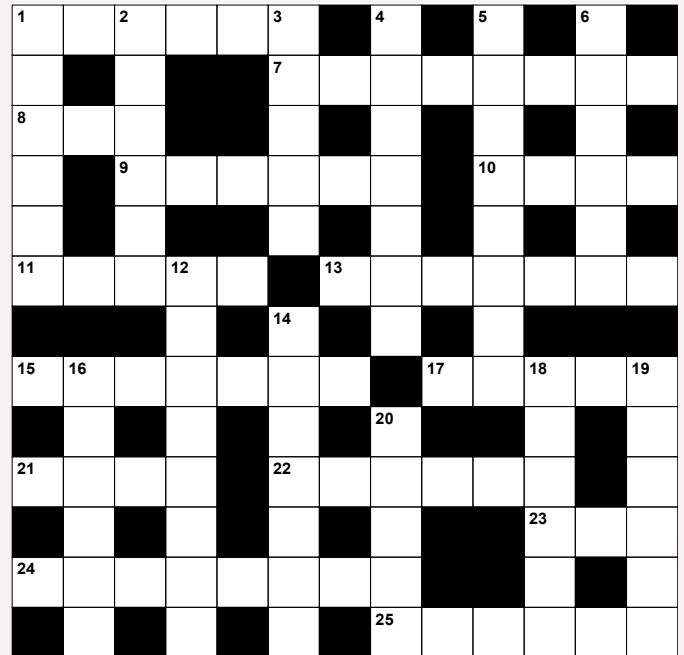
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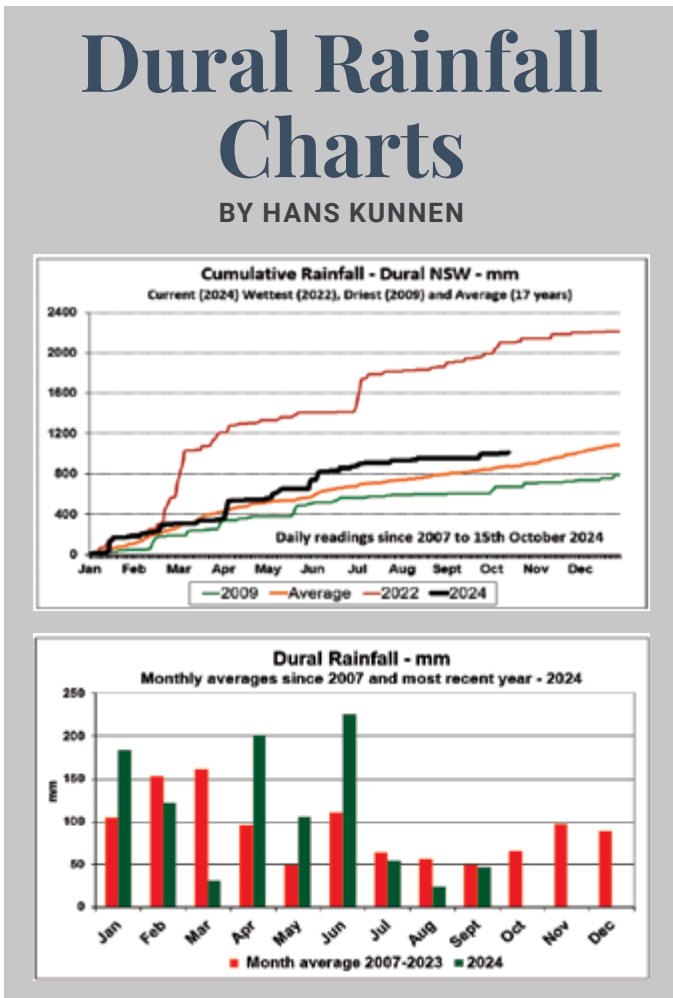


### ACROSS

- 01 Spout (6)
- 07 Bogs or marshes (8)
- 08 Annoy constantly (3)
- 09 Group of 12 constellations (6)
- 10 Capture a piece in chess (4)
- 11 Church instrument (5)
- 13 Highest singing voice (7)
- 15 Confused struggle (7)
- 17 Skin on top of the head (5)
- 21 List of food items available (4)
- 22 Tithes (anag) (6)
- 23 Very cold; slippery (3)
- 24 People who consume a particular beverage (8)
- 25 Gained deservedly (6)

### DOWN

- 01 Papal representative (6)
- 02 Move with short sharp turns (6)
- 03 Electronic message (5)
- 04 Farm vehicle (7)
- 05 Recondite (8)
- 06 Calculate (6)
- 12 Wealthy (8)
- 14 Rattling noise (7)
- 16 Happy (6)
- 18 Something done (6)
- 19 Made a victim of (8)
- 20 Compact (5)



### ANSWER FROM OCTOBER ISSUE

R	A	P	T		A	N	S	W	E	R	E	D
E	H	W	E		H	O	A					
P	R	O	P	H	E	T	O	N	S	E	T	
O	T	E			L	T	A					
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R	P	A	I	A								
	S	H	O	R	T	C	I	R	C	U	I	T
C	E	R						T	N	R		
I	D	A	H	O				I	N	E	R	T
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