

DOORAL ROUNDUP



MARCH 2025

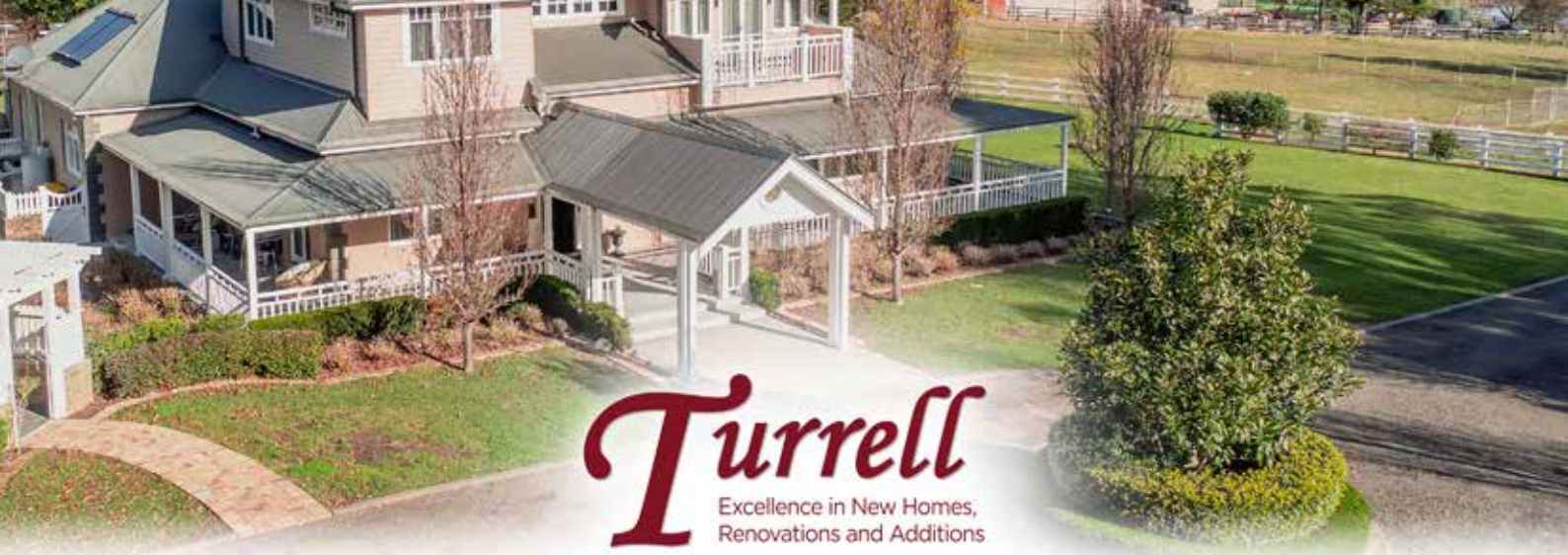
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This Hamptons-inspired renovation is a perfect example of how old and new can blend effortlessly, preserving the charm of the original home while elevating its style and comfort.



A Classy Hamptons Renovation with a Timeless Country Touch

This stunning renovation blends Hamptons elegance with classic country charm, creating a home that feels like a year-round retreat. A seamless first-floor addition enhances the original structure, maintaining its charm while introducing refined updates.

Seamless Integration & Attention to Detail

Our approach focused on enhancing existing features while ensuring a harmonious blend of old and new. Large bay windows flood the interiors with natural light, creating a bright and inviting atmosphere. The new cladding adds sophistication, complementing the rendered lower level for a cohesive, polished finish. A complete repaint freshened up the exterior, seamlessly integrating the new elements with the existing home.

Inside, meticulous floor patching ensured a seamless transition between materials, leaving no visible joins. The cellar under the stairs became a standout feature, incorporating feature stone and timber panelling to turn a practical space into a striking design element.

By repurposing original materials, we maintained cost efficiency and embraced sustainable building practices, all while delivering a timeless, elegant transformation.



Thinking About a Renovation? Let's Bring Your Vision to Life!


A beautifully designed renovation can completely transform your home, adding both style and value. Whether you're dreaming of a Hamptons-inspired retreat, a modern extension, or a custom renovation tailored to your lifestyle, our expert team is here to help.

Get in touch today to start planning your dream renovation with us!



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The Dooral Roundup loves to receive contributions from our community!

Guidelines for contributors:

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

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

Support our advertisers and their local businesses by buying their products and services!

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

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

What does Easter really mean to us in Australia

BY MARK COUPAR

Easter is a holiday and celebrated as resurrection of Jesus on the Sunday after his crucifixion in the Christian religion.

Easter will always fall on a specific time each year with Easter following the first moon after the equinox.

For example if the equinox falls on 20th March and the next full moon is on the 30th March.

The Easter bunny however found its way via America through German immigrants in the 1700's as a symbol of fertility and new life.

I am seeing populating supermarket shelves brightly coloured packets of Easter eggs and seem to be the focus of Easter holidays for children.

The Easter egg hunt is a beloved tradition in many Australian homes but sometimes I wonder if our kids and grandkids will know the true meaning of Easter as we know it or a time to eat as many eggs in the shortest space of time.

So hopefully everyone has a safe and happy Easter and learns a bit of background of Easter.

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Cherrybrook Probus Ponderings Romance of the Rails

The past month has been a busy time for members of the Combined Probus Club of Cherrybrook. At our monthly meeting our guest speaker was Stephen Cassettari, a highly accomplished exponent of Chinese Brush Painting. Stephen demonstrated while delivering an interesting and amusing talk and gifted the paintings he had created during the time to lucky club members.

Other events included a nostalgic trip on the Zig Zag Railway on Valentine's Day – romance (of the rails) is not dead!

Members also enjoyed a morning of Ten Pin Bowling which provided a roller coaster of emotions from elation with strikes to disappointment as the ball rolled down the gutter. The only guarantee was fun.

Upcoming events include our Changeover Lunch, the Premier's Gala Concert, a social drive to Patonga, a theatre production at the Castle Hill Players, evening dining at Baulkham Hills, a tour of the Ray Nesci Bonsai Nursery and a public transport day for a walk from Manly to Shelley Beach.

All interest groups are also up and running.

If you are active retirees or even semi-retired and have promised yourselves to get out, meet new people and have new



experiences the Combined Probus Club of Cherrybrook could be for you.

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.

Greengrocer Price Comparison

With the opening of Harris Farm at Round Corner, we thought it would be a good time to do a price comparison of 5 regular products.

*Prices collected as at 28th February 2024.

