

# DOORAL ROUNDUP



JUNE 2026

Official Publication of the Dural Chamber of Commerce  
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# Community Bank Galston & District Donates \$25,000 to Hills Wildlife Sanctuary

The Galston & District Community Bank has proudly sponsored the Hills Wildlife Sanctuary with a \$25,000 donation. This generous contribution will support the sanctuary's vital mission to rescue, rehabilitate, and protect native Australian wildlife.

The cheque was officially presented to Ben Dessen, CEO & Director of the Hills Wildlife Sanctuary, during a visit to the sanctuary. He was joined by representatives from the bank, including Savio Pereira, as well as Mayor Warren Waddell, to celebrate the occasion.

Given this is such a unique project for an endangered species endemic to the local Hills area, the funds will provide crucial support to help the sanctuary continue its highly specialized conservation work. The Hills Wildlife Sanctuary expressed their deep gratitude for the donation, highlighting that such community support is essential for their ongoing operations and the survival of these vulnerable animals. This sponsorship from the Community Bank reflects a strong commitment to local initiatives and the environment.



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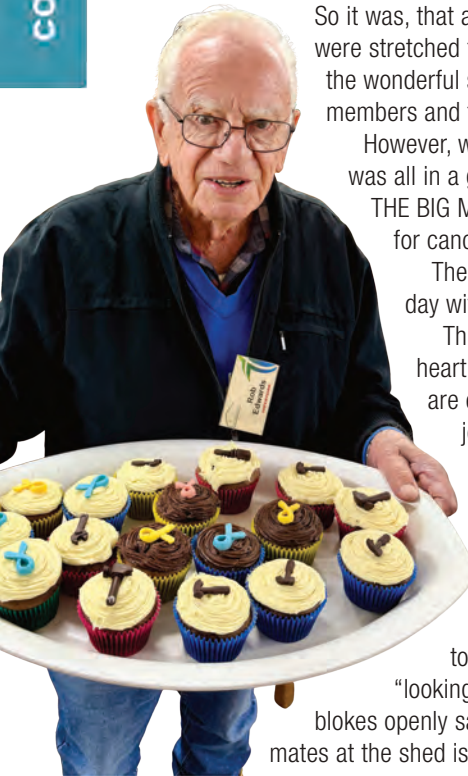
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Not for profit events can have a 30 word listing in "What's On."

# Big Morning Tea at the Men's Shed

As the saying goes, it's wise "not to get between a man and a good feed", and this was proven once again recently when the men of DURAL MEN'S SHED took part in THE BIG MORNING TEA.



So it was, that all the small men's polo shirts were stretched to the limit as we did justice to the wonderful spread of cakes put on by shed members and their families.

However, we were justified in that this was all in a good cause in the spirit of THE BIG MORNING TEA in raising money for cancer research.

There was \$1300 raised on the day with plenty more still to come.

This subject is very dear to the heart as several of the shed blokes are each battling a personal journey with cancer, so it was in this way a show of support for them.

In this way also, the shed has set up a support structure whereby men keep in touch with each other to encourage with the motto "looking out for each other" and blokes openly say that in just being there with mates at the shed is a tonic.



Main shed days are Thursdays whilst on Wednesday we host a group of enthusiastic fellows from WARRAH and on Fridays we mentor a group of boys from GALSTON HIGH who are aiming to get into a trade.

Shed contact details are [duralmensshed@gmail.com](mailto:duralmensshed@gmail.com) and phone is 8989 0000 and DMS website [MENS SHED THE CENTRE DURAL](http://MENS SHED THE CENTRE DURAL)

