

# DOORAL ROUNDUP



APRIL 2026

Official Publication of the Dural Chamber of Commerce  
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**DIANA PATON**

Editor

✉ [editor@dooralroundup.com.au](mailto:editor@dooralroundup.com.au)

# CWA Galston

We were delighted to welcome Mayor Warren Waddell to our recent branch meeting.

Warren joined us for morning tea where we had the opportunity to chat about local matters and share a little about what our branch does within the community. It was a wonderful chance to connect and talk about the things that matter to our members and the wider Galston area.

Thank you, Warren for taking the time to visit and spend the morning with us. We truly appreciated your interest and support. Wishing everyone a Happy Easter.

We meet every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at 10am at Galston community health centre.

Any enquiries Anne 0404 228 209 or Patricia 0412 948 787.



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## TWO CHARGED ON CHRIS BAGHSARIAN'S MURDER

Photo credit: NSW Police

Robbery & Serious Crime Squad detectives investigating the alleged kidnapping and murder of 85-year-old Chris Baghsarian charged two additional people.

Following extensive investigations, strike force detectives, assisted by the Tactical Operations Unit, executed a search warrant at a Seven Hills property about 6:30 am on Wednesday, 25th March 2026.

A 23-year-old man and woman were arrested at the address.

During a search of the property, police allegedly seized a firearm, firearm parts, ammunition, four mobile phones, including a DECCD, and a substantial quantity of prohibited drugs.

The man was taken to Riverstone Police Station and charged with murder, taking and detaining a person in company with intent to ransom causing actual bodily harm, as well as multiple firearm, drug supply and possession offences, and failing to comply with a digital evidence access order.

He was refused bail and appeared in Blacktown Local Court on Thursday, 26th March 2026. Police will allege he was a



principal offender involved in the kidnapping, detention and disposal of Mr Baghsarian.

The woman was taken to Blacktown Police Station and charged with breaching an AVO (Domestic). She was also refused bail and appeared in Blacktown Local Court on 25th March.

Investigations under Strike Force Chabot are ongoing.

## ST PATRICK'S DAY

Hills police conducted roadside operations across the area during St Patrick's Day. About 10:50 am on Tuesday, 17th March 2026, officers stopped a motorcycle at a random breath testing site on Old Northern Road in Castle Hill. The rider, a 46-year-old man, returned a positive roadside breath test and was arrested. He was taken to Castle Hill Police Station, where a subsequent breath analysis returned a reading of 0.055. Drivers are urged to plan ahead, arrange a lift or book a ride service, and make safe choices on the road.

## SINGLE-VEHICLE CRASH

Emergency services responded to a single-vehicle crash on Annangrove Road in Kenthurst at around 8:00 am on Wednesday, 18th March 2026.

A vehicle left the roadway and crashed into trees.

There was one occupant, and no other vehicles were involved. Police are investigating the incident, with fatigue believed to be a possible factor.

The crash occurred as severe wet weather continued across the Hills, creating slippery roads and reduced visibility. Motorists were urged to slow down and drive to the conditions.

NSW Fire Brigade crews were on scene working to remove the vehicle.

Police said drivers experienced heavy traffic in both directions and were advised to allow extra travel time.



## OFF-ROAD CRASH

Emergency services responded to a bushland incident in Glenorie after a man in his 20s was injured while riding an off-road motorcycle.

At around 5:00pm on Sunday, 1st March, the Mounties Care CareFlight Helicopter was tasked by NSW Ambulance to the remote location.

CareFlight's specialist doctor and NSW Ambulance paramedics treated the patient at the scene for head, neck and back injuries.

Fire and Rescue NSW and the NSW Rural Fire Service also attended to assist.

A Toll Ambulance Rescue Helicopter was deployed to winch additional medical crew into the scene.

The patient was later airlifted by NSW Ambulance to Royal North Shore Hospital in a stable condition.



## DRINK DRIVING TRUCKIE

At about 6:01pm on Friday, 6th March 2026, police stopped a Kenworth prime mover on Old Northern Road in Castle Hill for random breath testing.

The driver returned a positive result. As heavy vehicle drivers in NSW are subject to a lower legal alcohol limit, he was arrested and taken to Castle Hill Police Station, where a subsequent breath analysis returned a reading within the special range of 0.02 to 0.05.

The driver's licence was suspended, and he is due to appear before Parramatta Local Court in April.

## SECOND MAN ARRESTED

As reported by Channel 10 News "A second man has been charged following the alleged kidnapping of a 53-year-old man from Mt Pritchard last month. At around 6:15am on February 24th, police received a report that a man had been taken from outside a tobacconist on Meadows Road. It is alleged that four unknown men wearing balaclavas approached the victim, assaulted him, and forced him into a Hyundai hatchback. On February 26th, police recovered the man from a property in Dural and arrested a teenager, who remains before the courts.

On March 12th, a 20-year-old man was arrested in Penrith and charged with taking/detaining in company with intent to ransom, occasioning actual bodily harm, among other offences. He was refused bail to appear in Bankstown Local Court".

## BREAK & ENTER

Police charged a woman following an alleged break and enter at a residential property in Cherrybrook.

At about 4:00 am on Wednesday, 11th March 2026, police were called to a home after the occupant confronted an intruder inside the premises.

Officers attended and located a 38-year-old woman inside the home. She was arrested at the scene and taken to a local police station.

Police will allege the woman unlawfully entered the home and searched rooms before being confronted by the occupant.

She was charged with break and enter dwelling with intent to steal and was refused bail to appear before court the same day.

Police said investigations remain ongoing.

Anyone with information about suspicious activity in the area at the time is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

**If you have any information on any of the above, please contact  
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## The Dooral Roundup loves to receive contributions from our community!

