

# DOORAL ROUNDUP



SEPTEMBER 2026

Official Publication of the Dural Chamber of Commerce  
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*The best room in the house  
has no walls.*



See page 2

Dural | Mid-Dural | Round Corner | Cherrybrook | Annangrove | Kenthurst |  
Glenhaven Hills | Arcadia | Glenorie | Galston | Oakhill | Nelson | Maraylya | WPH



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## The Best Room in the House Has No Walls

As spring arrives in the Hills, the real living room opens up

You can tell when spring gets to the Hills. The mornings lose their bite, the paddocks go that green they only manage for about six weeks, and everyone quietly migrates outdoors again. Breakfast moves to the verandah. Someone swims too early and regrets it.

We've been building out this way a long time, and if the job has taught us one thing, it's that the most important room on an acreage home usually isn't inside it.

Nobody moves to the Hills District for the hallway. They come for the mist over the back paddock at seven in the morning, and for evenings long enough that dinner drifts outside and stays there.

### Plan It Like a Room

When we design a home, the outdoor spaces get planned like rooms, because that's what they are.

Sounds obvious. It isn't. You can pick the difference in about five seconds: a verandah deep enough for an actual table versus one that fits a pot plant and a disappointed dog.

It starts with the practical stuff. Where does the westerly come in? Where is the sun in September, and where is it in January? Can you carry dinner from the kitchen to the table without negotiating three doors?

None of that costs much to sort out on paper. All of it is expensive to fix afterwards.

### The Backyard Is Part of the Plan

Our favourite homes are the ones where the backyard earns as much thought as the house itself.

Rural Resort is a good example. The pool, gardens and sunken fire pit weren't treated as things to add once the house was finished. They were part of the plan from the beginning.

Arcadian, the stone starts in the garden walls and climbs the chimney, while the backyard has its own fully self-contained pool house, lounge, bar and bedroom included.

Once a family starts taking the backyard seriously, it tends to escalate. We're not complaining.

### Built for the Hills

Anyone who's spent a winter out here knows the westerlies find every gap in a verandah, and frost hangs around the low corners of Arcadia and Glenorie long after the sun's up.

The old orchardists understood this district. They knew which slopes to plant and which to leave alone. Designing an outdoor room takes the same thinking, just with a table instead of trees.

It's the ordinary moments that matter. Kids in the pool while dinner comes off the barbecue. An hour on the verandah after everyone's gone home and the frogs start up.

That's the life people picture when they move out this way. And really, that's what all the planning is for.

Take a cuppa outside one evening this spring and notice where the sun drops, where the wind gets in and where everyone naturally ends up sitting. Your backyard might already be telling you what it needs.

Start this spring, and this time next year you could be reading this magazine from a much better seat.

We'll see you out there.



**Rural Resort**



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**Arcadian**



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# Refusal by Council for Child Care Centre at 29 Pitt Town Road Kenthurst Being Challenged

The Development Application for a 174 place child care facility at 29 Pitt Town Road Kenthurst which was refused by The Hills Shire Council is being brought before the Land and Environment Court by the applicant.

Proceedings have been listed for a section 34 conciliation conference on Monday, 7th September 2026.

Plans of the proposed building show that one of the entry/exit driveways is right on the bend of the road, making it a potential risk to oncoming traffic.

The property, which was previously owned by the Wrench family, one of the original orchardists in Kenthurst, covers an area of just under 2 acres.

The existing home building is currently listed as a heritage item (House-118) which means that the existing dwelling needs to remain highly identifiable within the development.



The proposed hours of operation will be 7am to 6pm Monday to Friday, 52 weeks of the year, except for public holidays and weekends. Parking for 70 cars, which will include staff and visitors. The child care centre will cater for children from 0-5 year olds.

The refusal by Council was based on many reasons, apart from residents objections.

## Some of Council's objections were:

- The proposal was considered to be an over development of the site as well as having an adverse impact on the surrounding trees and vegetation which would be detrimental to the rural and scenic character of the land.
- The development was inconsistent with the Child Care Planning Guidelines design and was not in keeping with the character of the area.
- The proposed development was likely to have an adverse impact on the significance of the heritage item and did not satisfy the Heritage Conservation of The Hills Local Environmental Plan requirements.
- Other factors taken into account were to do with storm water management, carparking & waste management.
- Finally the proposed development was not in the public interest or suitable for the site

Story credit: Kenthurst Community News



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Authorised by James Wallace MP. Funded using parliamentary entitlements.

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# Tender Awarded for Annangrove Road Upgrade

A \$51 million major upgrade to one of the Hills' busiest roads is a step closer after The Hills Shire Council awarded a tender for the Annangrove Road Upgrade.

The project will see a 1.9km section of Annangrove Road in Rouse Hill transformed from a rural road to two lanes in each direction from Windsor Road to Edwards Road.

Mayor of The Hills Shire, Dr Michelle Byrne said the upgrade was a large-scale project that will deliver long-term benefits for the Hill's north-west community.

"This is an important step towards addressing the traffic congestion and delays experienced by residents who rely on Annangrove Road every day," Mayor Byrne said.

"Traffic volumes on Annangrove Road are approaching 20,000 vehicles per day. The Hills is one of the fastest-growing regions in Australia and it is essential that critical infrastructure keeps pace with that growth.

"This is one of the most important infrastructure projects our community has seen in recent years and it will play a critical role in supporting the continued

growth of Rouse Hill, Box Hill and the wider north-west.

"However, projects of this scale do not come without challenges. The reality is that construction will be highly disruptive and motorists should prepare for significant delays and changed traffic conditions throughout the course of the works.

"We understand that this will be frustrating for residents and commuters, but these works are necessary and cannot be delayed any longer. We need to rip off the band-aid to deliver the infrastructure our growing community needs.

"I ask motorists to be patient while these critical works are carried out. While it will take time before the community experiences the full benefits of the upgrade, the completed project will improve safety, reduce congestion and provide better connections for motorists, public transport users, pedestrians and cyclists.

"This is a critical project to ensure this road is fit for purpose for our growing community."

The Annangrove Road Upgrade has been jointly funded by the NSW



Mayor of The Hills Shire, Dr Michelle Byrne and Parliamentary Secretary Stephen Bali MP

Government's Accelerated Infrastructure Fund (AIF), State Infrastructure Contribution (SIC) and The Hills Shire Council.

Minister for Planning and Public Spaces Paul Scully said the NSW Government has invested \$31.4 million towards the Annangrove Road project from the Accelerated Infrastructure Fund (AIF) and State Infrastructure Contribution (SIC) programs.

"Annangrove Road is one of the Hills Shire's most used and important arterial roads servicing a number of rapidly growing communities in North West Sydney including the Box Hill precinct" Mr Scully said.

"This NSW Government funding will turn Annangrove Road into a new modern dual carriageway to improve the local area's network capacity, connectivity, and safety.

"Our Government is committed to providing the local infrastructure growing communities need to accommodate



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new housing. This \$51 million project will directly benefit over 13,000 households."

The new road will be upgraded from the existing rural road to a four lane sub-arterial road with a central median and two lanes in each direction. It will also improve conditions for buses servicing Box Hill, Box Hill Industrial and North Kellyville.

