

DOORAL ROUNDUP



APRIL 2025

Official Publication of the Dural Chamber of Commerce
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 Page 2

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The Dooral Roundup loves to receive contributions from our community!

Guidelines for contributors:

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

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

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

Anzac Day Traditions

BY MARK COUPAR

THE ANZAC DAY tradition is one of the most important national occasions and marks the first military action by Australia and New Zealand Army Corps.

ANZAC DAY is gazetted as a national event to recognise and commemorate the contributions of all of those who have served Australia in a time of war or warlike conflicts.

Celebrated on **25th April** since 1916 this day marks the landing on Gallipoli Peninsular which is now called ANZAC Cove in 1915.

On that day 16,000 people landed on the peninsular and by days ended over 2000 had been killed or wounded.

It is a day that brings all Australians together as one and is celebrated starting with a dawn service which was a tradition when soldiers guarded their posts as dawn as many attacks commenced at dawn.

Dawn services and wreath laying are held across our community and offer a quiet contemplation and accompanied by the bugle call of the last post.

After the services wrapped up it is for the time-honoured tradition of two up.



ANZAC DAY
LEST WE FORGET

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DRINK DRIVING

At approximately 11:44 PM on Wednesday, 12th March 2025, Hills Police responded to a two-vehicle crash on New Line Rd, Dural.

The 32-year-old driver of a white Holden Colorado veered into oncoming traffic, causing a head-on collision with a red Toyota Camry.

Upon arrival, officers detected the odor of alcohol and observed the driver was unsteady on their feet. A roadside breath test returned a positive reading. Subsequently, a breath analysis at Castle Hill Police Station recorded a reading of 0.163.

The driver has been issued a Court Attendance Notice and their license has been suspended.

MAN ARRESTED AFTER MANS BODY DISCOVERED AT GLENORIE



A man has been charged after a man's body was discovered on a property at Glenorie about midday on Friday 14th March 2025.

Strike Force Halderen was established by The Hills Police Area Command and the State Crime Command's Homicide Squad, to investigate the circumstances surrounding the death of a 39-year-old man, whose body was found on the property on Gleness Place.

Following inquiries, two men, aged 24 and 34, and a 35-year-old woman, were arrested at the scene and were taken to Castle Hill Police Station. They were released pending further investigation.

About 2.15pm on Sunday 23rd March 2025, police arrested a 24-year-old man at a home on Meriden Avenue, Glenorie.

He was taken to Castle Hill Police Station where he was charged with murder. He was refused bail, and appeared before Parramatta Local Court on Monday 24th March 2025.

Inquiries under Strike Force Halderen continue.

Anyone with information about this incident is urged to contact Crime Stoppers: 1800 333 000 or <https://nsw.crimestoppers.com.au>. Information is treated in strict confidence.



ALLEGED STABBING

Four teens have been charged following an alleged stabbing in Sydney's north.

At about 3:00 PM on Saturday 8th March 2025, emergency services responded to reports of an assault at a shopping centre on the Pacific Highway, Hornsby.

Police were told a 21-year-old man and a 27-year-old woman were approached by two teenage girls and three teenage boys who



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Authorised by James Wallace MP. Funded using parliamentary entitlements.

allegedly began assaulting the man. The woman was also allegedly assaulted when she came to the man's aid.

The man suffered a stab wound to the leg and had personal belongings allegedly stolen. He was treated at the scene by NSW Ambulance paramedics before being taken to Royal North Shore Hospital in a stable condition.

Officers attached to Ku-ring Gai Police Area Command, Hornsby Police Transport Command and The Hills Police Area Command were able to locate four of the five alleged offenders a short time later at a shopping centre in Castle Hill.

The four teens were taken to Castle Hill Police station where they were charged as follows:

- 16-year-old boy charged with aggravated robbery with wounding
- 16-year-old boy charged with robbery in company and assault occasioning actual bodily harm in company
- 16-year-old boy charged with robbery in company
- 15-year-old girl charged with accessory before and after to robbery in company

The three boys were refused bail to appear before a Children's Court today, Sunday 9th March 2025. The girl was released on conditional bail to appear before a Children's Court on Tuesday 18th March 2025.

BREAK & ENTER

On Wednesday, 5th March 2025, a joint investigation between The Hills Police Area Command and Hawkesbury Police Area Command resulted in the arrest of a 19-year-old male. He was arrested for committing multiple Break and Enter offences on residential properties in both The Hills and Hawkesbury areas.

Between 11th February and Saturday, the 1st of March, entry was forced into three sheds at three separate residences, located at Glenorie, East Kurrajong and North Richmond. While inside these structures, a total of 10 off-road motorbikes were taken spread across the three locations.

The 19-year-old was charged with three counts of Break and Enter in circumstances of Aggravation. He was refused bail to appear before Penrith Local Court. It is likely that further charges are coming.

KNIFE POSSESSION

Yesterday afternoon, a teenager was arrested at Castle Hill Metro station after being found in possession of a knife. When police attempted to interact with him, he ran off, allegedly throwing the knife into the bush.

As in previous posts, Hills Police are actively patrolling these stations, targeting anti-social behaviour and weapon possession to ensure the safety of our community.

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



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Cherrybrook Probus Ponderings – Out and About

The Combined Probus Club of Cherrybrook has enjoyed a range of events over the past month.

While all the regular activities continue with strong support to offer fun and fitness to members, we have also enjoyed a great walk from Manly to Shelley Beach and back followed by lunch at the New Brighton Hotel, a fabulous meal at The Yook Korean BBQ Restaurant, a scenic social drive to Patonga in perfect weather, fabulous performances at the Premier's Gala Concert, a demonstration at Nesci Bonsai Nursery and a wonderful Happy Hour.

The March meeting saw the election of a new committee for the coming year followed by a thought-provoking and extremely helpful presentation by Charles Fellner on Scam Awareness. Our Changeover lunch at the Dural Club provided the opportunity to formally thank the outgoing office bearers and welcome new President Jenni Cope and her committee.



Upcoming events include 'Glorious' by the Castle Hill Players, 'Annie' at the Capitol Theatre, a visit to Badgerys Creek Airport and a Race Day at Hawkesbury.

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.

Follow Your Dream!!!

BY CHRIS THOMAS

At the Dural Men's Shed we encourage the blokes to follow their dream, and this can come in many different forms. Some have now learnt welding and others learnt how to turn some lovely lathe woodwork, or in creating great metalwork on the plasma cutter.