Guidelines for contributors:

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

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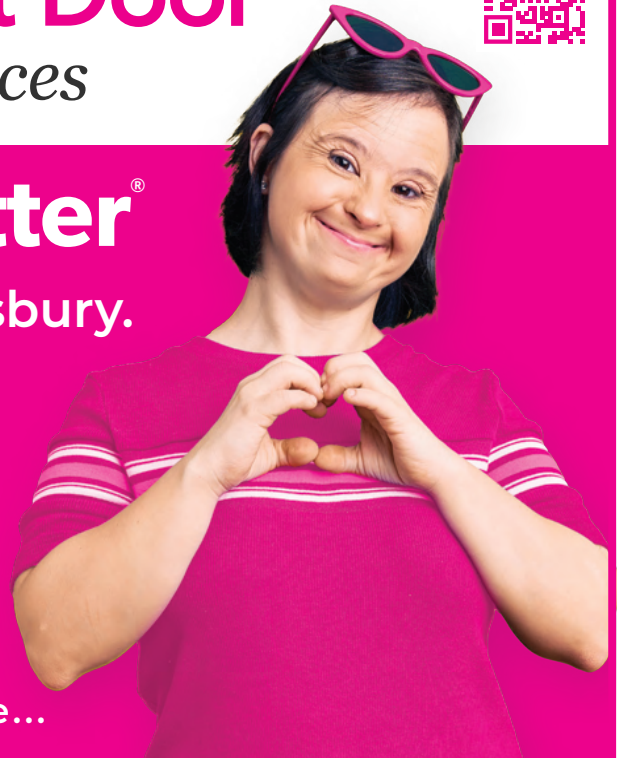


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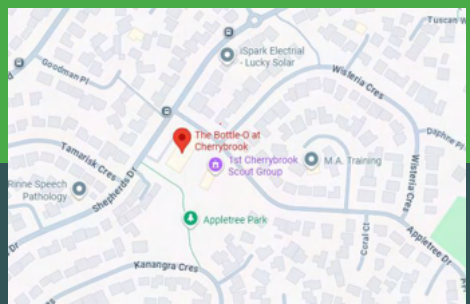
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# Wisemans Ferry's Caves Myths

by Hornsby Councillor Nathan Tilbury

As we approach the bicentenary of the river crossing at Wisemans Ferry (1827 – 2027) it is fascinating to look back and debunk a few of the long-standing myths associated with the area.

There are myths regarding two separate sandstone overhangs (caves) in Wisemans Ferry, that have attracted tourism to the area for over a century.

One, that is known as “Courthouse Cave”, is located on the hill on the southern side of the river, just above Old Northern Road, as the road is in its final descent towards the village of Wisemans Ferry. Steps have been cut into the sandstone, and these provide easy access between the road and the cave. Basic seating has also been hewn into the stone for cave visitors. This overhang has also been referred to as “Capel Cave”.

Despite its names, there are no records that suggest the cave was ever used for anything other than providing visitors with a magnificent view over the village and down to the Hawkesbury River. This view is still available although, today, it is impeded by the regrowth of the surrounding vegetation, and it can be hazardous to approach as the road is considerably busier.

This overhang is now supported by a large steel column to reduce the risk of collapse.

The second well-known cave in the area is located on the opposite and northern side of the river. It is best known as “Hangman’s Cave” and is located along the Old Great North Road on Devines Hill, which, today, is part of the Convict Trail. This site is sometimes also referred to as “Courthouse Rock” and this can cause some confusion with the first site mentioned in this article “Courthouse Cave”.

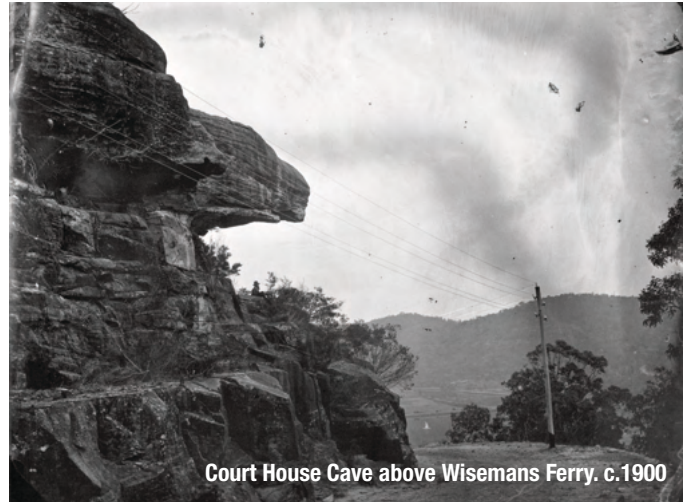
Just like the cave on the opposite side of the river, “Hangman’s Cave” has well-made steps that have been cut into the stone and a carved stone bench for seating. It has a natural feature in the cave’s roof being a circular hole large enough for someone to fall through and this is the main reason for the site’s fame.

The stories about this cave suggest that reoffending convicts or bushrangers were formally tried by the magistrate on site and, if found guilty, sentenced for execution. The condemned man would then be immediately taken to the top of the rock and hung through the hole in the cave.

This is, of course, pure myth, but it does make for a great story.

Recently, the remains of a long-forgotten, convict-built building were discovered on Hornsby Council’s land at Wisemans Ferry. It is believed that these ruins are of the real court house, office and residence of Percy Simpson, the Surveyor/Magistrate, in charge of constructing the Great North Road through Wisemans Ferry, between the years 1826 and 1832.

Further studies are being undertaken on this site to piece together its history and the results will be revealed in the near future.



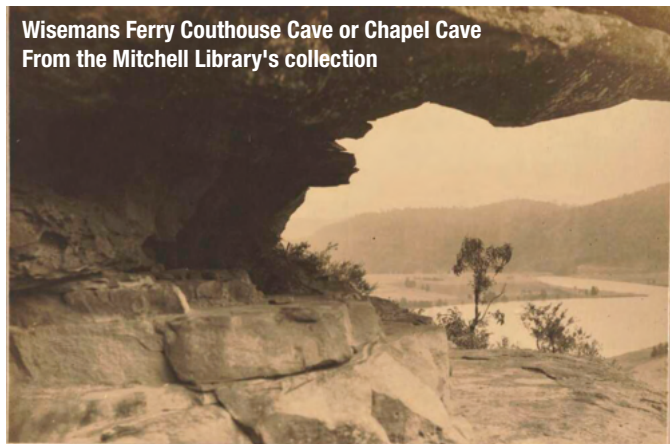
Court House Cave above Wisemans Ferry. c.1900

A visit Wisemans Ferry is always very enjoyable and sure to take your imagination back to our convict days, even if some of the stories of the area are a little too colourful to be true.

The *Wisemans Ferry Bicentenary Committee* is currently in the early stages of collating historical information and planning a range of activities to mark this special occasion.

For enquiries or to share your ideas, you can contact: [wisemansferry200@gmail.com](mailto:wisemansferry200@gmail.com)

With collaborative support from the community and various levels of government, the Wisemans Ferry river crossing 200-year celebration promises to be memorable, showcasing the area’s rich heritage and the strength of the unique riverside community



Wisemans Ferry Couthouse Cave or Chapel Cave  
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# Cherrybrook Probus Ponderings To Walk or Drive? That is the Question

The Combined Probus Club of Cherrybrook has enjoyed a range of events over the past month. Outings included an energetic walk beginning at Circular Quay for a ferry trip to McMahon's Point, followed by many ups and downs through harbourside suburbs, a crossing of the Harbour Bridge and lunch in the city, a wonderful performance at the Premier's Gala Concert, a scenic social drive to Patonga in perfect

weather and several theatre outings. As always, our sport and interest groups provided regular activities for fitness and fun.