The project will include:

- Widening Annangrove Road from Windsor Road to Edwards Road to four lanes with a central median
- installation of new traffic signals
- installation of kerb and guttering, median islands and traffic islands
- adjustment and relocation of water, sewer, power and telecommunications
- construction of shared path and footpaths
- construction of stormwater drainage systems and water-quality treatment facilities
- removal of power poles and installation of new street lighting
- landscaping and fencing works and
- traffic management throughout the duration of works.

Works are expected to commence late 2026.

Due to the scale and complexity of the works, construction is scheduled for completion in 2029 pending weather and site conditions.

Significant disruption is expected during construction, resulting in delays. Motorists are encouraged to plan ahead and allow extra travel time, as traffic conditions and routes may change throughout the works. Council and its contractor will work to minimise disruption where possible and will keep the community informed about upcoming traffic changes.

For more information and to subscribe for updates about this project, visit The Hills Shire Council's website, [www.thehills.nsw.gov.au](http://www.thehills.nsw.gov.au), and search for 'Annangrove Road Upgrade'.

## Karis Life Founder Receives Community Impact Award

Karis Life founder Rejimon Punchayil was presented with a Community Impact Award by NSW Premier Chris Minns at Sydmal's 50th anniversary celebration in Sydney.

The award recognised Rejimon's contribution to the community and his work through Karis Life, a Hornsby-based assistive technology provider helping older Australians, veterans and people living with disability maintain their independence, dignity and mobility.

The milestone celebration was attended by approximately 1,200 members, community leaders and invited guests.



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## Thank you to Bendigo Bank Sponsors of Arcadian Artists Trail 2026

2026 Arcadian Artists Trail has been generously sponsored again this year by Galston & District Community Bank Branch of the Bendigo Bank. The Sponsorship funds will significantly assist in achieving our goal of supporting the arts amongst the local community and beyond to those in the wider Sydney region.

The Arcadian Artists committee members were invited to receive our cheque at the bank's ceremony celebrating the auspicious occasion of its contribution of over \$4,000 000.00 to our local community.

The Bendigo Bank in Galston is known for its community minded assistance in a variety of activities and events, and this year's sponsorship will greatly enhance the preparation and running of the *Arcadian Artists Trail* once again. It is an important community event that brings the gift of fun and creativity to our stunning area. People from all parts of Sydney are drawn to our



rural surrounds to enjoy a delightful weekend exploring the five private studios whose doors are open to guests. Visitors can view and purchase beautiful handmade items and speak directly to the talented artists. The Artists have been working diligently to ensure that this year's trail has more unique artworks than ever before!

Further information about the Trail will come later in the year, but for now, place the dates in your diary and prioritise this special event. We will be supporting Arcadia Primary School through a fund raising barbeque at one of our venues and the local CWA will be serving tea and scones in support of charity at another.

The Arcadian Artists website [www.arcadianartists.net.au](http://www.arcadianartists.net.au) has further information about the weekend and closer to the event a brochure with a map will be distributed. Look out for the signs too! They will lead you to each studio.

This year the Arcadian Artists Trail weekend will be on Saturday and Sunday 7th and 8th November. Entry is free.

**- Marilyn Chappel on behalf of the Arcadian Artists & Artisans Inc.**

CWA Galston is excited to announce a special Crochet & Knitting Day on Wednesday, 23rd September, from 10am to 2pm.

Come along for a relaxed and friendly morning of crochet, knitting, conversation and creativity. Everyone is welcome whether you are a beginner or an experienced crafter.

All that you need, Morning tea and a light lunch will be provided for just \$10.

Come along enjoy some good company and share your love of handmade crafts with the wonderful ladies of CWA Galston.

We look forward to welcoming you.

**RSVP 16th September | Anne 0404 228 209**

### ADVERTORIAL

## Property Investment & Federal Budget Effects

Property & You – By Paul McKenzie, ABS Conveyancing

Since May 2026, the federal government's budget has impacted on negative gearing, capital gains tax, 30% tax rate on trusts and now, restrictions on property buying into Self-Managed Super Funds (SMSFs). This was the federal government approach to address housing affordability, but as former federal treasurer Peter Costello recently said "don't kill off the golden goose, that lays the golden egg". Recently media reports, NSW state government stamp duty revenue has gone down 18% since June 2026.

### Is property investment still the Golden Goose?

Historically, over many years in Australia, property remain king for investment - investment stability, long term growth (value and rent) tends to overcome short term market and interest rates fluctuations. And the main big one reason, taxation benefits.

Despite the recent federal government budget impacts and rising interest rates during 2026, a smart investor, would seeks advise from their tax accountant, before buying into property investments, to see what has the best tax benefits for them? to buy individually, or in a company structure or trust structure.

At the moment, with the federal government budget changes, best to buy new residential or commercial property, with your tax accountant advise you based on tax benefits - Whether to buy property investment individually, company or trust structure.



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## OPERATION MOONBI

The public release of images and descriptions of children's clothing on 16th July 2026 resulted in the identification of three previously unidentified victims.

The AFP said a multi-agency Local Contact Point (LCP), which ran from 13-26 July, received more than 460 calls from members of the community in relation to Operation Moonbi.

Before the LCP process began, 136 victims had been positively identified as part of the AFP investigation.

As of 6 August, 2026, a further nine victims have been positively identified thanks to information provided through the LCP process. In total, 145 victims have been positively identified as part of Operation Moonbi.

The AFP has contacted the victims and their families and offered tailored support, depending on their circumstances. The total victim count in relation to Operation Moonbi has not increased.

Parents and carers who wish to contact the AFP in relation to Operation Moonbi can email [op-moonbi@afp.gov.au](mailto:op-moonbi@afp.gov.au). The Operation Moonbi website will continue to be active and monitored by the AFP and is expected to be taken down in late September.

The AFP thanked the public for their cooperation and patience as they continue to investigate and identify the victims.

## PILE BURN

Oakville Rural Fire Brigade crews spotted a column of smoke while returning to the station from a motor vehicle accident on Boundary Road, Oakville.

The crew followed the smoke to a property in Maraylya, where they found a vehicle fully alight behind a shed.

Firefighters wearing breathing apparatus quickly attacked the blaze and contained it within minutes, preventing it from spreading to the shed.

Additional crews from Oakville and Hawkesbury Headquarters Rural Fire Brigade attended with further support and water. The vehicle was destroyed, but firefighters managed to save the shed and its contents.

The fire was caused by a nearby pile burn that had escaped into the surrounding grass.

## WITNESS

Police are appealing for witnesses after a pedestrian's foot was allegedly run over by a vehicle outside Samuel Gilbert Public School, Castle Hill.

The incident occurred about 3:05 PM on Tuesday, 11th August, near the intersection of Ridgescrop Road and Gilbert Road.

Police were told the pedestrian was standing beside their black vehicle and was about to enter the driver's door when the collision occurred. The vehicle was parked about 30 metres south-west of the roundabout, outside 63 Gilbert Road.

Police are seeking witnesses, as well as anyone with dashcam or CCTV footage of the incident. Anyone who can assist is asked to contact Castle Hill Police on 9680 5399, quoting reference E88210727.

## CRASH

Police are investigating whether drugs may have contributed to a crash on New Line Road, Dural, on 9th August.

The Hills Police is investigating the circumstances of the crash, which involved a 46-year-old male driver.