Well, one great dreamer is Colin Heald, and his dream from 72 years ago is to build from scratch a HOT-ROD (FORD ROADSTER).

Colin's dream began in 1953, when as a teenager doing Technical College

Continued on page 7

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course in the city, he would stop at the newsagent at Central Station and grab the Hot-rod magazines. He was so obsessed with the Hot-Rods that he decided one day he was going to build one (not bad for a 15-year-old!!)

Now retired, and with the facilities of the shed available, he made a start on the build in July last year. Working consistently each week, Colin reckons he still has eighteen months work to finish it.

Many parts are not available now and so he has had to use his vast experience in the trade to build "hands on", so for example all the body panels will be hand built by Colin.

At the shed there is another member who is a Mustang fanatic, and so he has supplied Colin with a Mustang engine for the Hot-Rod.

He has provided a photo of what the finished product will be. Here is the proud Colin with his "half built" Hot-Rod.

The shed invites men who would like to be part of this great shed community to contact us at duralmensshed@gmail.com or visit the web at DURAL MENS SHED-THE CENTRE

Dural Scout Activities



Dural Scout Group has made the most of the remaining long days of Summer and have been relishing their time in the great outdoors over the past few weeks. Some highlights include...

The Joeys have discovered a delicious way to do some campfire cooking with spiralled apples over the fire and eating them with ice cream. The Joeys and Cubs also combined forces and had a fabulous afternoon on the water canoeing, learning how to raft up their canoes together followed by splashing about in the water. The Scouts have been incredibly busy enjoying a canoe camp, doing some fishing down at Berowra Waters, and hosting the Hills District Construction/ Deconstruction Challenge at Hayes Park making catapults. Congratulations to the Dural Scouts for also winning the event this year!

The Venturers held a joint night with Scouts doing a nighttime bushwalk to make the most of daylight saving, they made dumplings for Lunar New Year, been bowling and visited the city gifting 'support packages' to the



homeless followed by having dinner together in the city.

Scouting has so much to offer our youth and there's a whole lot more outdoor adventures organised for the remainder of Term 1. We've planned some more camping as well as abseiling, navigation and billy karting to highlight just a few things on the program – so why don't you come along and join in the fun?!

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

Please contact Phirooza: 0411 731 976 or phirooza@bigpond.net.au or Simon: thewolf_1stdural@bigpond.com

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Round Corner Dural Probus Club

We began the month with a special opportunity to visit a local stone cottage in Glenorie, built by a local family. Set against a stunning backdrop of gardens and bushland, we enjoyed a delightful morning tea with the owners while hearing their fascinating story.

Our monthly meeting included our Annual General Meeting (AGM), where we welcomed the new committee members for 2025. We also took a moment to express our gratitude to the retiring members and a special thank you to Julie, our Secretary, for her many years of dedicated service to our club committee. Following the formalities we were challenged to some brain teasing trivia questions where everyone was a prize winner.

We rounded off the month with a lovely lunch at The Heritage House in Kenthurst, enjoying good food and great company.

Round Corner Dural Probus Club 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 email rcdprobus@gmail.com or phone Lei on 0412 585 741

Kenthurst Probus grows in Numbers

The Combined Club of Kenthurst held its Annual General Meeting on Monday 17th of March 2025, when President Rosalie Chaloner inducted seven new members into the Club: they were all given their membership badges and photographed as a group.



President Rosalie was inducted again as President and given the Chain of Office for an unprecedented third time: Vice President Burt Stuut, should succeed her in 2026.

The Club's next meeting is on **Monday 28th April** at 9.30 AM in the Kenthurst Uniting Church when a representative from Service NSW will talk on the topic: "Benefits to All". As always, guests are always welcome to join the meeting and share on the Speaker's revelations.



(left to right) Jill Power, Monique Jablonski, Robyn Ng, Carmel O'Connell, Kerrie van der Heyden, Rhonda Phillips and John Phillips.



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Latest News



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from the Mayor's Desk

As a service organisation, engaging with and listening to our residents is of great importance. This month, we have two significant Council documents for you to have your say on.

As outlined last month, our draft Community Strategic Plan 'Your Vision | Your Future 2035' is your plan for how you would like Hornsby Shire to be in 2035. It is the highest-level plan that Council prepares, and every project led by Council is guided by it. The Community Strategic Plan is on exhibition until 21 April. If you have not already had the chance to provide your feedback, I encourage you to do so at yoursay.hornsby.nsw.gov.au

The draft 2025-2029 Delivery Program and 2025/26 Operational Plan (DPOP) sets out the steps Council will take to achieve the community's priorities laid out in the Community Strategic Plan, and how we will respond to challenges that include population growth, housing affordability, traffic, transport, and economic and technological change. The DPOP will be on public exhibition for your feedback at yoursay.hornsby.nsw.gov.au from 10 April until 12 May.

NSW Youth Week 2025 runs from 9 to 17 April, when we focus on supporting our young people and giving them the opportunity to have their voices heard. This year's theme is 'We are the future, and the future is now!', and we have a range of exciting free events for youth aged 12-24 to come together and celebrate. Featuring a movie night, barista and pottery courses, art exhibition and more, there's lots to get involved in. Visit hornsby.nsw.gov.au for more information.

Warren Waddell
Mayor of Hornsby Shire

What's on

**YOUR VISION
YOUR FUTURE
YOUR VOICE
YOUR HORNSBY SHIRE**

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Community Strategic
Plan 2025-2035
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CELEBRATE YOUTH WEEK

9-17 April 2025

hornsby.nsw.gov.au/youthweek



Free Guided Bushwalks

Discover the Bushland Shire this Autumn
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hornsby.nsw.gov.au/bushwalks

WASTE EVENTS



Compost and Worm Farm Workshop

Saturday 12 April, 10am-12.30pm
Community Recycling Centre, Thornleigh
Bookings essential

Chipping for Mulch – Galston

Sunday 13 April, 7.30am-12.30pm
Council Depot, Johnson Road, Galston

hornsby.nsw.gov.au/waste

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JOIN THE CONVERSATION

- **Delivery Program and Operational Plan 2025-2029** – Submissions open: 10 April-12 May
 - **Hornsby Town Centre: Draft Public Domain Plan, Development Contributions Plan and Development Control Plan amendments** – Submissions close: 18 April
- For more information visit: yoursay.hornsby.nsw.gov.au

