

DOORAL ROUNDUP



OCTOBER 2025

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

SIMONE LOUISE

CHERRYBROOK'S

**New
Fashion**

DESTINATION

SEE PAGE 2



CHERRYBROOK'S *New Fashion* DESTINATION

Simone Louise Boutique has returned to Cherrybrook Village, offering timeless style and a truly personal shopping experience. Every piece is handpicked by owner Claire, with new arrivals in store each week.

With a blend of much-loved brands and fresh new labels, you're sure to find your next outfit instore. Alongside fashion, Simone Louise also offers jewellery, handbags, accessories, and a curated line of gifting to complete your look-or make someone else's day.

And while Cherrybrook is our newest chapter, don't forget to visit our Kellyville Boutique, proudly continuing to serve the community in Kellyville Village for over 20 years.

Follow Claire's popular Instagram and Facebook try-on videos for a closer look at fabrics, fits and styling.

All the latest season trends showcased in real time.

We look forward to welcoming you instore-7 days a week, for boutique shopping that feels refreshingly personal.



Scan to follow Claire's weekly try ons

**Keep up to date and follow us on Instagram and Facebook
@simonelouiseboutique**

Cherrybrook: Shop 19-20, 41-47 Shepherds Drive, Cherrybrook Village | (02) 9457 6573

Kellyville: Shop 6, 90 Wrights Rd Kellyville Village | (02) 8883 1033

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Celebrating every Individual: The Inala Fair returns on 26th October

The Inala Fair is returning this October, offering a day of entertainment, food, and family fun. A cherished local event for over four decades, the Fair celebrates the Inala community and provides insight into the work of Inala, a charity established in 1958 that supports individuals with disabilities through accommodation, day services, and community programs.

A key highlight of the Fair is the display and sale of unique arts and crafts created by participants in Inala's creative day programs, offering them an outlet for expression and a chance to showcase their talents. CEO Alexandra Davis emphasizes that the Fair allows Inala to share the extraordinary talents of the people they support and provides vital fundraising, bridging the gap in NDIS funding to ensure comprehensive services.

This year's Fair will feature market stalls selling various goods, pony rides, children's activities, and second-hand treasures. Food stalls, including a homemade cake stall, will also be available. Inala Patron Richard Wilkins will make an appearance on the main stage.

Hornsby Council has supported the Fair through its Community Event Grant Program for the past two years, helping to reduce operational costs. Hornsby Mayor Warren Waddell highlighted the Fair as a wonderful event that brings the community together for a worthy cause.

Visitors are encouraged to use public transport due to limited parking, with Inala conveniently located opposite Cherrybrook Metro Station. The Fair takes place on Sunday, 26 October, from 9 am to 3 pm at 99 Franklin Road, Cherrybrook. For more information, visit www.inala.org.au or Inala's social media channels.



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DURAL BRIGADE MARKS 80 YEARS

Photo credit: Dural Rural Fire Brigade



On 6th September, Dural Rural Fire Brigade celebrated 80 years of service to the community, marking its formation in 1945 when local residents banded together to protect homes from bushfires.

Since then, the brigade has been a constant presence in the

Hornsby Shire, responding to local emergencies and supporting operations across New South Wales, the ACT, Victoria and Queensland.

Acting Area Commander for Greater Sydney, Superintendent Glen McCartney, said the brigade is recognised for both its operational efforts and its role in community life.

"During the 2019/20 bushfires, 34 members of the brigade completed more than 3,500 hours of service, which is an incredible display of commitment, particularly given they are volunteers," he said.

"Beyond emergency response, the brigade is deeply woven into the fabric of the community, through school visits, fundraisers, community assistance and the annual Santa run. Brigades such as Dural truly represent the spirit of the Rural Fire Service."

Today's anniversary also saw recognition for long-serving member Peter Bray, who was awarded Life Membership.

"Peter has given significant dedication to the brigade, serving as Treasurer, President, Equipment Officer, Station Officer and Fundraising Officer," Superintendent McCartney said.

A member since 2002, Mr Bray has also received the National Emergency Medal for the 2019/20 bushfires, the RFS Long Service Medal and the Premier's Bush Fire Citation.

"Congratulations to Peter, and to all members of the Dural Brigade, led by Captain Jarryd Barton, on reaching this milestone," Superintendent McCartney said.

BREAK-INS

A 39-year-old man is under police guard in hospital after being arrested on Tuesday, 9th September, in connection with a string of alleged property offences across the Hills and Norwest areas.

He is expected to face multiple charges relating to incidents including:

- Attempted break-ins at two homes on Blue Bell Circuit, Kellyville, on 18th August
- Theft from several vehicles in underground car parks at Spurway Drive, Norwest, on 4th September, where designer goods and personal documents were taken
- Break and enters at two businesses on Ridgecrop Drive, Castle Hill, in the early hours of 4th September, with cash and a register stolen from one premises
- A break-in at a pet store on Commercial Road, Rouse Hill, later that same morning
- A stolen vehicle incident in Roseville on 30th August

Police said extensive CCTV footage and follow-up inquiries led to the man's identification and arrest. He will appear in court once released from hospital.

Anyone with information that could assist investigators is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or via the website. Reports can be made anonymously.

FATHER'S DAY ARREST

On Sunday, 7th September, Hills Police pulled over a 37-year-old man on Glenhaven Road at around 11 am.

The driver returned a high-range reading of 0.184 during a roadside breath test. His nine-year-old son was a passenger in the vehicle at the time.

