

FREE

DOORAL ROUNDUP



FEBRUARY 2025

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

SOMEONE NEW IN THE WHITE HOUSE



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SOMEONE NEW IN THE WHITE HOUSE AFTER AN EPIC CAMPAIGN

One of the most iconic homes in Sydney's coveted Hills District has set a new benchmark price and achieved a record number of views and inspections.



Affectionately known among locals as 'The White House', the vast Glenorie mansion on Old Northern Road has sold for an incredible \$11.75 million setting a new suburb record and positioned as the highest sale for 2025.

Since listing in late 2023 through Acreage and Lifestyle specialist Kate Lumby of Lumby Real Estate, estate had also accrued more than 860,000 views on realestate.com.au alone and generated an enormous amount of buyer interest and inspections.

"It's been an outstanding campaign and we're delighted to announce that a deal was struck with the buyers just days before Christmas. We showed numerous interested parties through the property, but as is typical with such unique listings, it takes time to find the perfect match," Miss Lumby said.

"The great news is that the purchaser is a charitable foundation, that will use the premises as a head office and also a venue for various charity events. Ultimately, it means the greater public will be able to continue to enjoy this amazing estate for years to come."

Ken Chara, Head of the Foundation is excited about the acquisition and the potential the property offers to support their future activities. "We are so pleased to be able to use the property to give back to the community" Mr Chara said.

Throughout the campaign, even location scouts had their heads turned by the grand Hollywood-style property with producers from several high-profile reality TV shows -



including The Bachelor franchise - expressing their interest in making the most of the romantic backdrop. "Producers like filming in Sydney's northwest because it is semirural and within proximity to the CBD." Kate said.

Having represented and sold 17-19 Vineys Lane Dural, a private estate that was home to 'The Bachelorette', "My kitchen rules' and many other television shows that is the standing record sale for Dural, the television shows now need private exclusive locations.

While the lucrative TV offers were never acted upon by the owners, the vendors had held various large-scale events at the property during their ownership including weddings, baby showers, engagements and charity events. The private setting and ability to accommodate hundreds of vehicles means the estate is perfectly positioned to host on a grand scale.

Miss Lumby said the home at 3382 Old Northern Road had attracted the attention of a wide and varied buyer pool beyond production companies, including



restauranters, entertainers, a prominent wellness retreat, politicians, bed and breakfast operators, as well as event and entertainment venue businesses.

Ideal for entertaining inside and out, the property features a huge swimming pool, giant outdoor chess board, sauna, a grand ballroom with a dedicated caterer's kitchen, substantial formal and informal living areas, plus a home theatre with tiered seating.

The landmark five-bedroom residence, which features a private ballroom and staff quarters, sits on an expansive parcel complete with a marked helipad, two lakes and a separate three-bedroom guest cottage.

If you would like to confidentially discuss achieving a record sale for your property contact Kate Lumby on 0414 620 222.

Lumby
Real Estate Since 1968

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."

Home Safety this Summer

Reflecting on the catastrophic bushfires in California recently, it reminded me that we are in the middle of our peak bushfire season in NSW which is still in force until March.

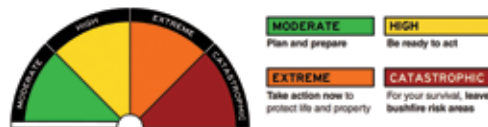
So it's a good time to take a look at own backyards and see what is combustible and needs clearing out.

One of the advantages of living in our area is the abundance of beautiful bushland that gives a lot of fuel for fires to take hold.

There are a few simple things that can be done around your home and property easily eg raking up leaves and other debris, especially in your guttering as embers can travel up to 40km floating in the air and lodge in your roof.

Always check your front door welcome mat to make sure it is fireproof, and not the cheaper brush type ones that could burn.

Gas bottles need to be stored away from the house in a safe place out of the heat as they can explode in extreme fires.



Finally you should consider a fireproof emergency bag that contains all your valuable documents that can be grabbed in a hurry and in an easy place to find.

You will see plenty of fire warning signs around our area, and please follow the instructions you may receive from any fire fighters.

Dear Readers,
This February issue will be my last as Editor of the Dooral Roundup. I want to thank our readers for turning to this paper for their local Dural news. Many thanks also to our dedicated advertisers and production team. I wish you all a very happy and prosperous 2025.

*Warmest regards,
Lara van der Wall :)*



Dural Chamber and Dooral Roundup Contacts

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Incredible isolation with no power and no reception



Emergency first responders clearing a tree which has fallen on powerlines in Kenthurst Road opposite John Benyon Rotary Park, image credit: Kenthurst Rural Fire Service

BY DIANA PATON

When the high winds occurred on Wednesday 15th January a high number of residents experienced power outages, some of which lasted several days.

A large number of residents also reported mobile phone outages, with smartphones only showing 1 bar or SOS only. Even smartphones showing 1 bar were unable to call or text. Incoming calls were being diverted directly to voicemail. Apps like Hazards near me, were unable to be used.

It creates a feeling of incredible isolation when you are faced with no power and no mobile reception. Families were unable to contact elderly relatives, and people using medical devices had no way of contacting help.

We have had power outages before, but never lost mobile coverage to the extent

we experienced this time. Imagine if it were bushfires which knocked out the power to the mobile towers. It's a concerning situation.

We raised the issue with Telstra. This was their statement:

Telstra Regional General Manager Michael Marom:

Widespread power outages following last week's severe weather affected parts of our network in the area. Our network sites have back up power systems, which kept services running for as long as they could. We had teams on the ground accessing affected sites as soon as it was safe to do so and managed to restore the majority of sites by the weekend. We worked closely with authorities and the power companies to get everything back online as quickly as possible and we thank everyone for their patience.

Personally, I didn't find this response particularly helpful as we were without

mobile coverage from Wednesday afternoon to late on Friday. I work from home and so do other members of my family. We are in a bushfire prone area, so I'm looking for something more reliable. So from my investigations these are the options (if you know of others let me know):

- 1). Fibre to the Premises (FTTP), If you have this plus a back-up power option (battery/generator) to the modem, then you should retain access to the NBN, and can use Wifi Calling to keep in touch with the world.
- 2). Starlink. Again, with a back-up power option (battery/generator) to your equipment you will retain internet access and can utilise Wifi calling.
- 3). Skymuster/Skymesh. Again, with a back-up power option (battery/generator) you should retain access to the NBN and can utilise Wifi calling.