Next Council meeting Wednesday 9 April, 6.30pm

hornsby.nsw.gov.au



learningblocks
Child Care Centre

Journey to Learning Blocks Dural

SILVANA FAHMY

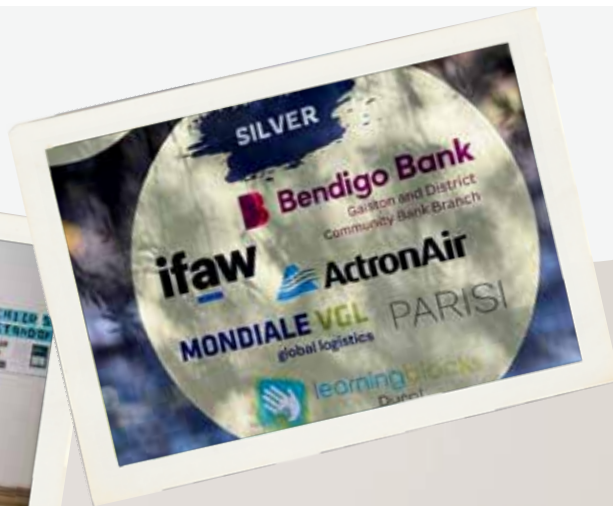
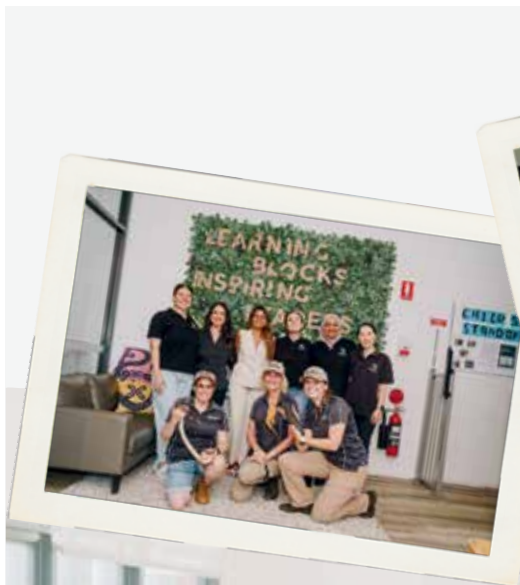
My journey to Learning Blocks Dural was driven by a deep passion for early childhood education and a commitment to creating an exclusive, premium early learning environment.

As a solicitor with a background in law, ethics, and customer remediation, my path led me to the education sector—inspired by my own children and the belief that every child deserves the highest quality care and learning experiences. Our motto is simple: **"If it isn't good enough for my own children, it isn't good enough for yours."** This philosophy shapes every decision we make, ensuring that Learning Blocks Dural is a place of excellence, warmth, and genuine care.

Since taking ownership, I have worked to build a center that fosters holistic child development, strong community connections, and a culture of excellence among educators. Our partnerships with specialized programs, industry leaders, and therapeutic services set us apart, offering families an enriched and tailored early learning experience.

Throughout my career, I have been recognized for my dedication to leadership and ethical practices, receiving numerous leadership awards, most recently from Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC. This commitment to integrity and excellence extends to Learning Blocks Dural, where we strive to provide the best possible foundation for every child's future.

At Learning Blocks Dural, we don't just care for children—we empower them, nurture their potential, and set them on a path of lifelong success.



Why Choose Learning Blocks Dural?

- ✓ Premium Early Learning Environment – Our facilities, resources, and programs reflect the highest standards in early childhood education.
- ✓ Specialized Enrichment Programs – Through partnerships with **Super Little Scientists, Little Movers Club, Ready Set School, Tina Bangel Music, Activa Dance, and Spot Hub Therapy**, we offer tailored learning experiences that support cognitive, physical, and emotional growth.
- ✓ A Values-Driven Approach – Our center fosters kindness, curiosity, and confidence, ensuring that children develop strong social-emotional skills alongside their early education.
- ✓ Industry-Recognized Leadership – Led by an award-winning leader, most recently recognized by Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC, our center operates with integrity, expertise, and a deep passion for early childhood development.
- ✓ Strong Community Connections – We believe in giving back, actively partnering with Hills Wildlife Sanctuary, Headspace, and other charitable organizations to instill values of empathy and social responsibility in young learners.

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Lions International Youth of the Year 2025 Project Success

West Pennant Hills Cherrybrook Lions Club have run their prestigious youth project in the Hills, the National annual LIONS YOUTH OF THE YEAR.

Six students participated in an outstanding skills development event that was held over two days in two phases. The first phase involved an extensive interview by a panel of five local community identities who explored each student's academic progress, special attainments, school and community service, general knowledge as well as their career expectations and future goals. A dinner

phase involved refining communication skills by delivering immediate response to two impromptu questions taken from current affairs, local, state, national or youth issues. The fifty strong audience of parents, family, teachers, friends and Lions were entertained by six superbly prepared and presented dissertation on a diverse range of topics covering Music and Disadvantage, Courage To Be Uncomfortable, Fading Teenage Dreams, Stranger Than Strange, Why Humans Like Stories and Hedonism.

The high standard throughout the whole project posed great problems for the judging panel. All six local contestants, three from Pennant Hills High, two from Normanhurst Boys and one from William Clarke, exhibited excellence in every aspect. Local lass Charlotte Wiggins of Galston tipped the scales in being the Public Speaking



YOTY Chair G Ridley, Panel Judge J Yuen, winner Charlotte Wiggins, President P Watson

awardee and that was enough for her to be deemed the outright overall winner for 2025. She will represent West Pennant Hills Cherrybrook Lions in the Lions International YOTY Area D final.

All were brilliant ambassadors for their family and school and really anyone of the six could have fitted the objective of the project: To identify the best candidate to represent the youth of Australia at an International Youth Convention in New Zealand. Yash Ghule, Hayden Mercier, Cash Daly, Abigail Chapman, Hayley Marriott and Charlotte Wiggins should be so proud of their efforts and will make exceptional community leaders in the future. We thank Savio Pereira and the Galston Community Branch of the Bendigo Bank for their continued support of youth development in this project and with our Lions Junior Public Speaking activities.



LIONS YOUTH OF THE YEAR: Charlotte, Cash, Yash, Abigail, Hayden, Hayley

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Rotary Club of West Pennant Hills & Cherrybrook

The Rotary Club held its Annual Giant Book Sale on 7th, 8th and 9th March at the Uniting Church at Cherrybrook which was our most successful Sale to date. This is the Club's biggest fundraiser of the year and we had a record number of books. Amazing bargains were found on good quality books, original CDs, DVDs, records and sheet music. Proceeds from the Book Sale will be going to the National Centre for Childhood Grief and other Rotary charities. The RuffTRACK coffee trailer provided great coffee all weekend.