Type	Aldi	Woollies	3 Bros	Harris farm
Broccoli	\$5.99	\$7.90	\$8.99	\$9.99
Whole cauli	-	\$5.90	\$6.99	\$6.99
Pink lady apples	\$4.79	\$5.50	\$6.99	\$7.99
Bananas	\$4.49	\$4.50	\$4.99	\$3.99
Grapes	\$3.79	\$4.50	\$3.99	\$6.99



James Wallace MP

Member for **Hornsby**

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- Assisting you to access State services
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- Organising Justice of the Peace applications
- Recognising Community Achievements



Contact James

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✉ PO Box 1687, Hornsby Westfield NSW 1635

Authorised by James Wallace MP. Funded using parliamentary entitlements.

000 EMERGENCY SERVICES

HEAD-ON COLLISION



A serious head-on collision occurred at 10:31 AM on the 12th of February on Gilbert Road, near the Castle Hill Cemetery.

A driver who witnessed the crash immediately called Triple Zero.

Emergency Services, fire, and police crews were activated and attended the scene. According to the police, CareFlight was deployed to provide immediate medical assistance.

The Gilbert Road was closed in both directions between Tuckwell and Ridgescrop. It reopened at 11:53 AM.

"The parties involved in the collision have been taken to the hospital in stable condition..." the Hills PAC reported.

ARREST MADE IN MAJOR THEFT CASE

Hills Police have made a significant breakthrough in a major theft investigation!

On 20 February 2025, officers arrested a 41-year-old suspect in connection with a series of thefts, including a break and enter at a residence in Dural. The stolen items included luxury vehicles, a safe containing cash, watches, jewellery, handbags, and clothing, with a total value exceeding \$500,000.

The suspect was apprehended while driving away from a known associate's home. A search of the vehicle allegedly revealed a small amount of prohibited drugs, clothing worn during a recent theft, and items stolen from another

residence in Castle Hill. Further stolen items were also found at the associate's home.

The suspect has been charged with multiple offences, including possession of prohibited drugs, break and enter, and theft. They have been refused bail and will appear in court today at Parramatta Local Court.

Police are continuing their efforts to locate and arrest other individuals involved in these crimes. If you have any information that could assist with this investigation, please contact Crime Stoppers NSW at 1800 333 000 or visit their website. All information is treated with the utmost confidentiality

BREAK & ENTER ALERT - KENTHURST?

Hills Police are investigating two break and enters. We need your help!

Between 23 February 2025, 18:00 and 24 February 2025, 07:15, a suspect allegedly broke into a residential property at Jones Rd, Kenthurst. The suspect jemmied the ground floor side door to gain access to a large shed on the property and stole a 1977 Black Mazda 808 Sedan. This incident is likely related to a similar break and enter at Jones Rd, Kenthurst the previous night.

Police are keen to speak with anyone who may have information about this incident, as it could assist with our enquiries. Ref No. E 99868064



VEHICLE CRASH

A crash occurred on Saturday, the 15th of February, at Old Northern Rd, Castle Hill. Both drivers were taken to the hospital.

Fire and Rescue Castle Hill and NSW Ambulance attended the crash scene.

The road was eventually cleared. The police thanked the drivers on the road for their patience and the emergency crews who responded to the incident.



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

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Round Corner Dural Probus Club

Our February meeting was a fantastic start for 2025. We welcomed Guest Speaker Lt Col David Ingram, retired American and Australian Air Force, who captivated our members with a very interesting talk on the topic 'America 2025'. David's presentation was very informative and he was pleased to answer questions from members. Following the meeting 2 lucky members and 1 visitor won the door prizes before we enjoyed each other's company over lunch.



For our outing this month, members' car pooled for an enjoyable day visiting the Baha'i Temple at Ingleside, a place of rich cultural and spiritual significance. A guided tour and video presentation was offered followed by time to walk through the native gardens and natural bushland surrounding the Temple. Afterwards, we enjoyed a delightful lunch at Flower Power, Terry Hills.

Round Corner Dural Probus offer a range of activities each month and a trip away is on the calendar for later this year.

Meetings are held at the Galston Club on the second Monday of each month at 9.30 am.

We look forward to welcoming new members and visitors.

Enquiries contact Lei on 0412 585 741.

ADVERTORIAL

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As a family business, we understand the importance of reliability, quality, and affordability. That's why we stock only the best brands in the industry, from renowned manufacturers Husqvarna, Victa, Shindaiwi, Echo, Supa Swift and much more. We offer a variety of products to suit every job, from small garden maintenance to heavy-duty professional work.

In addition to our extensive range of new products, we also offer expert repair services. Our team, led by Brett and Zac, brings over four decades of hands-on

experience to every job, ensuring your equipment gets the care it deserves. Whether it's a simple tune-up or a complete overhaul, you can trust us to get your tools back to peak performance.

At Chains Mowers & Chainsaws, we are committed to offering the highest level of service, whether you're buying your first mower or seeking reliable advice on the best equipment for your needs. Our new location in Dural provides easy access for both locals and those from surrounding areas.

Visit us today at 598 Old Northern Road, Dural, and experience the difference that comes with dealing with a family business that's been trusted for over 40 years. We look forward to welcoming you and helping you with all your outdoor power equipment needs! Our motto is "We keep you cutting"

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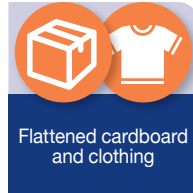
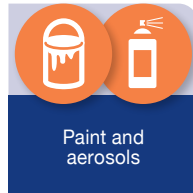
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Latest News



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



from the Mayor's Desk

As a Council, it is our commitment that we remain community led in all our decisions, projects and plans. Our draft 10-year Community Strategic Plan, your plan for how you would like Hornsby Shire to be in 2035, goes on public exhibition from 13 March.

Titled *'Your Vision | Your Future 2035'*, the Community Strategic Plan is the highest-level plan that Council prepares and is developed collaboratively with you, our community. It identifies your main priorities and aspirations for the next 10 years and outlines the various strategies to achieve them. Every project led by Council is guided by this plan.

The major challenges you have identified for the next 10 years include population growth, housing affordability, traffic and transport, economic and technological change, preserving our natural environment, climate change, social diversity and resilience.

In preparing the document, we have considered the feedback from over 10,000 residents, as we work toward a more prosperous and sustainable future for our residents. I strongly encourage you to share your thoughts on this important document before 21 April at yoursay.hornsby.nsw.gov.au

This month, we also mark NSW Senior's Festival from 3 -16 March with a vibrant range of events, activities and workshops celebrating Hornsby Shire's valued seniors. From an art exhibition to writing workshops, an empowering community forum and a lively community choir, there's so much to enjoy. Tickets are sure to be in high demand! Visit hornsby.nsw.gov.au/seniorsweek for more information.