The March meeting saw the election of a new committee for the coming year followed by a most enlightening presentation by Ron Ray highlighting many unknown aspects of the lives of explorers Bass and Flinders.

Shortly we will formally thank the outgoing office bearers and welcome the new at our Changeover lunch, visit Warragamba Dam and surrounding areas, the Penrith Printing Museum, enjoy a public transport Opal Day to Kiama and several theatre outings including 'The Graduate' and 'Cluedo'.

If you are active retirees or even semi-retired and have promised yourselves to get out, meet new people and have new experiences the Combined Probus Club of Cherrybrook could be for you.

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

For information please contact Lynn on 0414 848 413.

We look forward to warmly welcoming you to our Probus Club to share the good times.



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Source: Welch's Study, 2018

## Mum Can't Pour From an Empty Cup... Let Her Refill Hers This Mother's Day

Mums give so much of themselves, every single day. Their time, their energy, their care, often without stopping to ask what they need in return.

But the truth is, Mum can't pour from an empty cup.

When life gets busy and stress builds, the body stays switched "on," leaving many mums feeling exhausted and running on empty. What they really need isn't more to do...it's space to reset.

This Mother's Day, give Mum permission to pause, recharge, and fill her cup.

At City Cave Dural, we specialise in helping people step out of the noise of everyday life and into deep, restorative rest. Through Float Therapy, Infrared Sauna, and Massage, we help calm the nervous system, release tension, and support full-body recovery.

Our most loved experience by mums is the **Complete Wellness Pack** – a fully immersive wellness journey that includes sauna, float therapy, and massage. It's designed to help Mum relax, reset, and feel like herself again.

Also popular are:

- **Flauna (Float + Sauna)** for deep relaxation, and
- **Floatage (Float + Massage)** for full-body relief.

Or choose a gift card or multi-pack, giving Mum the flexibility to enjoy her time her way.

Because when Mum feels better, everything around her feels better too.

Mother's Day bookings fill quickly, and gift cards are one of our most popular options.

This Mother's Day, don't just give a gift... give her the chance to refill her cup.

Book online or purchase a gift card at City Cave Dural, or speak with our team to create the perfect experience for Mum.

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



## from the Mayor's Desk

I am delighted to share an exciting milestone in the transformation of Hornsby Park, with the opening of the Southern Lookout and Crusher Plant Precinct, the first stage of the park's progressive opening to our community. Steeped in history, the Crusher Plant Precinct takes its name from the former industrial plant that once crushed volcanic rock from the quarry for use across Sydney. Today, this area has been thoughtfully reimaged as a tranquil space featuring lawns, barbecue and picnic shelters. It's a place where people can relax, connect with nature, and reflect on the site's remarkable past.

The newly completed Southern Lookout offers sweeping views over the ancient volcanic landscape and former quarry. It also provides a glimpse into the park's ongoing transformation as construction continues across this vast and unique site.

This "first look" opening is an important step in the long term vision to create a major bushland destination for our region. We are thrilled to welcome the community in to see what has been achieved so far. Hornsby Park is opening in stages, and this first precinct provides a sense of the scale, beauty and potential of what's still to come.

Other areas - including the quarry loop cycling and walking track, additional lookouts, and the Old Mans Valley Field of Play with a bike pump track - will open progressively as works are completed.

You can access the Crusher Plant Precinct via Quarry Road off Dural Street, or by the newly restored Heritage Steps which start behind the Hornsby Aquatic and Leisure Centre. I hope you enjoy the new space and look forward to sharing more milestones with you as Hornsby Park continues to take shape.

This April, Council is also proud to support NSW Youth Week 2026, celebrating this year's theme *Dream. Dare. Do.* We have an exciting program of free events and encourage our young residents to get involved, try something new and enjoy the many activities on offer. For more information and to book visit [hornsby.nsw.gov.au](https://hornsby.nsw.gov.au)

**Warren Waddell**  
Mayor of Hornsby Shire

### Second Hand Market

Over 30 second-hand stalls

**Sunday**  
12 April, 2026  
9am - 1pm  
Coronation Street,  
Hornsby

## Dream. Dare. Do.

### YOUTH WEEK 2026

16-26 April  
What will you try this Youth Week?

Scan to see what's on

## Free Guided Bushwalks

Discover the Bushland Shire this Autumn and enjoy a free guided bushwalk.

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

## Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Repair

- **Chipping for Mulch – Mt Kuring-gai**  
Sunday 12 April, 7.30am-12.30pm  
Council Depot, 5 Beaumont Rd, Mt Kuring-gai
- **Clothes Swap**  
Saturday 18 April, 9.30am-11.45am  
Thornleigh Community Centre

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

### Public notification: Proposed permanent part road closure – Berowra Waters

Submissions close: 30 April 2026

For more information visit: [yoursay.hornsby.nsw.gov.au](https://yoursay.hornsby.nsw.gov.au)

## Hornsby Park

### First Look

Discover the **Crusher Plant Precinct** and the **Southern Lookout**.

Find out more at [hornsbypark.com.au](https://hornsbypark.com.au)

Next Council meeting Wednesday 8 April, 6.30pm

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

# Hills Relay for Life 2026 by Bev Jordan

There will be a silver lining around this year's Hills Relay For Life as the annual community fundraiser for Cancer Council NSW takes to the track at Castle Hill Showground on May 16th.

This year's 24 hour event will be a packed program of activities starting at 9am on Saturday May 16th and finishing on Sunday morning.

First lap will be for Relay's VIP attendees, the Survivors and Carers which will be followed by a special Survivors and Carers morning tea.

There is on-stage entertainment during the day until 10pm on Saturday plus trackside fun. You can walk as many laps as you like and for as long as you like. There will be food and coffee available to buy at the event as well as stalls and activations all day. There will also be a display of Hills Relay over the years in the Harvey Lowe Pavilion.

One of the most moving parts of the event is the twilight Ceremony of Hope on Saturday from 6pm when people walk with a lighted candle bag to remember loved ones who have passed away and those undergoing treatment.

On Sunday Relayers are invited to bring their dog to the annual Sunday Dog Morning at Relay which will feature a display by the RuffTrack dogs and prizes for registered dogs.

Hills Relay For Life Chair Lisa Carruthers said: "Relay For Life is more than an event. It's an event of connection, celebration, and remembrance, raising vital funds for Cancer Council's research, prevention, and support services.

"We are looking forward to celebrating our 25th anniversary of Hills Relay in May. We have a lot planned to celebrate this

milestone and our committee has been working tirelessly behind the scenes. We look forward to welcoming teams who have been with the first relay and our new teams.