We tried to get Fibre to the Premises this time last year, but were unsuccessful, so we are now looking at Starlink.



James Wallace MP

Member for **Hornsby**

James can help you by

- Representing you in the NSW Parliament
- Assisting you to access State services
- Communicating your issues to the relevant Ministers
- Organising Justice of the Peace applications
- Recognising Community Achievements



Contact
James

☎ (02) 9476 3411 @ hornsby@parliament.nsw.gov.au

✉ PO Box 1687, Hornsby Westfield NSW 1635

Authorised by James Wallace MP. Funded using parliamentary entitlements.

Old Man's Valley 'Field of Play' to become Hornsby's new backyard

Old Man's Valley, part of Hornsby Shire Council's ambitious Hornsby Park project, will come alive as a vibrant Field of Play thanks to a Thriving Communities grant from the Australian Government.

Hornsby Shire Mayor Warren Waddell said the project has been provided \$12 million, to be matched by Council through development contributions, for over 7,000 square metres of new multipurpose recreational green space, becoming Hornsby's new backyard.

"Following the announcement of the Hornsby Transport Oriented Development Precinct, we're excited that this grant will provide an important connection to green space and opportunities for recreation for people living in the surrounding high-density areas, as well as those from across the Shire and beyond," said Mayor Waddell.



Building Hornsby's backyard

The Field of Play will enhance the lives of residents new and old through:

- A playing field for a range of recreational activities
- Accessible amenities including car parking, bathroom facilities and change rooms, picnic hubs, dog exercise area
- Bike pump track - a circuit track used by mountain bikes and BMX, skateboards and wheelchairs
- Activations and cultural events.

"Hornsby Park is where the city meets the bush. I'm proud that by securing these funds, it will allow us to deliver a significant component of the park's masterplan early, providing wellbeing, social and economic benefits to the community," continued Mayor Waddell.

"We thank the Australian Government for its help in accelerating this important project."

The largest single project ever undertaken by Hornsby Shire Council, Hornsby Park, a major recreation destination, is being created on the site of the former Hornsby Quarry. It will feature approximately 60 hectares of bushland and open space and include features of historical and community interest.

As per the Master Plan adopted in July 2021, Hornsby Park will be delivered in stages within a financially responsible framework consistent with Council's prudent financial management. The first stage at the historic Crusher Plant will open next year with the Field of Play at Old Man's Valley expected to be delivered over the next three years.

For further information about the project visit www.hornsbypark.com.au



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When was your last pumpout??



We recommend a pumpout every 3-5 years depending on how many people reside there.

INJURED WILDLIFE

If safe, please stop and check. That's a poignant reminder of the importance of our coexistence with wildlife. It's heartening to hear that Toni the Joey has a fighting chance, thanks to the intervention of WIRES on Wisemans Ferry Road, Cattai.

For anyone encountering similar situations

Check for Injuries: If it's safe, carefully approach and check the animal for injuries.

Pouch Check: Always check the pouch of a deceased kangaroo for any joeys.

Call for Help: Contact WIRES on 1300 094 737 for assistance or local wildlife rescue services. They are equipped to handle and care for injured wildlife.

Let's all do our part in ensuring the safety and well-being of our furry friends



DO YOU RECOGNIZE THESE PERSONS?

REF NO. E98859622

Hills Police are investigating an alleged theft and we need your help!

On 10th January 2025, two females entered a store at Castle Towers Shopping Centre, Castle Hill, separately.

Both allegedly took items from the racks and placed them in bags before leaving the store.

Police are keen to speak with the persons shown in the photo below, as they may have important information that could assist with our enquiries.

If you have any information about this incident, please contact Crime Stoppers NSW at 1800 333 000 or visit their website. All information is treated



with the utmost confidentiality.

Please remember, do not report information via NSW Police Force social media pages. Thank you for your assistance!

BREAK AND ENTER WYOMING ROAD DURAL

A break and enter occurred at the intersection of Old Northern Rd and Wyoming, Dural, at 3am on 31/12/2024. During the incident, a blue Porsche Cayenne and a black Mercedes were stolen.

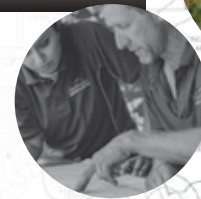
Remember to lock it or lose it! Follow the #9pmroutine to secure your vehicles and belongings.

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HIGH-SPEED MOTORCYCLE PURSUIT AND ARREST IN KENTHURST

At approximately 7:18 PM on Thursday, January 16th, 2025, Hills Highway Patrol observed a red Honda CB1000RR motorcycle allegedly speeding on Kenthurst Road, Dural. The rider, a 26-year-old male, was allegedly clocked at 105 km/h in a 70 km/h zone and subsequently fled from police, reaching speeds estimated at 160 km/h. The pursuit continued until the rider abandoned the motorcycle on Raym Road, Kenthurst.

With the assistance of a police dog unit, the rider was located hiding in nearby bushland and was arrested. The rider, who was found to be disqualified from driving, provided negative results for both breath and drug tests. He has been charged with multiple offences including police pursuit and drive whilst disqualified. He was refused bail by Parramatta Local Court.

Stay safe and always follow the rules of the road!



CAN YOU HELP US FIND GABRIELLA?

Gabriella, aged 53 was last seen in Peats Ferry Road, Hornsby about 1pm on Wednesday 30th October 2024. Despite extensive inquiries, police have been unable to sight her. She is described as Caucasian, 155cm, large build with grey/white hair. Gabriella is known to frequent the T9 Northern line between Eastwood and Hornsby.

Anyone who sees her is urged to contact Castle Hill Police Station or Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.



EDITORS NOTE

A further break-in occurred on Wyoming Road at 5.30am on 6th January. The homeowner was awoken and chased the assailants. They tried to steal a car and 2 motorbikes. Due to the quick actions of the homeowner, they only got away with one motorbike.

If you have any information on any of the above, please contact Crime Stoppers NSW at 1800 333 000.

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Soroptimists hold another successful fundraiser

Members of SI Hornsby held another very successful fundraiser for the Hornsby and Kuring gai Women's Shelter in September last year. Raffle tickets were sold to raise funds as well as members holding afternoon teas for friends to come along to in their own homes.



Our dedicated 2024 Committee

The total raised for the shelter came to \$7,000. A great result! The funds will be used to help the residents access much need psychological support which many of them are not able to pay for as they do not have access to Medicare cards being asylum seekers and refugees.

