

FREE

DOORAL ROUNDUP



FEBRUARY 2026

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



Kate

**SPECIALIST
IN ACREAGE**

**EXPERT
IN LIFESTYLE**

Lumby
Real Estate Since 1968

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



Sold

12 Wyoming Road Dural



For Sale

8 Vision Valley Road Arcadia



Sold

12 Carters Road Dural



For Sale

17 Smalls Road Arcadia



Sold

44-46 Peebles Road Arcadia



For Sale

44 Porters Road Kenthurst

Development Applications

by Diana Paton

Several DA's and DA amendments have been submitted this year. We will bring you more details next issue.

- 628 Old Northern Road - Stage - More information sought - Bivianos - Demolition of Existing Marquee, Alterations and Additions to an Existing Restaurant, Increase in Seating Capacity from 250 to 350 Persons, Change to Hours of Operation, Additional Car Parking and Associated Works
- 616 Old Northern Road - Approved - Stage 2B- Modification to Stage 2 Structural Plans to provide additional parking beneath cafe and additional viewing platforms to Level 1.
- 9 Wirraburra Road Dural - Approved - Construction of A Seniors Living Development comprising of a 36-bed residential aged care facility, 97 self-care dwellings, construction of private roads, bulk earthworks and retaining walls in 3 stages.

Development Applications - Glenhaven

New Application - 172 Glenhaven Road, Glenhaven DA 941/2026/JP

Demolition of Existing Structures and Construction of a Three Storey Dwelling, Centre Based Child Care Facility for 100 Children and a Medical Centre - Cost of Works- \$19,134,060.00

The proposal is defined as Integrated Development under the provisions of Section 4.46 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979, as approval is required from the Rural Fire Service under the Rural Fires Act, 1997.

Images below are an extract from the Development Application. Readers are advised to view the full documents online to obtain a complete understanding of the development.

Council has advised all neighbouring properties of the DA and submissions can be made via the Council's website. (DA Tracking Portal)

Section Commercial



Commercial front view



Site Analysis-Location



Dooral Roundup Contacts



KAREN TAYLOR
Sales Consultant

✉ advertising@dooralroundup.com.au

☎ 0487 111 868



DIANA PATON
Editor

✉ editor@dooralroundup.com.au

Maximise Your Pool Enjoyment

270 New Line Road Dural NSW 2158
02 9651 4799
info@duralpoolshop.com.au
www.duralpoolshop.com.au

DURAL POOL SHOP
Needs based solutions for your pool

Cherrybrook Probus Ponderings Quiet Holidays: Unlikely

Members of the Combined Probus Club of Cherrybrook concluded 2025 with a fun filled Christmas party that included dining, singing and dancing as well as President Jenni's Naughty and Nice lists – the Naughty list bringing about much laughter.

The New Year began not quietly for more than 100 members but with a general meeting at The Dural Club where they were entertained by Guest Speaker Paul Kearney's 'History of Rock'n'Roll: the 1950s'.

The following week included a very picturesque drive from Vanilla Cream café in Annangrove to The Butler's Pantry at North Richmond for a delicious lunch and of course a good chat. Another outing was to the State Theatre to enjoy The Palace of Dreams guided tour to experience behind the scenes engineering marvels, the original Wurlitzer organ, famous character lounges, award winning artworks and the world's second largest crystal chandelier – a magical day.

In February activities of craft, book clubs, games including cards, mahjong and Mexican Trains, golf, lawn bowls, ten pin bowling, walks and evening Dining Out return.

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.



Nurse Next Door®
home care services



**We are a Registered Provider
of Government Funded
Support At Home Services.**

Locals looking after Locals.

- In-Home Nursing
- 24/7 Home Care
- Companionship
- Dementia Care
- Disability Support
- Transportation
- Personal Care
- And much more...



1300 100 247 nursenextdoor.com.au

Girl Guides Meet Near You

If your daughter is interested in learning outdoors, caring for the environment, challenging themselves, helping the community, making new friends and being creative then please contact us to find out about our 'Come and Try Nights'.

Galston Junior Guides, 414 Galston Road
Thursdays 4.30-6pm (term time only)

For girls 6-10 years old

Contact: 1300 447 548

GalstonJG@girlguides-nswactnt.org.au



Round Corner Dural Probus Club

Probus is Fun and Friendship in Retirement

Joining Round Corner Dural Probus Club offers a fantastic opportunity to meet new people and enjoy a fulfilling retirement.

Our year kicked off with a much-loved BBQ picnic in the local park. It's always a wonderful chance for members to reconnect and celebrate the start of a new year together.

Our activities committee has already booked two exciting holiday trips for later this year and is well underway planning for 2026. We've got interesting outings, social events and our monthly guest speakers already sorted.

If you're looking for a new hobby in retirement, new members and visitors are welcome to join us at a monthly meeting. Meetings are held at the Galston Club on the second Monday of each month at 9:30 am.

For enquiries, contact Lei on 0412 585 741 or email rcdprobus@gmail.com




James Wallace MP
Member for Hornsby

James can help you by

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



Contact James

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

✉ PO Box 1687, Hornsby Westfield NSW 1635

Authorised by James Wallace MP. Funded using parliamentary entitlements.



POL PAINTERS

SERVICING HILLS DISTRICT FOR OVER 40 YEARS

OUR SERVICES

- High Pressure Water Cleaning
- Remedial Repairs

CALL VIC
0417 224 155
Lic No. 238452C




WWW.POL-PAINTERS.COM.AU

Kenthurst Combined Probus Club

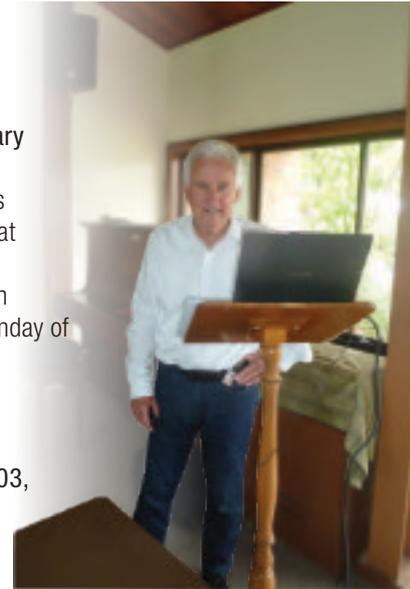
Kenthurst Probus members and their visitors were treated to an intriguing “blast from their past” at their January meeting when Paul Kearney gave an address on the topic “The History of Rock & Roll”: Probus members in general, of course, were part of the youth of the 1950’s and 60’s when this form of music was very much on the scene.

Paul had video clips of performances by such persons as Buddy Holly, Bill Haley, Connie Francis and even “The King” - Elvis Presley: and was able to tell in brief their life stories. It was very well received by those present as one would expect, having regard to the genre of members.

The next Club meeting on the 16th of February will hear a talk about Breaker Morant from Graham Sims who promises some revealing facts about this wild colonial boy above and beyond that which was disclosed in the film and in literature.

Kenthurst Probus meets in the Uniting Church building in Kenthurst at 9.30 AM on the third Monday of each month when visitors are always welcome.

Any person who would like to experience the Kenthurst Probus experience should contact Membership Officer Burt Stuuat on 0424 247 003, or just turn up on the day: no-one has ever been turned away from any of our meetings.



The Rotary Club of West Pennant Hills and Cherrybrook’s 2026 Giant Books Sale is on again on Friday 6th, Saturday 7th and Sunday, 8th March at the Uniting Church, 134 New Line Road, Cherrybrook. Please come along and yes we are taking book donations prior to the sale with some restrictions on books. Call 0468 330 667 for any info on drop-off addresses or types of books accepted.

IT’S ON AGAIN

Rotary
Club of West Pennant Hills & Cherrybrook

2026 ANNUAL GIANT BOOKSALE

Cherrybrook Uniting Church
134 New Line Road, Cherrybrook

Friday 6th March 9am to 5pm	Saturday 7th March 9am to 5pm	Sunday 8th March 11am to 2pm CLEARANCE SALE
--------------------------------	----------------------------------	--

We are looking for donations of books (preferably less than 10 years old), in good condition, original CD’s, DVD’s, records & sheets music.

Gold Coin Donation Entry

Card Payments Accepted

Simply call our hotline (0468 330 667) for a convenient drop off point.
Donations accepted until 12 noon Saturday 28th February.

Please note: we are unable to accept text books, encyclopaedias, dictionaries, damaged or dirty/mouldy books, magazines, coffee table books, Readers Digest & condensed books

Proceeds go to Mental Health Research and other Rotary Charities.

Through your donation and purchase of Books, you can help save lives.