"With every step, we move closer to a future where fewer lives are touched by cancer. So far more than \$6m has been raised over those years by the community at Hills Relay."

Katie Didsbury was a teenager when she came to her first Relay as a team member, she has been on the committee for 20 years. She said she loved "the huge sense of community" that shone every year.



Committee members Feona Henness and Jenny Glover are part of the Hills District Little Athletics' team which joined Hills Relay For Life about 12 years ago. When asked what they love best about Hills Relay For Life, Feonna said: "The Carers and Survivors' Morning Tea. It's not just a morning tea but something personal. I am a survivor and I am a carer. The people who come love it because they are in a room with others who understand what they are going through. It's a safe space."

Jenny said the twilight Hope Ceremony was always a special moment.

"It brings the community together for a time of reflection for those we have lost and those who are fighting and is about hope for the future."

This Year's Hills Relay For Life is on May 16/17th at Castle Hill Showground.

To find out more and to register a team or donate visit: [relayforlife.org.au](http://relayforlife.org.au) and search for Hills 2026.

**Cancer Council RELAY FOR LIFE**  
Celebrate. Remember. Fight Back.

Help us achieve a cancer free future by starting or joining a team today!

**Hills 2026 Relay For Life**  
Sat 16th - Sun 17th May  
9am - 9am  
Castle Hill Showground, Castle Hill

Relay for Life is a 24 hour community walk raising vital funds for Cancer Council NSW.

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Member for Hornsby

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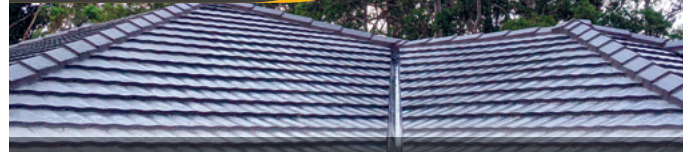
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# Kenthurst Combined Probus Club

On the 16th of March Kenthurst Combined Probus Club held its annual General Meeting at the usual meeting place: Kenthurst Uniting Church. At the commencement of proceedings, outgoing President Rosalie Chaloner was pleased to induct two new members into the Club, Yvonne Davidson and Pat Mason. The new executive was then elected by those in attendance, principally the new President Burt Stuu, who will head an elected team of Committee Members to run the Club.



Kenthurst Probus has a good program of activities: Putt Putt Golf, a day visit to Cockatoo Island, a Bus excursion to Yarrowonga, Theatre Parties to experience "Shen Yun", "Anastasia", and "The Lion King" later this year, plus walking activities and movie excursions on occasion.

The Club's next meeting is at the same venue, on **Monday, April 20th**, at 9.30 AM to hear an address from Lindsay May on the topic "The Sydney Hobart Yacht Race".

Visitors are always welcome: details can be obtained from Club Membership Officer Rosalie Chaloner on 0410 911 917.

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# Castle Hill Art Society

Art Demonstration - 7.00pm 6th May 2026  
 Janelle Hatherley "Portrait using Zorn Palette"



Janelle Hatherley will give a talk and demonstration on two useful techniques for simplifying the process of painting portraits in oils: the limited palette using only four colours as created by Anders Zorn, and the Asaro Head: a useful 3D model for understanding overall planes of the head and the effects of light on faces.

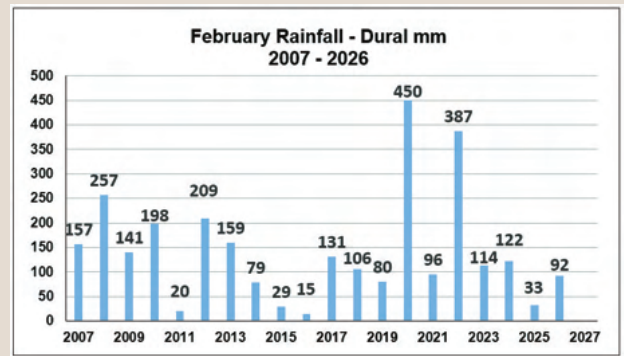
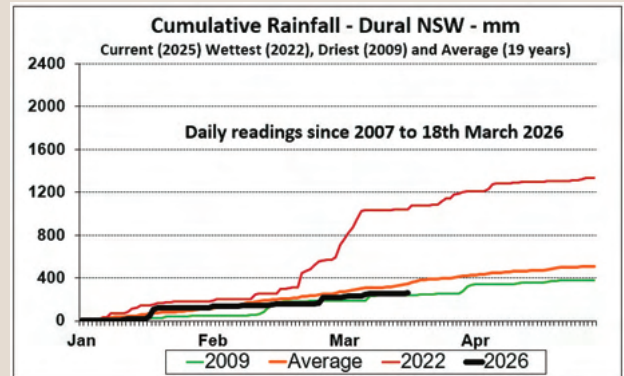
Visitors are welcome to join with the Castle Hill Art Society 7.00pm at Castle Glen Community Centre, 157 Ridgescrop Drive, Castle Hill.

Enquiries 9899 3179 or [www.castlehillartsociety.org.au](http://www.castlehillartsociety.org.au)



# Dural Rainfall Charts

by Hans Kunnen



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## ADVERTORIAL

# Why Your Ears Make Earwax (and the safest way to remove it)

Earwax (also called cerumen) is one of the most common topics people ask about in clinic—and for good reason. It can be annoying, sometimes uncomfortable, and there is a lot of misinformation about it.

The key thing to know is this: earwax is not “dirt” that falls into your ear. It is something your ear makes on purpose, and most of the time it is doing an important job.

## What is earwax?

Earwax is a natural mixture of oily secretions produced inside the ear canal and shed skin cells (dead skin). These oily substances come from glands in the outer part of the ear canal. Many of these glands are essentially modified sweat glands, and when their secretions combine with skin cells, they form wax. Therefore, wax varies from person to person—some people produce more, some less, and it can be wet and sticky or dry and flaky depending on genetics and environment.

To understand where it comes from, it helps to know the ear canal's structure. The ear canal is usually only about 6-7 mm in diameter and 25-30 mm long. It has two main sections: the outer cartilaginous portion (roughly the outer third to half) and the deeper bony portion (closer to the eardrum).

The wax-producing glands live in the outer, cartilaginous part, which is generally more robust and less sensitive than the bony section.

## Why do I have earwax?

Earwax has several important functions:

**Lubrication:** It keeps the skin of the ear canal moisturised, helping prevent dryness, cracking, and itchiness.

**Protection:** Wax traps dust, dirt, debris, and even small insects—acting as a barrier so these do not reach and irritate deeper structures.