The club has been supporting the women's shelter for 10 years

since it opened and has raised an impressive \$82, 000 in that time.

Soroptimist International is the leading international volunteer organisation for women working through service projects to educate, enable and empower the lives of women and girls worldwide.

For further information please contact Pam on 0425 229 615 or visit the organisation's website siseap.org

Historic Bridge in Galston Gorge Gets Some TLC

Late last year contractors undertook maintenance on the historic bridge on Galston Road, that is the last original bridge of its type remaining in use in NSW.



James Wallace MP, Galston Gorge McDonald Truss bridge maintenance

James Wallace MP Member for Hornsby made the trip down to the Gorge last week to inspect the work and the bridge looks as good as new.

The bridge over Tunks Creek, is known as a *McDonald timber truss bridge* and it is part of Galston Road that officially opened on 9th March 1895. This brought the produce from the many orchards in the Galston area much closer to a railway line at Hornsby.

This bridge is heritage listed and a landmark in the Hornsby electorate.



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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



from the Mayor's Desk

As we get back to business following the summer period, we're eager to continue making a positive impact in our community. 2025 is set to be a significant year, with many important initiatives to shape the future of Hornsby Shire. In March, we're looking forward to engaging with you around our **Community Strategic Plan, Your Vision | Your Future 2035**. We're also excited to reveal to you the first stages of our major project within Hornsby Park. Of course, we'll continue to deliver the many projects and initiatives outlined in our 2024-27 Delivery Program. Stay tuned for more news to come.

As a Council, we're committed to delivering events and activities across the Shire for the whole community to enjoy. So, we're excited that our popular **'Food Truck Fridays'** are returning in 2025. Food Truck Fridays will showcase some of Sydney's best food truck offerings with live music at different locations in Hornsby Shire.

In February, the trucks will roll into Berowra, then in March they will visit Cherrybrook and Galston. More than just providing delicious treats, our Food Truck Fridays activate our public spaces and our local evening and night-time economy. For details, see hornsby.nsw.gov.au/ftf

We're also excited that Remagine, our annual environmental art prize and exhibition, returns this May. We're calling on artists across the Shire to submit a piece of work for this year's competition. The theme is **'RE:THINK TO RE:PURPOSE'** and entries are open until 1 May. Visit hornsby.nsw.gov.au/remagine to find out more.

I look forward to seeing you at one of our many events and activities across the Shire in 2025. And if you would like to get in touch, please feel free to email me at wwaddell@hornsby.nsw.gov.au

Warren Waddell
Mayor of Hornsby Shire

What's on



GREAT FOOD LIVE MUSIC

FRIDAYS, 5pm-8.30pm
hornsby.nsw.gov.au/ftf

Berowra Oval
21 February
Galston Recreation Reserve
7 March
Cherrybrook, Greenway Park
21 March



Lifeline connect

Every Thursday, 1pm-5.30pm
Hornsby Library

Free service staffed by skilled, compassionate, and non-judgemental Lifeline volunteers. Drop in for a chat and seek the support you need.

hornsby.nsw.gov.au/whatson



WASTE EVENTS



Chipping for Mulch – Mt Kuring-gai
Sunday 16 February, 7.30am-12.30pm
Council Depot, 5 Beaumont Road,
Mt Kuring-gai

Compost and Worm Farm Workshop
Thursday 20 February, 10am-12.30pm
Community Recycling Centre, Thornleigh

**Repair Day – Clothes, Bikes,
Furniture and Electronics**
Saturday 22 February,
sessions from 9.30am-1pm
Storey Park Community Centre, Hornsby

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



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EDWARD BENNETT OVAL PLAYGROUND UPGRADE

Submissions close: Monday 10 February
yoursay.hornsby.nsw.gov.au



CALL FOR ENTRIES

hornsby.nsw.gov.au/remagine



Artwork by Fleur Brett,
Yellow Torso (The Muse), 2024



Understanding and Preventing Dementia

Friday 28 February, 10am-12pm
Cherrybrook Community and Cultural Centre

Free. Bookings essential:
hornsby.nsw.gov.au/whatson

Next Council meeting Wednesday 12 February, 6.30pm

hornsby.nsw.gov.au

Who is Keith Lees and Why Was He Arrested?

BY DIANA PATON

Police Officers attached to Kuring-Gai Police Area Command arrested 72-year-old Keith Lees at a property on Kenthurst Road, Dural at about 8am on Thursday 2 January 2025. He was wanted on an arrest warrant. The warrant was issued in July 2023 in relation to the alleged murder of Meaghan Rose in 1997 on the Sunshine Coast.



Photo Source: Victoria Police

Much of the back story to this arrest was covered by the Australia True Crime Podcast. The podcast first aired on 23rd December 2024 and his arrest came only 10 days later.

It was a podcast listener who provided the breakthrough to Police enabling them to find and arrest Keith Lees. It has been reported in the national media that he was allegedly living in a unit block in Hornsby under an assumed name of David Japaljarri.

Vale Robyn Kidd of Glenhaven – Formerly of Kenthurst



Glenhaven resident (formerly of Kenthurst), Robyn Kidd, passed away in late November 2024, after a long battle with her health, aged 75. The daughter of Mack and Bessie Smith of Kenthurst, Robyn grew up in the local area, attending Kenthurst Primary School, and Northmead High School. During those days, Northmead High School was the only high school for the Hills area, north of Parramatta.

Robyn married in 1972 to Kevin, with sons Paul born in 1974 and Peter born 1977. Widowed in 1983, Robyn went to Baulkham Hills TAFE to become a qualified chef. She worked as a chef at childcare centres over many years, and ran her own cake decorating business. She was involved with her mother, Bessie, with the Country Women's Association (CWA) for many years. Robyn kept her membership with the Galston CWA Branch, active since her own mother passed away in 2008.

During many years, when living at Kenthurst, Robyn was active with Christ Church Anglican Church Kenthurst, as a Sunday school teacher, and the church choir.

Robyn is survived by her son Paul, ABS Conveyancing, daughter in law Sony, Delhi Heights Indian Restaurant, and second son, Peter.

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Cherrybrook Uniting Church New Year's Resolution

Many older folks in our church say, "In the past, lots of people came to church to worship, hang out, and teach their kids about Christ. It's sad we don't see that now." It's true, not as many Australians come to church today. Why? You might think, "I just need to be a good person and live a good life without hurting others. Why should I go to church?"