The man was taken into custody and charged with high-range drink driving. His licence was immediately suspended.

Police confirmed that the child was unharmed during the incident.

VEHICLE CRASH

Hills Police responded to a single-vehicle crash on Boundary Road, Cherrybrook, at about 1 am on Saturday 24th August.

The 23-year-old male driver, the sole occupant, self-extracted from the vehicle and was transported to hospital for assessment and blood and urine testing.

Police believe impairment may have been a contributing factor in the crash.

The incident is part of Operation RAID (Remove All Impaired Drivers), a statewide campaign targeting alcohol, drug, and fatigue-related driving.

DRINK DRIVING

On late August, Hills Police conducting Stationary Random Breath Testing along Windsor Road, Castle Hill, attempted to stop a white Mercedes. Despite clear signage, cones, and officer directions, the vehicle initially failed to stop, continuing westbound before pulling over on Fairway Drive.

The driver, a 38-year-old man, showed signs of intoxication. A roadside breath test returned a positive result, and a subsequent analysis at Castle Hill Police Station recorded a reading of 0.157 grams of alcohol per 210 litres of breath.

The man was issued a Court Attendance Notice for high-range drink driving, had his licence suspended, and his keys were confiscated.

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



James Wallace MP

Member for **Hornsby**

James can help you by

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



Contact James

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

✉ PO Box 1687, Hornsby Westfield NSW 1635

Authorised by James Wallace MP. Funded using parliamentary entitlements.



Biviano's Restaurant Celebrates 25 years of Dining Excellence

It was a 'who's who' of local industry leaders, politicians, businesspeople, family, friends and supporters attending the recent 25 year anniversary celebrations of Biviano's Restaurant at Dural.

Established in 2000, following the rebranding of Belmontes at Dural, Mr Rajeev Kumar who had originally trained as a pizza cook under Mr Belmonte, took over Bivianos just one year later.

By 2010, challenges at the original location prompted a search for a new home which led to the current premises at 628 Old Northern Road – the previous home of the beloved Butterfly Café. The property was purchased, and with it, the dream of Biviano's as we know it today came to life.

During the past 25 years has:

- Worked with more than 1,000 staff, watching many grow into passionate hospitality professionals
- Crafted over 1,000,00 pizzas, each prepared with the same care and tradition first taught to Raj by Mr Belmonte
- Welcomed over 1,030,00 guests through its doors
- Provided more than 300,000 takeaway orders for guests to enjoy at home
- Hosted upwards of 1,200 special events, from milestone birthdays and weddings to countless other cherished gatherings
- Donated over \$500,000 to local charities, community groups, sporting organizations and schools

Though the goals of the restaurant have adapted with the times, its ethos has remained constant: to provide a warm



and welcoming atmosphere, outstanding food and service to create lifelong memories for guests near and far.

Biviano's is a venue that offers diners a stylish, graceful retreat for lunch, dinner, high tea, or private events and remains dedicated to serving high-quality cuisine made with the finest and freshest local and imported ingredients.

Congratulations to Raj and the Team at Biviano's on your Silver Anniversary!





MELBOURNE CUP

2025 TUESDAY 4TH NOVEMBER

Join us for a gourmet grazing table and flowing canapes in The Heartwood Bar followed by an exquisite 3-course luncheon

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11:30am to 4:00pm

Beverage package

11:30am to 3:30pm



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**Due to shortage of space this issue, the following stories
are now online at www.dooraroundup.com.au**

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A photograph of a lush garden. In the foreground, a brick path leads through green plants and a small stone lantern. To the left is a raised garden bed with dark wood and green foliage. The background shows a grassy area, a fence, and trees under an overcast sky.

A GARDEN AT RISK

How NUFLOW Northwest Restored Peace of Mind

For David and his family, their garden is more than a patch of greenery — it's a sanctuary. It's where they gather, relax, and take pride in years of hard work shaping every detail. So, when their home's sewer system began to fail, the fear wasn't just about blocked drains or sewage issues. The real fear was losing the garden they loved.



The Hidden Crisis Beneath the Surface

Beneath the carefully tended lawns and flowerbeds lay a 33-metre section of sewer pipe in critical condition. It wasn't a simple crack or blockage — the damage was extreme. Entire sections of the pipe were missing. Longitudinal and circumferential fractures ran through what was left, with gaping holes leaving the system vulnerable. Tree roots had invaded extensively, accelerating the deterioration and leaving the line on the brink of collapse. The first plumber they consulted offered a single solution: dig and replace. For David's family, that would have meant heavy excavation through the garden they had nurtured for years. To them, it felt like a choice between a working sewer and keeping the heart of their home intact.

A Different Way Forward

That's when they turned to NUFLOW Northwest, a team specialising in trenchless solutions. Instead of tearing the garden apart, NUFLOW offered a smarter

approach: the CIPP Blue Line relining system, a technology designed to rebuild failing pipes from the inside out.

The process began with highpressure cleaning to remove roots and debris, then advanced liners were installed to create a seamless new pipe within the old one. Every step was monitored with CCTV inspections to ensure quality and structural integrity. The result was a brand-new, watertight sewer line, restored without a single shovel breaking soil in their garden.

Preserving What Matters Most

For David and his family, the result was more than just a fixed pipe. It was peace of mind.

"The condition of our pipe was shocking — whole pieces were missing, and the damage was everywhere. But NUFLOW Northwest gave us a permanent solution without destroying our garden. We couldn't have asked for a better outcome."