**Infection prevention:** Earwax has antimicrobial properties, which can help reduce the risk of some ear infections.

**Self-cleaning support:** Wax is part of the ear's natural “conveyor belt” cleaning system.

One of the most fascinating features of the ear is that the skin lining the ear canal slowly migrates outward, from the deeper canal toward the opening. As it moves, it carries wax and trapped debris out with it. That is why, during showers or daily life, tiny amounts of wax often exit naturally without you noticing.

## Why does wax sometimes build up?

Sometimes the self-cleaning mechanism does not work efficiently. Common reasons include producing a lot of wax, narrow or bendy ear canals, dry or hard wax, using hearing aids/earplugs that block natural migration, skin conditions (like eczema), or using cotton buds which can push wax deeper and compact it.

## How do I best get rid of it?

For most people, the best approach is to do very little—the ear usually self-cleans. If wax is causing blockage symptoms (fullness, reduced hearing, tinnitus, discomfort), safer options include wax-softening ear drops (as advised by a pharmacist or clinician) and arranging professional removal (micro suction or irrigation where appropriate). Avoid cotton buds or probing tools, as these commonly worsen impaction or injure the ear canal.

If you have pain, discharge, sudden hearing loss, ear surgery history, grommets, or a perforated eardrum, seek assessment by an audiologist or GP before using drops or flushing.

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# Come Along to the Inaugural Kenthurst Preschool Movie Night

Grab your popcorn, blankets and bean bags and enjoy the movie *Sing* under the stars at John Benyon Park on Saturday, 2nd May.

The fun begins at 3pm with carnival rides and entertainment, including children's dance performances. Families can enjoy a range of food options, including a BBQ, or bring along a picnic and relax on the grass whilst soaking up the festive atmosphere.

To set the scene for an unforgettable outdoor theatre experience, there will be mouth-watering movie-style popcorn, old-fashioned fairy floss and bean bags available. Sing will begin at sunset and will be screened on a giant six metre inflatable screen.

With Mother's Day just around the corner, the event is also the perfect chance for families to enjoy a relaxed evening together and celebrate the wonderful Mums, Grandmothers and carers in their lives.

The event is free to attend, with a gold coin donation requested for the movie. Donation buckets will be available on the night.

Director of Kenthurst Preschool, Kristen Coote, said the preschool is excited

to bring families together for the community's first movie night.

"We're thrilled to be hosting our very first movie night and inviting families to enjoy a relaxed evening of fun, film and connection," Kristen said.

"It's a wonderful chance for children to see their friends outside the classroom and for families to meet others in the community while enjoying a magical movie under the stars."

Mrs Coote said the Kenthurst Preschool Fete and the new Movie Night are the preschool's major fundraising events.



"This year we are raising funds for an Aboriginal garden and immersive mural within our preschool grounds," she said.

"The mural will be created in collaboration with the children, who will have the opportunity to paint part of what will become a beautiful feature of our preschool environment for years to come."

Kristen said the preschool is grateful for the ongoing support of major sponsor Rance Property.

"Rance Property has been helping people buy and sell property in The Hills and Hawkesbury districts for more than 22 years, and they have supported Kenthurst Preschool events for many years," she said.

"We are incredibly grateful for their support of our preschool and our local families."

All proceeds from the evening will go directly to Kenthurst Preschool, a not-for-profit community-based preschool that has been serving local families since 1967. Community-based preschools provide lower fees and higher staffing levels, with all surplus funds reinvested back into the service to benefit children and families.



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# Small School Community – BIG Opportunities – Students Achieve Bronze Duke of Edinburgh’s Award



Students at Galston High School are celebrating an impressive achievement after a group of dedicated young people successfully completed the Bronze level of the The Duke of Edinburgh’s International Award.

The internationally recognised program encourages students to step beyond the classroom and develop valuable life skills through community service, physical activity, skill development and adventurous journeys. Completion of the Bronze Award requires commitment, resilience and sustained effort over a minimum of six months.

Fourteen Galston High School students rose to the challenge, balancing the program alongside their academic studies while demonstrating determination and perseverance.

Students who achieved the Bronze Award are Brigette Zaplatel-Lindberg, Isabella Wettengel, Harrison So, Emily Shepherd, Lachlan Kennedy, Victoria Barnes, Jordan Herrington, Camilla Tapia, Christian Zaplatel-Lindberg, Samuel Powell, Quinn Care-Wickham, Oscar Turnbull, Charlie Powell and Jessica Mote.

Their achievement reflects not only personal dedication but also the strong culture of leadership and community participation fostered within the school.

Galston High School is proud that these students for embracing the opportunities offered through the program and for representing the school with pride. Many of these students are

already continuing their journey within The Duke of Edinburgh’s International Award and are now working towards completing the Silver and Gold levels of the program.

Through initiatives such as this, students embody the school’s core values of Respect, Responsibility and Personal Best while building the confidence, resilience and leadership skills that will support them well beyond their school years.



## Pacific Hills Christian School Hearts in Action



In 2024, Pacific Hills Christian School launched a meaningful initiative linking Year 5 to Year 8 students with residents of the Elouera Gardens Christian Retirement Village – Yurana House. Students visit twice each term, offering companionship, conversation, and a warm presence to residents who may otherwise feel isolated.

The program is guided by Pacific Hills staff member, Jason Mok, whose vision is to reduce loneliness among the elderly. Mr Mok explains that many residents receive few, if any, visitors.

“Ministry starts at home. I believe that there are many people we can show love and care to, in our community. My goal for students is to put theory into action – you can’t learn how to do ministry and kindness from a textbook... you need to see it in action”, he shared.

These visits have quickly become treasured moments for both students and residents. While students gain perspective and wisdom from older generations, residents experience joy and new friendships. We look forward to continuing this beautiful partnership.

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[www.pacifichills.nsw.edu.au](http://www.pacifichills.nsw.edu.au)

# A Young Voice Making A Real Difference

by Julian Leeser

Last November, I wrote about a remarkable idea from a young member of our community, Ashleigh Dewhurst. Ashleigh had noticed that some students can find it difficult to speak up when they are feeling worried, anxious or upset. Her solution was simple but powerful: a “Voice Letterbox” where students could privately write or draw what’s on their mind, ensuring no child’s concern goes unheard.

Today, I’m proud to share that Ashleigh’s idea is no longer just a concept, it’s a reality.



The very first Voice Letterbox has now been delivered to Northholm Grammar. We were delighted to officially launch the initiative alongside Nate Atkinson, Principal of Northholm Grammar, and Bob Bramston, President of the North Epping Men’s Shed. Their support reflects what this project is all about, community working together to back our young people.