Warren Waddell
Mayor of Hornsby Shire

What's on



Food Truck FRIDAYS

GREAT FOOD | LIVE MUSIC

FRIDAYS, 5pm-8.30pm

Galston Recreation Reserve | **Cherrybrook, Greenway Park**
7 March | 21 March

NSW **Seniors Festival** 

3-16 March 2025

Time to shine



For details of our Seniors Week events visit: hornsby.nsw.gov.au/seniorsweek

WASTE EVENTS 

Clothes Swap
Saturday 8 March, 10am-12pm
Thornleigh Community Centre

Chipping for Mulch
Sunday 16 March, 7.30am-12.30pm
The Old Dog Pound, 8 Warrigal Drive, Westleigh

Kimbriki Eco House and Garden Tour
Tuesday 18 March, 9am-12pm
Departs from Hornsby Park

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



NATIVE PLANT GIVEAWAYS

Friday 28 and Saturday 29 March
Collect your four FREE native plants
Bookings essential. To book your plant collection time, visit: hornsby.nsw.gov.au/plants

Free

YOUR SAY HORNSBY 

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN
Submissions open
13 March – 21 April

NATURAL AREAS RECREATIONAL STRATEGY
Submissions close: 19 March

yoursay.hornsby.nsw.gov.au



REIMAGINE ART PRIZE
RE.THINK TO RE.PURPOSE

CALL FOR ENTRIES

hornsby.nsw.gov.au/remagine

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





TASTE of the WORLD

CULTURAL FESTIVAL
FRIDAY 4 APRIL, 4-8PM
HORNSBY MALL

Save The Date

Next Council meeting Wednesday 12 March, 6.30pm

hornsby.nsw.gov.au

The Hills Hornsby Rural Koala Project (HHRKP)

BY SPEAKER
PAT SCHWARTZ

Pat will outline the dedicated ongoing work in protecting and recognising the local koala populations.

APS-Parramatta/Hills Branch Meeting
Sat 22/3/2025 at 2-00pm
Gumnut Hall, Gumnut Place, Cherrybrook NSW



ADVERTORIAL

Real Estate Matters Confidence, Cuts and Opportunity

As we head into 2025 with a much-awaited interest rate decrease and further rate cuts anticipated to follow, this gives buyers, sellers and the property market as a whole greater confidence and relief. Whether the reserve bank makes the next rate cuts or not, the major banks will, as whoever reduces their rates will enjoy the lion share of the lending.

News of this first rate reduction whilst minimal is already showing signs of the activity to come with more buyers entering the market giving sellers a greater opportunity to achieve better sale prices.

Locally, the Hills District continues to offer great potential with family lifestyle properties. While Sydney's broader housing market is expected to see a moderate increase of 4-6% in prices, we're witnessing some distinct trends in our local area.

CoreLogic's Head of Research, Eliza Owen, said "economic recovery in late 2024 has laid the groundwork for increased buyer activity in the year ahead." Principal of Lumby Real Estate, Kate Lumby added "factoring interest rates, migration trends and an election for those looking for a new home, this year presents a unique opportunity"

Residential properties that saw a softening at the tail end of last year are in demand with a shortage of supply. While the acreage and lifestyle properties have held well, the days on market have been extended to find the right buyer match that recognises the value. With an increase in listings and an influx of property expected to come to market in March and April more options are available for sellers with increased market activity.

There is a window for buyers looking to jump from the residential into acreage before these lifestyle properties become out of reach for many, with a steady rise in prices expected.

Now could be the right time to make a move, bringing fresh opportunities and the perfect chance to embrace an exciting change in lifestyle. Whether you're looking to upgrade, downsize, or find your dream property, now is the time to start planning.

If you want to make 2025 the year you turn your property goals into reality. Contact Lifestyle Property Specialist Kate Lumby Principal of Lumby Real Estate 0414 620 222

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Auction



Lot 2, 93 Fairway Drive, Kellyville

Sold



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For Sale



17 Tooloom Close, North Kellyville

Sold



194 McClymonts Road, Kenthurst

For Sale



2 & 2A Celia Road, North Kellyville

Guided Bushwalks and Events



BEROWRA STATION TO WARATAH BAY BUSHWALK, BEROWRA - CULTURAL HISTORY
THURSDAY 13 MARCH | 10.00 AM - 1.00 PM

From the top of the ridge this three-hour (4 km), moderately challenging bushwalk descends down a narrow track to Waratah Bay on the quiet waters of Cowan Creek.

CATCHMENT TOUR - EXPLORING HORNSBY'S LOCAL WATERWAYS
THURSDAY 20 MARCH | 9.00 AM - 12.00 PM

This three hour bus and walking tour explores local waterways and showcases a variety of stormwater quality improvement devices installed throughout the Asquith and Hornsby Heights area.

SPOTLIGHT WALK, FAGAN PARK
FRIDAY 21 MARCH | 7.00 PM - 8.30 PM

This one and a half hour (2km) very easy walk will take you on a journey to discover

the endangered bushland and animals of Fagan Park by night on this easy walk.

GIBBERAGONG WATERHOLE BUSHWALK, NORTH WAHROONGA
SUNDAY 23 MARCH | 9.00 AM - 12.00 PM

This three-hour (4 km), moderately challenging bushwalk through diverse sandstone vegetation communities descends through beautiful rainforest to the delightful Gibberagong Waterhole.

ENDANGERED FOREST WALK, CHERRYBROOK
THURSDAY 27 MARCH | 10.00 AM - 12.00 PM

This two hour (3km) easy to moderately challenging walk will guide you through Cherrybrook's endangered majestic Blue Gum High Forest and Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest remnants.

FLORENCE COTTON WALK, HORNSBY
SATURDAY 29 MARCH | 9.00 AM - 10.30 AM

Enjoy the beauty of Florence Cotton Reserve, a suburban bushland valley tucked close to the heart of Hornsby. This short, 1 hour 30 minute (1.8 km) walk explores both the dry sandstone ridgetop and the shady valley floor, so be prepared for a few steps along the way!

WHALE ROCK BUSHWALK VIA AHIMSA, PENNANT HILLS
SUNDAY 30 MARCH | 8.30 AM - 1.00 PM

This popular four-hour 30-minute (6 km), moderately challenging bushwalk in the upper valleys of Lane Cove National Park showcases a rich variety of birdlife and wildflowers.