Now, the family can continue to enjoy their garden without worry, knowing the sewer line beneath is secure, durable, and designed to last for decades.

The NUFLOW Difference

What makes this story remarkable isn't just the technology — it's the philosophy. At NUFLOW Northwest, the mission isn't simply to repair pipes. It's to protect homes, preserve landscapes, and provide solutions that respect what people value most.

For David's family, that meant saving their garden. For others, it may be protecting a driveway, a heritage tree, or simply avoiding weeks of disruption. Whatever the priority, NUFLOW Northwest delivers solutions without compromise.

NUFLOW Northwest — protecting homes, preserving gardens, and providing peace of mind with nodig technology.

We are local! Call us today!

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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

This October, Hornsby Shire Council is proud to shine a light on connection, care, and community through our Hello Hornsby initiative and a range of programs supporting Mental Health Month.

Originally launched in 2022 to bring together residents aged 60 and over, Hello Hornsby has grown into a vibrant, inclusive platform for everyone in our Shire. Thanks to funding from the Special Rate Variation, we've expanded the program to include youth, families, carers, and people living with disability – ensuring no one is left behind.

This month, we're hosting a series of uplifting events designed to support and celebrate the diverse people who make our community strong.

Students preparing for the HSC are welcome to join us for a relaxing afternoon tea at Hornsby Library on Wednesday 22 October. Extended library hours will also be available to help students focus during this busy time.

We'll also be celebrating Carers Week with a morning tea to honour those who care for others – offering a moment of respite and connection. And on Sunday 26 October, grandparents and grandchildren can enjoy a special day out at Koala Park, with free tickets available online.

October is also Mental Health Month, and we're proud to continue our partnership with Lifeline to offer free mental health support every Thursday at Hornsby Library. As a former Lifeline counsellor, I know firsthand the vital role they play in supporting our residents. My sincere thanks to Lifeline and their volunteers for their ongoing contribution.

These events reflect our commitment to fostering social cohesion and supporting the wellbeing of all residents. I encourage everyone to get involved, meet new people, and enjoy the richness of life in Hornsby Shire.

Warren Waddell
Mayor of Hornsby Shire



CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY

Join your local community this October at a range of events:

Carers Week Morning tea

Tuesday 14 October
10am-11.30am
The Brook Eatery
Cherrybrook

HSC Afternoon tea

Wednesday 22 October
2.30pm
Hornsby Library

Grandparents Day at Koala Park

Sunday 26 October
entry from 9am-11am
bookings essential

For these events and more visit: hornsby.nsw.gov.au/hellohornsby



EXTENDED LIBRARY HOURS FOR HSC STUDENTS

Tuesday 7 October – Friday 7 November, student entry 9am-9.15am

Hornsby and Pennant Hills libraries are opening their doors early for HSC students from 9am on weekdays. Present your Student ID card.

hornsby.nsw.gov.au/library

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Chipping for Mulch

Sunday 12 October
7.30am-12.30pm
Council Depot
Beaumont Road
Mt Kuring-gai

Compost and Worm Farming workshop

Thursday 16 October
10am-12pm
Community Recycling Centre, Thornleigh

Clothing Swap

Saturday 18 October
9.30am-12pm
Thornleigh Community Centre, Thornleigh

Bookings essential hornsby.nsw.gov.au/waste

YOUR SAY HORNSBY

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Ulolo Community Park, Hornsby Heights – Playground upgrade

Submissions close: Friday 31 October

For more information visit: yoursay.hornsby.nsw.gov.au

Don't get left in the dark

Free solar and batteries webinar: 23 Oct, 7pm
hornsby.nsw.gov.au/solar



Libraries are more than just books.
Sometimes they're a lifeline.

Next Council meeting Wednesday 8 October, 6.30pm

hornsby.nsw.gov.au

Arcadian Artists Trail and Exhibition: A weekend of creativity not to be missed

"The best Art Trail in Sydney"
"Such great creativity"
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"Everyone should know about this wonderful event"

Nestled on Sydney's northern fringe, the Arcadian Artists Trail and Exhibition transforms private studios in Galston, Dural and Arcadia into vibrant showcases of creativity. For over 35 years, local creatives have opened their doors to art lovers and curious wanderers alike,

gaining momentum and forging a unique bond between maker and collector.

Set against rolling paddocks and bushland vistas, the Arcadian Artists Trail boasts five beautiful rural properties that will throw open their studio doors to more than 37 artisans working across a huge diversity of artistic disciplines including painting, printmaking, glass and textiles, jewellery, sculpture and photography.

Food trucks and local cafes are sprinkled throughout the route, or you might want to pack up a picnic basket with some bubbly and find a place to enjoy the beautiful outskirts of Sydney.

Don't miss it. Entry is free.

**Dates: 8th and 9th November 2025,
from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm**



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www.arcadianartists.net.au

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Fire Alert, Get Ready Now

Firefighting authorities are warning that we could be in for an early season. Similar situations to the Californians Palisades catastrophe could happen, long before anyone imagines it's possible. Many hills homes are situated near bushland "among the gum trees".

Local company, Aussie Pumps in Norwest are doing their part to help get people prepared. The company started with the clear mission of producing products that were better than those currently available. The result was a range of self priming centrifugal fire pumps that are unique to Australia and offer significantly better performance and features.

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The Aussie Fire Chief is regarded as the best lightweight portable fire pump

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Breaking a vicious cycle

Indifference is one of the most damaging forces in our world. It creeps in when we stop caring, when we turn away from those in need or convince ourselves it's someone else's responsibility. It's troubling enough when one person becomes disengaged, but when whole communities fall into apathy, the consequences are profound.