- Chris Thomas, Dural Men's Shed



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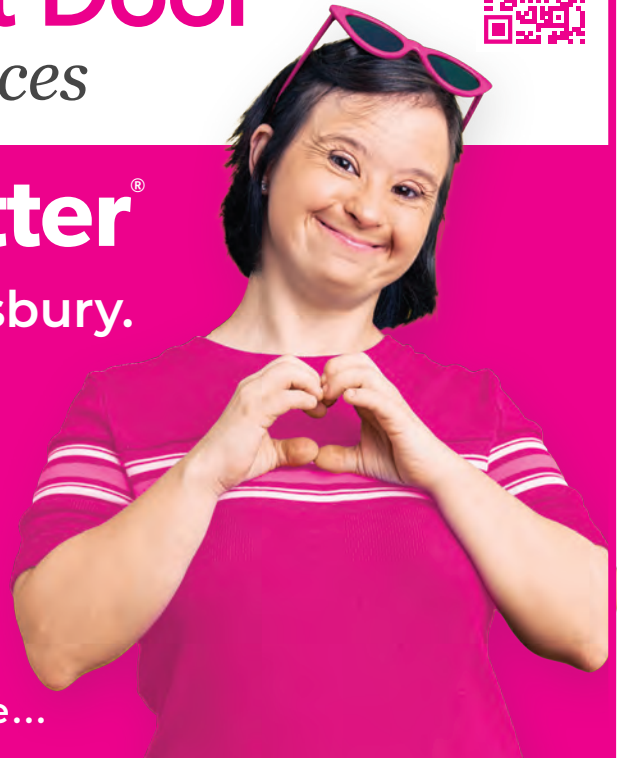


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# Growing Food for Wildlife – Working Bee

by Lance Zafe

Residents are being invited to roll up their sleeves and support local wildlife at the next Growing Food for Wildlife Project working bee in Annangrove this June.

The community event, to be held on Sunday, 14th June from 11 am to 3 pm, will focus on growing and harvesting native plants used to feed sick, injured, and orphaned wildlife being cared for by local rescue organisations, including Sydney Wildlife and WIRES.

The Annangrove project encourages residents to learn more about native gardening, local ecosystems and ways to create wildlife-friendly spaces at home while contributing directly to wildlife care efforts.

Activities during the working bee may include harvesting foliage for rescued animals, planting native species, weed management and short educational talks on topics related to conservation and habitat care. A social lunch will also be held



The Community Environment Centre in Annangrove.  
Photo from Hills Shire Council

following the activities, giving participants the chance to connect with others involved in the project.

Organisers say the initiative aims to support both wildlife carers and local biodiversity by growing a steady supply of suitable native food sources for animals in rehabilitation.

Participants are encouraged to wear long pants and enclosed shoes, and to bring a hat, sunscreen, drinking water and snacks.

Bookings for the event are required, with organisers asking attendees to cancel at least 12 hours in advance if they can no longer attend. Book your tickets via Eventbrite here: Growing Food for Wildlife Project.

It will be held at the Community Environment Centre, located at Currie Avenue in Annangrove.

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# Hills Shire Council's Wildlife Aid Programs

When summer hit The Hills Shire earlier this year, residents did what Australians always do: they cranked the air con, found a cold drink, and waited it out. The wildlife had no such option.

Wallabies sheltered under scrub. Lizards pressed into rock crevices. Birds sat still with beaks open, panting. The heat that felt inconvenient to us was genuinely dangerous for them.

Hills Shire Council used the moment to remind residents that their own backyards can make a real difference. They pointed locals to Macquarie University's Habitat Stepping Stones program — a project that asks people to think of their outdoor space not just as a garden but as a small piece of a wildlife corridor.

The idea is low-effort and practical. Plant a grevillea or banksia in a pot. Stack a few rocks near the fence line for lizards to

shelter under. Put a saucer of water at ground level for small birds. Add a birdbath. It doesn't have to be a full native garden overhaul — just something that gives local animals a fighting chance on a hot day.

For those with more land — over half a hectare with remnant bush still on it — there's a more structured option: the Land for Wildlife program, which runs across The Hills Shire and into neighbouring councils. Registration is free. The title of the property is unaffected. And recently, one registered landholder in the area was awarded a grant to carry out habitat work on their property, so the program does have some practical support behind it.

Across NSW, Land for Wildlife is coordinated by the Community Environment Network. Locally, the Cattai Hills Environment Network handles registrations and follow-ups.