Even if you don't feel like you're missing anything now, you'll realise there's an empty

hole in your life that nothing in this world can fill. It's something that can't fill up with your own will, wisdom, ability, authority, or money. Everything in this world has its limits. So, I'm sure you've felt like you're stuck in a maze with no way out or like a tangled thread that can't be unraveled.

I guess you've sorted your New Year's resolutions. How's it all going now? It's February, but I believe there is still time to add one more to yours.

The God who created and loves you has given you the answer to how to fill the emptiness in your life. If you believe in



Christ Jesus who is the way, the truth, and the life, your life will be filled with hope, joy, peace and love of Christ.

Come to Jesus, who fills your emptiness and untangles your mess. Join us on our journey of faith at the Church.

We have Sunday worship services at 9:30 am, 134 New Line Road, Cherrybrook

REV PETER CHUNG

ADVERTORIAL

Purchaser Contract Reviews

PROPERTY & YOU – BY PAUL MCKENZIE, ABS CONVEYANCING

It's a legal requirement by the conveyancer or solicitor to review the contract, on behalf of their residential property purchaser client, either prior to exchange, or during cooling off. This is to make sure all is in order, and to alert and advise the client on a number of elements of the property sale contract.

In summary, generally the residential property sale contract comprises of the contract front pages details, with the property features,

inclusions, exclusion, together if land tax or GST applies or not. Then there are the contract standard clauses, special conditions, title search, plan (freehold or strata), property title dealings (such as an electrical or water drainage easement), planning certificate details and the water authority sewer drainage location point/diagram.

The planning certificate in the contract, from the local council, has key element information regarding any issues such as heritage, building orders/asbestos, flooding, bushfire, mine subsidence, coastal protection,

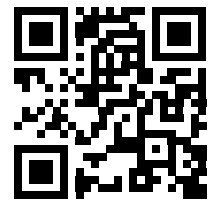
seniors housing, affordable housing, site contamination and zoning information. If there is a tenant in the property, a copy of the tenancy agreement would be in the sale contract. If there is a swimming pool or outdoor fixed spa, then the registration and compliance/non-compliance certificates would be in the sale contract.

The job of the conveyancer or solicitor, after the contract review, is to alert and advise you of anything in the contract, that would cause you concern or alarm, together with any questions you raise.

What property & conveyancing topics interests you? Email Paul on paul@absgroup.net.au for any ideas or suggestions for 2025 Dooral Roundup property articles.

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

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Dural and District Historical Society

News from History Cottage



Nikola Tesla

The Society thanks all who contributed to a most enjoyable series of meetings last year; the guest speakers created much discussion over afternoon tea and all further understood what it is that makes a community special when it learns about its own and its place, in history.

This year the Society will again call upon selected members and residents to speak on local topics; an influential Australian and a man who could have changed history. Here is the list for the year, it could change because of unforeseen circumstances:

February	Don Napper - Nikola Tesla.
March	Judy Horton - John Peter Russell - The Forgotten Impressionist.
April	Vern Potter - The Fagans and Fagan Park.
May	Carolyn Broadhead - Carolyn's French Connection.
June	Rod Best - The Best Family.
July	Michael Bell - Galston Gorge Archaeology.
August	The June Roughley Memorial Lecture: Ian Hemphill - My Life In Spices.
September	Bob Ifield - The Ifield Family.
November	Ron McIntosh - The Lost Boys (on local cenotaphs).

With generous access given to the Society by the Galston Uniting Church in School Road, our meetings have been held there with obvious success. However, the home of the Society is "History Cottage" beside the Galston Cenotaph, where all research material is housed and available. Over recent months

Society members, under the guidance of member, Toni Phillips, have carried extensive rearrangement and recording of what is stored. Justly proud of what has been achieved the Society will hold an open afternoon between 12.00 and 5.00 on **Sunday 16th March**. It invites all to come and see the maps, documents, family history, the library, photographs, microfilm and more, that is there to share. A diary reminder is strongly recommended.

It was with sadness that members heard of the death of long-time member, Mrs Margaret McKinley on the 30th December. She was an avid historian, who held a strong belief in the value of family and local history to help people understand their sense of belonging in a community and society.

The first meeting for 2025 will be on **Saturday 8th February** in the Galston Uniting Church, School Road, Galston, starting at 2.00pm. The guest speaker will be Don Napper. He will tell the story of Nikola Tesla, inventor, visionary, forgotten man but the one Mr Elon Musk uses as the name of his car for very good reasons. Professor Napper has spoken to the Society on several occasions; his knowledge and presentation always guarantee a special afternoon. He was educated at Sydney and Cambridge Universities. He retired from Sydney university in 2003 as the Pro-Vice Chancellor where he is now Professor Emeritus.

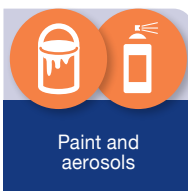
Afternoon tea is free but a gold coin is appreciated.
Enquiries: Michael Bell Ph 02 9653 1365.

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These items and more can be dropped off at the Community Recycling Centre:



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1

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2

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CHERRYBROOK PROBUS PONDERINGS – OUT WITH THE OLD, IN WITH THE NEW, YEAR THAT IS!

The Festive Season was a busy time for members of the Combined Probus Club of Cherrybrook. December encompassed a presentation from REECH Cambodia, a fun-filled Christmas party at The Fiddler Hotel and end of year gatherings for many of the sport and activity groups.



The New Year kicked off with a fancy dress New Year's Eve party (pictured), which demonstrated the creativity and desire for fun of the attendees which began at the front door when trying to recognise who was before you and quite importantly whether they were an expected guest!

After one day of rest, on January 2nd members gathered at the Dural Club for the first meeting of 2025. Robert from the Homicide and Victim's Support Group gave an emotional and thought-provoking address outlining their many avenues of work. He also explained the purpose of Grace's Place, a property offering residential stays and their Op Shop 'New Leaf' at Parramatta. The meeting was followed by lunch and a great deal of chat.



Welcome to Gelyn Nail Salon, where creativity meets relaxation. Picture this! A space designed just for you, filled with vibrant colours and soothing scents. We offer a range of services from classic manicures to intricate nail art, all tailored to your unique style. Our team of skilled technicians uses only the highest quality products ensuring your nails not only look fabulous but also stay healthy.

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Future events include a champagne breakfast at Berowra Waters, Ten Pin Bowling, Zig Zag Railway Nostalgia Trip, Hawkesbury Race Day, Club Changeover and the resumption of regular interest and sporting groups.