For further details of the upcoming spring events, or to register, visit www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/bushwalks

ADVERTORIAL

How Can We Live With More Love and Build Our Community Spirit?

I believe part of the answer is by being gracious with every person we meet. For example, do you know the name of the person who makes your coffee at the local cafe? Have you ever said hello to the lady who sits in the corner every morning?

In January, I decided to step out of my comfort zone and introduce myself to a familiar face at the cafe. It turned out her name is Rika Whitlock, and she's often there with her sister, Alna. We started chatting, and I shared that my family runs a grass-fed cattle farm, supplying beef to

the local community. Both Rika and Alna, raised on a farm, were keen to support local produce. They asked to be added to my next beef delivery list, and we made a lovely connection.

To celebrate the launch of Taylor Grass Fed Tallow Face Cream, I hosted a local beef party, inviting women from the community, including Rika and Alna. It was a beautiful afternoon, where we gathered, shared experiences, and sampled Glow Soups—immune-boosting, farm-fresh soups developed by my friend Charlotte Swindell. We also discussed the benefits of non-toxic skincare.

At Taylor Fine Foods, we're building a community focused on localism and love.



Our next event, for Mothers and Daughters, will be on March 22nd. We've invited Leoni Gardner from Misty Mountain Health Retreat to speak on the 8 laws of health.

For tickets or products, you can find me most mornings at Poppy Lane Cafe or reach out by email or text.

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Hornsby Greens Berowra Campaign

Proposed Policy Foci

Immediate Cost of Living Crisis Measures

- Regulate the banks, including the Reserve Bank: bring down mortgage rates
- Universal healthcare: GP for free, dental & mental health into Medicare
- Fix the housing crisis: support renters and first home buyers
- Defend workers' rights: lift wages
- Public Transport Fares: 50c fares
- Toll Roads: End tolling company monopoly and place in public hands

Strengthen Economic, Tax and Law Policy

- Everyone to pay fair taxes: tax billionaires, millionaires and corporations
- Support small businesses and cooperatives
- Amend Section 44 of the constitution: allow dual citizens into government

- Political Corruption: strengthen lobbying regulations
- Strengthen Democracy: Truth in Advertising laws strengthened
- Participatory Democracy: fund citizen juries to report to parliament

Strong Climate Action

- Fund batteries, wind and solar: end billions in handouts to coal, oil and gas corporations
- Transition to reliable clean energy: lower power bills
- End native forest logging: save koalas and our wildlife from extinction

Foreign Policy and Defence

- Withdraw from AUKUS: establish an independent foreign policy that prioritises peace without nuclear weapons
- Legislate a ban on the import of goods produced using forced labour

Authorised by A. Croft for The Greens NSW. 19/1 Hordern Pl, Camperdown NSW 2050

Castle Hill Art Society Inc.

Art Demonstration -
2nd April 2025 at 7.00pm

Matt Moriarty "Creating a Captivating Comic Character"

Matt will explore shapes and lines then translate them into a basic cartoon character and continue to build on this new creation. Watch the character come to life!



Matt specialises in character design, comics, children's book art (including his own book) tutoring and illustration. He is a Digital Illustrator and Graphic Designer with his own web comic.

Visitors are welcome to come and see Matt demonstrating at the Castle Glen Community Centre, 155-157 Ridgescrop Drive, Castle Hill, 7.00 pm.



Enquiries www.castlehillartsociety.org.au



Vote **1** Dr Mehreen Faruqi for the Senate.

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- **Create a fair and just economy** that supports us with cost of living pressures
- **Restore integrity to politics** with an independent foreign policy that prioritises peace
- **Tackle the climate crisis** with real solutions that are not beholden to corporate profits

Scan to learn more!

Authorised by A. Croft for The Greens NSW. 19/1 Hordern Pl, Camperdown NSW 2050

COMMUNITY NEWS

Annangrove-Kenthurst Road Congestion

Due to the number of residents complaining about the traffic along Annangrove and Kenthurst Road, the Hills Council gave a Notice of Intention at the 25th February Council meeting to put the following Motion to their 24th June Meeting. The motion states the following:

1. A report to be prepared for Council on work conducted to date and potential future options to ease traffic congestion on Annangrove Road and Kenthurst Road.
2. A letter be written to the NSW Minister for Roads, The Hon. John Graham MLC, calling for:
 - a. Annangrove Road to be reclassified as a regional road.
 - b. Annangrove Road between Edwards Road and Kenthurst Road to be upgraded to a four-lane road.
 - c. A bypass to be built around Dural - Round Corner, connecting Annangrove Road with Old Northern Road.
 - d. New Line Road to be upgraded to a four-lane road.
3. A copy of the above letter be sent to the State Member for Castle Hill.

Given the costs of implementing the above, we can only hope something happens before the roads come to a standstill.

HILARIOUS COMEDY BASED ON A TRUE STORY

Castle Hill Players presents

GLORIOUS!

at the Pavilion Theatre from
4th – 26th April



Gina Willison, Julian Florian.
Rehearsal Photo Penny Johnson

Written by Peter Quilter and directed by Meredith Jacobs

Based on a true story, this hilarious and heart-warming comedy tells the story of Florence Foster Jenkins, the worst singer in the world.

Set in 1940s New York, the singer everyone wants to see is the enthusiastic (and slightly delusional) soprano dubbed “the first lady of the sliding scale”. *Glorious!* follows Florence Jenkins as she warbles her way from charity recitals and extravagant balls, to bizarre recording sessions at the Melotone Studios and finally her triumphant performance at Carnegie Hall. All aided and abetted by a circle of devoted friends who are almost as eccentric as she is.

Join Florence and her friends for a delightful and blissfully funny play that generates a glow of warmth and lots of laughter.

Glorious! was nominated for a Laurence Olivier Award – Best New

Comedy (2005) and inspired the 2016 movie *Florence Foster Jenkins* starring Meryl Streep and Hugh Grant.

“*Glorious!* Is a rollicking good time at the theatre. Every character is colourful, the dialogue is witty and entertaining and the singing so bad you’ll laugh so hard it hurts! A highly entertaining night out.”

Meredith, Director

Bookings paviliontheatre.org.au/glorious or call 02 9634 2929

Enquiries call 02 9634 3846 or email admin@paviliontheatre.org.au

Media enquiries email Abby marketing@paviliontheatre.org.au

Celebrate Seniors Festival

in The Hills Shire

2-16 March 2025

The Hills Shire Council is offering **FREE** events and activities including a movie screening, Tai Chi, aqua aerobics, an expo with service providers, and more.

For more details scan the QR code or visit www.thehills.nsw.gov.au and search Seniors Festival

GLORIOUS!