Signing up gets you a free environmental assessment from a qualified professional who will walk your property and advise on topics such as weed management, native plant identification, and feral species management. There are also workshops, newsletters, and a Land for Wildlife gate sign — small things, but the kind that tend to start conversations with neighbours.

More information on Habitat Stepping Stones is at [www.habitatsteppingstones.org.au](http://www.habitatsteppingstones.org.au). Expressions of interest for Land for Wildlife are submitted via [www.cen.org.au](http://www.cen.org.au). Local contact is Ricki at [cattaihillsenviro@gmail.com](mailto:cattaihillsenviro@gmail.com) or 0432 716 577.





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**Details** Thursday & Friday | 1:00 - 3:00pm  
**Booking** Minimum 2 guests, maximum 18 guests. Bookings essential.

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## Bottomless Buffet

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**Details** Saturdays in July 2026 | 1:00 - 3:00pm  
**Booking** Minimum 2 guests, maximum 14 guests. Bookings essential.

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# WINTERFEST IS COMING

Gather your fellow adventurers and venture forth to Winterfest Sydney Medieval Fair for a weekend of fun and adventure!

Winterfest is back on 4th - 5th July 2026 at the Hawkesbury Showground, 10am – 5pm.

At Winterfest you can adventure to a world with free-flying birds of prey, knights, vikings and more. From jousting, archery and combat to crafts, cooking and games, this popular two-day event features an extensive program to delight the whole family.

Immerse yourself in the action with a wonderful line-up of entertainment, including:

- The exciting **Winterfest Jousting Tournament** in the sport of kings!
- **Full Contact Fighting with Australian Medieval Combat:** The best fighters from NSW and Victoria battle it out in full medieval armour with steel - the last one standing wins!
- Meet graceful and powerful raptors with **Feathered Friends**. Get up close with a majestic eagle, and colourful parrots fit for a pirate.
- **Melee Battles** with warriors in armour from a range of historical periods. Watch the groups battle for supremacy in the 'Combat and Arms' displays
- The **Mounted Skill-at-Arms**, demonstrating the skills required for

knights in training and in battle on horseback.

- The **Re-enactors's Row**, where you can try helmets, armour, shields and weapons. Friendly re-enactors from history enjoy sharing their knowledge about the people and period they are re-enacting.

Explore the vibrant range of wares at **'Merchant's Row'**, with over 120 stalls including quality artisan and handcrafted wares, clothing, accessories, and toys, to delectable home-made sweets and stunning artwork! Discover traditional skills in the **'Artisan Alley'** with displays throughout the day, including blacksmithing, woodworking, and leatherwork.

Roaming entertainers add to the festival, including musicians and minstrels, and 'Feldergast the Fool' the wandering jester. Treat yourself with many delicious foods to choose from, including delicious slow-cooked BBQ, gluten-free Japanese style chicken, handmade pizza, and refreshing ginger beer.

Have a go at archery, Celtic drumming workshops, and the chance to learn to use a rapier. Have your photo taken with a



unicorn, and kids can join in at the Kids' Knight School.

Immerse yourself in

the festival environment by wearing something a bit different from the usual. The free-to-enter Winterfest Costume and Cosplay competition is always popular. Join the competition parade for judging and fun. Come along in a medieval-inspired outfit or fantasy-style clothing; all medieval periods, cultures, and styles are welcome.

Getting to Winterfest is easy at the Hawkesbury Showground, with included rail travel to and from Clarendon Station, a 2 minute walk from the gate, and limited free parking at the grounds.

Purchase your tickets online for discounts, [www.winterfest.com.au](http://www.winterfest.com.au), 40 Racecourse Road, Clarendon NSW 2756 (opposite the RAAF Base). Connect with us: Facebook, Instagram and YouTube

# WINTERFEST

## Sydney Medieval Fair

### 4 - 5 July 2026

### Hawkesbury Showground

### Escape to Winterfest for a weekend of history and fantasy!

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 Costume & cosplay parade | Traditional crafts  
 Kids' knight school | and more!

Tickets available online!