0468 330 667

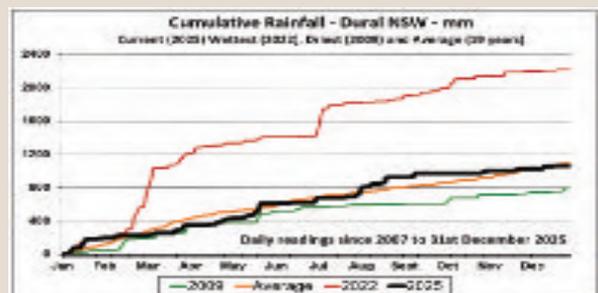
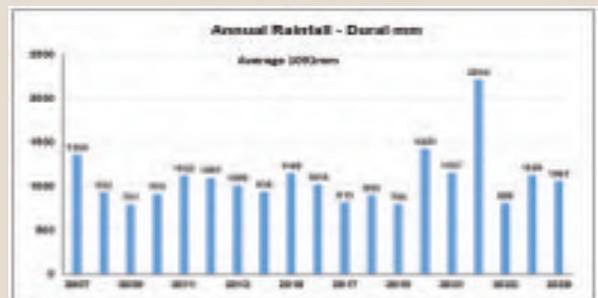
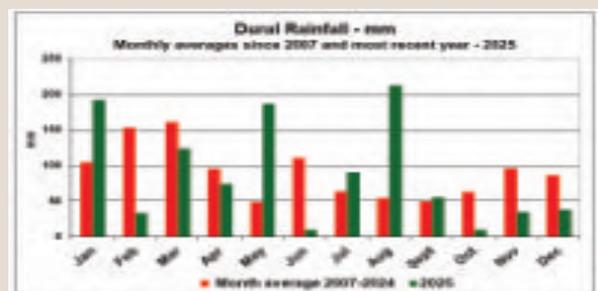
@rotaryclubofwphc

wphc.rotary.events@gmail.com

www.wphcrotary.org/2026-book-sale

Dural Rainfall Charts

by Hans Kunnen



TAYLORS®

ESTATE LABEL

\$12
Only



Varieties:

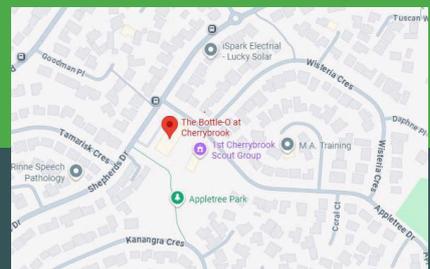
Shiraz Merlot Cabernet Sauvignon Tempranillo Grenache Pinot Noir
Sauvignon Blanc Riesling Chardonnay Pinot Gris Rose Sparkling

Your local independent Liquor store

the
Bottle-O®
Cherrybrook

- ✓ GREAT RANGE
- ✓ LOW PRICES
- ✓ FRIENDLY SERVICE
- ✓ EASY PARKING

132 Shepherds Drive, Cherrybrook 2126
www.thebottle-o.com.au



Get Your Gloves on Australia!

Reminder to Register for Clean up Australia Day 2026!

Australians are being reminded to register now for Clean Up Australia Day with the nation's largest environmental movement returning on Sunday 1st March 2026. Individuals, families, schools, and community groups across the country are being encouraged to register to get in on the action. Since its inception, over 23 million volunteers have joined the Clean Up effort. In 2025, over 800,000 people volunteered across 8,000 events nationally during the Clean Up Australia Day campaign period.

Pip Kiernan, Chair of Clean Up Australia said: *"Our nation's litter disposal and recycling challenges are continuously shifting but the one thing we know for certain, is that too much litter is still making its way into our streets, parks, bushlands and waterways."*

The FY24 Clean Up Australia Litter Report, which provides an annual snapshot of litter collected by volunteers in a calendar year, highlighted that plastics continued to be the number one litter type found in our national parks, bushlands and waterways, representing almost 81% of all counted litter. E-waste made its way into the top ten, with vapes and batteries making up most of the reported e-waste found in the environment.

"Now is the time to register, get your gloves on and get involved. Clean Up Australia Day is about coming together, as neighbours, as communities and as fellow Aussies for a common goal. Whether you're hitting the beach, cleaning a creek, or picking up litter in your local park, your efforts count. When we come together, we create real, visible change. So, let's get our gloves on and together, give back to the place that we call home," Pip said.

Volunteers who register for Clean Up Australia Day 2026 can receive a free Clean Up kit, containing gloves, bags and other resources,

with packs for individuals, families, community groups and schools available (businesses are asked to pay a small fee to cover costs).

If you are unable to participate on the day, you can host or join a Clean Up, any day of the year, with donations to Clean Up Australia also welcome, with 100% of funds raised going directly to empowering Australians to take positive action for the environment and providing free Clean Up kits.

Register now at cleanup.org.au for Clean Up Australia Day on Sunday March 1st, 2026

Business Clean Up Day on Tuesday February 24th, 2026 and Schools Clean Up Day on Friday February 27th, 2026

Galston CWA

As we welcome the New Year, the ladies of Galston CWA look forward to another year of friendship, community involvement and shared skills. We very much appreciate donations of fruits and vegetables for our homemade jams and preserves which are a much-loved part of our fundraising.

Galston CWA meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month at the Galston health and community centre 17 Arcadia road Galston. Visitors are always welcome.

Our first meeting back will be Wednesday 11th February from 10am.

Contact Anne: 0404 228 209 or Patricia: 0412 948 787



LPA CONSTRUCTIONS



Whether you're envisioning a cozy deck to enjoy outdoor moments, revitalising your space with a renovation, upgrading your doors for enhanced aesthetics, or transforming your bathroom into a sanctuary, LPA Constructions has you covered.

CALL TODAY

Luke

0423 345 582

luke@lpaconstructions.com.au

www.lpaconstructions.com.au

Licence 360193c

OUR SERVICES:

- DECKS
- PERGOLAS
- RENOVATIONS
- DOORS
- BATHROOM TRANSFORMATIONS
- CONCRETING



Multi-Award-Winning Designers & Builders of Exceptional Custom Homes



DISPLAY HOME

4 Ayling Street, Pitt Town
Ayling Mews Estate

Inspection Times:

Wednesday & Friday 11 am – 5 pm
Saturday & Sunday 11 am – 4 pm



3 Carlingford Road, Epping NSW 2121
02 9868 3222 | info@binethomes.com.au

www.binethomes.com.au

RANDOM BREATH TESTING

At around 8:30 am on 3 January, Hills Police conducted random breath testing on Windsor Road, Castle Hill.

A male driver of a blue Jaguar returned a mid-range reading of 0.103 and was arrested, with his licence suspended and a Court Attendance Notice issued for a first offence of Mid-Range PCA. At the same site, a female driver was also arrested after returning a low-range reading of 0.06.

Drink driving remains a leading cause of serious crashes and fatalities. The Hills Highway Patrol continues proactive patrols and random breath testing to help keep roads safe. Drivers are urged to plan ahead and avoid driving after consuming alcohol.

DRINK DRIVING

A woman was charged with mid-range drink driving following a roadside stop in Castle Hill.

At about 12.23am on Saturday, 3 January 2026, officers from Hills Highway Patrol stopped a grey Toyota Prado on Carramarr Road for the purpose of random roadside testing.

Police spoke with the female driver, who underwent a roadside breath test that returned a positive result. She was arrested and taken to Castle Hill Police Station for further testing.

A breath analysis conducted at 12.59am recorded an alleged reading of 0.119 grams of alcohol per 210 litres of breath.

The woman was issued with a Court Attendance Notice for mid-range prescribed concentration of alcohol. Her driver licence was suspended, and she was due to appear before Parramatta Local Court on 26 February 2026.

TWO BOYS ARRESTED

Emergency services responded to a fast-moving grass fire in Kellyville in early December, with the blaze quickly brought under control.

Round Corner Rural Fire Brigade attended the incident to assist Fire and Rescue NSW at a small grass fire burning adjacent to a property. Kellyville Rural Fire Brigade and NSW RFS Ku-ring-gai Brigade were also in attendance.

The fire was contained within a short time, with crews preventing its spread and limiting damage. Only minor property damage and no injuries were reported.

Two boys, 12 and 13 years old, were in police custody after allegedly lighting the blaze.



INTOXICATED

A provisional driver was charged with mid-range drink driving following a traffic stop in Dural.

At about 9 pm on Thursday 15 January, police observed a white Toyota Hilux travelling southbound on Old Northern Road near Malabar Road. The section of road is signposted at 60km/h, and the vehicle was allegedly detected travelling well above the posted speed limit.

Officers activated warning lights and sirens, with the vehicle stopped shortly afterwards.

The driver, a P2 licence holder, underwent a roadside breath test that returned a positive result. He was arrested and taken to Castle Hill Police Station for further testing.

A subsequent breath analysis allegedly recorded a reading of 0.106 grams of alcohol per 210 litres of breath.

The man's licence was immediately suspended, and he was issued with a Court Attendance Notice for mid-range prescribed concentration of alcohol. He is due to appear before Parramatta Local Court on February 2026.

STRUCTURE FIRE

Emergency services responded to a confirmed structure fire in Kenthurst in early December, with the blaze contained before it could spread to nearby buildings.

Round Corner Rural Fire Brigade deployed both of its bulk water tankers to the incident. Crews on the first arriving appliances donned breathing apparatus and commenced fire suppression, bringing the fire under control.

Kenthurst Rural Fire Service, Rouse Hill Rural Fire Brigade, Kellyville Rural Fire Brigade, Oakville Rural Fire Brigade, and Fire and Rescue NSW stations 71 and 94 also attended the incident.

NSW Police and NSW Ambulance were present to provide support.



FUN AT THE FARM

Local fire brigades were among the stalls during the "Australia Day Fun At The Farm" event on 26th January at Bella Vista Farm.

Multiple Hills Shire Brigades attended, such as, but not limited to, the Maroota RFB, Glenorie RFB, and Sackville North RFB.

Locals had the chance to learn more about fire safety tips, have a quick chat with fire volunteers and let their children have some fun at the RFS stalls.



SANTA RUN

Multiple local brigades participated in the annual Santa Run, a long-held tradition of many brigades.

Crews from brigades such as Castle Hill, Cherrybrook, Dural, Galston, Glenorie, North Rocks, Westleigh, and Wisemans Ferry toured around their local areas, along with Santa giving out treats aboard their fire engines.

Safety and preparedness were still at the heart of the activity. Volunteers discussed the importance of fire safety alongside friendly conversations.

In the days leading up to Christmas, some locals and firefighters enjoyed together BBQ, refreshments, and activities.