Another successful BBQ was held at Bunnings Castle Hill on Saturday 22nd March with all proceeds going to Rotary charities.

If you would like to know more about Rotary, be involved or join us for dinner please call 0412 064 336. Rotary Club of West Pennant Hills and Cherrybrook web page: <http://www.wphcrotary.org/>



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PROPERTY & YOU – BY PAUL MCKENZIE, ABS CONVEYANCING

When purchasing a residential property, comes time for settlement. You are entitled to a final inspection of the property, prior to settlement, known as a pre-settlement inspection.

A pre-settlement inspection, is to make sure, everything is fine, with the property is in the same condition, as you would have first inspected, with the open home inspection. Any fixtures not working, either disclosed by the vendor in the contract, or fixed up prior to settlement. The vendor needs to be fair and reasonable to the purchaser, in the state of repair, to avoid a claim.

The property needs to be left clean, neat and tidy for the handover at settlement. Cleaning does not need to be professional, but a reasonable expectation of the property being normally cleaned well for the hand out. All rubbish to be removed and if needed, the vendor to organised a council kerbside pickup, for excessive rubbish.

Lawns should also be mowed, as part of leaving the property neat and tidy.

Building materials also need to be removed, as rubbish and not kept in the garage or basement level of the house. Case law, this is seen as not providing vacant possession for settlement and vendors end up losing in court, with damages and costs, over building materials left on the property.



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ADVERTORIAL

The Benefits of Wearing Your Hearing Aids All Day: Making Your Hearing Better with Ear Studio

At Ear Studio, our dedicated and highly skilled team is committed to helping our clients make the most out of their hearing devices. We follow best practice audiological principles to ensure that every client receives the highest standard of care, leading to optimal hearing outcomes. In this article, we will explore **3 key benefits** of wearing your hearing aids all day, highlighting how it can significantly enhance your overall hearing and well-being.

1. Improving Communication

Much of our daily communication involves hearing. From talking to your family members and friends to an interaction at the shops or speaking to a health professional. Some of them may be more important than others. Of course, you will want to understand advice or warnings extended to you from your doctor or other professionals. Yet sometimes, it is a little interaction you may share with others that has the potential to make you smile and can make a difference to your day.

2. Improve Your Connections with Others

Connections with your loved ones grow over time and, like plants, benefit from regular attention. Being able to have a meaningful conversation is part of that. Ensuring you

can join in during events, big and small, lets you be part of the action. Social connections not only bring joy and warmth to our lives, but they also help prevent feelings of loneliness and isolation.

3. Help Maintain Cognitive Functions

The connection between hearing loss and an increased risk of dementia has been well studied in recent years. While the risk of dementia may seem far away in the future for some of us, a more immediate factor is our daily cognitive load. With an untreated hearing loss, our brain must work much harder and uses its resources to receive information. As a result, fewer cognitive resources for processing and understanding are available. Should the information you receive be complex or fast, such as rapid speech, even more resources are needed. If this becomes too hard, most people become stressed; they may seem impatient as they cannot keep up, they may feel embarrassed to ask for repetition, and others simply switch off.

Hearing aids can therefore bring benefits in different parts of your life. It is important to point out that these positive factors will only come into play if your hearing devices are worn daily, ideally for most of the day.

3 BENEFITS OF WEARING YOUR HEARING AIDS ALL DAY



Only then will your brain continue to receive auditory stimulation and stay active. The longer your brain remains deprived of this stimulation, the more work you will have to put in to achieve your maximum outcome.

At Ear Studio, we believe in the positive change improved hearing can bring to you. Our commitment to best practice audiology ensures that you receive personalised care tailored to your unique hearing needs. If you (or a loved one) would like to explore any of these aspects, please take the time to call us today. You can contact our friendly reception staff at Ear Studio on (02) 9159 6122 or via email at reception@earstudio.com.au. We are happy to help find a time that is suitable for you. We are open Monday to Thursday from 9am to 5pm and Fridays from 9am to 4pm and are located at Lawton House in Castle Hill (suites 9-10 / 60 Cecil Ave). We look forward to guiding you on the journey to better hearing.

Independently owned and operated Audiology Clinic

Ear Studio is a strictly independent hearing services provider who is not affiliated with any specific hearing aid manufacturer or brand. This independence allows us to provide unbiased recommendations based solely on the client's individual needs and preferences.

Why Choose Us?

Since our founding in 2019, our goal has always been to build an audiology competence centre which can help patients in all things hearing. From the removal of ear-wax blockages to hearing aids, tinnitus management and cochlear implants to auditory processing rehabilitation and the diagnostic and treatment of balance issues. Joining our clinic means being part of a community that understands and supports you.

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Director & Founder
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You may have to pay a departure fee when you leave this village which may impact on the capital gains received. CGI renders shown are for illustration purposes only. GAL0003

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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Find pre-loved treasures as the Second Hand Market returns to Hornsby

Hornsby Shire Council is excited to announce the return of its popular Second Hand Hornsby Market on Sunday 13th April 2025 at Coronation Street, aimed at encouraging the local reuse economy.

The Second Hand Hornsby Market provide residents with an opportunity to declutter some of their pre-loved items in an environmentally conscious manner, offering others the opportunity to discover thrifty treasures.

The market is part of Council's Second Hand Hornsby initiative, which also includes an innovative service on Council's website allowing residents to advertise their garage sales, with advice on making them a success.

Council is encouraging locals to reduce the number of items sent to landfill by instead opting to give their unwanted items a new lease on life. Some of the items that are expected to be on offer at the Second Hand Hornsby Market include clothing, toys, books, sporting equipment and household items.

Residents were quick to book out the 30 stalls, and now Hornsby Shire Mayor Warren Waddell, can't wait to see the local community come along to the market to help keep preloved items in circulation and out of landfill.

"Events like this help to inspire a shift in how we approach consumption. The markets are a fantastic opportunity for the community to support sustainable living and take home some bargains," Mayor Waddell said.

The Second Hand Hornsby Markets will run on the second Sunday of April, September and November 2025 from 9am-1pm in the car park on Coronation Street and in the Coronation StrEat space.

Second Hand Hornsby aligns with Council's *Waste Matters Strategy* and is part of several initiatives, including Bicycle Repair and Clothes Swap events, to assist Council to maximise resource recovery and stimulate the reuse economy.