Designed by Ashleigh herself and built by the dedicated volunteers at the North Epping Men’s Shed, this first letterbox will provide students with a safe, private way to share what’s on their mind. Not every child finds it easy to express their feelings face-to-face. The Voice Letterbox creates another pathway for students to be heard, allowing teachers and school leaders to respond with care and support.

Since launching the initiative, more schools across our community have expressed interest, and additional letterboxes are now being built.

It’s a powerful reminder that real change often begins with the smallest voices and when a community listens, great things can happen.



## Mark Hodges MP

Member for Castle Hill

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Authorised by Mark Hodges MP. Funded using parliamentary entitlements.





**James Wallace**  
HORNSBY MP

## Our Community Loves Sport, But We're Running Out of Fields

On any given weekend in Hornsby Shire, it's clear how much sport matters.

Sport is where our kids learn to be part of a team and lifelong skills like resilience and hard work. From cricket and rugby to soccer and netball, our sporting clubs bring community together and help us find connection.

The importance of local sport is why I am working with local clubs and councils to invest in local sporting fields.

Many existing ovals cannot cope with wet conditions due to limited drainage and infrastructure. Games get cancelled

because of a combination of wet weather and overuse of fields.

One girls football team has told me 8 of 11 games last season had to be cancelled.

The recent draft Cherrybrook rezoning identified five new sporting fields were needed to support population growth, highlighting a broader issue. When thousands of families move in, supporting infrastructure, including sporting fields, must grow as well.

Without additional ovals, the pressure on existing fields will increase. A new synthetic field at Westleigh would provide a training facility to preserve other grounds for use on game day. I strongly support this proposal.

The recent opening of the new pavilion at Mark Taylor Oval in Waitara shows the impact of investment. The entire precinct has transformed over the past decade. It received strong investment from Government and is a model of what we need to do elsewhere.

With the winter sports season approaching, the pressure on our fields will only increase. I will be making this a key focus and want to hear from you and your club.



**Mark Hodges**  
MEMBER FOR CASTLE HILL

## Nominations Open for NSW Volunteer of the Year Awards

Every day, volunteers across New South Wales give their time, skills and energy to support their communities. From local clubs and charities to emergency services and community groups, their contributions make a real difference to people's lives.

Volunteers also play a significant role in the state's economy, contributing an estimated \$205 billion in value each year. More importantly, they strengthen the social fabric of our communities through their generosity, compassion and commitment to helping others.

The NSW Volunteer of the Year Awards celebrate these outstanding individuals and the impact they make across the state.

If you know someone who deserves to be recognised for their dedication to community service, we encourage you to submit a nomination before Friday, 29th May 2026.



You can also help us celebrate volunteering by sharing this opportunity with your networks and encouraging others to nominate the volunteers who make a difference in their communities.

To learn more about the Awards, including nomination guidelines, FAQs and tips for submitting a strong nomination, visit [www.volunteering.com.au/awards/about-the-awards/](http://www.volunteering.com.au/awards/about-the-awards/) or scan the QR Code.



*Authorised by Mark Hodges MP.*

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## Jane Seaglove

HORNSBY COUNCILLOR

### Hello Residents,

Hornsby Shire Council is pleased to announce the return of the Second Hand Hornsby Markets on **Sunday 12th April**, inviting the community to come together to celebrate reuse, sustainability and the joy of finding a great local bargain. Taking place at Coronation Street, the April market is the first of four planned for the year, with additional markets scheduled for **12th July**, **13th September** and **8th November**.

The markets were recently recognised at the Keep Australia Beautiful NSW Sustainable Cities Awards 2025, receiving a Highly Commended award in the Waste Avoidance category, highlighting the success of Council's Second Hand Hornsby initiative and its positive impact on reducing waste in the community.

Another welcome development is the reopening of **Galston Gorge**, restoring an important transport link for residents and visitors travelling through the area. In **Galston**, construction work is almost completed on the street-front entrance

at the entrance of **Living Choice retirement village**. At the same time, planning for the broader Galston Village improvements is progressing. There will be a slight delay to the start of construction linked to the village plan following discussions with **Transport for NSW**. The intention is to avoid multiple projects occurring at once, which could create unnecessary congestion through the village and further disrupt local businesses and residents.

As part of the longer-term vision for the area, Council's Parks team has also indicated support for a tree-lined boulevard along Galston Road leading into Galston Village. This concept would help enhance the streetscape and create a welcoming village entrance and add to the character and amenity of the local area for residents and visitors.

Community input is also being sought for a proposed footpath along **Galston Road**, extending from **Carters Road** to **Old Northern Road** in Dural. This proposed pathway would create a safer and more accessible walking route for families and residents, forming a connection between Dural and Galston and encouraging a more active lifestyle for locals.

Please make contact on [jseaglove@hornsby.nsw.gov.au](mailto:jseaglove@hornsby.nsw.gov.au)



## Julian Leaser

MEMBER FOR BEROWRA

## Honouring Our Local Anzacs This 25th April

On 25th April, our community will gather to mark the 111th anniversary of the Gallipoli landings.

Anzac Day is a day that asks us to pause. In 1915, young Australians and New Zealanders landed on the Gallipoli peninsula. Many had never left home before. More than 8,000 Australians would not return.

Australia was a young nation then, only 13 years into Federation. When Britain declared war, we went too. Gallipoli did not succeed in its military aim, but it left a deep mark on our national life. The qualities we associate with the Anzacs - courage, endurance, loyalty to one another - have become part of how we understand ourselves as a nation.

Each year, I think particularly of the young men from our own community who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Men like Private Ormond Fathers, a Hornsby apprentice, who enlisted in September 1914 and was among those sent to Gallipoli for the landing on 25th April 1915. Just weeks later, in June 1915, he was killed in action. His battalion would go on to fight at Lone Pine in August that year.

He was one of many local sons who never came home.

Each year I am struck by the sight of people gathering before dawn - young families, veterans, school students - standing quietly together as the sun rises. The dawn service speaks to something enduring in the Australian character.

**I encourage you to attend one of our local services this Anzac Day:**

**Annangrove:** Annangrove Park - 11:00am

**Beecroft:** Beecroft Cenotaph - 3:00pm

**Berowra:** Berowra RFS car park, March and Service - 7:30am

**Berowra Waters:** Western Shoreline Forecourt - 5:00am

**Brooklyn:** Brooklyn Oval on 27th - 10:45am



**Cherrybrook:** Anzac Jawan Cenotaph on 20th - 3:00pm

**Galston:** Galston Cenotaph - 6:00am

**Glenorie:** Glenorie Memorial - 6:00am

**Glenorie:** Woolworths car park, March and Service - 3:15pm

**Hornsby:** Hornsby Cenotaph - 5:00am

**Kenthurst:** John Benyon Park, March and Service - 8.30am

**West Pennant Hills:** WPH Sports Club - 5:00pm

**Wisemans Ferry:** Anzac Memorial - 6:00am

**Wisemans Ferry:** Primary School, March and Service - 10:00am

*Thank you to Karen Richardson for her work on the biography of Private Fathers.*



**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 LEASER MP**  
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR BEROWRA

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



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

## Seniors Festival Recap

Last month we celebrated our wise and wonderful senior residents during our Seniors Festival!