The man was taken to Westmead Hospital in a stable condition.

Anyone with information that could assist the investigation is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or through the Crime Stoppers website. Information provided to Crime Stoppers is treated confidentially.

## HEAD-ON COLLISION

Emergency crews were called to a head-on collision on Annangrove Road on Sunday, 23rd August.

Firefighters from Riverstone Fire & Rescue attended alongside crews from Rouse Hill Rural Fire Brigade and Annangrove Rural Fire Service.

The crash left a significant amount of debris scattered across the roadway, prompting the closure of Annangrove Road in both directions while crews secured the scene and cleared the road. No major injuries were reported.

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



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# Sydney Hills Garden Competition Entries Now Open

The Sydney Hills Garden Competition is on again in 2026. Steeped in history and intricately linked to the Hills Shire, this year marks 67 years since the first competition ran as the brainchild of Councillor Eric Mobbs. It became the forerunner of the Orange Blossom Festival, so has a significant place in the cultural history of "The Garden Shire".



16th October where award winning gardens and their gardeners will be honored and receive prizes.

For more information about entering or sponsorship opportunities visit [www.hillsrotary.org.au](http://www.hillsrotary.org.au), your local garden centre or Keith Stapley on 0412 079 014

Calling all gardeners to enter gardens big to small, traditional to modern, residential and even industrial or special in some other way. Hills residents, businesses and institutions are asked to register their gardens by **5pm on Friday 11th September 2026** for spring judging during the Orange Blossom Festival. Entry forms are available at Plants Plus West Pennant Hills, Flower Power Glenhaven, The Hills Shire Council website or [www.hillsgardencomp.org.au](http://www.hillsgardencomp.org.au)

The Garden Competition is run each year by The Rotary Club of the Hills-Kellyville and has a variety of categories for gardeners from small town houses to residential gardens, to gardens of industrial, commercial and retirement complexes. The competition covers a diverse range of categories for all types of gardeners – even young gardeners in the school's category. Specialty gardens such as cottage, communal and environmentally friendly gardens are also included. The garden competition is open to gardens located in the Hills Shire and adjoining parts of the suburbs of North Rocks, Carlingford, Northmead, Winston Hills, Baulkham Hills, West Pennant Hills, Cherrybrook, Glenhaven, Dural, Arcadia, Galston and Glenorie.

Gardens are judged by professional and experienced horticulturists and landscapers. In the past judges have included local gardening gurus Judy Horton, Ross Miller, the late Bruce Pike as well as renowned Horticulturalist Lucia Fowler who will lead the team of expert judges this year. Another of the judges this year is Felicity McCaffrey, granddaughter of Eric Mobbs, the founder of the competition. "The Garden Shire & surrounds have so many beautiful gardens. So many proud gardeners making the very best of their surrounds and enjoying what they achieve in their gardens. This spring is a time to celebrate the fine gardens of the Hills District" said Rotary Club of the Hills-Kellyville President, Sheila Krishnan.

The judging will be held between **28th September** and **2nd October** culminating in an Awards Night on Friday



The Rotary Club of the Hills-Kellyville has had a long association with gardeners in The Hills, having run the Garden Competition since early 2000's and the Hills Open Gardens. The Club proudly opened a Community Garden in March 2021 to mark the 100th year of Rotary in Australia. The Rotary Club of the Hills-Kellyville established and built this garden for the community in conjunction with the Hills Shire Council. Other works of the Club include local community events and the raising of funds for numerous programs far and wide, from the Hills area to outback Australia to overseas communities with specific needs. To be part of an inspired group that is making a difference, contact the club through our website or Facebook page.

*The Sydney Hills Garden Competition is an Orange Blossom Festival Event.*

A PROJECT OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF THE HILLS-KELLYVILLE INC.



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By Laura Wade. Directed by Dave Went

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Will Burke, Nicole Harwood,  
Kimberlea Smith, Larry Murphy



Will Burke,  
Danielle Cutler



Nicole Harwood,  
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Judy's mother, aghast at her daughter's abandonment of everything she taught her, further dulls the sheen whilst best friend Marcus reminds us of the seedier side of the 50s. Can Judy and Johnny stay true to the good old days? Should they even try?

Home, I'm Darling won the Laurence Olivier Award for Best New Comedy in 2018. Dark, witty and with lots of fabulous fifties fashion, music and décor, this absolute gem of a play should not be missed.

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*This show is a clever, funny, human and thought-provoking exploration of what it means to live an alternative lifestyle and how this impacts on friends, family and work.* Dave Went, Director

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By Laura Wade. Directed by Dave Went

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**HOME, I'M DARLING**

WRITTEN BY  
**LAURA WADE**

DIRECTED BY  
**DAVE WENT**

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# OBF

Orange Blossom Festival

## OBF PARADE

**11am – 4pm**  
**Saturday 19 September**  
Main Street, Rouse Hill Town Centre

 **THE HILLS** Sydney's Garden Shire |  *Rouse Hill* TOWN CENTRE



## OBF TASTE OF WISEMANS

**10am – 3pm**  
**Sunday 27 September**  
Wisemans Ferry Park

These events are part of The Hills Shire Council's Orange Blossom Festival.  
For more information visit: [www.orangeblossomfestival.com.au](https://www.orangeblossomfestival.com.au).



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Sydney's Garden Shire

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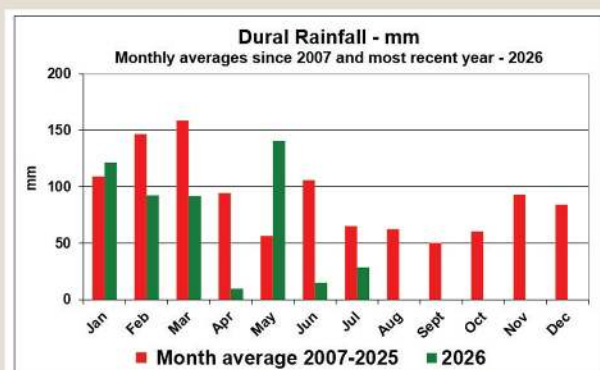
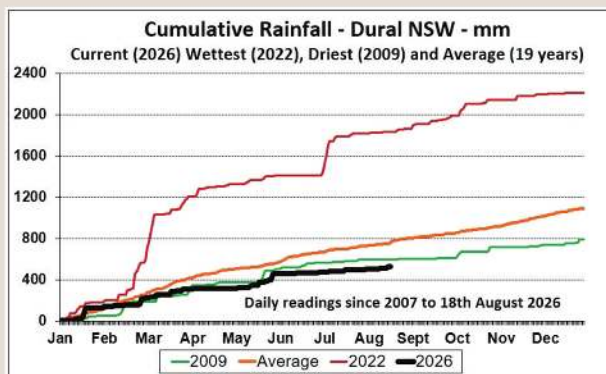
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# Dural Rainfall Charts

by Hans Kunnen



## Castle Hill Art Society presents the Orange Blossom Festival Annual Art Awards

For 59 years Castle Hill Art Society has been running its Annual Arts Awards and Exhibition as part of The Hills Shire Orange Blossom Festival.

These amazing paintings will be on show from 11th – 13th September at Castle Glen Community Centre, Ridgescrop Drive, Castle Hill (behind Knightsbridge shops) 9.00am – 4.00pm. Free entry.