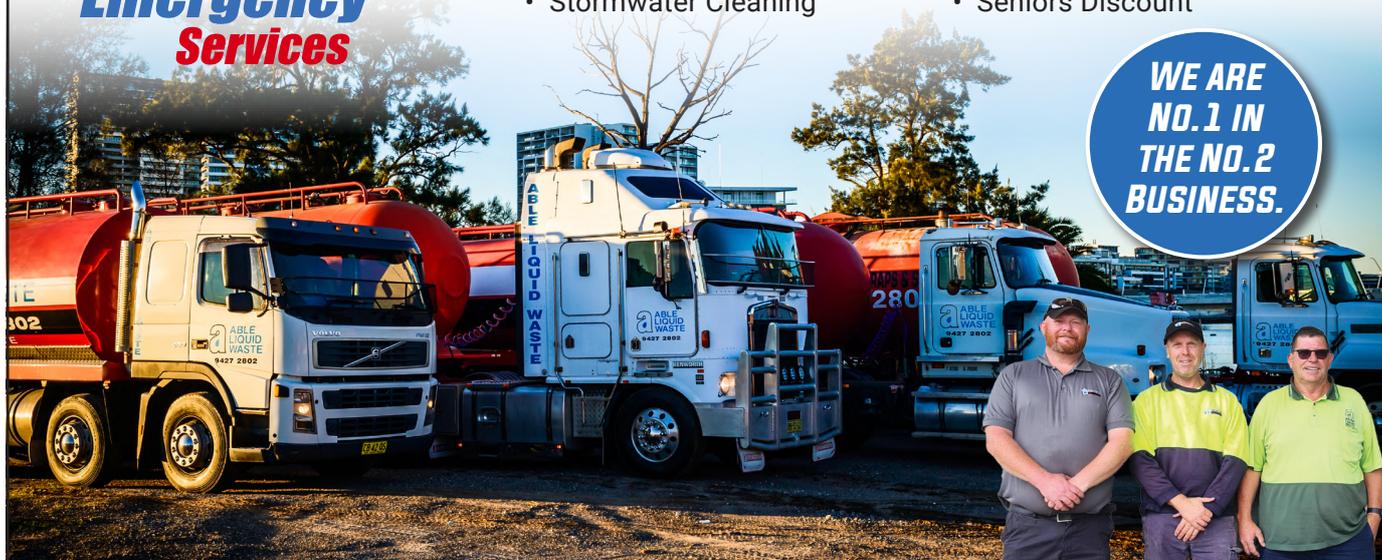
If you have any information on any of the above, please contact Crime Stoppers NSW at 1800 333 000.



Septic Tank Services

- Enviro Cycle Tank Cleaning
- Grease Trap Cleaning
- Septic Tank Cleaning
- Confined Space Entry
- Stormwater Cleaning
- Seniors Discount

WE ARE
NO. 1 IN
THE NO. 2
BUSINESS.



GIVE US A CALL TODAY
9427 2802

www.ableliquidwaste.com.au



Latest News



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



from the Mayor's Desk

As we step into a new year and resume our Council meetings, I am enthusiastic about the opportunities ahead to work together with Council and our community. Our shared goal is to create safe, attractive, and functional town and village centres that reflect the pride we have in our community. This includes progressing the Galston Village Centre project and tackling issues such as graffiti and neglect to enhance civic pride across Hornsby Shire.

Building strong and connected communities remains at the heart of what we do. That's why we're committed to delivering events and activities that bring people together. I'm delighted to announce that our popular Food Truck Fridays are returning this March. These events will showcase some of Sydney's best food truck offerings, accompanied by live music, in Galston, Pennant Hills and Berowra.

More than just serving delicious treats, Food Truck Fridays activate our public spaces and support our local evening and night-time economy. For details, see hornsby.nsw.gov.au/ftf

This year, we're also excited that Remagine, our annual environmental art prize and exhibition, returns in May. We're calling on artists across the Shire to submit a piece of work for this year's competition. The theme is 'Built to Expire' and it is open to painting, drawing, printmaking, ceramics, sculpture, photography, digital stills, and mixed media. Entries are open until 19 March. Visit hornsby.nsw.gov.au/remagine to find out more.

Warren Waddell
Mayor of Hornsby Shire



REMAGINE ART PRIZE

BUILT TO EXPIRE

CALL FOR ENTRIES

Entries close: **19 March 2026**
hornsby.nsw.gov.au/remagine

Artwork by Jacks Oliver, Finding a way back to find a way forward, People's Choice Award winner 2025



Every Thursday afternoon

Libraries are more than just books.

Sometimes they're a lifeline.

Free mental health support in Hornsby Library

Hide and Go Creek



Ready to seek?

#HideAndGoCreek hideandgocreek.com.au



Reduce, Reuse, Recycle



- **Scraps to Soil: The secrets to worm farming**
Thursday 12 February, 10am-12pm
Community Recycling Centre, Thornleigh
- **Waste-wise cafe chats - solutions for apartment living**
Tuesday 17 February, 10am-12.30pm
Hornsby Library
- **Clothes Swap**
Saturday 14 February, 9.30am-11.45am
Thornleigh Community Centre
- **Waste Warrior - Info session**
Thursday 19 February, 9.30am-12pm
Community Recycling Centre, Thornleigh
- **Chipping for Mulch**
Sunday 15 February, 7.30am-12.30pm
Council Depot, Johnson Road, Galston
- **Organic Gardening workshop**
Saturday 28 February, 9am-11am
Community Recycling Centre, Thornleigh

Bookings essential hornsby.nsw.gov.au/waste



STILL / ALIVE

Libby Moore and Viola Dominello

Exhibition of paintings inspired by the exploration of still life objects and the Australian bush.

Friday 13 February to Sunday 1 March, 10am-4pm
Wallarobba Arts and Cultural Centre, Hornsby

FREE ENTRY

FOOD TRUCK FRIDAYS

Save the Date

GREAT FOOD • LIVE MUSIC

FRIDAYS, 5 - 8.30 PM

Pennant Hills Library Car Park - 6 March
Galston Recreation Reserve - 13 March
Berowra Oval - 20 March



Next Council meeting Wednesday 11 February, 6.30pm

hornsby.nsw.gov.au

Find the right school for your child at the (bigger! better!) Hills Schools Expo

The Hills Schools Expo will be held on Saturday & Sunday March 7th-8th, 10am – 4pm, at Castle Hill RSL.

Attention parents! The Independent Schools Expo is coming to the Castle Hill RSL. With a bigger space, and air-conditioned, child-friendly facilities, the Expo will showcase more schools to more families than ever before.

This free event is a rare opportunity to meet with teachers and principals from Australia’s leading independent schools and discover the many options available to local families.

The Hills district has long been home to a huge variety of excellent schools, offering a diverse range of facilities and teaching styles. Now, thanks to the new Metro North West train line and expanded school bus services, families have easy access to more schools than ever.

Boarding, either weekly or throughout the term, is another increasingly popular option, particularly for older students.

But with so much choice, it can be hard to know where to start. That’s why the Hills Schools Expo is an important resource for local families. Parents can cut through the noise to get a real feel for a school’s values and culture. This is vital because independent

schools do more than teach. They are also tasked with upholding the values of their school communities and passing them on to the next generation.

Every school has its strengths. The right school for your child is the one where they can succeed personally as well as academically. The Expo can help you find that school. Exhibitors at this year’s event include single-sex, co-ed, and faith-based schools from kindergarten to senior high school, including boarding schools in the city and the country.

At the Expo, parents are invited to engage in detailed discussions with school staff to deeply explore a school’s offerings and suitability for their child. From information on scholarships to extracurricular opportunities and specialised programs for gifted and talented students, families can learn everything they need to know to take the next step in their school search.

You can conduct days of research in a single outing while also establishing a personal connection with your school of choice.

Every child is unique. Don’t miss this wonderful opportunity to find the school to which your child is uniquely suited.

For more information visit:

<https://schoolexpo.com.au/hills-school-expo.html>

Hills Schools Expo



Helping you find the right school for your child

Saturday 7th & Sunday 8th March 2026, 10am-4pm
Castle Hill RSL, 77 Castle St Castle Hill | Free Entry

Looking for the right school for your child? Then don’t miss the Hills Schools Expo! Showcasing Australia’s leading Independent Day & Boarding, Single Sex & Co-ed Schools from Pre-K through to Year 12.

www.schoolexpo.com.au

New Year's Resolution? More Harmony in My Life!

by Kath Ware

It's a new dawn, it's a new day, it's a new life for me. And I'm feelin' good! Now there's a new year's resolution you can sing in the shower each morning. In fact, you can even sing it with others, alongside fellow songbirds who love harmonising together.

Circular Keys Chorus is offering all women who have a new year's urge to sing in a chorus the opportunity to come along to a six-week course, starting in February. The 'Learn to Sing A Cappella' workshop starts on 18th February and runs for six consecutive Wednesdays from 7.30 to 10pm. Participants will learn vocal techniques from one of Australia's leading professional directors and be surrounded by a group of like-minded women who love sharing the exhilaration of singing 'a cappella' style, that is without instrumental accompaniment.

Women of all ages and all levels of ability are welcome to attend the workshop. There is no need to have any background in music or singing. The total cost is \$150, and participants who complete the course and wish to join Circular Keys Chorus will be taken through the membership requirements by Vicki Dwyer, the musical director. When asked what sorts of attributes she looks for in new members, Vicki says: 'Above all, it's a love of singing and a desire to get the most out of your own capabilities. Many of our members didn't even realise they could sing harmony until they came to one of our workshops'.

CKC is based in Bella Vista, in the Hills District and performs regularly in concerts and community events throughout Sydney. They have won many national awards since the chorus was formed in 1995 and have represented Australia four times in



Sweet Adelines International competitions, most recently last year in Ohio, USA, where they were ranked in the top 20 women's choruses in the world. Members come from all over Sydney and from all social demographics, including students, mothers, grandmothers, business people and retirees.