I recently visited San Francisco for the first time. It's a beautiful city, full of iconic landmarks, different cultures, and even driverless cars. Yet, alongside its beauty, I witnessed something deeply confronting – people sleeping rough, caught in cycles of poverty and addiction. What struck me most wasn't just the hardship, but how often others walked past without a glance. The problem is complex but ignoring it only makes it worse.

We are created in God's image, formed with care, declared good. But sin distorts that goodness, leaving wounds that wealth, success, or distraction cannot heal. Greed, selfishness, and indifference only deepen the pain. The way forward begins with compassion. When we choose to see, to care, and to act, we become part of God's healing work. Even a small gesture such as a moment of attention, a word of kindness, can help break the cycle.

Let us return to Christ, who meets us in our brokenness and brings restoration. And let us extend that grace to others, so that even one life might be lifted from despair through our care, compassion, and concern.

Come walk with us in Christ's way that is living with grace, offering care, and practising compassion in community.

REV PETER CHUNG
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Mark Hodges MP
Member for Castle Hill

Mark can help you by

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- Assisting you to access State services
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Authorised by Mark Hodges MP. Funded using parliamentary entitlements.



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Thuvi with an Ear Studio client

In the heart of the Hills District lies a clinic that's changing the way hearing care is delivered – **Ear Studio**. With kindness, expertise, and an unwavering commitment to excellence, we provide personalised solutions that truly make a difference

Unlike many clinics operating in Australia's largely unregulated audiology market, where 80% fail to meet even basic standards, *Ear Studio* is a trusted leader in best-practice hearing care. We don't just fit hearing devices; we transform lives by ensuring each client's journey is tailored, effective, and supportive from start to finish.

Following best practice principles means conducting thorough assessments, precise fittings, and comprehensive follow-ups. These steps ensure that the device is comfortable and effective in meeting each person's unique hearing needs. We've invested in the latest technologies and training to provide these

EXPERIENCE EXCEPTIONAL HEARING CARE AT EAR STUDIO:

Redefining Standards with Best Practices

services because we know this investment is an investment in our clients' well-being.

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

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

Being a client at *Ear Studio* means entering a partnership where your hearing

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

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

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

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Galston High Students Shine in Statewide NAIDOC Week Competition



Each year, NAIDOC Week is celebrated across Australia to honour the history, culture, and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. In 2025, students across New South Wales were invited to participate in the NAIDOC Week School Initiatives Creative Art Competition,



which asked young people to design an original poster reflecting Indigenous culture and the theme of road safety.

The competition encouraged students to take responsibility and speak up, reminding peers to challenge unsafe driver behaviour such as speeding, drink and drug use, and to always prioritise safety and respect on the road.

Galston High School is proud to announce that two of our students achieved outstanding success in this prestigious competition. **Erica Hwang** received a Minister's Medal of Excellence and a \$250 Geedup Clothing voucher, while **Sienna Logan** was awarded a Commendation Medal as one of the top 25 recipients statewide.

These achievements highlight the creativity, cultural understanding, and leadership of our students, who have shown their commitment to the values of NAIDOC Week while reflecting Galston High School's own core values of **Respect, Responsibility, and Personal Best**.

Their work demonstrates both a deep appreciation of Indigenous culture and a powerful message about making safe choices in everyday life.

At a special assembly, awards were presented by distinguished guests including **Hornsby Mayor Warren Waddell**, **Mr Dylan Williams**, Executive Director of NAIDOC, and **Mr Sam Morrocu**, Partnerships Manager at Geedup Clothing.

Galston High congratulates Erica and Sienna, proving once again that a small school can create **BIG opportunities** for its students.

Talent Turns up the Volume: PAX Factor Arrives at Pacific Hills



As the lights dimmed and the curtains rose, the school's auditorium transformed into a stage where confidence met creativity! Just recently it was that time of year again for our annual inter-house talent competition, the PAX Factor, to take center stage at Pacific Hills Christian School!

One of the largest, and highly anticipated, events in our school calendar, Year's 9 to 12 students and staff made this year's PAX

event truly a day to remember with amazing performances that even the audience couldn't help but jump out of their seats for.

Thanks to our own 'celebrity' judges, there was no need for the likes of Simon Cowell or Mel B to be present since there was more than enough star quality (and humor) to go around!

Stars were born that day and the PAX Factor delivered big! Of course, it's not all



about the limelight. This event is about fun, creativity, good sportsmanship and community! Thanks to all our students and staff for making this year's PAX Factor an event to remember!

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Dr Michelle Byrne
MAYOR OF THE HILLS SHIRE

Plan Your Path to Bushfire Safety

Bushfire season is fast approaching, making it more crucial than ever to be aware of your risks and take proactive steps to safeguard your home and loved ones.

Semi-rural and rural suburbs such as Dural, Kenthurst, Glenhaven, and Annangrove are especially at risk. To help, Council has partnered with the NSW Rural Fire Service to deliver the *Four Weeks to Fire Ready Challenge*—a practical, step-by-step program that makes preparation easy and manageable.

Many Hills residents live close to bushland, making preparation not just advisable, but essential. Fires can spread rapidly, and even a few minutes of planning can make a significant difference.

By joining the challenge, you'll receive weekly guides filled with clear, actionable tips to help you get bushfire ready. Each week focuses on a different aspect of preparedness, making the process straightforward and stress-free.