For more details on the Second Hand Hornsby Markets, visit <https://www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/shh-market>



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ART NEWS

Castle Hill Art Society

Art Demonstration – 7th May 7pm

Mariana Ariza “An Impressionist Approach to Seascape Painting” – Acrylic or Oil



By taking an impressionistic approach to capture what's essential, Mariana will demonstrate how to create a captivating composition, how to interpret and mix the right colours, and other techniques with the aim of capturing an impression of the scene that conveys both its visual beauty and its emotive nature.

Mariana enjoys many different subjects and often works on commissioned pieces. The ocean is one of the themes that most captivate her, with its ever-changing shapes and play of colours. She has been a teacher at CHAS for a number of years.

Visitors are welcome to join with the Castle Hill Art Society 7.00pm at Castle Glen Community Centre, 157 Ridgescrop Drive, Castle Hill.



Enquiries please visit www.castlehillartsociety.org.au



ADVERTORIAL

Aussie's Flood Cleanup

Trust Aussie Pumps, a hills industry success story, to pull out all stops when it comes to supporting the folks devastated by the Queensland floods.

Their big 6" inch pumps can pump 6,000lpm, powered by 80hp Deutz air cooled diesel engines! Yes, these are the pumps that saved the capital city of South Sudan, Juba, from flooding during the monsoonal floods in Central Africa.

Post Flood Cleanup

Aussie doubled the production of Aussie AB30 "Pocket Rocket" heavy duty pressure cleaners and shipped loads of product north to speed the cleanup in devastated areas.

Blocked drain, no problem for Aussie's Cobra and King Cobra drain cleaning Jetters. Even sewer lines filled with silt are no problem.

More information on Aussie's great careers contact
Linda-Sue Karkowski

SPORTS NEWS

Dural Bowling Club News

The Open Gender Drawn Triples final took place on Saturday 15th February 2025 with the team of David Shrubbs, John Lennon and Michael Kennedy victorious over the team of Ray Vindin, Terri Hezlett and Nick Sheerin in an enthralling game. Congratulations to the winners and commiserations to the losing team.

Pennants Trial

The regional Pennant competition that started on February 22nd is progressing well with 2 great wins from 3 games.

Consistency Championship

This commences on **Tuesday 8th of April**, Neil Mansfield the defending champion is looking forward to defend his title.



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



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Dural and District Historical Society Inc.

News From History Cottage



Judy Horton with another interest

The Society is fortunate to have among its members, people who are willing to share the knowledge of their special interests.

At the March meeting, Judy Horton, well known for her garden tours and radio presentations, told of research she carried out for a tour of Belle-Ile off the coast of France. She researched an Australian artist, John Peter Russell, who had built a home on the island. There he entertained many of the artists who were members of the Impressionist movement. Through his own wealth and artistic ability he became most influential in the development of artists whose names are known to all. While well recognised in Europe, it is only now that Australia is becoming aware of the vital part Russell played in the development of art.

On Sunday the 16th March the Society opened its research centre in History Cottage at 412X Galston Road beside the Cenotaph in Galston Park. Over the last six months archivist, Toni Phillips and helpers, have been working on the Society records, archives, library and indexes. So inviting is the result of their work it was decided to hold an open afternoon to let the public gain some idea of what is available for research. The excellent map collection

generated much interest as did the more than 2000 photographs, Colonial microfiche records and well stocked library. Enquiries for further investigation is welcomed.

On the **12th April** Vern Sotter will be our guest speaker.

Fagan Park and the Fagan Family play an important part in the history and life of Galston and Hornsby Shire. The Society again calls upon the knowledge of a member, when Vern tells the story of the Park and the Fagan Family. This "Gem of Hornsby Shire" is enjoyed by so many and continues to mature and add to the facilities. Come to the April meeting and hear more of the family that so generously gave their land to the people of New South Wales and Hornsby Shire, more particularly.

On the **10th May** the guest speaker will be, Carolyn Broadhead. Carolyn will speak on her French connections. These fascinating stories include Society research of a World War1 soldier who wanted to stay in France at the war's end; of the family of the bride who had one of their members come to Australia in early Colonial times; maybe a film "The Reluctant Soldier" as well.

Meetings are held in the Galston Uniting Church School Road Galston starting at 2.00pm. Entry is free with a gold coin for afternoon tea. Enquiries Michael Bell 02 9653 1365.



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World's Greatest Shave



This year, our Year 12s at Hills Grammar are again participating in the World's Greatest Shave. This tradition has been a crucial part of our Year 12's final year at school since 2007. It first began as we had the tragedy of one of our students losing a sibling to leukemia, and has been an integral part of our school and community ever since.

This year, students are impacted again by a close connection with their own peer, Florentine Gates, having been diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL). In what was meant to be Florentine's year to celebrate the conclusion of formal schooling, step up to her leadership duties, study for her HSC she is instead battling long hospital stays as part of her battle against leukemia.

Florentine shared a bit about her diagnosis with our Facebook community. To watch the video, please visit the following link: <https://www.facebook.com/hillsggrammar/videos/346102048598494>

For her friends, and grade head, they have raised the fundraising goal a further \$20,000, bringing their total fundraising hopes to \$50,000. With local communities donating and coming to the school for the big chop on March 18th, we thought it would be wonderful to reach out to you and see how far we can get these students' hopes out there.

The Little Mermaid, School Musical

Get ready to relive the action and sing along to some of your favourite Disney tunes as Pacific Hills Christian School proudly presents, **The Little Mermaid!** Students and staff have been honing their craft, rehearsing their lines and creating some phenomenal stage sets in preparation for TWO amazing weekends of performances!

The show will be a wonderful celebration of the student's gifts, all coming together to bring joy to our School and local community. Performances will run from Friday 9th May – Saturday 17th May with six performance times to choose from. Our matinee performances are sure to be a hit with the littlies who are encouraged to dress up as their favourite Disney character!

To book your tickets or find out more visit our website www.pacifichills.nsw.edu.au or call us on 02 9651 0700.

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Jane Seaglove

HORNSBY COUNCILLOR

Hello Residents,

The **Community Strategic Plan, *Your Vision / Your Future 2035***, is now on public exhibition. Hornsby Shire Council's top plan created with input from the community covers 2025–2035, highlighting key priorities, goals, and strategies to guide the Shire's future and all Council projects. The challenges seen by Council for the next 10 years include population growth, housing affordability, traffic, transport, economic and technology changes, the environment, climate change, and supporting social diversity and resilience.