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

For information please contact Lynn on 0414 848 413. We look forward to warmly welcoming you to our Probus Club to share the good times.

KENTHURST COMBINED PROBUS CLUB

After something of a break from formal meetings over the Christmas Period Kenthurst Probus members met in the Uniting Church building on Monday 20th January 2025. Our guest speaker was Deborah Martin from Computer Pals the Hills, she addressed Club members on the very interesting use of Artificial Intelligence. The AI platform she demonstrated is Chat GBT, a program open to all computer users with access to the Internet, and Deborah showed how it can create and produce stories, poems, art work and even videos, all on simple instructions, either written or verbal. A very powerful demonstration.



The Photo shows Deborah with the Club Program Director Robyn Keay.

The Club was pleased to welcome eight visitors to the meeting! Anyone interested to sample the Kenthurst brand of Probus is welcome to come along on the third Monday of each month at 9.30 am. People can always just turn up: however details can be obtained in advance from Membership Director Burt Stuit on 9652 1239 or 0424 247 003.



ROUND CORNER DURAL PROBUS CLUB

One of the greatest benefits of joining Round Corner Dural Probus Club is the opportunity to meet new people while having lots of fun.

At our festive final meeting for the year in December, members were into the Christmas spirit by wearing Christmas themed outfits and enjoying a tasty morning tea while testing their knowledge in a friendly challenging Trivia game. A highlight of the morning came with the number of beautifully prepared Christmas Hamper Baskets that were on display for lucky members to win.

2025 begins with our very popular bbq picnic held in the local park. This is always a great occasion where members reconnect and celebrate the beginning of a new year together.

2025 Planning is well underway with interesting outings, social events and our monthly meeting guest speakers already booked.

Meetings are held at the Galston Club on the second Monday of each month at 10 am.

New members and visitors are most welcome. Enquiries contact Lei on 0412 585 741.



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Our commitment to best practice care is highlighted by our membership in the "Hearing Up" network. This network obliges its members to adhere to high standards, ensuring every part of the audiological process is handled professionally and with care. *Ear Studio* is proud to be one of only 40 clinics in Australia, and the only one in the hills district, to have met these requirements. This affiliation underscores our dedication to offering superior care that goes beyond the standard offerings of many larger retail chains.

The unregulated nature of the Australian audiology market means many clinics can operate without following best practice principles. This often results in poorly fitted devices and inadequate support, leaving clients dissatisfied. At *Ear Studio*, we are dedicated to filling this gap. Our meticulous approach ensures our clients receive not only the best devices but also the best care and support throughout their hearing journey.

Being a client at *Ear Studio* means entering a partnership where your hearing health is our top priority. From the moment you walk through our doors, you are



Thuvi with an Ear Studio client

welcomed into an environment that values your individual needs. Our clinicians take the time to understand your lifestyle, preferences, and hearing challenges. They tailor each step of the fitting process to suit you perfectly. This personalised care continues beyond the initial fitting, with ongoing support and adjustments to ensure your hearing device serves you well.

At *Ear Studio*, we are more than just a clinic; our clients are at the heart of everything we do, and we are a community dedicated to enhancing lives through better hearing. By choosing us, you choose a path defined by quality, compassion, and unwavering support. We invite you to experience the difference that best practice care can make and join us on a journey toward clearer, more vibrant hearing.

Please call our friendly team at EAR STUDIO on 02 9159 6122 to enquire or book, you can also visit www.earstudio.com.au for more information or to book online. We look forward to hearing from you.

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SPENCER VILLA 3 | 2 | 2

The Spencer has a luxurious master suite and expansive living areas. The modern kitchen and dining space flow effortlessly onto a large patio, ideal for outdoor gatherings and relaxation.

ASHDALE VILLA 2 | 2 | 1

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Galston's Leisure Centre Now Under Construction.



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Entries now open for Remagine environmental art prize 2025

Hornsby Shire Council's environmental art prize Remagine is again open for entries with \$11,000 in total prize money.

Hosted by Hornsby Shire Council in partnership with the Hornsby Art Society since 2009, the Remagine Art Prize challenges artists to create works in response to the waste and overconsumption crises. This year's theme, **RE:THINK TO RE: PURPOSE**, challenges artists to explore the impact of waste production and creatively reuse materials to help conserve our precious natural resources.

Entries are open to Digital Stills, Sculpture, Mixed Media, Ceramics, Painting, Drawing, Printmaking and Photography, with six prizes to be won in 2025, including:

- Winner: \$5,000
- Highly Commended: \$2,000
- Recycled/Reused Materials Award \$1,500
- Local Artist Award: \$1,000
- Youth Award (18-25 years): \$1,000
- People's Choice Award: \$500

Hornsby Shire Council Mayor Warren Waddell said this year's

theme was chosen to reflect the importance on reuse and repurposing materials before they become waste that enters our environment, renewing the art prize's track record of poignant commentary on the waste crisis – the effects of which are seen most clearly at the level of Local Government.

"Rethinking our approach to managing household waste is essential to reducing the amount of waste we send to landfills, which are quickly reaching capacity," said Mayor Waddell. "Finding creative ways to repurpose old items, whether in art or life, is a crucial behaviour towards building a more sustainable community."

"Each year since its inception, we've seen Remagine Art Prize reach larger and larger audiences, as the effects of the waste crisis and climate change become a reality. I'm sure that this year's theme will prompt a wonderful response from right across Australia yet again and raise community awareness on these important waste issues."

Entries to the Remagine Art Prize close on **Thursday 1st May 2025** at 5pm and the winners



Artwork SCRAPS by James Birch

will be announced at the award ceremony on **Friday 13th June 2025**.

The Remagine Art Prize exhibition will be held from **Friday 13th June until Sunday 29th June 2025**,

at Wallarobba Arts and Cultural Centre, 25 Edgeworth David Avenue, Hornsby.

For further information and to enter visit <https://www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/remagine>

Art Demonstration – Monoprinting with Acrylics

Rachel Carroll has been a practicing artist for over 20 years and is an expressionist and environmentalist painter. She will show how to monoprint with acrylics on 3 different surfaces. These can also be used to print on children's clothing.

Visitors are welcome to come and see Rachel's demonstration at the Castle Hill Art Society.