The true story of Florence Foster Jenkins
the worst singer in the world

By Peter Quilter

Directed By Meredith Jacobs

4 Apr - 26 Apr 2025

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ADVERTORIAL

HELPING YOUR LOVED ONE WITH HEARING LOSS:

Tips for Better Communication

AN ARTICLE FROM EAR STUDIO

As we approach Hearing Awareness Week, it's essential to recognise the challenges faced by individuals with hearing loss and how we can support them in effective communication. While hearing aids are beneficial for many, some may still require additional assistance depending on the severity of their condition. Let's explore some practical strategies for helping your loved one navigate their hearing loss:

1. Face-to-Face Communication:

When speaking with someone with hearing loss, ensure you're in the same room. Avoid talking to them from another room or with obstacles obstructing your face. Seeing your facial expressions and lip movements can significantly aid their understanding, as many individuals with hearing loss have started to also employ their other senses to follow conversations. Also, adequate lighting is crucial for clear visibility, enhancing communication effectiveness.

2. Gain Their Attention: Before initiating a conversation, ensure you first get their attention. Address them by name or gently tap their arm to signal that you're about to speak to them. This simple gesture can help avoiding misunderstandings and frustration, fostering a more attentive and engaged interaction.

3. Speak Clearly and Slowly:

When communicating aim to speak clearly. Be mindful that some individuals may process speech slightly slower meaning they require more time to decipher what you are trying to say. Speaking a little slower can be therefore quite helpful to stay engaged. Avoid shouting, as it can make lip-reading more challenging. If they ask for repetition, refrain from simply increasing volume. Instead, rephrase your sentence or simplify your message. For example, if you state "the weather has been absolutely terrible all week" and they can't comprehend what you're saying, you could rephrase your sentence to "It has been raining all day!" Keeping things little bit simpler.

4. Minimise Background Noise:

Reduce environmental distractions by minimising background noise wherever possible. Appliances, televisions, and other sources of noise can interfere or compete with conversations, making it difficult for individuals with hearing loss to follow. Sometimes it may be possible to position yourself and the person with hearing loss away from noisy distractions for example outside seating at a café vs inside. If you can't eliminate background noise, make sure the noise is positioned behind the person with the hearing loss making the most of the natural shape of our ears.

5. Show Empathy and Patience:

Understand the frustration and challenges faced by your loved one with hearing loss.



Put yourself in their shoes by imagining how difficult it would be to understand conversations with blocked ears. Approach communication with empathy, patience, and dignity, avoiding frustration or annoyance. Remember, they desire to communicate effectively, and your understanding can make a significant difference.

In conclusion, supporting a loved one with hearing loss requires patience, empathy, and effective communication strategies. By implementing these simple yet impactful tips, you can help make conversations more accessible and enjoyable for both parties. Remember, your loved one wants to engage with you, and by creating a supportive environment, you can encourage open communication and strengthen your relationship.

So, as we observe Hearing Awareness Week, let's pledge to be more mindful of the communication needs of those with hearing loss. Let's ensure they feel valued, respected, and empowered to engage in conversations without barriers. Your efforts can make a world of difference in their daily lives.

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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

Discover the perfect blend of comfort and style in the Ashdale. Enjoy seamless indoor-outdoor living with a spacious patio that's perfect for relaxing or entertaining.

Galston's Leisure Centre Now Under Construction.



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ADVERTORIAL

Aussie's Summer Sizzlers

Local pump manufacturing heroes, Aussie Pumps, have launched a "Summer Sizzler" catalogue, loaded with great products at Summer Sizzler prices.

The range includes the worlds best high pressure Fire Pumps selling for \$800 each ex GST, hundreds of dollars below other brands that have far less capability. Also on offer are Transfer Pumps from 1" all the way through to big 4" and even 6" pumps for quarries and effluent pump outs.

An added bonus is Aussie's QP self priming pump range comes with a unique five year warranty.

The Summer Sizzler catalogue also has lots of information about the great pressure cleaner range made at their 3.5 acre Norwest factory.

Aussie is proud of the great product range they've developed.

Pressure cleaners from their amazing "Black Box", a pint size pressure cleaner that weighs in at 30kgs, a professional product at a hardware store price!

You'll never see these at Bunnings or Mitre 10.

Yes, Aussie is number one in Australia, with the design and manufacture of high pressure water blasters and drain cleaning Jetters as well.

The Summer Sizzler catalogue is free. You can get it from your local Aussie distributors, Glenorie Stockfeeds, Ace Ohlssen, Hills Irrigation and Dick Petrikas.



aussiepumps.com.au

Life in Chaos

The Bible tells us that we go through different experiences at different times in our lives (Ecclesiastes 3:1). Sometimes we're happy, and sometimes we feel sad. But there are also times when we feel lost and don't know what to do with our lives.

People who go through this "wilderness experience" often think that the tough times will never end. They feel like life has no meaning or purpose, and planning for the future seems pointless. Webster's 1828 dictionary defines "chaos" as a mix of things that cause confusion and distraction. When our lives are chaotic, we can't focus on our own lives or the work of those around us. If you're feeling confused or unsure about what to do in your life, here are a couple of Bible verses that might help:

- **Be faithful to God's Word – Joshua 1:6-8** "Be strong and courageous... Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it..."
- **God's peace in heart – John 14:27** "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."

I hope these words from the Bible help you find hope and peace in Christ Jesus. We'd love for you to join us in discovering true hope. Our worship service is every Sunday at 9:30 am, 134 New Line Rd, Cherrybrook.

REV PETER CHUNG
Cherrybrook Uniting Church

ADVERTORIAL

Property & You – By Paul McKenzie, ABS Conveyancing Residential Off the Plan & Covenants Review

Currently, the NSW government is having a review into Residential Off the Plan & Covenants.

Key issues over Residential Off the Plan - Vendor disclosures, sunset clauses & sunset date extensions.

Lack of updates from Vendor developers, especially on issues and problems that would cause delay, to the expected practical completion & settlement time frame.

Defects - In the conveyancing and legal industry, it is a common observation, that a strata residential apartment purchaser has very limited consumer protection over defects. A common saying "a white good from Havery Norman has much better consumer protection than a residential apartment off the plan".

For Covenants, older New South Wales property titles tend to have old & obsolete conventions that should be removed, on

application by the owner or purchaser.

For example of old and defective covenants -

- Covenant about, cannot erect a dwelling for less than 100 pounds.
- Covenant relating to back houses (old, separated toilets).
- Covenant relating to horse & cart with milk supplies can only park beside the house and not park in the field with crops.