The Children's exhibition is on display 19th September.



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\*Fixed Fees\* For Life. Purchasers who pay a deposit on a selected Living Choice Galston villa between 1 July and 31 October 2026, and settle within 90 days of depositing, will be eligible for the guaranteed 'Fixed Fees\* For Life' offer. See website for full T&Cs. You may have to pay a departure fee when you leave this village which may impact on capital gains received when leaving the village.

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GAL00102

# The Ear and the Brain – Partners in Crime

Many people walk into a hearing clinic and say a sentence that we hear every day and still take it very seriously: “I can hear people talking. I just cannot understand them.” It sounds like a small distinction, but it is the key to understanding hearing properly. Hearing and understanding are not the same thing and recognising the difference can change what people expect from a hearing test, hearing aids, and the road back to confident communication.

Hearing, in simple terms, is detection. It is the ear’s job to pick up sound; voices, traffic, the kettle boiling, and send that information onward. Understanding is interpretation. That is the brain’s role: organising the sound, separating speech from background noise, filling in gaps, and attaching meaning to what was said, all in real time. When someone says, “I can hear you, but it’s not clear,” what they are often describing is that sound is arriving, but the brain is struggling to turn it into understandable speech.

This becomes especially obvious in noisy places: cafés, family dinners, social gatherings. Many people report that others “mumble,” or that they can hear plenty of noise but cannot pick out the words. If the brain does not receive speech details, it has less to work with, and sentences start to blur.

But there is another layer that hearing care professionals see every day: processing. When hearing loss develops slowly

over years, the brain may receive less accurate sound information for a long time. Over time, the brain can become less efficient at recognising and interpreting certain sounds because it has not had consistent, clear input. Clinicians refer to this as auditory deprivation. It does not happen overnight, and many people “manage” for years by lip-reading, guessing from context, or avoiding difficult listening situations. Yet the effort builds quietly in the background, often showing up as fatigue, frustration, or social withdrawal.

Therefore “just making things louder” is not always the full solution. Hearing devices can restore access to sounds the ears are not delivering well, but the brain may still need time and support to relearn what those sounds mean. That is where auditory rehabilitation and training come in: structured listening practice, guided exposure, repetition, and realistic communication strategies that help the brain improve speech understanding again, especially in background noise.

The great news is that the brain is adaptable. Many people notice early improvements, then continued gains over weeks and months as listening becomes easier and more automatic. Good hearing care is rarely a single appointment; it is a process that includes careful fitting, follow-up, coaching, and realistic expectations.

Understanding the difference between hearing and comprehension shifts the goal from simply “hearing sounds” to restoring communication. And for anyone who has said, “I can hear, but I can’t understand,” that distinction can be the first step toward getting real help, help that goes beyond volume and back to clarity. We have recorded a video regarding this topic, if you would like to discover more, scan the QR code below and subscribe to our YouTube channel Ear Man Dan.



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Watch the video here & subscribe!




# A New Chapter in Luxury Living

Retirement today is increasingly viewed as an opportunity to embrace new experiences, pursue personal interests and enjoy greater freedom. At Living Choice Galston, a new collection of luxury apartments reflects this modern approach to living, combining contemporary design with a strong sense of community and connection.



Nestled within the picturesque Hills District, the community offers an environment where convenience, wellbeing and natural beauty exist in harmony. The thoughtfully designed two-bedroom, two-bathroom apartments feature spacious open-plan living areas, premium finishes and generous balconies that provide the ideal space to relax and take in the surrounding village landscape.

Beyond the apartment itself, residents have access to a lifestyle shaped by choice and opportunity. Located alongside the landmark

Leisure & Wellness Centre, the residences place recreation, social connection and wellbeing just moments from home. Whether spending time with friends, enjoying community activities or simply embracing a slower pace, residents can enjoy the freedom to shape each day according to their own interests.

Importantly, luxury living is about more than exceptional homes. It is about the quality of life they support. At Living Choice Galston, residents can enjoy the comfort of a beautifully appointed residence while remaining connected to a welcoming community, creating a lifestyle that feels enriching, rewarding and distinctly contemporary.

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## from the Mayor's Desk

As Mayor, I remain committed to ensuring our village and town Centres are a place where people want to spend time, where local businesses are supported and our communities come together. That is why I am pleased that Council has secured NSW Government funding to investigate Purple Flag accreditation for Hornsby Town Centre. Purple Flag is an internationally recognised program that promotes safe, functional and attractive destinations.

This initiative builds on our Special Entertainment Precinct projects, as well as the popular Hornsby After Dark, helping create greater opportunities for businesses, events and entertainment while maintaining a strong focus on safety, accessibility and visitor experience.

Spring will also bring a new highlight onto our community calendar, with Taste of Harmony on Saturday 19 September. This free cultural festival celebrates the many cultures that make Hornsby Shire such a wonderful place to live. With international food, music, performances and activities for all ages, it is a fantastic opportunity to come together, learn from one another and celebrate the diversity that enriches our community.

I would also like to acknowledge Dementia Action Week, which runs from 21 to 27 September. The Council team are committed to acknowledging the challenges around dementia and to acknowledge the role of family and carers meeting those challenges.

As I move around the Shire, I am delighted to see the impact that our park upgrades are having in every location. I'm overwhelmed by the level of community turn-out at the most recently completed work at Glenorie, Asquith, Hornsby Heights and Edward Bennett park in Cherrybrook.

These initiatives reflect our commitment to building a connected, inclusive and welcoming Hornsby Shire for everyone to enjoy.

**Warren Waddell**  
Mayor of Hornsby Shire

**TASTE of HARMONY**  
CULTURAL FESTIVAL

**Saturday 19 September**  
11am to 8pm

**HORNSBY PARK GARDENS**  
Outside Hornsby Aquatic and Leisure Centre

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

## Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Repair

**Get hands-on this September and join one of our events.**

### ■ Chipping for Mulch

Sunday 13 September, 7.30am-12.30pm  
The Old Dog Pound  
Next to 8 Warrigal Drive, Westleigh

### ■ Bicycle repair workshop

Saturday 19 September, 9.30am-12.30pm  
Storey Park Community Centre, Hornsby

### ■ Stitch and fix: clothes mending workshop

Saturday 19 September, 10.30am-12.30pm  
Storey Park Community Centre, Hornsby

### ■ No dig gardening workshop: Grow More, Waste Less

Wednesday 30 September, 10am-12pm  
Community Recycling Centre, Thornleigh

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



**Second Hand HORNSBY Market**

**Sunday 13 September**  
9am - 1pm  
Coronation Street, Hornsby

Over 30 second-hand stalls

**Solar Advice**

**Tuesday 8 and Wednesday 9 September, 12pm-4pm**  
Free 20 min solar and battery consultations.  
Bring your latest energy bill. Hornsby Library

**Tuesday 15 September, 6.30pm-7.30pm**  
Is your roof suited to solar?  
Free online session, bookings essential

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

**Hornsby Dementia Expo**

**Thursday 24 September**  
10.30am-1pm

**Westfield Hornsby**

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

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# Dural Bowling Club

## AGM

Two long-serving members, **Margaret Yeend** and **Robert Whiddon**, were recognised with Life Membership for their outstanding contributions at the AGM on Saturday 8th August 2026.