5th March 2025 at 7.30pm
Castle Hill Art Society, Castle Glen Community Centre,
155-157 Ridgeway Drive, Castle Hill, 7.30 pm
Enquiries 9899 3179 or www.castlehillartsociety.org.au



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Cherrybrook artist explores resilience, heritage, and empowerment

Richa Panicker's journey as an artist is as inspiring as her work is compelling. Born and raised in India, she lived in Dubai for a decade before settling in Australia in 2016. Initially taking up painting as a hobby alongside her full-time career, Richa's natural talent quickly evolved into a remarkable artistic pursuit. She is entirely self-taught, a testament to her dedication and creativity.

In 2024 alone, Richa's art has been celebrated through four prestigious awards, reflecting her growing influence in the Australian art community. Notable accolades include:

- Winner of Hunters Hill Art Prize 2024 (\$8,000) for her evocative piece "Divine Within," an homage to her mother and her Indian heritage;
- Winner of Multicultural Victoria Annual Art Against Ageism competition;
- The Castle Hills Art Orange Blossom Festival award 2024; and
- Honoured at South Asian Film, Art and Literature Festival 2024.



Richa's work is deeply personal, often intertwining themes of resilience, heritage, and empowerment. At the Hunters Hill Art Exhibition, her prize-winning piece stood out for its profound emotional resonance and cultural depth, showcasing the strength and beauty of womanhood.

Richa Panicker's art journey reflects her passion and perseverance, transforming her creative outlet into a celebrated career. Her accomplishments in 2024 underline her emergence as a significant voice in contemporary art, one that bridges cultures and celebrates identity.



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SPORTS NEWS

Dural Bowling Club News

Dural Bowling Club Christmas lunch and the award presentation took place on Saturday December 14th 2024.



Most players attended the day and had a wonderful time. The day started with a game of scrungers whereby players are divided up into groups of 4 to a rink. Each rink players plays an individual game against the others. Each player has 3 bowls and the closest bowls scores 3 points, second 2 points and third 1 point.

It was a fun and entertaining morning with the game starting at 9.30am. After the completion of the game of scrungers the players joined the other bowlers that had elected to skip the morning games for lunch in the dining room. The winner was Mike Keane and the runner up Phil Laing.

The last bowl day for 2024 was on Saturday 21st December and resumed on Saturday 4th January 2025.

The Open Gender Drawn Triples is currently in progress and started on Saturday January 11th 2025.

Anyone interested in playing bowls please contact Robert on 0411 375 580.

Open Day

Sunday 23 March



Book now
northholm.nsw.edu.au



Northholm
Grammar

Northholm Grammar HSC Excellence Ranked 31st in the State



It is with enormous pride that Northholm Grammar announces the outstanding academic achievement of our Year 12 2024 cohort in the HSC results.

Northholm Grammar's rank of 31st in the State's best performing schools is a testament of our commitment to academic growth, excellence and developing the character of each student.

Our Year 12 cohort embraced the opportunity to engage in a rigorous academic program allowing them to achieve their personal best whilst balancing their studies with a diverse array of personal accomplishments in their areas of interest and passion.



We commend our Year 12 2024 students on their results and for their grit, perseverance and unwavering drive towards excellence.

Northholm Grammar's standing as one of the leading schools in New South Wales is reflected in the following highlights:

- 18th best performing Independent School in New South Wales
- 30 students recognised as NSW Distinguished Achievers
- 5 students on the Honour Roll (Chloe Fader, Emelie Gartner, Amelia Gartner, Sophie Hamilton-James, Gemma Oaklands)
- 4 State Ranks – Mia Lawton (2nd Biology and 4th Agriculture) and Emelie Gartner (7th Modern History and 12th in English Advanced)
- 67% of students gaining at least one Band 6
- 80% of students gaining at least one Band 5 or Band 6
- 100% of courses achieved above State Average marks

Special congratulations go to Sophie Hamilton-James and Emelie Gartner as the Dux of the School, both achieving an ATAR of 99.75.

The Class of 2024 have not only achieved magnificent HSC results but have led the way in sport, visual and performing arts, leadership and entrepreneurship. They have elevated the standard for academic excellence that will inspire future cohorts at Northholm.

We also acknowledge our community - staff, parents, friends and family for their support of our Year 12 students. Our Year 12 families have worked in partnership with the School, to ensure a healthy learning experience for our students.

Congratulations again to our Class of 2024 on their magnificent results.



Oakhill COLLEGE

Open Day *Sunday 2nd March*

10.00AM - 2.00PM

Oakhill College was established in 1936 and is part of an extensive global network of Lasallian schools. Our holistic approach supported by Catholic values and traditions, prepares our students to serve and enrich a dynamic and ever-changing world. At Oakhill College we inspire our students to aspire to greatness.

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PACIFIC BEROWRA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Welcome to our new Principal, *Royston Lee*



Mr Royston Lee has joined Pacific Berowra Christian School as their new Principal, commencing, January 2025. Royston comes with decades of educational leadership experience in both Singapore and Australia, most recently as the Pacific Group Dean of Teaching.

"I would first like to express my heartfelt gratitude for the warm welcome I have received from this wonderful community. It is a blessing to join a school family so deeply committed to nurturing each child's academic and spiritual growth. Thank you for your kindness, which has already made me feel at home."

Pacific Berowra Christian School has been serving the Berowra and surrounds community for over 30 years.

At Pacific Berowra, every child is valued, cared for and encouraged to become the incredible person that God has created them to be. We are committed to delivering enriched learning experiences for our students to ensure they have a well-rounded education.

"The goal of Pacific Berowra Christian School is to be an authentic Christian community that passionately seeks excellence in teaching, learning, and serving."

To find out more or book a tour visit pacificberowra.nsw.edu.au or phone (02) 9456 2444

Pacific Berowra Christian School is part of the Pacific Group of Christian Schools.



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James Wallace

HORNSBY MP

I would like to give a huge shout out to our wonderful Hornsby SES volunteers.

In response to the recent electrical storms and powerful winds, Hornsby SES received over 400 requests for assistance. Supported by local RFS brigades, SES teams were operational day and night, in difficult conditions, as they worked through tasks as quickly as possible.

Their main priorities were to ensure the safety of the public, restore power and essential services, and provide support to vulnerable community members, especially the elderly.

Throughout this period the ongoing collaboration between SES, RFS and NSW Police was crucial. Hornsby SES also worked closely with Ausgrid to ensure jobs affecting homes without power were processed as a priority.

To date we have experienced a relatively mild and wet summer. However, I would like to remind everyone not to be complacent as dangerous bushfires can occur at any time.

We all should continue to take precautions and ensure we have prepared our properties and have plans in place in the event of a dangerous bushfire.