The Four Weeks to Fire Ready Challenge includes:

Week 1 (29th September – 5th October): Discuss your bushfire survival plan with your household and decide what you'll do if a fire threatens your home.

Week 2 (6th – 12th October): Prepare your home and property to reduce bushfire risk and make it as safe as possible.

Week 3 (13th – 19th October): Learn about bushfire alert levels and understand what each level means for your safety.

Week 4 (20th – 26th October): Stay informed with up-to-date bushfire information and know where to find reliable updates.

Following these steps will boost your confidence and ensure you have the knowledge and tools to stay safe this fire season.

By completing the challenge, you will:

- Create a personalised Bush Fire Survival Plan
- Learn how to maintain a defensible space around your home
- Gain a clear understanding of Fire Danger Ratings

Sign up for the *Four Weeks to Fire Ready Challenge* today and take the first step toward a safer, more prepared community.

To sign up, visit Council's website and search for 'Bushfire Protection – Be Prepared'.



Julian Leeser
MEMBER FOR BEROWRA

Recognising the next generation of sporting champions



Having a talented young athlete in the family is a privilege, but sporting costs, especially in higher level competitions, can put a strain on the family budget. The Local Sporting Champions program provides grants

of up to \$750 for young people competing at national or international events. It recognises talent and eases costs for families. I recently hosted ceremonies to celebrate recipients of both the Local Sporting Champions and Local Para Champions programs, joined by Paralympian Ellie Cole and Olympian Ellen Roberts, both Berowra locals.

First, our para champions.

In swimming, Abbey Gibbons, Elodie Sebire and Michael Williams have competed at national championships. In athletics, Cooper Robb-Jackson earned selection for the 2025 Australian Open and Under 20 Athletics Championships. In wheelchair sport, Evander Conroy and Hamish Muir represented our community. And Zara Perry wore the green and gold at the Goalball Clubs World Cup in Finland and Malmö Lady Interup in Sweden.

Alongside them, our sporting champions are shining. Athletics: Issac Portelli, Mathias Hutchens, Sophia Cottrell, Aniela Knight, Zachary Leung, Cameron Leung, Jack Proudfoot, Ivy Yang, Amy Campbell, Thomas Scodellaro, Alexander Braendle, Justin Billingsley and Blake Billingsley. Swimming: Emma Cherry, Lily Sumner and Alannah Sumner. Hockey: Georgie Davidson. Rowing: Curtis Pepper. Team sports: Eva Zhang and Zak Morson (water polo); Ryan Chou Kobi McPherson, Christian Morrison, Kai Ueki and Kimi Soong (basketball). Logan Bubb and Ava Jones represented Australia at the Asia Pacific Youth Touch Football Cup.

Talent opens the door; discipline and courage do the rest. Our community stands behind these young people, and we'll keep backing their ambitions on and off the field.



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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**
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR BEROWRA

Level 11, 423 Pennant Hills Road, Pennant Hills NSW 2120 02 9980 1822
julian.leeser.mp@aph.gov.au julianleeser.com.au julianleesermp

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



James Wallace

HORNSBY MP

Congratulations to Dural Rural Fire Brigade for achieving the outstanding milestone of its 80th Anniversary.



The Brigade was officially established in 1945, formed from a group of Dural residents who had informally united to protect their homes from bushfires for many years. Today, the Brigade responds to up to 80 incidents annually, and Brigade members have played an important role in supporting major emergency

operations across NSW, Victoria, Queensland, and the ACT. I was particularly impressed to learn that, in the devastating 2019-20 bushfire season, members of the Brigade gave more than 3500 hours of service to helping to fight those fires.

The Brigade has around 40 active members, with a strong combination of new and experienced members – while several members joined in the last 18 months, the combined service of the members exceeds 210 years. We are incredibly fortunate to have such a committed team protecting our local community.

Bushfire season is drawing close, so it's crucial that we get prepared. Brigades across the area recently held Get Ready days to raise awareness and community preparedness for the upcoming bushfire season. If you didn't get the chance to attend, there is still plenty of time to develop a Bushfire Survival Plan. There are four key steps to doing so – 1) discuss what to do if a bushfire threatens your home, 2) prepare your home, 3) know the bush fire alert levels, and 4) keep up to date with all bushfire information.



Clr Mitchell Blue

THE HILLS SHIRE COUNCIL

Hawkesbury River

Not too long ago, I wrote about the worrying signs we're seeing in the Hawkesbury River. It's a topic that matters deeply—not just to me, but to so many in our community. If you've ever walked along its banks, cast a fishing line, taken a boat out, or simply stopped to admire the view, you'll understand: this river isn't just part of the landscape—it's an integral part of our district.

The Hawkesbury River supports our farms, provides drinking water, manages our wastewater, and offers countless recreational and tourism opportunities. It's a hard-working, life-giving system that does so much for our community. And yet, its health is slipping through our fingers.

We're seeing real signs of strain—declining water quality, sediment build-up, changing salinity, and growing pressure on the environment. People who work on or rely on the river every day are raising red flags and while plenty of studies and plans have been written over the years, one big issue remains: there's no single authority taking charge to bring it all together.

This fragmentation makes it far too easy for well-meaning efforts to fall between the cracks. And the truth is, we can't afford to let that keep happening. But there's hope!

Following a meeting earlier this year organised by the Upper Hawkesbury Nepean Users Group, it was clear something had to be done to protect the river. It is clear that Hawkesbury, Hornsby and The Hills councils share the same concerns and the same vision: that we must work together for the betterment of the river. The health of the Hawkesbury isn't a local issue, it's a regional one—and only through genuine collaboration can we begin to turn things around.