Find out more at [winterfest.com.au](http://winterfest.com.au) [/WinterfestSydney](https://www.youtube.com/WinterfestSydney)



# A familiar face bids farewell to Dural Pool Shop

by Saswati Mukherjee

After more than two decades serving the pool industry, a familiar and much-loved member of the local community is preparing to step away from the business he helped make a household name. Alan Barnes, the friendly face behind the counter at the independent Dural Pool Shop, is officially retiring - leaving behind a legacy of kindness, loyalty, and community care.

Alan's journey into the industry began in 2002. Looking to trade his screen-filled days in IT for a fresh career path, he took on a part-time weekend role at a franchised pool shop. He quickly discovered a passion for the hands-on work and the opportunity to interact with customers.

He and his wife later moved on to another franchised pool business, before deciding to take the next step in their journey. In 2013, they proudly opened their own independent, family-run store at 270 Newline Road, Dural.

For Alan, running the shop was never just about business, it was about being part of the community.

A long-time Hills resident, Alan raised his family locally, with all of his children working in the shop at some stage before moving on to their own adult lives and careers.

Over the years, the store became something of a community hub where locals knew they could always count on a warm smile and trusted advice to keep their backyard pools safe and sparkling.

"I will most miss seeing, chatting with, and helping the regular customers I have built relationships with over a period of more than 12 years. I want to thank the entire community for all their incredible support and kindness over the years," says Alan.

Alan's contribution to the local community extended far beyond the store. A major highlight of his time in business was sponsoring youth sports through the Galston Swimming Club and Norwest Swimming Club, something he said brought him great joy as he supported young local athletes.

As he steps into retirement, Alan is looking forward to spending more time with family, travelling, and supporting local volunteer initiatives.



## Galston CWA

Galston CWA would like to thank the local community for the amazing support at our recent Mother's Day stall.

Thank you to everyone who visited, made a purchase. Your support allows us to continue helping those in need within our community.

Galston CWA meets every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at the Galston Community Health Centre, visitors are always welcome.

We also happily accept donations of surplus fruit and vegetables, as well as craft items.

For more information contact Anne 0404 228 209 or Patricia 0412 948 787



## Multi-Million Drug Bust

A massive drug bust seized approximately \$1 million in cash, 769 kgs of methylamphetamine, 16 kgs of cocaine, electronic devices and other gadgets consistent with the supply of prohibited drugs.

Drug & Firearm Squad detectives charged two people and seized more than 700 kgs of methylamphetamine with a street value of approximately \$50 million.

Strike Force Helix was established in February 2026 to investigate the large-scale distribution of drugs across Western Sydney by a 42-year-old man and his associates.

About 8.40 pm on Monday, 11th May 2026, strike force detectives executed a search warrant at a garage in Kings Langley.

At the location, police located and seized 769kgs of methylamphetamine, 16kgs of cocaine, approximately \$1 million in cash, electronic devices and other gadgets consistent with the supply of prohibited drugs.

Two women, aged 40 and 62, were arrested at the scene.

A subsequent search warrant was then executed at an address in Norwest, where police located and seized a further \$150,000 in cash, approximately 200 grams of powder believed to be cocaine, a large amount of steroids, smaller quantities of crystal and powder substances, and further electronics.

A 42-year-old man was arrested at the Norwest address and taken to Castle Hill Police Station, where he was charged with three counts of supplying a prohibited drug in a large commercial quantity and two counts of dealing with property proceeds of crime valued at \$100,000 or more.

He was subsequently refused bail and appeared before Parramatta Local Court on Tuesday, 12th May 2026.

Meanwhile, the two women were escorted to Riverstone Police Station, where the 62-year-old woman was also charged with dealing with property proceeds of crime valued at \$100,000 or more and refused bail to appear at Blacktown Local Court.

The younger woman was released pending further inquiries. Investigations under Strike Force Helix continue.



## Collision

On May 11th, at around 1.00 pm, the Mounties Care CareFlight Helicopter was tasked by NSW Ambulance to Glenorie following reports that two cars had collided and subsequently caught fire.

Hills Police say two men were injured in the crash. Fire and Rescue NSW extinguished the vehicle fire.