I would like to take this opportunity to also thank all our local Rural Fire Service volunteers for their significant commitment to keeping us safe all year round.

Finally, it is my pleasure to let you know that applications for the 2025 Hornsby Community Building Partnership (CBP) Grant Program are open.



James Wallace and SES commander

CBP Grants are available to incorporated not-for-profit bodies, such as local sporting groups, social and environmental groups and school P&C's, for community infrastructure projects that deliver positive social, environmental and recreational outcomes.

The deadline for applications COB, **21st February 2025**. Please let my office know if you submit an application or if you have any questions.

I look forward to serving you as the Member for Hornsby. If you think I can help, please feel free to contact me at my office at any time.



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Mark Hodges

MEMBER FOR CASTLE HILL

Honour The Heart Of Our Community: Nominate A Senior For The 2025 Local Achievement Awards



Residents of the Castle Hill electorate are encouraged to nominate outstanding seniors in their community, as nominations for the 2025 NSW Seniors Festival Local Achievement Awards are now open.

The 2025 NSW Seniors Festival and the Local Achievement Awards provide a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the invaluable contributions seniors make to their communities.

If you know a senior who works tirelessly to make our community a better place—whether through volunteering, innovative ideas, or simply by being a pillar of support to family and friends—this is your chance to ensure their efforts are acknowledged.

We are incredibly fortunate to have so many seniors in Castle Hill who give generously of their time, energy, and dedication. By celebrating the contributions of our local seniors, we challenge ageism, honour their efforts, and empower them to overcome social stigma.

Nominations for this esteemed awards program, one of many initiatives from the NSW Government to promote active, healthy, and happy lives for seniors will close soon.

Winners of the Local Achievement Awards will be announced during the 2025 NSW Seniors Festival, which runs from 3rd–16th March, as part of an exciting schedule of events across the state.

Scan the QR Code to Nominate a local senior today!



For more information about the NSW Seniors Festival and the Local Achievement Awards, please visit seniorsfestival.nsw.gov.au



Julian Leeser

MEMBER FOR BEROWRA

Getting our RFS the resources they deserve

As summer progresses, we're reminded of the vital role our Rural Fire Service volunteers play in protecting our community from bushfires. The Hillside Rural Fire Service in Glenorie is at the forefront of this effort and comprises of dedicated locals committed to keeping us safe.

The 2019-2020 bushfire season reminded us of how destructive and unpredictable bushfires can be. We treasure living in a community

surrounded by beautiful natural landscapes, but we also have a responsibility to remain vigilant against the ever-present risk of bushfires.

Having spent time with the Hillside RFS over the years, I've seen their incredible dedication and the challenges they face. One of the most pressing issues is the need for better telecommunications infrastructure. In parts of Glenorie, dead zones can hinder communication during emergencies, delaying critical responses and putting lives at risk.

That's why I'm campaigning for funding for the installation of a telecommunications tower in Glenorie for the Hillside RFS. This essential infrastructure would provide reliable communication links, meaning the RFS can respond quickly and effectively when it matters most.

Our community owes a debt of gratitude to these remarkable volunteers. I'll continue to work with Glenorie's Hillside RFS team to push for the tower which will help to ensure that they have what they need to keep our community safe.

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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• castlehill@parliament.nsw.gov.au

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
LIBERAL 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](https://www.facebook.com/julianleesermp)

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



Jane Seaglove
HORNSBY COUNCILLOR

Rural Roundup

I hope everyone had a chance to enjoy some down time with family and friends over the holiday season.

Already as we begin 2025 Council staff have been busy dealing with unforeseen challenges. Storm events throughout the Shire created a substantial volume of service requests for the Council team and local emergency services.

With over 120 calls to SES alone, this has been an opportunity for our Emergency Management Coordinator, Rolfe Pool, to activate plans prepared for precisely these occasions, ensuring a proper coordinated approach across all agencies.

Events like those experienced recently, also highlight to Council the constant need to review our tree preservation codes.

As the Bushland Shire, we are committed to the preservation and enhancement of our tree canopy and natural resource areas. However, we have an equal obligation to ensure the safety of our residents and their property.

Fortunately, our scheduled mulching programme took place at the Galston Council Depot on Sunday 19th January. This provided at least one outlet for the increase in tree debris experienced throughout the rural area. For all other ongoing enquiries relating to the storm and its impacts please call Council on **Ph 9847 6666**.

While on the topic of Bushcare, Council has launched an initiative aimed at connecting new parents with nature. Sessions are held on the third Monday of every month between 10am and 12 noon at Mt Colah community centre. Child minding has been made available while parents get to enjoy some introductory training to bush management.

Looking forward to activating many more strategies this year as we move from planning to implementation.

I am happy to be contacted on any issue on
jseaglove@hornsby.nsw.gov.au

Hidden In The Hills BY LACHLAN TURNER

Green Spider Flower

Surprisingly, some winter wildflowers have an extended flowering period which can commence in mid autumn and last through to mid spring. One such plant is the Green Spider Flower (*Grevillea mucronulata*). It can be a low spreading shrub but at times reaching an overall height of 1.5 meters when conditions are favourable.

Flowering can occur between April and November. The flowers are predominately green in colour and as such are not easily noticed, as they tend to cluster in groups towards the ends of branchlets amongst leaves of a similar colour. The flowers also have reddish coloured hairy styles.

Frequently, the most visible sign of this plant is its spent flowers that reveal a brown coloured seed pod which may be covered in short hairs.

Another feature of this plant is its reddish coloured branchlets also covered with small hairs. The leaves too may be covered with small hairs.

This *Grevillea* is actually quite widespread throughout the Hills region preferring open sclerophyl forest and woodland. It is able to thrive in both sandy and clay soils. An unusual characteristic is that on many occasions the leaves of those plants growing in sandy or clay soils are markedly different in shape, ranging from an oval shape to a narrow shape sometimes with a pointed tip.

Whilst this *Grevillea* has many relatives that grow in the same region and in similar habitat, there is not one that could be mistaken for the distinctive greenish colourations of this plant's flowers.

The flowers may not be as dramatic as some of the hybrid garden varieties, but closer examination reveals an intricately and delicately structured form.

A 50c Australian postage stamp depicting the Green Spider Flower was issued in February 2007.



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Bromeliad Society welcomes visitors

The Bromeliad Society of Australia Inc will hold their next meeting at the Federation Pavilion, Castle Hill Showground on Saturday, 8th February with plant sales to the public commencing at 10am and the meeting commencing at 12noon.