Singing with CKC has transformed many women's lives. In addition to the joy of coming together each week to create beautiful music, there are lots of personal reasons why individual members were drawn to the chorus and decided to stay. For Glenhaven resident, Ann Keating, 'it's the friendships and support we give each other. We all help one another get through life's challenges, the ups and the downs'.

Jen from Riverstone was looking for a new hobby to expand her horizons when she attended a workshop nearly ten years ago. 'Circular Keys Chorus certainly provides the opportunity to learn and grow. Singing with the chorus you never stop learning, and with the education you get each week you just keep getting better and better. It's such a thrill.'

Pippa travels from the Sutherland Shire each week. For Pippa it's the opportunity to do something just for herself. 'You walk through the door to a rehearsal and you focus just on what you're doing and stop thinking about what else is happening in your life. It's like filling your own personal tank with energy that helps you get through the rest of the week'.

Mon from Castle Hill was worried she might not fit in when she came along to her first rehearsal. But she soon discovered that there were other young women in their 20s and 30s just like her. 'The atmosphere is so welcoming, and I feel like everyone is appreciated for who they are. It doesn't matter whether you're outgoing or shy, an expert or a newbie. We've all got a common goal and we help each other to be the best versions of ourselves that we can be.'

To register for the six-week workshop starting on Wednesday 18th February, go to www.trybooking.com/DIIZM.

For more information on Circular Keys Chorus, please go to:

- Facebook: www.facebook.com/circularkeys
- Website: www.circularkeys.org

For further enquiries, please email: enquiries@circularkeys.org

Learn to sing from ordinary to Extraordinary!

With award-winning women's a cappella group
Circular Keys Chorus from Bella Vista

Learn to Sing A Cappella Vocal Course

- Discover great vocal techniques from one of Australia's leading professional directors. All course materials supplied.
- Women of all ages and abilities are welcome, and no need to read music. Be brave and unlock your vocal potential.
- Find your vocal part, and have fun learning a new song together with the chorus - a popular favourite that you'll love!
- Starting 7.30pm Wed 18 February for 6 weeks for just \$150.

Book now at www.trybooking.com/DIIZM
Any questions? Email enquiries@circularkeys.org today.


circular keys
CHORUS

www.circularkeys.org
real women. real harmonies. real fun.



Proudly local, uncompromising on detail

Specialising in all forms of residential building works, from bathroom renovations to complete extensions and additions

Contact us **0477 770 171** or visit **mhpbuilders.com.au**



M H Projects Pty Ltd

Lic No: 482411C

Qualified, Licensed & Insured



Mark Hodges MP Member for Castle Hill

Mark can help you by

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

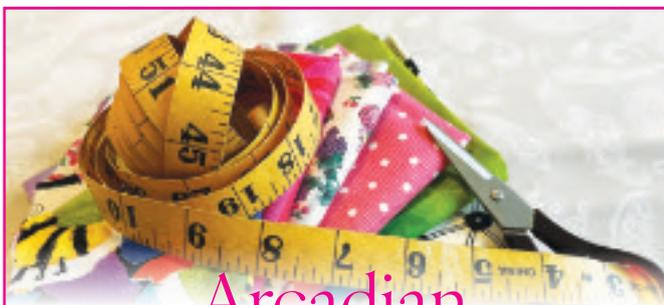


Contact
Mark

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

Authorised by Mark Hodges MP. Funded using parliamentary entitlements.

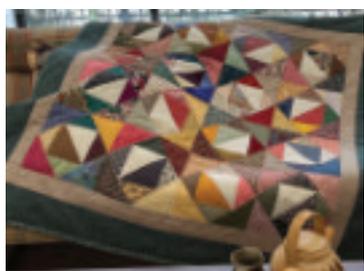




Arcadian Quilting News

Welcome to 2026!!

This year we are wishing our COMMUNITY the colours of peace, safety and achievement.



Colours can represent actions, let's choose POSITIVE shades on the colour wheel??

This quilt (pictured beside) was started in 1995 (?) hand pieced and the beginnings of hand

quilting followed. Sadly nothing more ever happened to this 'square-in-a-square' designed quilt until a house-move requiring the inevitable 'tidy-up and discard' took place.

On discovering this gem (carefully folded and tucked away) the idea of completing the quilt quickly became a reality. With more than half the task already completed, this could become a surprise birthday gift ... TICK.

Making New Year resolutions can be family fun and a great way to fill in those free weekends. Perhaps tidy up a neglected corner in the garden or freshen up a cupboard indoors with a coat of paint .. or be very brave and repaint a room?

Take up the AQ 2026 challenge: choose your colours from the POSITIVE side of the colour wheel?

Arcadian Quilters return on 21st January 2026 ... and will continue to meet at Community Health Centre, The Glade, Galston on 1st, 3rd and 5th Wednesday of each month at 9.30 am.

For any inquiries please call Carole on 9894 7749.

Castle Hill Art Society

Art Demonstration - 7.00pm 4th March 2026
Jan Cristaudo - "Nature inspired abstracts"



Jan is an abstract artist with a very distinctive style and uses oils on canvas to interpret her subjects, taking the viewer on a visual journey that evokes the allure of nature and the feeling of connection to the landscape.

Colour is the first thing Jan sees and is her preferred method of expression on how she views the world, followed by shape and form.

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

Enquiries 9899 3179 www.castlehillartsociety.org.au



ROOFS

ABOVE & BEYOND

"We Love Roofing"

PROFESSIONAL ROOFING SERVICES

- ✓ REPAIRS
- ✓ LEAF GUARD
- ✓ RESTORATIONS

- ✓ GUTTERING
- ✓ REPLACEMENT OF METAL AND TILED ROOFS

30 YEARS EXPERIENCE

Contact us today for your
FREE no obligation quotes

QUALITY

STARTS
AT THE
TOP

9654 6000

info@roofsabove.com.au

WWW.ROOFSABOVE.COM.AU



What's on for 2026 Galston Concerts

Galston Uniting Church, 11 School Road, Galston



Concert 1: Sunday 22nd February – Canberra Musicians: Pianist Kimberley Steele & Clarinetist Milan Kolundzija will present an engaging & virtuosic program.

Concert 2: Sunday 31st May – Abbotsleigh Senior School will showcase their highly talented and gifted Year 12 Music Students.

Concert 3: Sunday 21st June – Canberran Music School graduates under the direction of pianist & conductor Kimberley Steele.

Concert 4: Sunday 20th September – Australian cellist Rachel Scott and SSO & TSO harpist Genevieve Lang, well known ABC FM presenter.

Concert 5: Sunday 18th October – return visit from Violist Robert Harris in collaboration with well-known Queensland pianist/accompanist Dr Robert Manley.

A Murderously Funny Black Comedy

Castle Hill Players presents

Arsenic and Old Lace

at the Pavilion Theatre from 30 Jan – 21 Feb 2026

Written by Joseph Kesselring and directed by Steve Rowe

Perhaps best known for the 1944 film version starring Cary Grant, *Arsenic and Old Lace* is a fast-moving, farcical black comedy featuring the maniacal, and mostly homicidal, Brewster family.

Our hero, drama critic Mortimer Brewster, has just married the very normal girl next door, Elaine Harper. But now he must navigate his very abnormal family.

Mortimer's two spinster aunts, Abby and Martha, love to ply lonely, elderly gentlemen with their very special elderberry wine. One brother, Teddy, thinks he's Theodore Roosevelt. His other brother, Jonathan, is a murderous Boris Karloff look-alike thanks to his sidekick Dr Einstein - an alcoholic plastic surgeon.

What exactly is in that elderberry wine? Why is Teddy doing all that digging down in the cellar? Whose body is that in the window seat? And will Mortimer and Elaine survive another night in the Brewster household?

Arsenic and Old Lace will have you in stitches - no surgery required!



Brett Watkins, Thomas Southwell



Kate Mannix & Margaret Olive

"In *Arsenic and Old Lace*, Castle Hill Players have chosen an absolute banger to kick off our 2026 season. It's a classic dark comedy set in 1940s Brooklyn in the home of the murderous Brewster family. What's in the elderberry wine? What's down in the cellar? Come along to the Pavilion Theatre and find out."

Steve Rowe, Director

Castle Hill Players presents *Arsenic and Old Lace*

By Joseph Kesselring, directed by Steve Rowe

30th Jan – 21st Feb, Wed, Fri, Sat 8PM, Sun 4PM

Pavilion Theatre, Castle Hill

Tickets \$30, Concession \$25

The Pavilion Theatre is located within the Castle Hill Showgrounds, Castle Hill

Bookings paviliontheatre.org.au/arsenic-and-old-lace or call 02 9634 2929

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

Media enquiries email Abby.marketing@paviliontheatre.org.au



Galston Concerts



Sunday 22nd February @ 2pm

Galston Uniting Church, 11 School Road, Galston

Paris to Budapest: A Clarinet and Piano Musical Journey?

Kimberley Steele is a collaborative pianist, conductor, classroom teacher, and the Director of Voice at Radford College (Canberra). She graduated from the Liszt Academy of Music, with performance highlights including playing for Kodály's wife Sarolta in their family home, and memorising the formidable Dante Sonata by Liszt. At Sydney University she was recognised with a Geoffrey Parsons Scholarship, and at the Australian National University she won the Margaret Smiles Accompaniment Prize. She has been featured by the NSW Accompanists' Guild and Artsound Canberra, performed two concertos with the National Capital Orchestra, and accompanied tertiary performance students in Canberra for over a decade. Favourite artists to work with have included Alexander Knight (baritone), Anna Murakawa (violin) and her flagship ensemble the foray quintet. On June 21 she will return to the Galston stage with a vocal ensemble of Elegies.