The week-long program celebrated and recognised the remarkable contributions of our older residents—many of whom have devoted decades of support, knowledge, and care to building the vibrant, thriving community we enjoy today. It was our chance to say a heartfelt thank you for all they have done.

We hosted a fantastic lineup of free events for our seniors. The celebrations kicked off with a Seniors Expo, followed by a brunch at Castle Hill RSL, a hands-on environmental workshop, an energising Tai Chi class, and a free movie screening.

Overall, it was a fantastic week filled with connection, celebration, and gratitude, as we honoured our valued seniors.

Beyond the Festival, Council is proud to support seniors year-round through programs, activities, and workshops that foster connection, activity, and lifelong learning.

### Here's ways seniors can get involved this April:

#### Alive and Kicking Hills

Every Tuesday from 8:30am | Ted Horwood Reserve, Baulkham Hills

If you're a senior who loves staying active, this one's for you! Alive and Kicking is a fun, friendly over-60s soccer group that meets weekly for a light run-around. There's no heavy contact, no pressure, just good company and plenty of laughs.

For more information, email [alivenkickinghills@gmail.com](mailto:alivenkickinghills@gmail.com)

#### Volunteer with a Bushcare Group

Various times | various locations

Roll up your sleeves and help protect the beautiful natural bushland across The Hills. Join a local Bushcare group for a relaxed monthly meetup where you'll remove weeds, plant native vegetation, and support thriving habitats.

For more information, visit [www.thehills.nsw.gov.au](http://www.thehills.nsw.gov.au) and search 'Join a Bushcare Group'.

#### FREE Tai Chi Classes

Every Wednesday from 9:30am to 10:30am | Baulkham Hills Community Centre

Start your Wednesdays with calm, balance, and mindful movement. These free weekly Tai Chi sessions are perfect for improving flexibility, boosting overall wellbeing, and finding a moment of peace in a busy week.

For more information, visit [www.thehills.nsw.gov.au](http://www.thehills.nsw.gov.au) and search 'Tai Chi'.



**Cllr Mitchell Blue**  
THE HILLS SHIRE COUNCIL

This month marks a remarkable milestone for our community—120 years of local government in The Hills.

In 1804, the district entered Australia's colonial history through the Castle Hill convict rebellion, often known as the Vinegar Hill uprising. It all started at the now Heritage Park at Castle Hill. A very interesting story that I encourage you read up on the internet.

By the late 19th century, The Hills had become Sydney's orchard district. When Baulkham Hills Shire Council was formed in 1906, the area was a patchwork of farms, orchards and small villages. Early Council focused on essential services such as roads, bridges and drainage to support local farmers. The then Council met at the home of Matthew Pearce, before a purpose built building was constructed at Castle Hill.

Over time, The Hills transitioned from a rural shire into a thriving suburban community. New transport links, community facilities and

major infrastructure—most recently the Sydney Metro Northwest—have shaped each new chapter of growth.

From a small rural district to a community of more than 200,000 residents, The Hills' story is one of resilience, service and strong community spirit. While much has changed since 1906, the purpose of local government remains the same: to serve the community and plan for the future.

### Did you know?

Former Councillor and Shire President **Robert Lowe**, from Lower Portland, once travelled to council meetings in Baulkham Hills by **horse and sulky**. The journey took **three days**—one day of travel, an overnight stay at the Box Hill Inn, a council meeting the next day, and the same journey home.

I'd love to hear from you. Have you got an issue that's been on your mind, something you think council should know about?

Email me with you North Ward issues at [clr.blue@thehills.nsw.gov.au](mailto:clr.blue@thehills.nsw.gov.au)



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## Mountain Devil

Sometimes referred to as “Honey Flower”, the Mountain Devil (*Lambertia Formosa*), gained its more common name from the shape of the seed pod which is said to resemble the head of a “devil”. This common name gained popularity due to the seed pod being incorporated into a tourist souvenier in the form of small doll-like figures associated with the Blue Mountains of NSW during the early to mid 20th Century.

*Lambertia Formosa* is the only member of that species endemic to Eastern Australia. Its habitat distribution is mainly in the bushland areas around, and to the west of, Sydney as far as the Blue Mountains. All other members of this species are located in Western Australia. It has a wide flowering period, and can be seen from early April through to November where conditions are favourable.

This plant is readily located along most tracks in local bushland. It can be quite straggly in form when growing in less suitable positions as it does like protection from the sun as well as good soil in which to grow to its best condition. In more favourable growing conditions the plant can grow up to 2m high and around 2m wide, with flowers appearing a very bright red.



Leaves are approximately 50mm long ending in a sharp spike which can be quite painful if handled carelessly. The spikes protruding from the flower can also be quite sharp. In spite of its other name, (Honey Flower), which is gained from the flower's ability to attract nectar feeding birds and insects, the flower can emit a pungent odour which can be detected when close to the flowers.

Although it has a reasonable level of popularity, mainly due to the rich red colour of the flower, it is a plant that has been a challenge to propagate and grow for the home garden.



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# Rediscover Jesus at Dural Anglican this Easter

We humans are extraordinary! We've created the most productive era in history. But underneath lurks a growing inconsistency.

Experts say we're taking on more responsibility, but our ability to concentrate is suffering.

It's clichéd, but multi-tasking is a way of life. Just ask mums, tradies, students, city-workers, grandparents.

The trouble is, our ability to effectively multi-task over the long-term is questionable.

Dr Katherine Johnson lectures in psychology at the University of Melbourne. Her research proves doing more than one task at a time delivers worse outcomes. To improve concentration, she recommends making a quiet space, drinking green tea, exercise and sleep. Easier said than done!

But before we stock-up on green tea... bigger issues are at stake.

Chronic multi-tasking produces distraction. And distracted people can't reflect well on life's important questions... questions of substance.

Jesus offers a timely word with a simple equation:

*What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?  
(Mark 8:36)*

We might ask 'To what end am I forfeiting sleep, nutrition, quality relationships and more?'

But let's be real - mortgages, deadlines, toddlers - they don't look after themselves.