"As a Council, it's important that we remain community-led in all our projects, decisions and plans. That's why we're excited to seek your feedback on *Your Vision / Your Future 2035*, our Community Strategic Plan," said Mayor, Warren Waddell.

Hornsby Shire Council is thrilled to host **Taste of the World**, celebrating cultural diversity at Hornsby Mall on Friday, 4th April, from 4 PM to 8 PM. Enjoy music, dance, workshops, a pop-up bar,



and food trucks, with entertainment starting at 5 PM, featuring Lily Guerrero & Band, Bollywood dancers, Samba Brazil, and more. Mayor Warren Waddell highlights the event as a celebration of the Shire's vibrant multicultural community.

Last week I attended **Food Truck Fridays at Galston Reserve** which was a fabulous event with people

of all ages attending. We look forward to the next round when the music and the food associated with this event returns to Galston.

In March, Hornsby Shire celebrated **Seniors Week 2025** with events honouring senior residents. Highlights included a Riverboat Postman cruise with 98 attendees, the "Time to Shine" art exhibition at Wallarobba Arts Centre, and the Senior & Student Sing! event at Galston Club, uniting generations through music.

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



Clr Mitchell Blue

THE HILLS SHIRE COUNCIL

After the successful 'A Taste of Wiseman's' festival held last September, it is exciting news that this event will be returning in 2025! The event will be held on 28th September, with much community excitement building again. It is fantastic that we have found a way to include our rural residents in Council's month long Orange Blossom Festival which first started in Castle Hill back in 1957 with a parade. The parade will be on again at Rouse Hill Town Centre.

Not long after I was elected last term, I was contacted by a resident in Sackville North. He told me that he had a number of issues that he wanted to raise on behalf of the community. I agreed to meet him. Upon arriving at Sackville North one Saturday morning, I was greeted by around thirty residents who had long standing concerns that they needed to raise with the hope of them being addressed. These ranged from street signs to potholes, speed limits to vegetation matters and the big one was the decline of Chapel Hill Rd.

I was taken on a tour of Sackville North and shown this road along with areas I had never been to before. Chapel Hill Road would have been an original horse and cart track up the hill and is aptly named this given that on this road there is a chapel and yes, it is on a hill. The chapel itself has an interesting history. That's a story for another day.

The road was barely wide enough for a car, the edges were failing, the drainage blocked up, the trees overhanging and I was even told that over thirty years ago, a school bus went over the edge of the rock face and got stuck in the bush.

Then came the rain and floods of 2022. There are two roads that service the residents down along the river in this area. Pages Wharf Rd is the other and during the floods, this road was cut for many months as it fell into the river. This meant that the trusty Chapel Hill Rd was the only access for residents. Given the constant rain, the road rapidly declined with embankment failures, rock slides and pavement failures.

As soon as Pages Wharf Road was rebuilt, Council set about the significant job of designing the rebuild and stabilisation of Chapel Hill Rd. It wasn't going to be cheap and a difficult project given the terrain. Through a number of state and federal disaster grants, we have been able to rebuild this road.

There was a lot of advocacy to ensure we got this road back to a state that was suitable and one that was 'built back better'. The community held many meetings to discuss this road and provided me with their feedback on what was required, the history and the areas which are of concern during severe weather events.

After many years of pain and frustration, I can now finally say that Chapel Hill Road is complete!

I want to thank those residents who brought this to my attention over three years ago, and for your patience and advice over this time. Also to our Council staff and contractors who took the views onboard and have ensured the project has been completed to a high standard.

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Julian Leeser
MEMBER FOR BEROWRA

Celebrating our Next Generation of Sporting Champions

As a community, we take immense pride in celebrating the remarkable achievements of our young people.

Recently, I had the honour of hosting an awards ceremony recognising the exceptional accomplishments of our Local Sporting Champions and Local Para Champions, who have excelled in their sports at state, national, and international competitions.

Our local champions were also able to hear from our local Olympian and world renowned softballer, Ellen Roberts, who provided an insight into their future trajectory as an athlete based off her own local experience and left some inspiring words of advice to ensure these local champions continue to excel into the future.

These inspiring young individuals include:

Local Sporting Champions:

- Lachlan Donoghue and Marcus Morsink who competed at the 2025 Football Australia National Futsal Championships
- Makenzi Gartner who swam at the 2025 Australian Age Swimming Championships
- Vera Gerasimova who swam at the 2025 Synchronised Swimming Australian National Championships
- Hannah Lemus Gonetskaya who competed at the 2024 Australian Figure Skating Championship
- Hayley Paterson who competed in the 2025 Australian Underwater Hockey Championships
- Junqi Zheng and Thomas Abbott who swam in the 2025 Australian Open Water Championships
- Gary Zhu who competed in the 2025 Musto Australian Optimist Championship
- Hannah Croker, Travis Leadbeatter and Kamran Norgard, who competed in the Australian Youth Water Polo Championships
- Evie Moore-Mulcahy who competed in the Australian Track and Field Championships
- Jamie Lau who competed in the U16 Girls National Softball Championships
- Mason Li who competed in the 78th Australian Dancesport Championship



Local Para Champions:

- Tallow Ra who will compete in the 2025 Junior Wheelchair National Championships
- Maddison Hinds who swam in the 2025 Para Swimming World Series Australia and the Swimming Australia Open and Para National Championships 2025.

Their dedication, perseverance, and remarkable talent set a powerful example for all young people in our community. Encouraging and supporting the involvement of young people in sports is vital—not just for their individual development but also for promoting teamwork, discipline, and overall community wellbeing.

Congratulations again to all recipients— your dedication, perseverance, and remarkable talent inspire our community, and highlight the importance of supporting youth sports to keep our community spirit strong.



AUSSIE PUMPS...Not Just Fire Pumps

- Hills District local success, Aussie Pumps, specializes in solving the consistent problems of drought, floods and bushfires. "Everything we do helps somebody, and that's a really positive thing," said Chief Engineer, John Hales.
- The Chief Engineer has a sign in his office that says, "We design and build machines as if we're going to use them ourselves." What a relief from the policies of big corporations who only think about dividends!
- "At Aussie we're focused on people who use our gear, and they're our inspiration," said Hales.
- Great jobs are going at Aussie. Their success creates opportunities in a totally positive environment.