Milan Kolundzija has been playing and teaching as a clarinetist in Canberra for the past eight years. A graduate of the Australian National University's School of Music, Milan completed his classical clarinet studies with First Class Honours under the tutelage of Jason Noble (Ensemble Offspring), Alan Vivian (Australian Chamber Orchestra, Sydney Symphony Orchestra, Canberra Symphony Orchestra) and Dr Eloise Fisher (Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra). In 2022, he made his solo debut as one of the performers featured in the ANU Orchestra's Concerto Gala. In 2023, Milan was selected as an inaugural fellow of the Canberra Symphony Orchestra's Kingsland Fellowship. Milan has performed with a variety of ensembles in Canberra and interstate including the Australian Brandenburg Orchestra and the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra.

\$40 adults; \$30 concession & children free
(Cash only at the door)

Bookings: Trybooking.com

JOSEPH KESSERLING'S

ARSENIC AND OLD LACE

DIRECTED BY STEVE ROWE

30 JAN – 21 FEB 2026

paviliontheatre.org.au/arsenic-and-old-lace

The Pavilion Theatre
Hills Showground

TICKETS \$30/\$25

Use Promo Code 'SISTERS8' for 10% OFF!
at Checkout (step 3) when booking online (adult/concession only) OR mention code when calling Box Office 02 9634 2929

THE PAVILION THEATRE
OF THE CASTLE HILL PLAYERS
CELEBRATING 60 YEARS IN THE SHOWGROUND

ARSENIC AND OLD LACE is presented by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing, LLC, servicing the Dramatists Play Service collection. (www.dramatists.com)

Galston Grange

RETIREMENT VILLAGE

A Beautiful New Chapter,
Redesigned. Coming Soon.

Updated facades. Refined interiors. Light-filled, north-facing living.

Register your interest: search GalstonGrange or call 1300 040 588.

Marston Living

“One of the things that makes living here easy is knowing what our outgoings will be each month. We don’t worry about the unexpected costs that come with a home.”

- Julie H., Hills local

That kind of certainty is often the real luxury. Not extravagance, but ease. When the financial side is clearly explained, it’s simpler to plan ahead, enjoy the everyday, and live well without the background stress of surprise repairs, urgent quotes, and rising bills.

Retirement village living is generally shaped by three parts:

- **Ingoing contribution (entry payment):** Secures your long-term right to live in your home and helps establish the village community.
- **Ongoing service fee:** Supports the day-to-day running of the village, including management and staffing, maintenance of shared areas and gardens, and the operation of community facilities.
- **Exit fee (often called a Deferred Management Fee):** Agreed upfront and applied when you leave, helping fund long-term upkeep and future improvements so the community remains consistently well maintained.



Because villages differ, the right comparison is not headline numbers, it’s what’s included, how fees change over time, and how the exit arrangement is calculated.

What matters most is how the structure supports the way you want to live. A clearer framework can replace stop-start home ownership costs with a steadier rhythm, freeing up time and headspace for travel, family, wellbeing, and the simple pleasure of a home that stays beautifully cared for.

At Marston Living, reassurance comes from transparency. We walk you through the costs with worked examples, based on realistic timeframes, so you can see how the numbers may look over time and ask questions early, in plain language, before you make a decision.

M: 0410 036 357 W: www.marstonliving.com.au

Bush Fire...Get Ready!



We’ve seen the devastation in Victoria with hundreds of thousands of acres burnt and many homes lost. With vivid memories of the massive fires in NSW in the past, it’s clear that the last few years has seen a consistent build-up of fuel, right throughout the east coast.

Scorching hot weather and erratic winds are the key ingredients for serious bushfire danger. One local company, Aussie Pumps, located at Norwest, has ramped up production of both Honda petrol and Yanmar diesel drive fire pumps.

The Aussie Fire Chief is regarded as the world’s best lightweight, portable

Preparing for bush fire takes time & resources, planning ahead is essential

fire pump. Designed originally for Australian conditions, it’s now a big seller around the world.

“The product is simply better than any other of it’s kind in the world and comes with a five-year warranty and a flat price of \$880 including GST. They are available from Aussie Gold distributors throughout Hills to Hawkesbury.

Aussie Pumps also produce tens of thousands of their Fire Survival Guides in preparation for the fire season every year. It covers everything you need to get your property prepared.

If you choose to stay and fight the fire, having sufficient water and a high quality pump is required. A good quality high pressure hose kit is just as important. With sprinklers on the roof and downpipes blocked, the gutters can turn into a ‘moat’ to help defend an ember attack.

Further information, including Aussie’s FREE Bushfire Survival Guide, visit aussiepumps.com.au



Based in Kenthurst and servicing Kenthurst and the Hills area.

Specialising in Blocked Drains

Leaking Taps • Hot Water Installations & Repairs • Burst Pipes
Gas Fitting & Repairs • Leaking Toilets

(02) 9067 9519

hello@todstaplumbing.com.au

www.todstaplumbing.com.au

ADVERTORIAL

Ear Man Dan: A New Voice Cutting Through Australia's Hearing Care Confusion

Hearing care in Australia can be a confusing space to navigate. From government funding and hearing aids to conflicting advice online, many Australians are left unsure where to turn for clear, trustworthy information. A new YouTube channel, *Ear Man Dan*, aims to change that.

Launched by Daniel Fechner, founder of Ear studio, *Ear Man Dan* is an educational YouTube channel designed to make hearing care simpler, more transparent, and easier to understand for everyday Australians.

"Hearing loss affects millions of people, yet the information around it is often fragmented, overly technical, or sales-driven," Daniel says. "My goal with *Ear Man Dan* is to break down complex topics into plain English and give people the confidence to ask better questions about their hearing."

The channel covers a wide range of topics, including how hearing tests work, what different types of hearing loss mean, how hearing aids really function, and how Australia's hearing care system is structured. Importantly, the content is not aimed solely at people already wearing hearing aids. Instead, it is designed for anyone who wants to understand hearing health better—whether for themselves, a parent, a partner, or a friend.

Daniel brings more than two decades of experience in the hearing industry to the channel. As the founder of Ear studio, he has worked closely with thousands of Australians navigating hearing loss and has seen firsthand how confusing the system can be. This experience shapes the practical, no-nonsense tone of the videos.

Rather than promoting specific products, *Ear Man Dan* focuses on

education and empowerment. Viewers are encouraged to submit questions, suggest topics, and engage in open discussion through the channel's comments and community posts. The aim is to create a space where people feel comfortable asking the questions, they may have been hesitant to raise elsewhere.

"Hearing care shouldn't feel intimidating," Daniel explains. "If people understand their options, they're more likely to take action earlier—and that can make a huge difference to quality of life."

The launch of *Ear Man Dan* comes at a time when demand for accessible, digital health education is growing rapidly. With an ageing population and increased awareness of hearing health, the channel seeks to become a trusted, independent resource in an often-noisy marketplace.

People interested in learning more about hearing health, understanding the system, or simply getting straight answers to common questions can visit the *Ear Man Dan* YouTube channel by scanning the QR code below.

New videos are released regularly, with a focus on clarity, honesty, and practical guidance—helping Australia hear better, sooner.

The graphic features a smiling man with a beard, Daniel Fechner, pointing towards the right. To his right is the 'Ear Man Dan' logo, which consists of the letters 'E', 'M', and 'D' in a stylized orange font, with a soundwave graphic integrated into the 'M'. Below the logo is the tagline 'Expert Audiology, Explained Simply.' To the right of the logo, the text 'EAR MAN DAN' is written in a stacked, orange, sans-serif font. Below this, the text 'Subscribe here!' is followed by a large QR code. An arrow points from the QR code to the YouTube logo, which includes the word 'YouTube' in its characteristic black font.

Oakhill College

Established 90 years ago in 1936, Oakhill College has grown into the largest Catholic school in New South Wales and is part of the global network of De La Salle schools. For nearly a century, the College has been shaped by Catholic values and traditions that continue to guide its mission: to inspire all learners to aspire to greatness.

Oakhill's vision is clear, to develop well grounded, lifelong learners who are faith centred, service oriented, resilient, and innovative contributors to a sustainable society. This vision is reflected in a holistic approach to education that recognises the unique gifts and talents of every student. The College focuses on 21st Century learning outcomes, world class teaching practice, and a culture that encourages students to aim high while staying grounded.

As a large and diverse community, Oakhill offers an exceptional breadth of curricular, co-curricular, and extra-curricular opportunities. Students can explore performing arts, debating, agriculture, science, leadership, sport, outdoor education, enrichment programs, and a wide range of service initiatives. These experiences help shape well rounded individuals who aspire, achieve, and succeed in their own way, during their school years and long after they graduate.

Pastoral Care is at the heart of College life. Oakhill's structure ensures that every child is known and supported, with Tutor Groups from Years 7–10 and House Groups in Years 11–12, complemented by Year Level Deans and Assistant Deans. This framework creates a safe, nurturing environment where each student's needs, strengths, and potential are recognised and valued.



Learning at Oakhill is centred on critical thinking, collaboration, communication, and creativity. The College's contemporary facilities and spacious campus are designed to enhance learning and encourage curiosity. A vibrant Parents & Friends community further strengthens the sense of belonging, offering families many ways to engage with College life.

Service remains at the heart of Oakhill's identity. Students participate in local and global initiatives, living out the Gospel message through action. With a proud academic tradition, including consistently strong HSC results, Oakhill College continues to form young people who are ready to make their mark on the world.

Visit us on Open Day on Sunday 22nd February from 10.00am-2.00pm.
www.oakhill.nsw.edu.au



Oakhill
COLLEGE



Open Day

Sunday 22nd February

10.00AM - 2.00PM

423-513 Old Northern Rd, Castle Hill
oakhill.nsw.edu.au | 9899 2288

Bookings essential.