At our Council meeting on the 12th of August, a Mayoral Minute was put forward to advocate for change and put forward the first steps toward a more unified approach. The aim is to ensure there are measures and a governance model put in place to protect the river—not just through words, but through action. That means clearer responsibilities, stronger coordination, and a commitment to building on the good work already done, like the Hawkesbury-Nepean Coastal Management Program.

The motion read;

1. Council advocates for the creation of an enhanced Authority for the governance of the Hawkesbury Nepean River system with enhanced resourcing to coordinate existing plans, develop a business plan of complete actions and assist agencies to improve the health of the Hawkesbury River.

2. Council writes to the NSW Premier, NSW Environment Minister and NSW Planning Minister requesting a meeting to discuss the governance of the river.

3. The General Manager prepare a report to suggest a future governance model for the Hawkesbury/Nepean River System

If we truly value what the river gives us—our economy, our environment, our sense of place—then we must treat it like the irreplaceable asset it is.

Watch this space as we will have more to say on this moving forward.

Hills Hornsby Rural Koala Project

If you thought koalas only lived far out in the bush, think again—because they're right here in The Hills!

Before 2002, The Hills actually had a healthy population of koalas, quietly living among the eucalyptus trees, especially around Glenorie. Sadly, that all changed when devastating fires swept through the area that year. After that, the koalas all but vanished, and many believed they were gone for good.

But in 2018, something remarkable happened. A Glenorie local snapped a photo of a koala—right in the area where they were thought to be extinct. That one moment sparked something big: the birth of the *Hills-Hornsby Rural Koala Project*. With no formal records of a population at the time, this sighting gave hope that maybe, just maybe, the koalas were making a quiet comeback.

Since then, thanks to passionate community members and extensive fieldwork, the Project has mapped out 33 verified and 53 anecdotal (non verified) instances of koala activity across the region. The verified sightings are both in The Hills and Hornsby Shires, particularly in the Glenorie and Maroota areas with 60 percent being in the Maroota State Forest area. What they've found is encouraging: a low-density breeding population appears to be hanging on!

But it's also a call to action. As we head into spring and summer, residents can help by simply listening. Koalas make distinctive calls during this season—if you hear one, the Project would love to know. You can familiarise yourself with the sound by visiting the Hills-Hornsby Rural Koala Project Facebook Page. And if you do hear a call, don't ignore it—reach out and report it.

Every piece of information helps build a clearer picture of where our koalas are living and how we can better protect them.

A heartfelt thank you goes to Lilly and her dedicated team of volunteers. From watching trail cams and drones to walking the bush, recording data, and listening for calls, their tireless work is keeping this important project alive—and giving our local koalas a fighting chance.

So next time you're out in the bush—or even just relaxing in your backyard—keep your ears open. You might just hear something wonderful.



Jane Seaglove

HORNSBY COUNCILLOR

Hello Residents,

At last week's Council Meeting Councillor for B Ward, Sallianne McClelland was elected as our new Deputy Mayor to the period to September 2026. Congratulations to Deputy Mayor, McClelland.

Over the past few weeks, I've had the pleasure of attending two very different but equally special local events – the **Berowra Woodchop Festival** and the **Hornsby Art Prize** held at Wallarobba Arts and Culture Centre in Hornsby.

Woodchop is always a highlight on our community calendar, celebrating skill, strength, and tradition. It was wonderful to see so many families enjoying the atmosphere and cheering on the competitors. One of the competitors was Peter Brown, a Galston resident. Various sponsors were out in force, Apex, Rotary, Berowra Village Tavern, Scouts NSW and Bendigo Bank, who is a regular sponsor of local events and not-for-profit programs within our community.

In contrast, the **Hornsby Art Prize** showcased the creativity and talent of local and regional artists. The variety of works on display - from painting and drawing to sculpture and photography



was truly inspiring and a reminder of the depth of artistic talent we are fortunate to have in our area.

One of the entrants, **Lesley Richman**, covered a subject close to my heart, rescue dogs.

"**Cloth Hounds: tails from the street** was a small installation of rescue dogs made from various upcycled fabric, thread and wire, honouring the resilience of rescue dogs. Each sculpture reflects their grit, spirit and longing for kindness".

Using discarded materials to echo the dogs' journey from abandonment to usefulness".

Both events reflect what makes our community so vibrant: a mix of tradition, creativity, and shared celebration.

On **Wednesday, October 15th at 2:00pm**, Hornsby Library will host **Sue Williams**, author of *The Governor, His Wife and His Mistress*. Guests will have the opportunity to meet the author, purchase a copy of her book, and have it signed. Following the talk, those attendees who are interested in tracing their ancestors in the area are warmly invited to stay for the **Hornsby Shire Family History Group meeting** which meets on the third Wednesday of each month.



Mark Hodges

MEMBER FOR CASTLE HILL

Do you know a remarkable woman making a difference in our local community?

Nominations are now open for the 2026 NSW Women of the Year Awards in the Castle Hill electorate. This is your opportunity to recognise a local woman who goes above and beyond to strengthen our community through leadership, service, or quiet dedication.