Such a review is welcomed and improvements needed for property transactions and dealings. For further information - <https://www.haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au/offtheplan-contracts-covenants>



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The Joys and Worries of a New School Year

BY DR STEPHEN FYSON



Starting school can be a joy for some children and youth. For others, not so much. Likewise, re-starting school can be a cause for excitement and anticipation, or not.

What makes a difference? Firstly, we must remind ourselves that there is no 'secret recipe' for success in having children come back to school. But there are a couple of really important principles that can help in these seasonal transitions.

As in all parenting (and teaching), it is the child being confident that they will not be overlooked. We all need to be known, in terms of our thinking, needs and ideas being heard by important others. That is why Schools choosing the "right" teachers is really important. We want them to want to know their pupils, not only as learner, but as people.

Secondly, they need to be safe – not just to feel safe, but to be safe. That includes knowing clearly what expectations are in place about how they should conduct themselves, and that others know how to conduct themselves.

These are the two basics – being heard and having safety boundaries (for them and others). That is what we at Pacific Hills Christian School seek to provide in all years for all students. It is one reason that thirty years ago we commenced Middle School, so that young people going through internal changes had people who knew them really well at school.

Most of all, let's all remember to check in with our young ones regularly to celebrate the joys and help them through the pains.

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www.schoolexpo.com.au



Jane Seaglove
HORNSBY COUNCILLOR

Hello Residents,

Tackling Stormwater

For years, parts of Galston, particularly Glen Street, The Knoll, Gardiner Road and The Glade have struggled with stormwater, particularly during periods of heavy rainfall. At a recent community gathering, these issues were discussed. Council presented a way forward, including the upgrading of drainage systems and the clearing of blocked stormwater flow paths. While challenges still remain, these efforts signal a clear intention to mitigate flooding and to protect the homes of residents impacted. The community feedback is appreciated and has been integral in shaping these solutions.

**A New Off-Leash Dog Area in Fagan Park:
A Win for Dog Owners**



Exciting news for dog owners with the opening of a new off-leash dog park. This addition will serve as a safe and vibrant space for dogs to roam freely while promoting community

connection among local residents. The park is designed with functionality in mind, featuring shade tree planting, seating areas,



dog-friendly water stations, and secure fencing. These features aim to create a welcoming environment for both two-legged and four-legged visitors. The new park will complement the existing recreational

spaces in Fagan Park, providing families with another reason to get outdoors and enjoy the beauty of Hornsby Shire.

**Ray Whiteman Heritage Fence:
Preserving Glenorie's Legacy**

The **Ray Whiteman Heritage Fence** will pay tribute to Ray Whiteman, a lifelong resident of Glenorie, for his considerable contribution to the greatness of the Glenorie Community. The fence will complement the **Glenorie Memorial Hall**, which honours the sacrifices of local servicemen and women. Featuring a timeless design, the fence reflects the rural aesthetic of the area while ensuring longevity for future generations.

The fundraising for the Ray Whiteman Heritage Fence was a community effort, made possible through the combined efforts of local residents, businesses, Bendigo Bank and the Glenorie Progress Association. If you would like to become part of the history of Glenorie, email: secretary@glenorieprogress.org.au

For these or any other issues please feel free to contact me on jseaglove@hornsby.nsw.gov.au

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New State MP calls for better parking and bus services to the Metro

James Wallace MP Member for Hornsby has spoken in Parliament calling on the NSW Government to improve parking at local Metro stations, particularly Cherrybrook.

Noting that the Cherrybrook Metro car-park is often full by 6:30am in the morning, Mr Wallace called for more parking and different parking options including 4 hour spots.

Bus services can also be improved. The lack and infrequency of bus services means that many have to be dropped at the station by family, putting more congestion on local roads.

James Wallace

HORNSBY MP

As the new State Member for Hornsby I was honoured to give my inaugural speech in Parliament.

The speech explored the unique history of the Hornsby Shire. My family first moved to the Hornsby Shire around 1906, which was the year the Shire was founded and was home to just 5,000 people. Hornsby's residents at the time worked as fruit growers, farmers, timber-millers and tradespersons. They lived in small villages amongst the bushland.

Our area has been blessed by so many who volunteered their time and gave their money to support the community. There are many great stories which prove this point - whether it is Hornsby Hospital which was built with funds raised by local initiatives in suburbs from Glenorie to Brooklyn, or the farmers and community members who came together with donated trucks and equipment to form the first Rural Fire Brigade (now Galston RFS).

To protect and preserve this community spirit, I used my inaugural speech to call for renewed efforts to support the work of our community organisations, encourage people to engage in voluntary work and improve our parks and community facilities.



I acknowledged the many volunteers who take their time – freely and generously – to build those connections

and to support our community.

I also highlighted the challenges of after-school care for our kids. Locally, there are schools where after-school care spaces are very limited, and even when space is available, parents still feel pressure to leave work early to pick up children to other activities like football and netball practice, scouts, guides and music lessons. I called for after-school programs to be integrated with the other activities that our kids are involved with. This requires rules changes to ensure community groups can access school grounds and after-school care centres are able to walk children to nearby parks and facilities.

I outlined a number of policy priorities focussing on improving housing affordability, and utilising technology and data to improve the quality of services at our schools and hospitals.

I acknowledged the responsibility given to me by the people of the Hornsby electorate. I will do all I can to serve you.



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Mark Hodges

MEMBER FOR CASTLE HILL

Apply Now for the Premier's Anzac Memorial Scholarship

Local students with a passion for history are encouraged to apply for the 2025 Premier's Anzac Memorial Scholarship, with applications now open.

This incredible opportunity allows Year 10 and 11 History students to embark on a fully funded study tour to South Korea and Singapore, where they will explore sites of great historical significance, including the Demilitarised Zone, Kranji War Memorial, and Changi Prison Chapel.

The scholarship offers a unique chance to learn from a military historian, visit key locations, and gain a deeper understanding of the sacrifices made by Australian servicemen and women. It is an unforgettable experience that will enrich their studies and broaden their perspectives.



This is an incredible opportunity for any budding young historian in the Hills, and I encourage all eligible students to apply. Applications close **Sunday, 9th March 2025**.

Scan the QR Code for more details, or visit www.veterans.nsw.gov.au/education/premiers-anzac-memorial-scholarship



Clr Mitchell Blue

THE HILLS SHIRE COUNCIL

Councillor Blue's Northern News

It is well known that traffic congestion occurs on Kenthurst and Annangrove Roads during peak hour and school time. I met with some residents of Kenthurst last year to discuss options to address this, and it was acknowledged that the situation is a big one to fix. I am continuing to work with them on options.