Feet on the ground. Aiming for the stars.

Choosing Service Over Schoolies



At the end of last year, while many of their peers travelled north to Queensland for a week of sunshine and celebration, twenty-eight Year 12 Pacific Hills students chose a different path.

Accompanied by three teachers, the students travelled to a small village in Vanuatu, where they dedicated the week to serving the local community. Their days were spent in village fields and buildings, running a children's program that brought together Bible stories, sport, crafts, games, and practical life skills. Alongside working with younger children, the group also took time to connect

with local teenagers, building meaningful relationships through conversation and shared experiences.

Reflecting on the trip, student Taya described it as "a last hurrah with my year group and a great way to serve." She added, "I'd recommend any of our Pacific Mission service trips, both overseas and local, as an incredible way to connect with your peers while serving a community."

By choosing service over the traditional Schoolies experience, these students created lasting memories while making a genuine impact, both in the lives of others and their own.

ENROLLING NOW

Experience the difference of Christian Education.

Enquire today to find out more.



Pacific Hills Christian School is an independent school trading under the Pacific Group of Christian Schools ABN 11001832 828, CRICOS No. 02340G



enrolments@pacifichills.nsw.edu.au

www.pacifichills.nsw.edu.au



Not sure what you need?

We are always in the area to help

Staples Premier Pumpouts is an Australian owned family business

- we live local - we work local -

We offer you a friendly, reliable and thorough septic tank pumpout service at a competitive price.

When you book with us you can be sure that you will receive professional service with the utmost respect for you and your property.

02 9457 8777

www.premierpumpouts.com.au

When was your last pumpout??



We recommend a pumpout every 3-5 years depending on how many people reside there.

Congratulations to the Class of 2025!

by James Wallace MP

Congratulations to several Hornsby students on their outstanding HSC results, with four local students placing first in New South Wales in their subjects.

The top-performing students are:

- Alice Hynes, Hornsby Girls High School – History Extension
- Simon Greager, Barker College – Agriculture
- Hamish Hudson, Barker College – Software Engineering
- Heidi Jilwan, Tangara School for Girls – Music 1

State Member for Hornsby James Wallace MP said, “Finishing the HSC is a huge achievement, and coming first in the state is truly remarkable. The students, along with the families and teachers who supported them every step of the way, should be very proud. I wish them all the best as they move into the next chapter of their lives.”

Celebrating the Class of 2025!

On behalf of Hornsby, congratulations to our outstanding local students who placed first in the state in their HSC subjects:

Alice Hynes - Hornsby Girls High School
History Extension

Simon Greager - Barker College
Agriculture

Hamish Hudson - Barker College
Software Engineering

Heidi Jilwan - Tangara School for Girls
Music 1

JAMES WALLACE MP
Member for Hornsby

A Thank You to Our Local Firefighters

by James Wallace MP

NSW and Victoria have recently experienced some of the hottest days on record, and Hornsby has not been immune to the impacts of bushfires, including fires burning in the Mount Colah area.

Earlier in the year, a fire near Ku-ring-gai Chase Road caused concern after threatening nearby high-voltage powerlines. Thanks to the quick response of Rural Fire Service volunteers and Fire & Rescue NSW crews, the fire was brought under control after burning only a small area of bushland.

State Member for Hornsby James Wallace MP praised the efforts of local firefighters and emergency services, saying “Our RFS volunteers and Fire & Rescue crews work in extremely challenging conditions to protect lives, homes and infrastructure. Their quick action during the recent fire scare prevented what could have been a much more serious situation.”

James Wallace has long advocated in Parliament for stronger protections for firefighters calling for reforms to expand the list of cancers automatically recognised as



DESCRIPTION: Hornsby RFS truck heading south to assist with bushfire operations. Picture by NSW Rural Fire Service Hornsby and Ku-ring-gai District.

linked to firefighting, ensuring that career and volunteer firefighters do not have to prove their illness was caused by their work. He has also lobbied for oesophageal cancer to be added to the recognised list and received confirmation from the Minister that it will be actioned.

ARBORIST EST. 1956

MCARDLE
TREE SERVICES

TREE REMOVAL • PRUNING
STUMP GRINDING • LAND CLEARING
MULCH SALES • FIREWOOD

Give Us a Call Today!

0414 635 650

info@mcardletrees.com.au

4th Generation Expert Arborist

Fully Licensed & Insured

24 Hour Emergency Service



James Wallace
HORNSBY MP

The infrastructure we need to support growth

Over recent months, many Cherrybrook and Dural residents have shared their views on the Minns Labor Government's draft plan to rezone parts of Cherrybrook near the Metro station.

The plan allows for significant increases in height and density, potentially delivering more than 9,350 new dwellings over time. This will undoubtedly put more strain on local roads, schools and the Metro.

Our community understands the need for more housing. Building homes close to Metro stations makes sense. However, this must be matched with an investment in infrastructure including schools, sporting fields and upgrades to local roads such as New Line Road.

None of our local schools accept out-of-area enrolments due to capacity constraints. We need to plan for and manage the

proposed population growth so that the high standards of education which local families have come to expect from these schools is preserved.

There is no community appetite for school catchment boundaries to be redrawn.

Local roads are already congested at peak times. New Line Road remains one of the most significant traffic bottlenecks in our area. The long-awaited upgrade to four lanes between Hastings Road and Purchase Road has now been deferred across two consecutive Minns Government budgets. This funding should be restored and committed without delay so that construction can finally begin.

As the State MP for Hornsby, I have raised these issues repeatedly on behalf of the community in the Parliament.

Through the consultation process residents have told me they are seeking assurance that growth in our area will be carefully aligned with a clear, publicly committed infrastructure delivery schedule.

Our community is not saying no to growth. It is asking for planning to be done properly, with roads, schools, transport and open space planned and funded from the start.

We expect the plans for the rezoning will be finalised during 2026.



Jane Seaglove
HORNSBY COUNCILLOR

Hello Residents,

Welcome back to the Hornsby Shire community after the Christmas and New Year break. We hope you were able to slow down, enjoy time with family and friends, and make the most of everything our beautiful Shire has to offer.

As we ease back into everyday life, Council is looking forward to another year of working with you to keep Hornsby Shire a great place to live. A new year brings fresh energy, new ideas, and plenty of opportunities to keep building strong and connected neighbourhoods together.

Over the months ahead, you'll see Council continuing to look after local parks, roads, and community centres, while supporting community events, and environmental and bushland care. Protecting our bushland and waterways remains a priority, as does planning thoughtfully for the future so our Shire continues to thrive.

January is also a good time to reconnect. Whether you're heading back to work, starting something new we encourage you to support your local businesses, and enjoy the facilities and programs available across the Shire.

Hornsby Shire local events coming up in January/February:

Fagan Park is hosting **Australia Day festivities** – The day kicks off with a citizenship ceremony at 10:30am, an indigenous cultural experience, followed by roving entertainment. Later on, enjoy food trucks, a BBQ, lamingtons and more of our local charm.

Get ready for Lunar New Year with **Lantern making workshops on Tuesday 10th February** from 10:00-12:00 at the Library. Bookings required through our website.

Love Clothes and recycling? Join **The Clothes swap** held on **14th February** at Thornleigh Community Centre on from 9:45 – 11:45am – Bookings required through our website.

Thank you for being part of what makes Hornsby Shire such a welcoming community. We're excited for the year ahead and look forward to sharing it with you. Here's to a positive, healthy, and connected year for everyone who calls Hornsby Shire home.



KINGS
ESTATE JEWELLERY

BUYING & SELLING PRELOVED JEWELLERY

We Buy Gold & Jewellery in any condition.
Explore our collection of antique, vintage & contemporary
jewellery in-store or online
Sustainable - Affordable - Unique

(02) 8919 4708 | 2/2 Kenthurst Road Dural 2158
www.kingsestate.com.au

Hills District Plumbing

- Drainage
- Blocked Drains
- Pipe Relining
- Taps & Toilets
- Leaking Pipes
- Hot Water
- Gas



HILLS DISTRICT PLUMBING

0459 305 360

www.hillsdistrictplumbing.au



Dr Michelle Byrne
MAYOR OF THE HILLS SHIRE

Keeping Rates Fair as The Hills Grows

Council is currently consulting on a proposed new rating structure designed to keep residential rates equitable and sustainable as The Hills continues to grow.

As the fastest-growing council area in NSW, our community is placing increasing demand on everyday services such as local roads, parks, libraries and waste services.

The proposed changes aim to better reflect today's community and share costs more fairly across households, while helping to reduce financial pressure over time.

Council modelling shows around 47,482 households would be better off under the proposed structure compared with keeping the current system.

Imagine Council's rates income as a pie. Put simply, this proposal is about sharing the pie more fairly. The size of the pie does not change — Council is not collecting more overall revenue — but the way it is sliced better reflects the community we are today. By adjusting how costs are shared, the proposed structure ensures more residents are better off overall and helps spread the cost of our shared services more fairly across households.

On average, apartment owners would see an increase of around \$3.85 per week, while standalone homeowners would experience an average increase of about \$0.56 per week, including the IPART-set rate peg.

Pensioner rebates will continue to apply, and the proposal will not increase Council's overall rate revenue beyond legislated limits.

Community feedback is now open, and I encourage you to review the proposal and have your say before Council makes a final decision.

Flexible Payments with Payble

To help residents manage their rates more easily, Council has introduced Payble, a flexible online payment option that allows rates to be paid weekly, fortnightly, monthly or quarterly, as well as one off payments.

Payble is simple to set up and includes SMS reminders to help you stay on track. If you are experiencing difficulty paying your rates, Council staff are available to discuss payment arrangements and support options.

Stockhorse Avenue Reserve, Box Hill

I'm pleased to see progress being made on Stockhorse Avenue Reserve in Box Hill.