Eligible nominees must be:

- Aged 18 or over
- A resident of the Castle Hill Electorate (including Annangrove, Baulkham Hills, Castle Hill, Dural, Glenhaven, Glenorie, Kenthurst, Middle Dural, and West Pennant Hills)

Each nominee will receive:

- A framed certificate signed by the Premier, Minister for Women, and local MP Mark Hodges



Nominate NOW

NSW Local Women of the Year Awards 2026

- An invitation to the NSW Women of the Year Awards Ceremony in Sydney on Thursday, 5 March 2026
- Inclusion in the NSW Honour Roll, with potential consideration for the Hidden Treasures Honour Roll (for rural women who volunteer)

Nominations close Friday, 31st October 2025

Nominate online now and help celebrate the outstanding contributions of women across Castle Hill.



Mark Hodges MP
Member for Castle Hill

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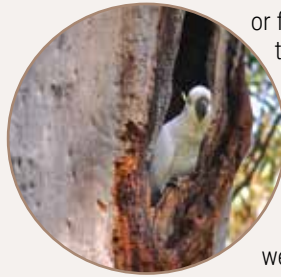
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Bird Nesting Hollows and Boxes

Very old and large trees have the capacity to provide nesting hollows for all manner of Australian wildlife including mammals, reptiles and of course birds. But naturally formed hollows in trees have become scarce due to the removal of these old trees to make way for housing development and agriculture.

Not just any tree hollow will suit a particular bird. Factors such as the angle of entry access, as well as the size of that entry and the depth of the hollow are to be considered. All have an influence on whether a particular bird species will feel adequately protected in order to successfully breed a new generation.

It has been suggested that it may take up to 200 years for hollows to form that will enable larger birds and animals to find a suitable hollow in which to make their home. Trees which have been subject to a disease or insect attack, as well as having weather



or fire related damage, are ideal for nature to help in the forming of suitable hollows. Approaching their breeding season birds can be seen "renovating" an existing hollow to better meet their specific needs. In the absence of adequately formed natural hollows, artificial hollows or bird boxes, can be constructed from suitable weather proof materials to provide a source of accommodation to replace those hard to find naturally formed hollows. An enterprising home handyman can successfully turn his skills to manufacture a ready made home for one of our needy forest dwellers; OR, enter the following: "nest boxes for wildlife", into the Google search box on your computer for ideas.

This year the Backyard Bird Count is being held during October 20th to October 26th. For more information enter this web address into your browser -- <https://aussiebirdcount.org.au>

Are You Fire Ready?

Join the 4 Weeks to Fire Ready Challenge

We are asking you to join a simple challenge with your neighbours over 4 short weeks. Four weeks to take being prepared out of the 'too hard basket' and potentially save your life, home and treasured memories.

It's been over five years since Australia's last major bush fire season made global headlines. Since then, the world has changed: COVID, population changes, and development have transformed suburbs like Box Hill, North Kellyville, and Annangrove. But while our streets have changed, the risk

hasn't. But four short weeks and you can change that for the better.

New residents might not know The Hills' long memory of fire. Glenhaven and Annangrove in 1975, and then Kenthurst in 1991. In 1994, fire lit up the skies again, taking lives and homes across Sydney.

Major fires devastated properties in Maroota South, Glenorie, and Kenthurst in 2002.

Survivors recall every piece of garden bed and grass paddocks alight as the fire roared overhead. One Glenorie firefighter describes it as "*something you'll never forget, and hope you never have to face again.*"

These events came with the loss of lives, homes and treasured memories. They aren't ancient history, they're a part of our beautiful landscape.

This might seem too big a challenge, but it's not - there are some simple and easy things you can do.

That's why The Hills District Rural Fire Brigades and The Hills Shire Council are inviting you to join your neighbours in the 4 Weeks to Fire Ready Challenge.

Over four weeks, you'll receive a simple weekly email to help you create a Bush Fire Survival Plan:

Week 1: Discuss – What's your plan?

Will you stay or will you go?

Have the conversation.

Week 2: Prepare – Get your go-kit ready, clean up your property, and reduce your risk.

Week 3: Know – Learn about local risk, understand warnings, and where to find trusted info.

Week 4: Keep – Keep up to date and stay informed.

Most homes are lost to ember attack - hundreds of thousands of tiny, wind-blown embers that can travel kilometres ahead of the fire front, landing in gutters, gardens, and doorways, sparking spot fires. Even if you live in a brand-new home, away from the bush, you're not immune to bush fire.

Bush fires also start and spread so fast that you cannot be guaranteed a fire truck will be available to assist.

Having a plan doesn't take long.

Not having one? That could cost everything.

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Aussie Bird Count starts 20th October

Thank you Spring

What can we say. It's sure been a long wet cold winter.

Spring time - I'm sure there is so many jobs & tasks to do. Mowing (without getting bogged), edging, weeding, mulching, hedging etc.

First things first, I know we start with a list, & work out way through it.

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Mulch those gardens to prevent the weeds, and install our steel FORMBOSS garden edging to brighten up & keep the lawns & gardens neat & tidy.

Most of all get outside & enjoy the warmer sunny days.

Happy Spring!

Registrations are open for the 2025 Aussie Bird Count, Australia's largest citizen science project, taking place from Monday, 20th October to Sunday, 26th October 2025.

Participants are invited to spend 20 minutes observing and counting birds in their chosen spot and then submit their count using the free Aussie Bird Count app.

The event, organized by BirdLife Australia, aims to connect people with nature and gather data on urban bird populations to guide conservation efforts, with one in six Australian bird species currently under threat.

Sean Dooley, BirdLife Australia's National Public Affairs Manager, emphasizes that it's not about being a bird expert but about spending time outdoors and learning about the local environment.