However, there are some short-term options. One of these is more frequent bus routes and a change of route to assist Kenthurst and Annangrove residents get to metro stations or other bus stops along with providing better routes for kids to get to school. I have put forward some options for bus changes to Castle Hill State Member, Mark Hodges who is keen to assist. If you have any specific ideas, please let me know.

I am also keen to explore metro shuttle buses to get residents to metro stations not only taking cars off the road but negating the need to hunt for a car space at a station. These services are available in other local government areas so it would be good to

have these here in The Hills particularly in our new release areas such as Box Hill and Gables.

Council is continuing its work on upgrading our flood warning infrastructure to provide advanced warning of road closures in key sites through additional advisory signage and the provision of new floodgates across five locations along Cattai Ridge Road, McClymonts Road, Blue Gum Road and two locations on Pitt Town Road.

The new flashing and static signage were installed in late December 2024 and the floodgates were completed in January 2025. Remaining works include the construction and commissioning of a new flood warning station which will expand the monitoring of water levels, support efforts to close flood impacted roads in a safe manner and provide timely notice to residents of road closures during severe weather events.

The Halcrows Road Blackspot treatment project is currently in design development and seeks to improve sealed shoulders on curves, install shoulders on straights and mark road edge lines. The installation of flexible roadside barriers, guideposts with reflectors and curve alignment markers also form part of the anticipated scope of works. Council recently undertook on pavement repairs, resealing, shoulder widening and linemarking and the bus stop/ turning circle on Halcrows Rd. This has greatly improved the safety of this road.

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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- [9686 3110](tel:96863110)
- 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

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR BEROWRA

- [Level 11, 423 Pennant Hills Road, Pennant Hills NSW 2120](#)
- [02 9980 1822](tel:0299801822)
- julian.leeser.mp@aph.gov.au
- julianleeser.com.au
- [julianleesermp](https://www.facebook.com/julianleesermp)

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



Julian Leeser
MEMBER FOR BEROWRA

A plan to bring back the dream of home ownership

For many families in Berowra, home ownership feels further out of reach than ever before. Rising house prices, increasing rents, and limited housing supply have made it difficult for first-home buyers and young families to stay in the area.

Parents worry as their children move away because they simply can't afford to buy locally. I want Australian to own their own home. The Liberal Party has a plan to make homeownership achievable again.

We will introduce a Super Home Buyer Scheme, allowing individuals to access up to \$50,000 of their superannuation



for a deposit, giving young people a much-needed boost towards purchasing their first home.

We will also pause foreign investors and temporary residents purchasing existing

homes, which is currently crowding Australians out.

Our migration levels are also exceeding the rate at which new homes are being built. That is why we will reduce the migration intake by 25 per cent over the next two years – to allow housing supply to finally catch up with demand.

By implementing policies that reduce demand and provide targeted financial support, we can help families in Berowra secure a place to call their own. I want to ensure home ownership remains a reality for future generations in our community.

Hidden In The Hills BY LACHLAN TURNER

Decorative Ferns

Quite frequently overlooked by many people who venture into local bushland are those plants growing close to the ground and in sheltered, damp locations, often concealed close to rocky places not far from permanent sources of water.



Blechnum cartiagineum
Gristle Fern

Many such terrestrial plants are classified under the broad heading of "Ferns". The ground hugging varieties generally present with a deep, lush green colour with soft, delicate and often lacy foliage, clumped together in colonies. All are reasonably common in or around the environment described.

In Australia, around 400 species have been identified, with about 120 being found in the greater Sydney area. Referring to the photographs

accompanying this week's column will assist in identifying some exquisite ferns found growing in our local bushland reserves.

By studying these images the overall size of each fern may be gauged by comparing the sizes of adjacent leaves on the ground nearby, which may range from about 50 mm to 150 mm in length.

These plants have been thriving in their favoured habitat long before flowering plants existed. They not only require moisture to grow and thrive, but also require reliable moisture in order to reproduce.

Reproduction for many ferns is by means of spores which can be found stuck to the underside of fronds. Released spore material requires constantly moist conditions in which to successfully germinate. Although the immature fern requires some light, protection from direct sunlight is also an important factor as the juvenile fern grows to maturity.



Cheilanthes sieberi Poison
Rock Fern/Mulga Fern

There are other ferns which multiply by forming spreading rhizomes (roots) which lay just below the surface of decomposing leaf litter.

Another fern which can become a pest if not controlled, is the Bracken Fern (*Pteridium esculentum*). This is a widespread perennial found in open forests and woodland fringes. It has the tendency to severely compete with other plants on the forest floor thus preventing their germination.



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Bromeliad Society of Australia - Watering System for Bromeliads

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

If you missed Bob Sharpley's presentation on the system he installed for watering his huge bromeliad collection. The good news he has agreed to go through the process again at this meeting.

Bob spent many hours researching watering systems and decided to go with an ORBIT brand WiFi watering system called B-Hyve.

The WiFi watering system could be turned on or off as needed, even while



he is away on holidays by using his mobile phone.

He will bring to the meeting samples of piping, misting nozzles, tap connector, and the B-Hyve tap timer and her can assist with the costings for the installation.

There will also be our regular meeting activities such as competitions, Raffle, Show & Tell, and a more recent activity called just "Show" for people who would just like to share a plant with others without it being critically judged or discussed.

There is also 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.au

Hornsby Residents - Claim your free native plants this March

Hornsby Shire Council is again welcoming the return of its popular Native Plant Giveaways program this March.

Taking place at Council's Warada Ngurang Community Nursery located at 28 Britannia Street, Pennant Hills on Friday 28th and Saturday 29th March, residents can select plants from a great variety of grasses, groundcovers, shrubs, climbers and various-sized trees – all cultivated by dedicated volunteers and staff at the nursery.

Attendees to the plant giveaways can also make use of the expertise of

Council's staff and volunteers on the day as they help by making suggestions of the best plant species to meet everyone's needs. Information about each species on offer will also be displayed on handy posters, so you can choose plants that will suit the growing conditions in your garden as well as the size of plant and features you want.

Bookings are essential and will open at 9am on Friday 28th February. For additional information about the Native Plant Giveaways program and to book your plant collection appointment, please visit: <https://www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/npg>





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SPORT NEWS

Dural Bowling Club

The Open Gender Drawn Triples final will take place on Saturday 15th February 2025.

The regional Pennant competition will start on February 22nd and will run for ten weeks. Three teams of fours will represent Dural at the competition. The club wishes all the players the best of luck.