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- 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

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



Mark Hodges

MEMBER FOR CASTLE HILL

Castle Hill resident recognised as Castle Hill Local Woman of the Year 2025

Carol Baker-Dersch has been named Castle Hill's Local Woman of the Year for 2025 in recognition of her outstanding contributions, leadership, and lifelong commitment to the Hills community. With over 30 years of dedicated volunteer service, Carol's impact can be felt across numerous organisations, improving lives, and strengthening community ties.

For over 30 years, Carol has been a prominent member of Soroptimist International of The Hills District, a global network focused on empowering women and girls through education, advocacy, and social initiatives. Her leadership within the organisation includes serving as Regional President, Club President, and Regional Representative. Under her guidance, Soroptimist International has undertaken projects aimed at fostering gender equality, supporting vulnerable women, and driving meaningful change in the local community.

Since 2006, Carol has been an active member of the Friends of Bella Vista Farm, a historic landmark in the Hills District. She has been instrumental in organising educational historical tours to share the farm's rich heritage, coordinating fundraising events, including the popular Devonshire teas on Open Days, and hosting community gatherings to encourage public engagement with local history. Her dedication has helped preserve this important site and make history accessible to future generations.

Carol extends her compassion to the caring community as a Yellow Lady volunteer at Sydney Adventist Hospital. In this role, she provides emotional support, companionship, and assistance to patients and their families during difficult times. Her kindness and dedication bring comfort to many, embodying the true spirit of selfless service.

As Secretary of the Castle Hill Agricultural Society, Carol plays a key role in promoting local farming and agricultural education. She is a driving force behind the Youth Agricultural Expo, an initiative designed to inspire young people to engage in farming and understand its significance in Australian heritage. Her efforts ensure the success of local agricultural events and foster appreciation for the industry.



Carol Baker-Dersch's enduring commitment to the Hills District is a shining example of volunteerism and leadership. Her tireless contributions across various sectors, from community service to heritage conservation and youth engagement, have left a lasting positive impact. The Castle Hill Electorate congratulates Carol Baker-Dersch, Castle Hill's Local Woman of the Year for 2025.

To learn more about the NSW Women of the Year Awards program and watch the livestream, go to <https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/women-nsw/awards-and-events/nsw-women-of-year-awards>.

To learn more about Hidden Treasures, go to <https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/women-nsw/rural-womens-network/hidden-treasures-honour-roll>



James Wallace

HORNSBY MP

We often discuss the importance of getting bushfire prepared, as we should. However, it's no less important we're prepared for other natural disasters, especially the fallout of major storms.

From fallen trees to major flooding, our electorate can never be complacent.

We are all grateful that the situation in Queensland wasn't worse than expected. However, we never know which of us is next.

We can never forget our region is vulnerable and preparation is key.

While storms always remain a threat, the resilience of our local and state-wide volunteers remain as strong as ever.

Six volunteers from the NSW Hills SES were deployed to the affected areas to support the NSW and QLD SES to face and recover from ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred.

They continue the service of the 11,000 volunteers who came together in 1955 to save people across the Hunter Valley, Central West, and North-West of NSW, when catastrophic floods swept across those communities. It was after those devastating floods that the SES was formed.

70 years later, the incredible work of the North-West Region and the advocacy from their community means that our SES are still central to the work of the NSW SES in keeping our community safe.



Mark Hodges MP

Member for Castle Hill

Mark 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
Mark

02 9686 3110 @castlehill@parliament.nsw.gov.au
MarkHodges.com.au @markhodgesmp MarkHodgesMP
Suite 1A, 19-21 Terminus St Castle Hill 2154

Authorised by Mark Hodges MP. Funded using parliamentary entitlements.



SCAN ME

Growing Food for Wildlife Project

The Growing Food for Wildlife Project began when local wildlife carers approached The Hills Shire Council and asked if they may have some land where they could plant specific native species to grow for the special food needs of rescued wildlife whilst in the care of local wildlife rescue groups. The Community Environment Centre in Currie Avenue at Annangrove was already an ideal site with a well established native plants garden from which wildlife carers could collect suitable foods.

There was also some unutilised and available land nearby suitable for planting a

range of additional suitable species that has now been developed for this purpose.

An enthusiastic, active volunteer community was already available which could help with advice, as well as help maintain the native plantings.

Some of the rescued wildlife, such as possums, can eat up to 2kgs of native foliage a day! However, they would probably only eat the fresh outer tips of any fresh green foliage provided. Nectarivorous birds also need to eat from flowering native plants whilst in care, so that they can easily recognise their natural food source when released. Collecting native foliage and greens for rescued wildlife is a huge job for busy wildlife carers! The planting plots at the Community Environment Centre contain specifically selected local native



species that wildlife carers most need to help support them to feed and care for our rescued local wildlife.

A group of dedicated Volunteers tend to these planting plots at monthly working bees, then regularly harvest and donate available native foliage to wildlife carers who need it. They continue to provide supplies for injured wildlife whilst bringing like-minded communities together in a much needed support activity.

For further information go to this website growingfoodforwildlifeproject.org

This essential volunteer driven community project was recently featured in the ABC's Gardening Australia program.



It's Firewood Season Again

Summer has gone, and we are now halfway through Autumn. Winter is almost here, with cold nights and cooler days - it's certainly fire time.

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Bromeliad Autumn Show

3rd-4th May

The Bromeliad Autumn Show will be held at the Federation Pavilion, Castle Hill Showground, Castle Hill on Saturday, 3rd May between 9am-4pm and Sunday 4th May between 10am-3pm.

Exquisite and rare Bromeliads from local, interstate and collectors will be on



display and for sale to the public including Tillandsia experts Harold Kuan, Chris & Lap Larsen, BSA's competition winners Nina Woodcock, Elizabeth Mudriczki, Bill Homer, David Scott and Kerry McNicol together with Anna Ernst and her amazing artistic bromeliad wall hangings. Mark Belot with a variety of Giant and colourful Alcantareas and Angela & Gary Flemming.

Harold Kuan is a passionate Tillandsia enthusiast, an award-winning Bromeliad grower, and an internationally accredited Bromeliad judge. When he's not tending to his own plants, Harold volunteers his time at the Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney, helping to care for and maintain their Tillandsia and Bromeliad collection.

His fascination with Tillandsia—often called "air plants"—began after he was captivated by their remarkable ability to grow without soil. Their unique nature, from attaching effortlessly to wood, to their graceful, sculptural form and silvery, furry leaves, set them apart as one of the most intriguing plants.

At the upcoming show, Harold will be bringing along a selection of Bromeliads



and Tillandsia, offering both a chance to admire their beauty and with opportunity to purchase one for home.