Then again... if you've ever wondered 'Is this it? Is there more?'... you're on to something.

Jesus promises life to the full - now and forever. I agree, that's a bold promise. And we need to think carefully about what Jesus means. At the same time, when Australian's are working



themselves to an early grave... surely there must be a better way!

Why not carve out some time and rediscover Jesus at Dural Anglican this Easter.

You'll find a welcoming community of everyday people... everyday people with everyday issues who are being transformed by Jesus. Jump online and check us out: [duralangican.org.au](http://duralangican.org.au)

Our Easter services will be: Good Friday and Easter Sunday - 8am and 10am

Dougal Michie - Senior Minister,  
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# Galston District Garden Club

Our guest speaker for the Club's March meeting was David Fripp. David gave a wonderful presentation regarding African Violets which make a perfect indoor plant. Our speaker for April will be Beth Shade. Beth will be speaking about "worm farms". Visitors are welcome to join the meeting which is held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month in the Galston Community Hall, 34 Arcadia Road, Galston. Time 7.30pm.

African violets are perfect indoor plants. For a start they are quite small so they can fit into the tiniest apartments. They need minimal care and actually are happier if they aren't given too much water - perfect plants for lazy indoor gardeners.

African violets are making a comeback. As the popularity of indoor plants soars, so does the not-so-humble African violet. They are perfect plants for growing indoors taking up very little room and provide delightful flowers over many months. Passionate growers have been diligently creating many stunning new varieties of African violets and they now come in a dazzling array of flower colours and forms and also gorgeous leaf variegations.

When growing African violets in a pot choose a spot indoors that is well lit, but away from direct sunlight, like a windowsill behind a sheer curtain or on a coffee table. Fill the pot with good quality potting mix specifically formulated for African violets. Remove plant from container, gently tease roots and cut away any circling or tangled roots.

Position in pot and backfill with potting mix, gently firming down. Hold the pot over a sink and water well keeping the water away from the leaves.

Allow water to completely drain before returning to the saucer.



Help protect plants from fungus gnats by applying a layer of Gnat barrier to the top of the potting mix. For subsequent watering, fill the saucer with water and allow it to be soaked up by the soil. Allow soil to dry before watering again.

Feed fortnightly with a soluble flower and fruit plant food. Check the label for African Violets to promote strong root development, healthy foliage growth, and lots of beautiful flowers. The leaves can collect dust.

Regularly dust the leaves with a soft paintbrush. Keep the plant looking tidy and promote flowering by removing any yellow leaves and spent flowers. Enjoy the flowers.

For more information regarding the Galston District Garden Club please visit our website: [galstongardenclub.com.au](http://galstongardenclub.com.au) or contact the secretary at: [galstongardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:galstongardenclub@gmail.com)

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# Bromeliad Society of Australia Autumn Show



Flowering tillandsia



Harold Kuan with one of his prized tillandsia

The Bromeliad Autumn Show will be held at the Federation Pavilion, Castle Hill Showground on Saturday, 2nd May 9am-4pm and Sunday, 3rd May 10am-3pm.

Rare and exquisite bromeliads from local and interstate growers will be on display and available for sale to the public including Jan & Jon Townsend from Bonville, 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 Harold Kuan, Chris & Lap

Larsen, and Mark Belot with a variety of giant and colourful Alcantareas and Angela & Gary Flemming who always have an enormous variety of bromeliads available.

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, or check the website [www.bromeliad.org.au](http://www.bromeliad.org.au)

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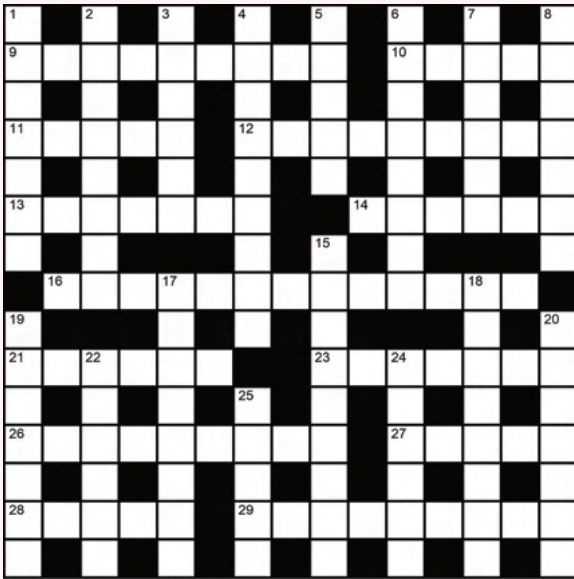


For further information please contact Ian Hook, President  
Mobile 0408 202 269

[www.bromeliad.org.au](http://www.bromeliad.org.au)

Bromeliad Society of Australia

# CROSSWORD PUZZLE



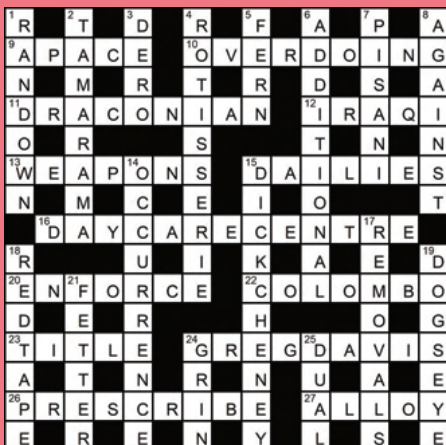
## Across

- 09 The Wompoo --- (5,4)
- 10 Musical drama (5)
- 11 A highway and a desert are named after him (5)
- 12 Awful role misrepresented an essential of civilized society (4,2,3)
- 13 Up for grabs (2,2,3)
- 14 Piles of stones in Queensland? (6)
- 16 It once housed a leper colony off Queensland (7,6)
- 21 Like many heroes (6)
- 23 Calls briefly (5,2)
- 26 Hive sweet spot (9)
- 27 Finance (5)
- 28 Fill up here (5)
- 29 Stratagem (9)

## Down

- 01 Away from the main place of business (3,4)
- 02 Commuter country (8)
- 03 Pain in the side (6)
- 04 Fire-struck Paris landmark (5,4)
- 05 Notorious bushranger (5)
- 06 What 5 Down had to do, more than once (2,2,4)
- 07 Trader (6)
- 08 Service at 28 Across, sometimes (3,4)
- 15 Oxbow lake (9)
- 17 "Idylls of the King" author (8)
- 18 Steep drop (8)
- 19 Sideboard (7)
- 20 Looked up to in NSW (7)
- 22 Guard (6)
- 24 Followed orders (6)
- 25 Accepted standards (5)

## Answer from March Issue



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