Dural Bowling Club played a trial game against Rose Hill Bowling Club on Saturday 8th February in preparation for the Pennant competition. It was a great practice for the teams and Kate Liu a new recruit showed her excellent skills with a great shot that tied the game.

Dural Bowling Club is organising a Twilight come and try free competition with great prizes on **Friday 21st and 28th March 2025** at the Dural Club. Please call John on 0409 806 632 for further inquiries and registration.

Anyone interested in playing bowls please contact Robert 0411 375 580



2-6 Players



1 Hour



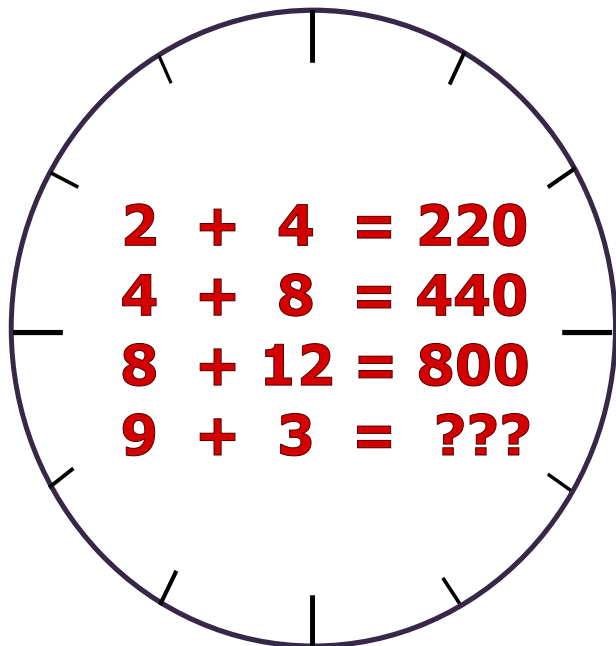
Escape Rooms



Find Clues



Solve Puzzles



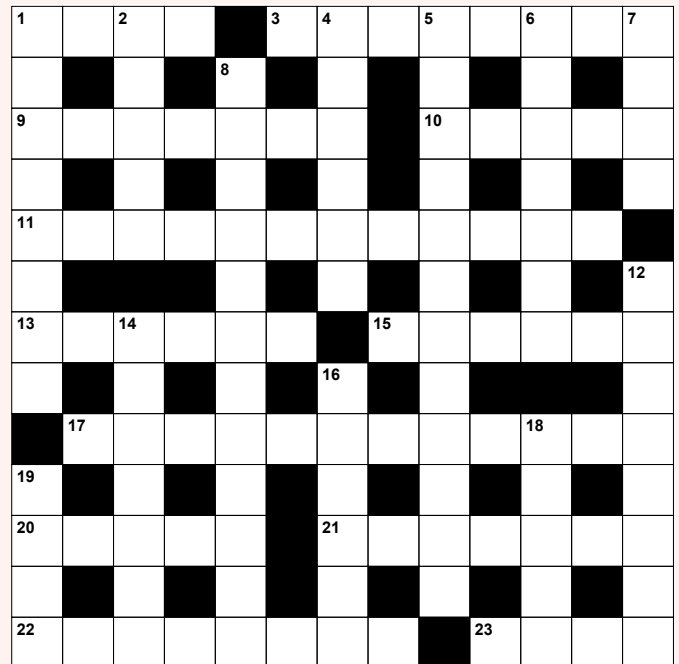
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Scan for Answer

8005 0077

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 01 High-pitched flute (4)
- 03 Observing (8)
- 09 Single-horned creature (7)
- 10 Gardeners sow these (5)
- 11 Dictatorial (12)
- 13 Flash intermittently (6)
- 15 Representation of a plan or theory (6)
- 17 Make a guess that is too high (12)
- 20 Small marine fish (5)
- 21 Tax imposed on ships (7)
- 22 Perceived (8)
- 23 Transparent camera part (4)

DOWN

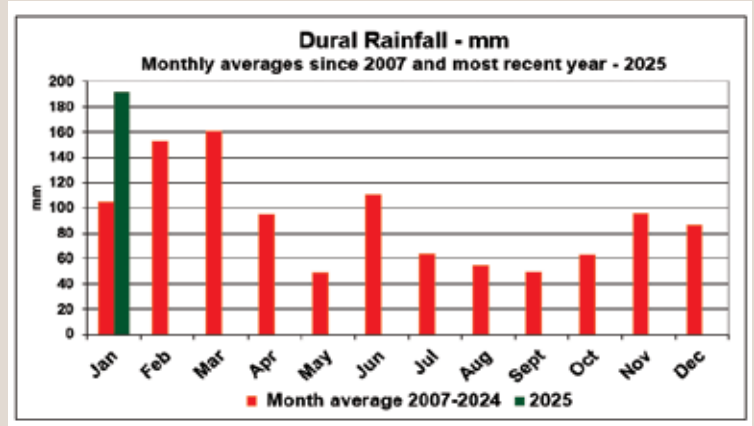
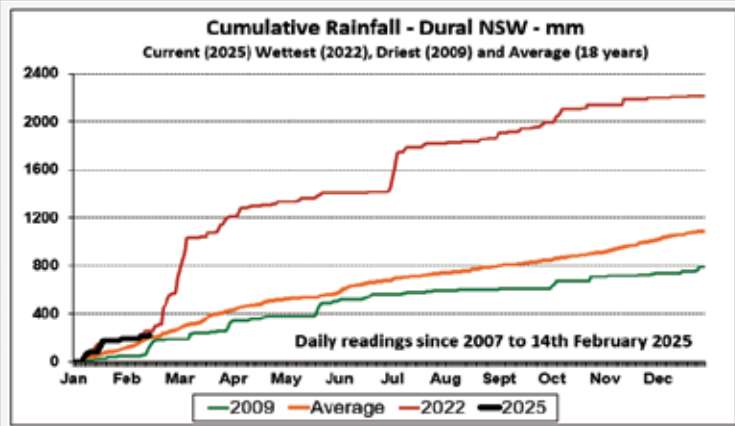
- 01 Fruit sugar (8)
- 02 Force upon (5)
- 04 Elaborately adorned (6)
- 05 Directions (12)
- 06 Do repeatedly (7)
- 07 Lesion (4)
- 08 Fellow plotter (12)
- 12 Groundless (8)
- 14 Returns to a former state (7)
- 16 Insect that transmits sleeping sickness (6)
- 18 Not asleep (5)
- 19 Capital of Norway (4)

ANSWER FROM FEBRUARY ISSUE



Dural Rainfall Charts

BY HANS KUNNEN



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