CareFlight's specialist doctor and NSW Ambulance paramedics treated both men at the scene for head and abdominal injuries before they were transported by road to Westmead Hospital in a stable condition.

## Murder

Two men and a woman were charged after a man died following a 15-meter fall in Castle Hill.

About 2.40 am on Sunday 17th May, emergency services were called to Crane Road, Castle Hill, following reports a man had been heard shouting from the balcony of a unit complex.

On arrival, officers attached to The Hills Police Area Command located a 44-year-old man suffering serious injuries in a garden outside the building.

The man was treated by NSW Ambulance paramedics at the scene; however, he could not be revived.

A crime scene was established and officers attached to The Hills Police Area Command and North West Metropolitan Region, with the assistance from the State Crime Command's Homicide Squad, commenced an investigation under Strike Force Sunbach.

Following inquiries on Wednesday 20th May, a 38-year-old man was arrested at Castle Hill Police Station where he was later charged with murder.

After being refused police bail, he appeared at Parramatta Local Court on Thursday, 21st May. He was formally denied bail by the court and was remanded in custody to reappear on Friday, 22nd May.

Following further inquiries, about 2.40 pm on Thursday, 21st May, detectives attached to The Hills Police Area Command, with assistance from the Central Metropolitan Region and the State Crime Command's Homicide Squad, executed a search warrant at a home in Woolloomooloo.

A 30-year-old man and a 34-year-old woman were arrested at the scene and taken to Kings Cross Police Station, where they were both charged with murder. Both were



refused police bail and appeared at Bail Division Court 7 on Friday, 22nd May.

Inquiries under Strike Force Sunbach continue.

## Domestic Violence

Hills Police charged a 31-year-old man following a domestic violence incident in Castle Hill on Tuesday, 5th May 2026.

Police will allege that during an argument at a residential address, the man assaulted his partner while their infant child was present.

Police will further allege that the man then drove a vehicle while disqualified, with the baby not properly restrained, and behaved in a threatening and unsafe manner before police located the vehicle a short time later in Kellyville.

Police attended, provided assistance to the victim and child, and commenced an investigation.

An apprehended domestic violence order was applied for to protect the victims.

The man was charged, bail was refused, and the matter is now before the court.

## New Constables

The NSW Police welcomed and congratulated 349 new probationary constables from Class 368 on Friday, 1st May 2026, at the NSW Police Academy.

Class 368 is made up of 259 men and 90 women, with the youngest being 19 and the oldest 46. Four constables will join the Hills PAC.

In addition, nine cadets started their police cadetship program on Monday, 4th May. The cadets will undergo paid experience, working alongside police officers in The Hills and Sutherland Police Area Commands.

The probationary constables will complete on-the-job training for the next 12 months. They will study by distance education. At the end of the 12-month period, they will officially graduate with an Associate Degree in Policing Practice and will be confirmed to the rank of Constable.

Minister Yasmin Catley and Commissioner Lanyon welcomed Class 368 to the force, praising the recruits' commitment to serving NSW. Additionally, the Commissioner presented a retired Senior Constable with the Valour Award for bravery during a 2015 arrest in Tugun.

## WOW Day

The NSW State Emergency Service (SES) celebrated a new generation of volunteers this Wear Orange Wednesday (WOW Day) with more than 30 per cent of members now aged under 35.

WOW Day called on communities to recognise the dedication of more than 11,000 NSW SES volunteers who respond to floods, storms and other emergencies by wearing orange, with this year's celebrations focusing on the growing youth presence within the Service.

This growth has been driven in part by a revitalised Youth Internship Program, reintroduced last year, which has already seen more than 31 school-aged participants transition into full-time volunteer roles across the state.

In 2025, SES members collectively contributed almost 900,000 volunteer hours supporting their communities having attended more than 61,000 incidents. This included more than 45,000 storm related jobs and more than 1,100 flood rescues.

Minister for Emergency Services Jihad Dib said young volunteers were at the heart of the state's emergency response, with more than 30 per cent of SES volunteers now under 35.