Kate Millar, CEO of BirdLife Australia, highlights the count as a crucial first step towards greater curiosity, care, and protection of birds, inviting everyone to participate regardless of their birding experience.



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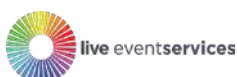
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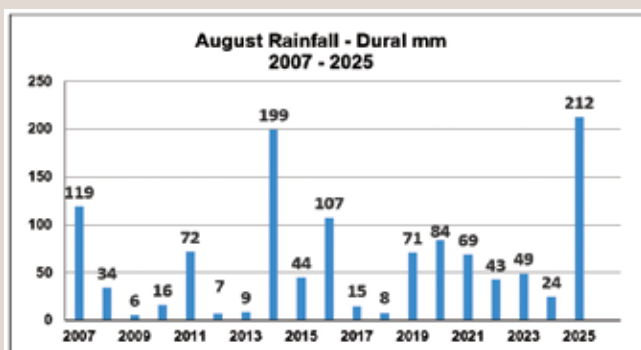
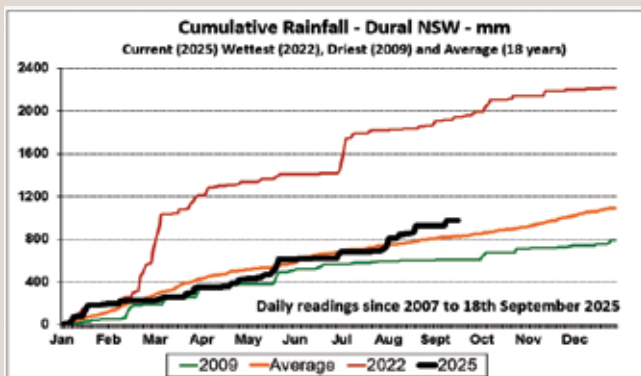
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BY HANS KUNNEN



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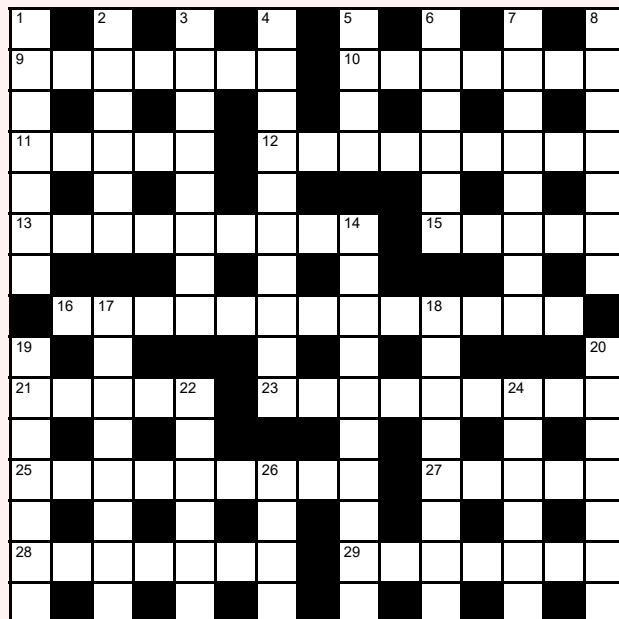
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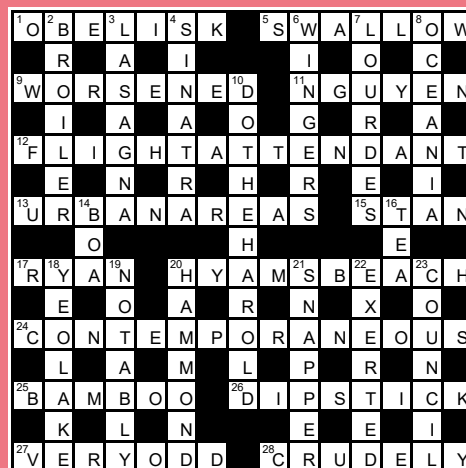
ACROSS

- 09 Small carnivorous marsupial of central Australia (7)
- 10 Visceral (7)
- 11 Have a little (3,2)
- 12 SUV-lite, perhaps? (9)
- 13 Southern Tasmanian mountain (5,4)
- 15 Poe's "Nevermore" bird (5)
- 16 South Australian site once used for rabbit disease research (7,6)
- 21 Pet pests (5)
- 23 Practised (9)
- 25 String puller (9)
- 27 Clean kind of energy (5)
- 28 Where Steven Bradbury would have practised (3,4)
- 29 Awkward nag wins sun shades (7)

DOWN

- 01 Incomplete (7)
- 02 Actor (6)
- 03 Baby's state after leaving the font (8)
- 04 Place for stained suits (3-7)
- 05 Oil lamp fuel (4)
- 06 Spoilsport (6)
- 07 Criminals' transport (5,3)
- 08 Tell the truth (2,5)
- 14 "The Voice" judge and country singer/songwriter (5,5)
- 17 Generally recognized (8)
- 18 Alison is prepared for illicit affairs (8)
- 19 Intervenes (5,2)
- 20 Formal speech (7)
- 22 Furious (6)
- 24 Bone immobilizer (6)
- 26 The Royal Queensland Show (4)

ANSWER FROM SEPTEMBER ISSUE



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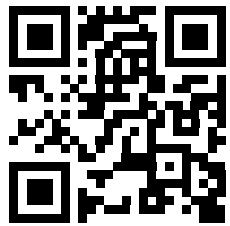
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