## 60th Anniversary

The Dural Bowling Club's 60th anniversary was celebrated immediately following the Annual General Meeting, marking a significant milestone in the Club's long and proud history. Current and former members gathered in the auditorium to honour six decades of bowling, community spirit, and enduring friendships.



The auditorium was elegantly presented in white and gold, complemented by the blue and yellow colours of Parramatta Leagues Club, the Club's current owner. This thoughtful presentation created a warm and festive atmosphere befitting the occasion.

Members enjoyed a hot lunch prepared by Club staff, providing an opportunity to reconnect, reminisce, and share stories spanning generations of bowlers. The celebration continued with the cutting of a magnificent blue and yellow anniversary cake by long-standing members Leone Lesslie and Judith Harris, joined by President John Lennon and Past President Robyn Scoble — a symbolic moment linking past leadership with the present.

The day concluded with bowling on the green, followed by a chocolate bar for all, offering a light-hearted and enjoyable finale to a memorable celebration. It was a fitting tribute to the Club's heritage and the strong community that continues to sustain it.

## Major Men Single Finals

The Club extends its congratulations to **Graeme Giles**, who claimed victory in a tightly contested Men's Singles Final on Saturday 25th July. Graeme secured the win after a close and skilful match against **Glen Davey**, with both players demonstrating excellent form throughout the competition. This event concludes another successful Singles Championship, marked by strong participation and high-quality bowling from all entrants.

Anyone that is interested in playing Lawn Bowls, free lessons by qualified coaches are available  
Phone: Rob Whiddon 0411 375 580.

# West Pennant Hills Bowls Club

On Sunday evening, 26th July, approximately 80 members and partners celebrated our annual Presentation Night at West Pennant Hills Sports Club. Guests were treated to a delicious 2 course meal. This evening is a recognition of the efforts of our members over the last 12 months.

All winners and runners up were presented with small trophies as well as the appropriate perpetual trophy. Some of the higher profile Club competition winners were Steve Arnold (Major Singles), Rod Houston (Minor Singles), Max Walters and David Jeffery (Major Pairs) and Robin Rath and Brian Barton (Minor Pairs). Unfortunately, all winners cannot be mentioned here however congratulations to all.

Also, on the night the winners of our male and female Club people of the year were announced. Congratulations to Vicki Brown and Tinus Van Vuuren who took out these prestigious awards.

Our Annual General Meeting took place on Saturday 8th August. Election of the Management Committee took place and congratulations go to the new Committee of Lyn Van Wyk (President), Brian Barton (Vice President), Janne Reynolds (Treasurer), Sue Ayling (Secretary) and Graeme Oddy (Bowls Coordinator). Members of the Selection panel, Match and Greens Committees and Welfare Officer were also elected.

This was followed by a BBQ and social bowls.

If you are interested in playing bowls with a friendly progressive club contact Lyn on 0417 752 997. All welcome.



Vicki Brown



Tinus Van Vuuren



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# Young Author Uses Storytelling to Connect and Give Back

Galston High School student Ashleen Khela of Year 9 is being recognised for her remarkable contribution to the community through her passion for writing and philanthropy, winning the NSW/ACT 7 News Young Achievers Awards "Connecting communities award".



The award celebrates young people who develop grassroots initiatives that bring communities together, address community needs and create lasting positive impact.

Ashleen is one of Australia's youngest published female authors. Inspired by real-life experiences, she began writing at just seven years old and published her debut book, *17 Stories*, at the age of 11. She has since published *Journey Through Her Jersey* and *Miles of Memories*.

Ashleen's journey is particularly inspiring because she personally funded the publication of her first book by collecting and recycling bottles and cans and selling plants. Rather than keeping the proceeds, she donated them to organisations supporting Australians and disadvantaged children around the world, including Cancer Council, Starlight, UNICEF and UN Women Australia.

Her books are now held in more than 400 libraries across Australia and overseas, allowing her stories and their messages to reach communities well beyond her local area.

Ashleen's achievements have already attracted significant recognition. In 2025, she received the **NSW Women of the Year Award – The Ones to Watch (7–15 years)**. The award was presented at the International Convention Centre Sydney by Minister Jodie Harrison, followed by an invitation to afternoon tea with NSW Governor Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC at Government House.

She was also named **Hills Shire Council's Young Citizen of the Year** for 2025.

Her nomination for the Connecting Communities Award is a fitting recognition of a young person demonstrating that passion, creativity and generosity can make a genuine difference.



## Bringing Joy across Generations

### Pacific Hills Christian School



Students in Years 7 and 8 at Pacific Hills Christian School recently visited the residents of Yurana from the Elouera Gardens Christian Retirement Village, sharing time, conversation and friendship with residents. The visit was a beautiful reminder that even the simplest acts of kindness can brighten someone's day.

Jason Mok, Year 7 Teacher, encouraged students to embrace the opportunity to serve others, reminding them to "Use your skills to bring joy."

For Year 7 student Elliott, the visits are deeply meaningful. "It's an act of service... the residents don't have as many choices as we have, and it's special to see them."

Through these visits, students and residents formed meaningful connections and friendships across generations. Students were enriched by the residents' wisdom, life experiences, and perspectives, while residents enjoyed the companionship, energy, and care the students brought.

There were smiles all around as everyone reflected on a wonderful day.

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**James Wallace**  
HORNSBY MP

## Cherrybrook Rezoning: We Need Infrastructure to Match Growth

In August the NSW Labor Government announced the rezoning of the Cherrybrook Metro Precinct. The rezoning allows for buildings ranging between 27 storeys opposite the Cherrybrook Metro station, and between four and seven storeys backing onto existing suburban homes. The total long-term projection is for 10,000 new homes.

It is significant enough to have ramifications beyond Cherrybrook and will impact the wider rural community.

Unfortunately, the Labor Government has failed to address the concerns raised by our community in the public consultation. Our community will be deeply disappointed with this result. The decision is short-sighted, poorly informed and overlooks real

and significant community concerns about local schools, roads, sports fields and commuter parking.

There are significant issues identified by the community consultation which have not been resolved, including:

- No new school site has been identified or reserved, and there is no upgrade plan for Cherrybrook Technology High School, which is already over capacity.
- No funding for the New Line Road upgrade we've been promised for years. This is despite the NSW Government receiving massive windfall revenues from the sale of the rezoned Cherrybrook land.
- While recognising the need for new sports fields, no new sports field has been identified or funded.
- No space has been reserved in the precinct for commuter car parking. This is despite widespread community concern and problems with residents accessing the Metro.
- Poor design principles with seven-storey apartment blocks backing onto single-storey family homes, with no buffer between them.

I will continue to advocate for our community and fight for the infrastructure we need to support growth.

## Dural and District Historical Society Inc.

### News from History Cottage

It was a pleasure to hear familiar aspects of our community described by a master poet. At our August, June Roughley Memorial Lecture, Dr Michael Griffith read and discussed the poetry of Francis Webb, who lived for a time with his sister, Claudia Snell, in Thomas Rd. Galston. Webb was highly regarded by fellow poets and members in Saturday's audience spoke of the unexpected pleasure they found in hearing his verses. The arrival of the black cockatoos, "the crested ones", or the spring harrows between the orange trees and Mavis Black in the coach; all made lasting impressions.