This new park will provide much-needed recreational space for the growing Box Hill community, with plans including a modern playground, basketball courts, picnic shelter, kick-about area, pathways and seating.

Community consultation is now open, and I encourage local residents to provide feedback to help shape a park that reflects the needs of local families.

Lunar Street Festival in Castle Hill

February will finish on a high note with the Hills Lunar Festival on **Saturday 28th February**, from 2.00pm to 9.00pm.

Castle Hill Main Street (Old Northern Road between Castle Towers and Castle Mall) will come alive with food stalls, live performances, roving entertainment, free children's activities and vibrant decorations, culminating in a fireworks finale.

This event is a wonderful opportunity to come together and celebrate the diversity that makes The Hills such a welcoming place to live. I hope to see many of you there.

Air Perfection Air Conditioning

Sales, Service & Installation

0427 305 247

airperfection247@gmail.com

SENIORS DISCOUNT

- Mowing - Acreage & Domestic
- Fertilising
- Hedging & Tree Trimming
- New Turf Installation
- Weed Control
- Garden Services

1300 303 539

www.dualgroup.com.au

Home and contents insurance

Through Bendigo Bank, you'll have home and contents insurance you can rely on.

Visit us in branch or at bendigobank.com.au/homeinsurance to get a quote.

Community Bank • Galston & District 9653 2227

Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited ABN 11 068 049 178 acts under its own AFSL 237879 and under an agreement with the insurer Insurance Australia Limited trading as CGU Insurance ABN 11 000 016 722, AFSL 227681. Any advice provided is general advice only and does not take into account your individual objectives, financial situation or needs ("your personal circumstances"). Policy conditions, limitations and exclusions apply. Before using this advice to decide whether to purchase a product, you should consider your personal circumstances and the relevant the Product Disclosure Statement and Target Market Determinations from bendigobank.com.au/insurance (1783922-1783194) OUT_48323523, 16/01/2026



Mark Hodges
MEMBER FOR CASTLE HILL

Australia Day – A Time to be Grateful

238 years ago on 26th January a humble makeshift flagpole was planted on Sydney Cove. Governor Phillip and his officers drank the health of the King as the colours were raised. Just 55 years later, Sydney Cove would become the artificial shoreline we now know as Circular Quay.

Over the years, decades and centuries that followed, much more would be built not just on the site of Sydney Cove, but across the Cumberland Plain, over the Dividing Range and eventually throughout the whole continent of this Great Southern Land. A huge debt of gratitude is owed to all those who undertook this nation-building work in circumstances unimaginable to the modern mind. We are the children of those who planted trees knowing they would not live to enjoy their fruit or shade.

Edifices of steel, brick, mortar—and sandstone—are impressive. Roads, dams, sewers and infrastructure quietly work in the background to provide the conveniences we now take for granted. But more impressive still are the intangible things that were planted here: our institutions, our ideals, and our way of life.

through colossal effort and determination, the very best principles of the old country—responsible government, liberty, the rule of law, fairness and equality—were transplanted here. And they took root. These are what make Australia a truly extraordinary nation and the envy of the world.

We have so much to be grateful for. Many of those who built the places we now call home are remembered only in the names of suburbs, streets and parks. But we should also think of the countless people whose names are now lost to history—those who endured hardship and injustice far from their homeland, yet showed extraordinary resolve not only to survive, but to build a future for their children and their children's children. The fruits of their labour endure all around us today.

Australia Day brings many different and contrasting attitudes, and understandably so. While we have much to be proud of, no one would claim that we have an unblotted history. But for me, Australia Day should be, predominantly, a time to be grateful for what we have inherited, and to think on the responsibility we now bear to preserve and build for those who come after us.



Julian Leeser
MEMBER FOR BEROWRA

Education Shapes the Future of Our Young People

Education shapes not only what our young people know, but who they become. Across the Berowra community, schools play a central role in forming character, building skills and helping students discover their place in the world.

Whenever I visit local schools, I am reminded that education is not an abstract policy debate. It is lived every day by students, by teachers dedicated to their craft, and by parents making unseen sacrifices to support their children's learning.

One of my priorities is ensuring every family has access to a high-quality education, whether they choose a government,



Catholic or independent school.

Strong communities depend on strong schools, and our system works best when students are supported to thrive.

Great teaching remains at the heart of educational success. Teachers inspire curiosity, perseverance and mastery, and they deserve policies that respect their professionalism and allow them to focus on their students.

Education must also prepare young people to participate confidently in our democracy, think critically, and engage respectfully with others. When we

invest in knowledge, character and civic understanding, we invest in Australia's future.

Our community's students, families and educators are doing this work every day, and I am committed to supporting them.

As your Federal Member, I am here to:

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

Please contact my office if I can be of assistance.

JULIAN LEESER MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR BEROWRA

📍 Level 11, 423 Pennant Hills Road, Pennant Hills NSW 2120
☎ 02 9980 1822

✉ julian.leeser.mp@aph.gov.au
🌐 julianleeser.com.au
📘 julianleesermp

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

Prestige
Estates Group

Thinking of selling?

- ✓ Local Expertise
- ✓ Competitive fees
- ✓ Available 7 days a week

Call Lisa at 0423 943 398 for a FREE Market Appraisal!

☎ 02 9651 5603
🌐 www.prestigeestatesgroup.com.au

📍 Level 1/12A Kenthurst Road, Dural NSW 2158

Barks

Everybody knows that trees have bark. There are almost as many variations in bark as there are trees and shrubs. Often a tree gains its name from the description given to its bark.

Examples would be:

Scribbly Gum (*Eucalyptus haemastoma*), (See June's column), where an insect burrows just under the surface, finding a source of food in or under this top layer of bark. leaving a wriggly trail on the surface;

Black Butt (*Eucalyptus pilularis*), where the dark fibrous bark at the base of the trunk appears to have been subject to a bushfire and the burnt colour is retained for quite a distance up the trunk;

Stringy Bark (*Eucalyptus agglomerata*), which refers to the stringy fibrous nature of the bark which if pulled from the tree reveals a reddish colour beneath the grey exterior.

Some trees visibly shed their bark completely every year, usually during spring when the new growth commences. The manner in which the old season's bark is shed can produce interesting colours and patterns depending on the type of tree. In some cases, last season's bark, if it is quite thin, will dry out and flake off the tree and fall in long sheets revealing the new coloured bark underneath.

One such species is a variety of *Angophora* where the new bark is a bright orange.

In some trees, lightly scraping away the old flakey bark reveals a totally new coloured bark



Eucalyptus sp

underneath. This is the case with Geebung (*Personia* species) and Paperbarks (*Mellaleuca quinquenervia*) in particular.

The bark of a mature Old Man Banksia (*Banksia serrata*) is distinctively globular in formation and relatively cork like.

There are occasions when a tree will emit a sappy gum-like liquid in its attempt to counteract an insect infestation. This may give the appearance that the tree is bleeding.



Old and New Bark

Langlands

LANDSCAPE SUPPLIES

SUPPLIER OF QUALITY
BULK LANDSCAPE &
BUILDING MATERIALS

Soils & Garden Mixes • Potting Mixes • Gravels
Sand & Cement • Plants • Compost & Mulches
Moss/Wheelbarrows • Shapescaper-Modular
Steel Garden Edging

9651 2102

Katrina Milne

Mob: 0416 175466 Email: katrina@langlands.com.au
474 Galston Road, Dural 2158
www.langlands.com.au

SHAPESCAPER -
MODULAR STEEL
GARDEN EDGING

OPEN 6 DAYS



2-6 Players



1 Hour



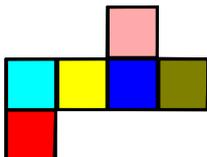
Escape Rooms



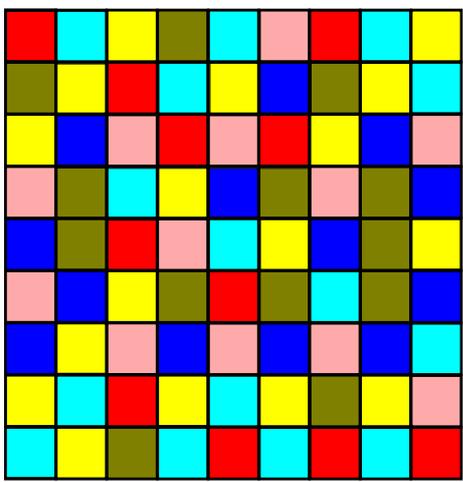
Find Clues



Solve Puzzles



How many duplicates of this shape are in the grid below



eludegames
.com.au



Scan for Answer

8005 0077

MARKETING GURUS

Aussie needs you!

Aussie Pumps is looking for a full-time **Marketing Services Manager** to be the connection between our Marketing & Sales teams.

We need a confident, innovative marketer ready to make an impact. The role is on site in Norwest.

Excellent literacy & writing skills are essential.

Want to know more ?

Give us a call or email your resume to info@aussiepumps.com.au

Aussie Pumps

aussiepumps.com.au 02 8865 3500



Bromeliad Society of Australia

What to do with Sun Damaged Bromeliads

The next meeting of the Bromeliad Society of Australia will be held in the Federation Pavilion, Castle Hill Showground, Castle Hill on Saturday, 14th of February.

Sales to the public are from 10am with the meeting commencing at 11.30am.

Major topic for discussion will be Sun 'Tolerant' Bromeliads and how to avoid sunburn and sun stress.

In time of extreme weather, heat and cold, we need to be aware of what extremities our bromeliads can handle, and how to prevent damage caused by these extreme weather conditions.

We will discuss what you can do to save your plant and how to prevent damage in the future.

Even if your plant is very badly damaged it is often able to be trimmed and gradually brought back to life.