20 plant sale tables are continually restocked, books, pots, information and free advice available from experienced growers.

There will be a display of the Bromeliad Show competition winners. There is plenty of parking on site, admission is free to the show and please bring a box for your purchases.

For further information call Ian Hook on mobile 0408 202 269 email: ianhook1@bigpond.com or check out the website <https://www.bromeliad.org.au>



BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA INC

Autumn Show

Saturday 3rd May 9am - 4pm
Sunday 4th May 10am - 3pm

Free admission

Federation Pavilion, Castle Hill Showground off Showground Road, Castle Hill, NSW

20+ sales tables continually restocked • Bromeliad Competitions on Display
Lucky Barrel Draw • Literature, information and advice • Plenty of Parking - EFTPOS

Bring a box for purchases



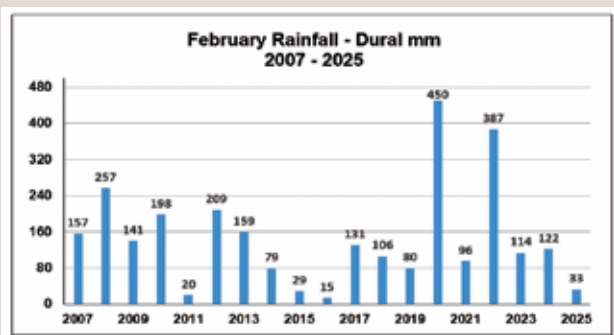
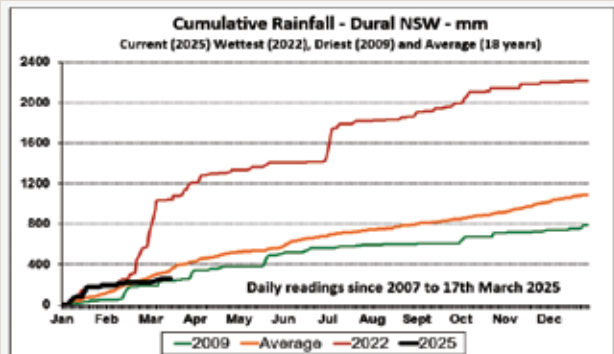
For further information please contact Ian Hook, President
Mobile 0408 202 269

www.bromeliad.org.au

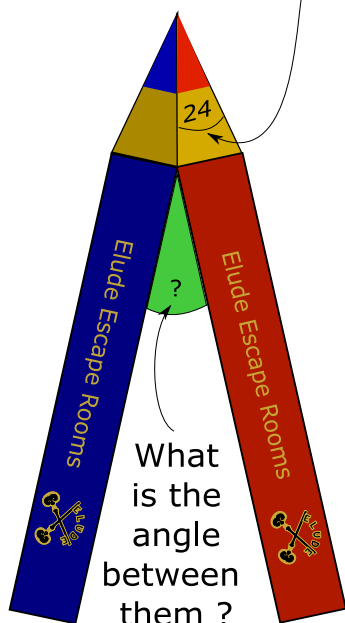
 Bromeliad Society of Australia

Dural Rainfall Charts

BY HANS KUNNEN



Pencils are sharpened to 24 degrees.



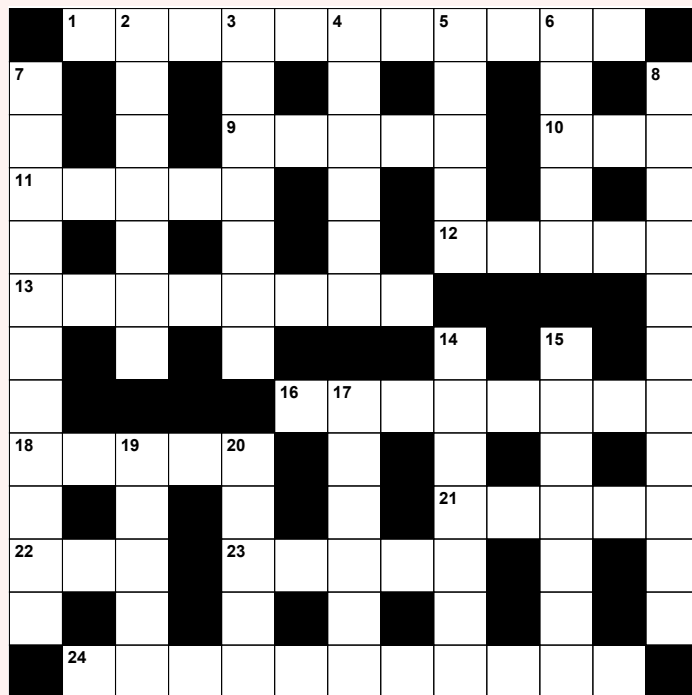
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CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 01 Suggested or implied idea (11)
- 09 Apply pressure (5)
- 10 Mineral spring (3)
- 11 Adjusted the pitch of (5)
- 12 Agreeable sound or tune (5)
- 13 Mislead (8)
- 16 Mexican pancake (8)
- 18 Dry red wine (5)
- 21 Dissatisfaction (5)
- 22 Golf peg (3)
- 23 Small antelope (5)
- 24 Initiators (11)

DOWN

- 02 Unity (7)
- 03 Necessary (7)
- 04 Rained heavily (6)
- 05 ___ pole: tribal emblem (5)
- 06 Expels from a position (5)
- 07 Immoderate (11)
- 08 Compelling (11)
- 14 Non-believer in God (7)
- 15 Careless mistake (7)
- 17 Possessing (6)
- 19 Large body of water (5)
- 20 Select; formally approve (5)

ANSWER FROM MARCH ISSUE

F	I	F	E	N	O	T	I	C	I	N	G
R	O	C	R	N	T	A					
U	N	I	C	O	R	N	S	E	E	D	S
C	S	L	A	T	R	H					
T	O	T	A	L	I	T	A	R	I	A	N
O			A	E	U	T	B				
S	T	R	O	B	E	S	C	H	E	M	A
E	E	O	T	T							S
O	V	E	R	E	S	T	I	M	A	T	E
O	E	A	E	O	W	L					
S	P	R	A	T	T	O	N	N	A	G	E
L	T	O	S	S	K	S					
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At the time of going to print (28/3), we understand that there will be a meeting on Monday 31st March at Dural Country Club regarding the proposed re-development of the Round Corner shopping centre. We hope to bring you more details in our May Issue.

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