Mrs Roughley would have been most gratified to see how the Society she founded forty two years ago has prospered.

The guest speaker for the 12th September meeting will be DDHS member and archaeologist, Elyssa Freame. Her subject is the Convict Trail Project. Our Society has been involved in research for the history of the Great North Road and Elyssa will tell of the



project to record and preserve this road of history that runs through our community.

Maybe readers have a relative who was involved in the work gangs; the research is there to see.

The next open afternoon at History Cottage is on the 27th September between 1.00 pm and 4.00pm. All are welcome and members on

duty are ready to show what is available and to help with research.

The Annual General Meeting for the Society will be on the 10th October. This is always a happy and rewarding afternoon because it is a chance to bring an item special to them and tell its story.

Meetings are held in the Galston Uniting Church, School Road, Galston on the second Saturday of each month, starting at 2.00pm. Entry is free with a gold coin for afternoon tea.

Enquiries: Michael Bell 02 9653 1365.

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**Mark Hodges**  
MEMBER FOR CASTLE HILL

## Homelessness Week: A growing crisis we cannot ignore

We recently marked Homelessness Week, providing an important opportunity to recognise the people experiencing homelessness across New South Wales and the organisations and volunteers working tirelessly to support them.

I used the occasion to speak in Parliament about the growing homelessness crisis in our State. Homelessness is often misunderstood as simply sleeping rough, but it takes many forms. It includes families living in overcrowded accommodation, young people couch surfing, older people sleeping in cars and, tragically, women and children forced to leave their homes to escape domestic violence.

The numbers are deeply concerning. More than 35,000 people across NSW experience homelessness, while the number of people sleeping rough has increased by 42 per cent since 2023. More than 68,000 households are waiting for social housing, including more than 12,000 households on the priority list because they are already homeless or at immediate risk.

These figures should concern all of us.

I was pleased to attend the 13th annual Hills Winter Sleep Out at Bella Vista Farm. More than 100 people came together to spend a night outdoors, raising awareness and funds to support local



people experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity. This year's event raised approximately \$55,000 for Hills Community Aid. Over the last year, fundraising provided direct assistance to 129 local people through Hills Community Aid.

The generosity of our community is extraordinary, but charities and volunteers cannot carry this burden alone. We need greater investment in crisis accommodation,

social and affordable housing, and frontline homelessness services, particularly for women and children escaping domestic violence.

Everyone deserves a safe place to call home.

*Authorised by Mark Hodges MP.*

*Funded using parliamentary entitlements.*

**As your Federal Member, I am here to:**

- Assist with accessing Federal Government services
- Attend your local community event
- Arrange congratulatory messages

Please contact my office if I can be of assistance.

**JULIAN LEESER MP**  
LIBERAL FEDERAL MEMBER FOR BEROWRA

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## Mark Hodges MP

### Member for Castle Hill

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 MarkHodges.com.au markhodgesmp MarkHodgesMP  
 Suite 1A, 19-21 Terminus St Castle Hill 2154

*Authorised by Mark Hodges MP. Funded using parliamentary entitlements.*





## Jane Seaglove

HORNSBY COUNCILLOR

### Hello Residents,

Hornsby Shire continues to invest in parks, open spaces and community facilities, with a number of projects recently completed or underway to create better spaces for recreation, connection and active living.

As part of Council's Active Transport Strategy, I am also seeking community feedback on a potential shared footpath connection in Dural between Carters Road and Old Northern Road. With many older residents and young families living in the area, a safe and connected pathway would provide valuable opportunities for walking and cycling while improving accessibility and strengthening this important connection between Galston and Dural. I welcome your views on this proposal. If you would like to provide feedback, please contact me directly at [jseaglove@hornsby.nsw.gov.au](mailto:jseaglove@hornsby.nsw.gov.au).

Recent Park upgrades are also helping to create more welcoming and accessible spaces for residents to enjoy. At **Ulolo Community Park in Hornsby Heights**, upgrades have delivered new pathways, playground equipment, safer soft-fall surfaces, shade planting, seating, furniture and landscaping.



**Edward Bennett Oval in Cherrybrook** has also undergone a major transformation, with new swings, a nature play area, monkey bars, a trampoline, rock-climbing pillar and soft-fall surfaces. Two shelters, BBQ facilities and new public toilets have also been added, creating a welcoming space for children from their early years through to the teenage years.



A new shared pathway connecting **The Crescent with Beecroft Village Green** has also been completed, providing a safer and more accessible route for pedestrians and cyclists. Together, these improvements are giving families and people of all ages and abilities more opportunities to enjoy outdoor recreation close to home.

Council has also recently resolved to commence work on the **Westleigh Park Trail Network**, which will connect Hornsby Park with Westleigh Oval. The dedicated walking and cycling network will link key recreational spaces and provide another opportunity for residents to get outdoors. Well-designed bike trails encourage active lifestyles, provide families and young people with safe places to ride, and strengthen connections between our parks and open spaces.

Looking ahead, **Dementia Action Week, 14th–20th September 2026**, provides an opportunity to help build a more inclusive and supportive community. The week encourages us to reconnect with friends, family and neighbours affected by dementia, while helping to reduce loneliness, stigma and isolation. Visit the Hornsby Shire Council website for information about events taking place throughout the week.



## Julian Leeser

MEMBER FOR BEROWRA

### Honouring Levi, One Game at a Time

Some days stay with you. Meeting Luke and Natalie and hearing about their son Levi was one of those days.

Levi was just nine years old when he lost his courageous battle with DIPG, a rare, aggressive and incurable childhood brain tumour.

But Levi's story is about so much more than the illness that took him.

He was a much-loved son, brother and mate who loved sport. He played soccer with West Pennant Hills Cherrybrook, rugby league with the Pennant Hills-Cherrybrook Stags, AFL with West Pennant Hills-Cherrybrook, and cricket with West Pennant Hills and later Kenthurst. These were more than sporting clubs to Levi – they were places where he found friendship, belonging and community.

His parents told me that just weeks before his diagnosis, Levi was taking wickets in cricket. The speed at which his health deteriorated was something they could never have imagined.

Despite their unimaginable grief, Luke and Natalie are determined to make sure Levi is remembered and that his story can help other children.

That is at the heart of Livin 4 Levi.

Local clubs Levi proudly represented have come together to honour his memory and raise funds for childhood brain cancer research. The initiative encourages people to donate an amount matching their age, making it something families and children



can be part of. Together, the community has already raised more than \$60,000.

Luke and Natalie have seen first-hand how important research is. Levi was unable to access a clinical trial, highlighting the need for greater research into DIPG and better treatment options for children.

This is what makes our community so special. From Levi's sporting clubs and teammates to his school, friends and neighbours, people have rallied around the family and turned their grief into an incredible show of support.

Luke and Natalie want to make Livin 4 Levi an annual event, bringing sporting clubs across our community together to remember Levi and raise funds for research.

I am incredibly honoured to stand alongside them as an ambassador.

Levi may no longer be on the sporting fields he loved, but through Livin 4 Levi, his name, spirit and love of sport can continue to make a difference.