You're invited to bring along a sun damaged bromeliad that you really would like save and seek advice on the possibilities of saving the plant.

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

There is also an opportunity to meet like minded people in a friendly and inviting environment.

For further information please contact Ian Hook, President of BSA on mobile 0408 202 269, email: ianhook1@bigpond.com or refer to www.bromeliad.org.au for the latest updates.



Trees Down Under

TREE REMOVAL LARGE & SMALL

- ✓ Fast & Locally Service
- ✓ 20+ Years Experience
- ✓ Responsible Tree Removal
- ✓ 24/7 Emergency Tree Service
- ✓ Fully Licensed & Insured

Climbing Expert & Qualified Arborist

📍 **Available locally**

CALL JOE TODAY

02 8999 6267 / 0475 463 597

treesdownunder.com.au



CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Across

- 01 Computer threat (6)
- 02 Queensland National Park (4,4)
- 03 Drunken tramp saw rodent (5,3)
- 04 Court sport (6)
- 05 "The --- have it!" (4)
- 06 Leaving the home front (6,4)
- 07 Everything considered (10)
- 08 Pigeon talk (4)
- 09 Slip (4)
- 10 Like some costume jewellery (4-6)
- 11 Advice starter (2,1,4,3)
- 12 Letters (4)
- 13 Transcribed (6)
- 14 Simon ---, leading cricketer and footballer (8)
- 15 Student's reading (8)
- 16 Try to make ends meet (6)

Down

- 01 Rough and disorderly (5)
- 02 Agent amends job, botching it (5,4)
- 03 Famed trial venue (9)
- 04 Tall widespread herb, with large showy flowers (6,9)
- 05 Boarded (3,2)
- 06 Japanese assassin (5)
- 07 Proceed independently (2,2,5)
- 17 Large salt pan adjacent to the Flinders Ranges (4,5)
- 18 Ecstatic (9)
- 19 Underground worker (4,5)
- 20 Narrowest part of the torso (5)
- 21 Electromagnetic telecommunication (5)
- 22 Five Pillars faith (5)

Answer from December Issue



accounts all sorted Specialising in Xero, Bookkeeping & Payroll Services

Keryn Stack
0409 962 777
keryn@accountsallsorted.com.au
accountsallsorted.com.au

ACCOUNTANCY

Brain Partners
Chartered Accountants.
Personal & Business Tax, Self-Managed Superannuation.

02 8851 7640
assist@brain.partners
Suite 3.09, 12 Century Circuit
Norwest, NSW 2153
www.brain.partners

AUTOMOTIVE SERVICES

DURAL PRESTIGE SMASH REPAIRS

Quality Smash Repairs
Insurance and Private Work
All work fully guaranteed
Free quotes (except third party)
Free Loan Cars

9651 6100
Unit 22/276 New Line Road, Dural, NSW

CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

C & C ASPHALT

- Driveway construction services
- Road repair services
- Subdivision asphaltting solutions
- The construction of new car parks and the repair of existing car parks
- Overlay solutions for damaged asphalt surfaces
- Footpath installations and repairs

Paul Vella
0408 255 172
ccasphalt1@bigpond.com
candcasphalt.com.au

Free quotes
45 years experience

LANDSCAPING SERVICES

landscape logic group

We do it the Logic way

m 0400 774 102
e paul@landscapelogicsw.com.au
w www.landscapelogicsw.com.au

lic# 347025C

FENCING / ELECTRICAL SERVICES

CORNERSTONE

RURAL FENCING || & CONSTRUCTION SERVICES ||

ALL TYPES OF RESIDENTIAL AND RURAL FENCING

Free Quotes
Repairs Welcome.

ADAM COX 0418 424 031

LOCAL DURAL ELECTRICIAN

All Electrical Work
Best Prices & All Work Guaranteed
Seniors/ Pensioners Discount
Level 2 ASP Electrician
Switch Board Repairs

Mention this ad and get **\$50 off**

Master Card VISA American Express e

24/7 EMERGENCY SERVICE

PH: 9072 0778

LIC273594C

PLUMBING SERVICES

24/7 Emergency Service

PURE PLUMBING PROFESSIONALS
The Punctual Plumbers

GOING BELOW AND BEYOND TO FIX ALL PLUMBING PROBLEMS!

Call The Punctual Plumber
0488 827 304
www.pureplumbingpros.com.au
License no: 267530C
@pureplumbingpros

THE BEST LOCAL DURAL DUNNY DIVERS.

HILLS DISTRICT PLUMBER

- ▶ Google 4.9 Star Rating
- ▶ Guaranteed 24/7 Fast Response
- ▶ Lifetime Labour Warranty
- ▶ 15% Seniors Discount
- ▶ On Time, No Mess or you Pay \$100 Less

REACTIVE PLUMBING

02 9199 2612

Leaking Taps • Blocked Drains • Leaking Toilets
Burst Pipes • CCTV Inspection • Hot Water Systems • Pipe Relining

www.reactiveplumbing.com.au Lic: 757680C

YOUR LOCAL PLUMBER

SPS STOUTS PLUMBING SERVICES

OUR SERVICES
Blocked Drains | Water leaks
Gas Fitting | Hot Water
Repairs and Maintenance
Taps + Toilets

0477 477 768
stoutsplumbingservices.com.au

10% SENIORS DISCOUNT

LOCAL DURAL PLUMBER

All Plumbing Work
Best Prices & All Work Guaranteed
Seniors/ Pensioners Discount
Blocked Drains and Pipes
Hot Water Repairs

Mention this ad and get **\$50 off**

Master Card VISA American Express e

24/7 EMERGENCY SERVICE

PH: 9072 0779

LIC273594C

24/7 Emergency Service

NO JOB TOO BIG OR SMALL
NO CALL-OUT CHARGE
NO FIX - NO FEE

We won't charge you a call out fee during normal business hours.

PURE PLUMBING PROFESSIONALS
The Punctual Plumbers

PLUMBING PROBLEM?
We'll jump to it straight away!

Call The Punctual Plumber
0488 827 304
www.pureplumbingpros.com.au
License no: 267530C
@pureplumbingpros

Scott & Sons Plumbers

DOMESTIC - COMMERCIAL - INDUSTRIAL

- ▶ Plumbing, Drainage & Gasfitting
- ▶ Blocked Drains
- ▶ Hot Water Heaters
- ▶ CCTV - Water Jetter
- ▶ Gutters and Downpipes

FAMILY BUSINESS
FOR OVER 40 YEARS

Fast Emergency Service

Call 02 9482 9199 scottandsons.com.au Lic. No: 141840c



HILLSIDE PAINTING

Justin Kim
0433 233 203
www.hillsidepainting.com.au

- ✓ Interior / Exterior
- ✓ Residential / Commercial
- ✓ Water Pressure Washing
- ✓ Texture
- ✓ Water Damage Repair
- ✓ Plaster Repair

CALL NOW FOR THE BEST PRICE

Lic#264338C



PAT FEDELE

Professional Painter

Local Licensed Painter in the Hills Shire for over 30 years - Fully Insured

Free Quotes

0407 232 869

License R96458



POL PAINTERS

SERVICING HILLS DISTRICT FOR OVER 40 YEARS

OUR SERVICES

- High Pressure Water Cleaning
- Remedial Repairs

CALL VIC
0417 224 155
WWW.POL-PAINTERS.COM.AU

Lic No. 238452C



ALCAN GUTTERING

Third Generation family business owned & operated with 50 years experience, based in Kenthurst and specializing in The Hills and surrounding rural areas.

OUR SERVICES

- ✓ Gutter replacement
- ✓ Downpipes
- ✓ Rainwater solutions
- ✓ Custom leaf guard systems for your home

25 YEARS WARRANTY
ON ALL OUR BUST-PROOF ALUMINUM PRODUCTS, WHICH ARE ROLLED OUT ON-SITE.

CALL **1300 095 435** or **0407 884 000**
www.alcanguttering.com.au

Lic: 273298C

Access Pest Control

Pest Control Specialists

Ants • Bees • Birds • Carpet Beetles • Cockroaches
Mice • Silverfish • Spiders • Termites • Wasps

Sydney Wide • All Areas • Free Quotes • 7 Days a Week

Mark Owen 0423 017 515
info@accesspestcontrol.com.au
www.accesspestcontrol.com.au



A NOBLE ARBORIST

Pty Ltd

Let our highly experienced and qualified team look after all your tree needs!

0403 534 168
info@nobletreeservices.com.au



arbor pride

Julian Parry
Director

Arboricultural Consultation
Tree & Stump Removal
Land Clearance
Specialist Tree Pruning
Fully Insured

Phone: 1300 887 417

Dip. Hort (Arboriculture) Level 5,
Cert. Arboriculture, Dip. Horticulture
Dip. Landscape, Cert Landscape

ARBORIST EST. 1956

MCARDLE TREE SERVICES

TREE REMOVAL | PRUNING
STUMP GRINDING
LAND CLEARING
MULCH SALES | FIREWOOD

0414 635 650
info@mcardletrees.com.au

Northside Washer Service

Washing Machine and Dryer Repair and Sales

ALL MAJOR BRANDS

Graeme Shepherdson
Ph: 9457 9162
Mob: 0418 679 596

OVER 35 YEARS EXPERIENCE

Speed Queen and Kleenmaid Authorised Agent

PLUMBING SERVICES / PAINTING SERVICES

GUTTERING SERVICES / PEST SPECIALISTS

TREE SERVICES / WASHING MACHINE SERVICES

MULTI AWARD WINNING CUSTOM BUILT HOMES



BALMORAL
HOMES

📍 13/276-278 New Line Road, Dural NSW | ☎️ (02) 9651 6290

📷 @balmoralhomessydney

WWW.BALMORALHOMES.COM.AU