Guest Speaker for this meeting is David Chandler, a volunteer for the Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney.

The particular garden tour that David will share with the BSA was organised through Botanica World Discoveries. It provided an opportunity for him and his wife to visit some of the most beautiful and famous gardens in England and Wales.

It also gave him a wonderful chance to return to his roots and share the beauty of British gardens with his Australian born wife Jenny.

David originally came from England as a young teacher in 1967 and became fascinated with Australian native plants and created a prize-winning native garden. This led to him becoming a volunteer guide for the Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney.

For the past 20 years he has taken many overseas visitors on walks through our beautiful botanic gardens.

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
website: www.bromeliad.org

David Chandler and wife Jenny



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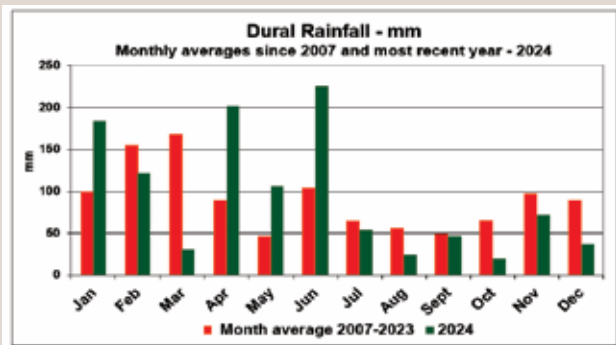
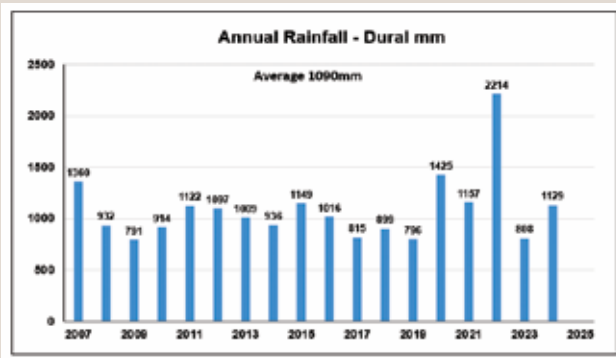
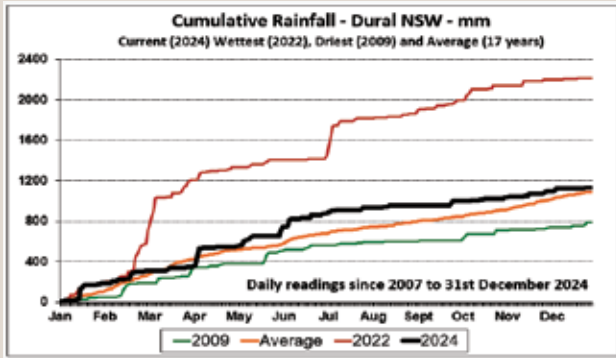
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www.duralchamber.org.au

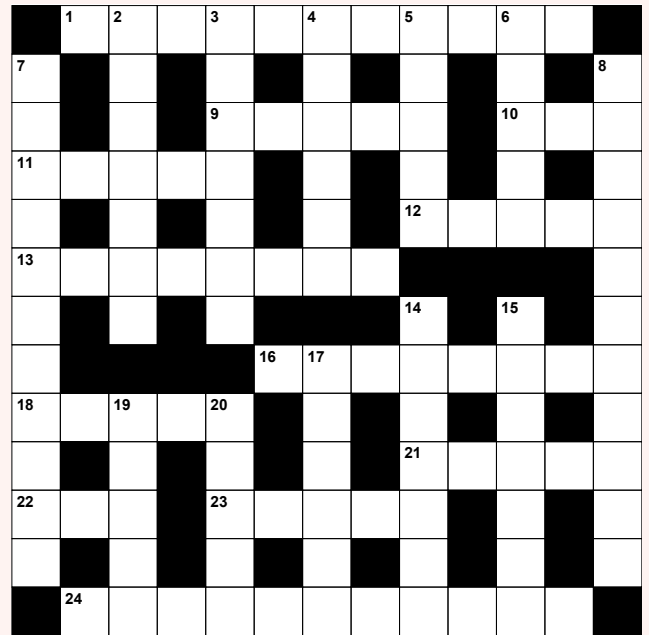
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Dural Rainfall Charts

BY HANS KUNNEN



CROSSWORD PUZZLE



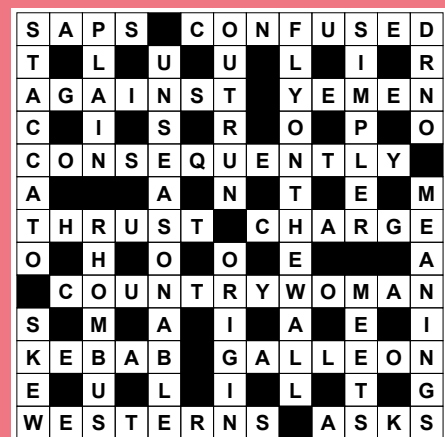
ACROSS

- 01 Chance concurrence of events (11)
- 02 Public speakers (7)
- 03 Bring up (7)
- 04 Urges to act (6)
- 05 Senior figure in a tribe (5)
- 06 Sequence (5)
- 07 Camaraderie (11)
- 08 Endorsed (11)
- 09 Swift (5)
- 10 Epoch (3)
- 11 Short choral composition (5)
- 12 Music with a recurrent theme (5)
- 13 Device for spraying paint (8)
- 14 Cotton fabric (7)
- 15 More cheerful (7)
- 16 Morally compel (8)
- 17 Subatomic particle such as a nucleon (6)
- 18 Manner of writing (5)
- 19 Bonds of union (5)
- 20 Keen (5)
- 21 Looked at open-mouthed (5)
- 22 Sort; kind (3)
- 23 Sculptured symbol (5)
- 24 Stargazers (11)

DOWN

- 01 Chance concurrence of events (11)
- 02 Public speakers (7)
- 03 Bring up (7)
- 04 Urges to act (6)
- 05 Senior figure in a tribe (5)
- 06 Sequence (5)
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- 23 Sculptured symbol (5)
- 24 Stargazers (11)

ANSWER FROM DECEMBER ISSUE



DURAL & DISTRICT PROSTATE CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS ARE HELD 3rd MONDAY EVENING OF THE MONTH

7:00pm for 7:15pm

The Blue Gum Centre
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