If you would like to support Livin 4 Levi and help fund childhood cancer research, you can donate here: <https://www.ccia.org.au/event/levi-roodenburg/donate>



**Clr Mitchell Blue**  
THE HILLS SHIRE COUNCIL

## Are You Fire Ready? Now Is the Time to Prepare

As Chair of The Hills Bushfire Management Committee and a local volunteer firefighter, bushfire preparedness is a cause I am deeply passionate about. With the 2026-27 bushfire season approaching, now is the time for residents and landowners across The Hills to understand their level of risk and take practical steps to protect their homes, families and properties.

Bushfires have always been part of life in The Hills. From Glenhaven and Annangrove in 1975, Kenthurst in 1991, and the devastating fires of 1994 and 2002 across Maroota South, Glenorie and Kenthurst, our community has seen firsthand how quickly conditions can change. Many local firefighters and residents still remember those events vividly, highlighting the importance of being prepared before a fire starts.

It has now been more than six years since Australia's last major bushfire crisis dominated headlines. During that time, significant growth and development have reshaped suburbs such as Box Hill and North Kellyville. While our communities continue to expand, the bushfire risk remains very real.

This year, forecasts indicate the potential for a challenging bushfire season, with El Niño conditions increasing the likelihood of warmer temperatures and below-average rainfall across many parts of Australia. Following a drier than average autumn and ongoing dry conditions in parts of New South Wales, residents should not be

complacent. The combination of dry vegetation, hotter weather and strong winds can create conditions that allow fires to spread rapidly.

That is why The Hills District Rural Fire Brigades and The Hills Shire Council are encouraging residents to take part in the **4 Weeks to Fire Ready Challenge**, a free program tailored specifically to local conditions. Over four weeks, participants receive simple weekly guidance to help create a Bush Fire Survival Plan, prepare their property, understand warnings and fire danger ratings, and keep their plans up to date.

This year, the program will also include a series of community preparedness and information meetings across The Hills. These sessions provide an opportunity for residents to learn more about local bushfire risks, ask questions, develop a Bush Fire Survival Plan and meet their local volunteer firefighters. Whether you are new to the area or have lived here for decades, these meetings offer practical advice that could make a significant difference during an emergency.

Many people are surprised to learn that homes are often lost not from direct flame contact, but from ember attack. Embers can travel kilometres ahead of a fire front, landing in gutters, gardens, decks and roofs, igniting properties far from the main fire. Even newer homes in suburban areas can be vulnerable.

A bushfire survival plan takes only a short time to prepare, but it can make a critical difference when every minute counts. Join the 4 Weeks to Fire Ready Challenge at <https://mailchi.mp/rfs/4w2fr2026> and look out for Get Ready Weekend events hosted by local RFS brigades throughout September. Prepare now, because being fire ready could save your home and, more importantly, save lives.



**Dr Michelle Byrne**  
MAYOR OF THE HILLS SHIRE

## Cherrybrook Rezoning Raises Major Infrastructure Concerns

The NSW Government has decided to finalise the Cherrybrook Precinct Rezoning – and it's significantly different from the Cherrybrook Place Strategy our residents expected that was developed through extensive community consultation.

The original Place Strategy proposed around 3,200 additional dwellings. The final rezoning could now allow up to 10,000 homes, more than tripling the number initially presented to residents. Building heights have also increased, with developments near Cherrybrook Metro Station permitted to reach up to 27 storeys.

I understand the Government is trying to address the housing crisis, but growth must be matched with the infrastructure required to support it. Unfortunately, the final rezoning is solely focused on housing targets while leaving important infrastructure questions unresolved.

Throughout the consultation process, residents consistently raised concerns about building heights and density. Rather than reducing these impacts, the final outcome introduces even greater density than originally proposed. This reflects a planning approach

that prioritises housing yield without adequately addressing local character, infrastructure capacity and community needs.

I will be writing to the relevant Ministers to make it clear that if this is the strategy the Government intends to pursue, it must also commit to the infrastructure needed to support it. This includes upgrading Castle Hill Road and New Line Road, funding new parks, sporting fields and community facilities, securing a site for a future primary school, and outlining how the Metro network, which is already operating at capacity during peak periods, will accommodate the additional population growth.

Our community should not be expected to absorb this level of growth without a clear commitment to the roads, schools, public spaces and transport infrastructure needed to support it. Growth must be properly planned, funded and supported.

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# Bromeliad Spring Show



During Springtime bromeliads are exceptional for their unique flowering and multi colourful displays.

The Bromeliad Spring Show will be held at the Federation Pavilion, Castle Hill Showground on **Saturday, 26th September 9am-4pm** and **Sunday, 27th 10am-3pm**.

Rare and exquisite bromeliads from local, regional and interstate growers will be on display

and available for sale to the public including BSA's competition winners Harold Kuan, Nina Woodcock, Elizabeth Mudriczki and Kerry McNicol together with Anna Ernst and her amazing artistic bromeliad wall hangings.

Tillandsia experts, Chris & Lap Larsen from Victoria and Angela & Gary Flemming who always have an enormous variety of bromeliads available. Jan and Jon Townsend will also be making the trip down from Bonville with variety of giant and colourful Alcantareas and Neos.

There will be 20 plant sale tables continuously restocked, books, pots, information and free advice available from experienced bromeliad growers.

There is plenty of parking on site, admission is free to the show and please bring a box for your purchases. Make sure you check out the lucky barrel with its amazing plants.

For further information contact Ian Hook, President, Bromeliad Society of Australia on mobile 0408 202 269, email: [hook1@bigpond.com](mailto:hook1@bigpond.com), or check the website [www.bromeliad.org.au](http://www.bromeliad.org.au)



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Bring a box for  
purchases



## Purple Twining Pea

Throughout open woodland and scrubby forest can be found the Purple Twining Pea (*Hardenbergia violacea*) twisting and twining its way over and through understorey plants of up to 2 metres in height. Where conditions are ideal, masses of purple flowers can be seen, in season, all over the supporting plant. The observant bushwalker could be forgiven in thinking that this plant is a shrub or bush in its own right.

Not so, as it is in effect a vine that twists and turns in a somewhat haphazard fashion around the branches of the host plant. In situations where this plant is growing and it has not been able to find a supporting bush, it will spread in a prostrate habit across the ground, even twisting upon itself, forming a brilliant spring display ground cover.

The leaves are generally shaped in the form of an elongated arrow head.

Where the tendrils of the vine-like branchlets have reached the limit of their host support the plant continues to grow, resulting in a graceful drooping display of flower laden growth. Its main flowering period is from late July to early October.

Due to the attractive colours of its pea shaped flowers, horticulturists have developed many cultivars with several colour variations, that are suitable for the home garden. When grown in a home garden this plant prefers a position of full sun in a frost free location as well as a well drained soil that mimics its natural bushland habitat. It responds well to pruning to keep it compact.

This plant has also been given a variety of descriptive names, the most appropriate, possibly is, "Happy Wanderer" which typically describes its growth habit. It is also known as "False Sarsparilla" and "Purple Coral Pea".



### RFS NEWS

## Are You Fire Ready? Join the 4 Weeks to Fire Ready Challenge

Bush fires have always been part of life in The Hills. From Glenhaven and Annangrove in 1975, Kenthurst in 1991, through to the devastating fires in 1994 and again in 2002 at Maroota South, Glenorie, and Kenthurst - our community has seen how quickly the landscape can change.

One firefighter remembers Kenthurst in 1991: "Our tankers were the first on the scene and were powerless to control the blaze." Another recalls Glenorie in 2002: "Something you'll never forget, and hope you never have to face again." These aren't distant memories, they are part of the story of our community.

It has been more than six years since Australia's last major bush fire season made headlines around the world. In that time, COVID, population growth, and new developments have transformed suburbs like Box Hill, North Kellyville, and Annangrove. But while our streets may look different, the risk of bush fire has not changed.

With El Nino conditions established, there is a high potential for a challenging summer with forecasts indicating an increased likelihood of above-average temperatures and below-average rainfall.

Warmer and drier-than-average conditions during autumn have left many parts of NSW unusually dry, with some regions already experiencing drought. If these conditions persist, fire activity could increase through spring and into the 2026-27 bush fire season.

That's why The Hills District Rural Fire Brigades and The Hills Shire Council invite you to take part in the 4 Weeks to Fire Ready Challenge, a program designed specifically for The Hills community.

This simple, free program takes bush fire preparedness out of the "too hard basket." Over four weeks, you'll receive one short email each week to help you build your own 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 – Understand fire danger ratings, alerts, and where to find trusted information.
- **Week 4:** Keep – Keep your plan up to date and stay informed.

Most homes are lost not to flames but to ember attack, burning embers carried on the wind that can travel kilometres ahead of a fire, igniting gutters, gardens, and even brand-new homes in suburban streets. Fires also move so fast that you cannot rely on a fire truck being there when you need it.

A plan doesn't take long to make. But not having one? That could cost your home, your memories, or your life.

This year, Four Weeks to Fire Ready will host a number of community preparedness and information meetings across The Hills. These meetings will give you and your family an opportunity to learn more about risks, preparedness and Bush Fire Survival Plans as well as meeting your local firefighters.

### How to Join

Sign up today by scanning the QR code or visiting <https://mailchi.mp/rfs/4w2fr2026>

Look out for Get Ready Weekend events hosted by your local RFS Brigade throughout September, where you can learn more, ask questions, and sign up in person.

Don't wait for fire season to remind you. Prepare now - join your neighbours in the Hills and take the 4 Weeks to Fire Ready Challenge.



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## ADVERTORIAL

# Hills and Hornsby Shire Residents: Is Your Fire Pump Ready?

With the Hills to Hawkesbury region facing an ongoing bushfire risk, residents in fire-prone areas are taking a closer look at their property protection measures and firefighting equipment.



**Aussie Fire Pumps ready to protect against fire danger**

Clearing vegetation around homes and outbuildings, reducing potential fire hazards and ensuring reliable water supplies are fundamental steps in preparing for bushfire. But having access to water is only part of the equation.

Firefighting equipment must also be fit for purpose and ready to perform when it matters most.

Australian Pump Industries is urging property owners to pay particular attention to the pump at the heart of their firefighting system.

"There's no point having a great sprinkler system or pre-plumbed firefighting points if the pump simply won't perform or won't start," said Aussie Pumps' Craig Bridgement.

The Aussie Fire Chief portable fire pump is designed to deliver both high pressure and high flow, with flow rates of up to 450 litres per minute and operation at up to 75 metres head, equivalent to around 100 psi.

Its ability to self-prime through a vertical lift of up to 7.6 metres can also be critical when drawing water from swimming pools, tanks, dams or creeks, particularly as water levels fall during a fire.

Aussie Pumps stresses that the engine driving the pump is equally important. The Fire Chief uses both Honda petrol and Yanmar diesel engine, selected for reliability and dependable starting.

"Having an engine that doesn't start when you've got a fire coming is no joke," said Craig.

Aussie Pumps recommends that property owners check the actual performance specifications before purchasing a fire pump, including flow at pressure, self-priming capability, testing and certification, manufacturing standards, and engine support.

When it comes to protecting property from bushfire, capability counts. A pump that performs when needed could make all the difference. For more information contact 02 8865 3500.

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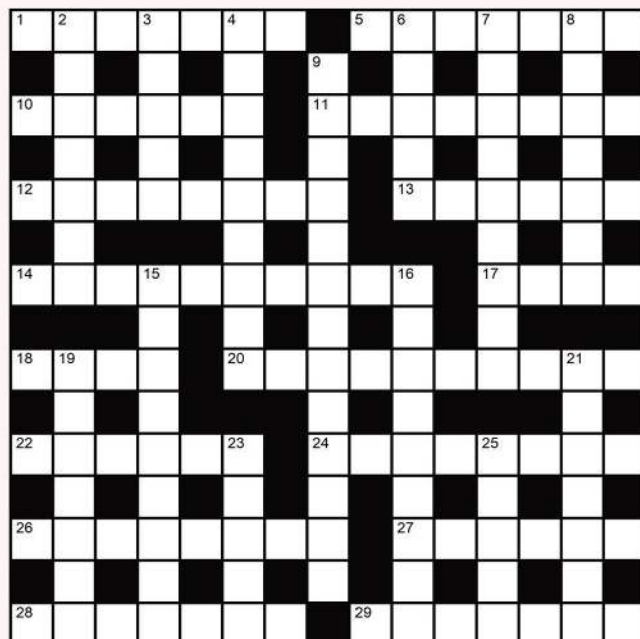
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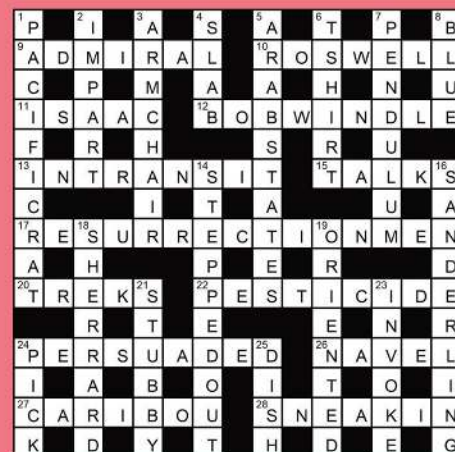
### Across

- 01 Realm (7)
- 05 Makeshift (7)
- 10 Top gear for a biker (6)
- 11 In being (8)
- 12 Set upon (8)
- 13 Adequate (6)
- 14 Olympic gold-winning Melbourne Hockeyroo (5,5)
- 17 Such as Perth or Brisbane (4)
- 18 Chital or Rusa, perhaps (4)
- 20 11, to 121 (6,4)
- 22 Red grape variety (3,3)
- 24 Enoch ate out, finding nothing to drink (3,5)
- 26 Abnormally dilated (8)
- 27 "9 to 5" actress Lily --- (6)
- 28 How Leda wrong-footed a tennis champ (3,4)
- 29 Magnates (7)

### Down

- 02 Sluggishness (7)
- 03 High-energy radiation (5)
- 04 Fringe areas (9)
- 06 Nonsense (5)
- 07 Cop carrier (6,3)
- 08 When bats fly (2,5)
- 09 Pioneer Sydney, NSW and national rugby footballer (5,8)
- 15 Often called the father of Australian Rules football coaching (4,5)
- 16 With deep sincerity (9)
- 19 Proceed (7)
- 21 Sort out Ontario address (7)
- 23 Tenor violin (5)
- 25 Injury payment (5)

### Answer from August Issue



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