NSW SES Commissioner Mike Wasssing AFSM said there is a place for everyone at the NSW SES, regardless of experience, provided they are willing to learn and help their community.

To learn more or to start your volunteering journey with the NSW SES, visit: [www.ses.nsw.gov.au/volunteer](http://www.ses.nsw.gov.au/volunteer).

**If you have any information  
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Authorised by James Wallace MP. Funded using parliamentary entitlements.

*out and about*  
with MICHELLE BYRNE

## John Benyon Rotary Park, Kenthurst

In every community, there are places that hold a deeper meaning, places where people come together not only to enjoy open space, but to celebrate, reflect and feel connected. In semi-rural Kenthurst, John Benyon Rotary Park is one of those special places.

Located along Kenthurst Road, the park is a much-loved gathering space for residents of all ages. On any given day, families can be found enjoying picnics, children exploring the playground, and neighbours catching up over a weekend barbecue. Open and welcoming year-round, the park sits at the heart of the Kenthurst community



and has become an important part of everyday life in The Hills.

Designed with families in mind, John Benyon Rotary Park offers a diverse range of facilities catering to all ages. The park features children's playgrounds with shade cover, barbecue and picnic facilities, sheltered seating, a basketball court, open recreational spaces and accessible amenities.

Just across the road, Kenthurst Village further enhances the charm and accessibility of the precinct. Home to a range of local small businesses, including the much-loved Hidden Jem Café, the village is a popular meeting place where locals gather, connect and enjoy the relaxed semi-rural atmosphere.

Together, these features make the park an ideal destination for weekend picnics, celebrations and outdoor activities.

What makes John Benyon Rotary Park particularly special, however, is that it reflects the strong community spirit that defines Kenthurst. The Kenthurst Literary Institute is the custodian of the park, while the Kenthurst Rotary Club manages its day-to-day care, mowing the lawns, maintaining facilities, fundraising for improvements and organising beloved community events including Australia Day celebrations, ANZAC Day commemorations, the Kenthurst Fair and Christmas Carols in the Park.

But what truly defines John Benyon Rotary Park is not only its facilities and the volunteers who care for it, it is the story of how the park came to be.

Named in honour of Harold "John" Benyon OAM, the park stands as a lasting tribute to a man whose contribution to Kenthurst was extraordinary. Through his tireless work with Rotary and his deep



commitment to community service, John helped shape both the park and the wider Kenthurst community into what they are today. While he is greatly missed, his legacy continues to live on through this cherished community space.

Equally important is the park's role as a place of remembrance. The war memorial and commemorative plaques honour the service and sacrifice of local men and women who served across multiple conflicts, including the World Wars, Korea, Malaya, Vietnam and peacekeeping missions.

As The Hills Shire continues to grow, places like John Benyon Rotary Park become even more important. They are where communities come together, where memories are made, where we celebrate, where we reflect, and where we honour those who came before us.

Spending time at John Benyon Rotary Park is truly a joy, and if you haven't yet visited, I encourage you to take the opportunity to experience everything this wonderful community space has to offer.

## COUNCIL BUZZ: Your local news in brief

THE HILLS SHIRE COUNCIL - <https://www.thehills.nsw.gov.au/>

### THE HILLS YOUTH AMBASSADOR

Applications are now open for the 2026–27 The Hills Youth Ambassador Program.

During the 12-month program, successful applicants will have the opportunity to represent Council at community events, functions and forums, become active members of the Hills Youth Army, champion youth-focused initiatives and advocate for young people within the community.

Applicants must be aged between 15 and 24 and live in The Hills Shire.

Applications close on Tuesday, 18th June 2026.

### REPAIR FAIR AT CASTLE HILL SHOWGROUND

Residents are invited to attend the free Repair Fair at Castle Hill Showground on Saturday 20th June from 9am to 1pm, with repair workshops, bike tune-ups, reuse stalls and free repair sessions all aimed at helping the community reduce waste and extend the life of everyday items.

Residents can also donate unwanted bikes and mobile devices, while free coffee will be available until supplies last. Visitors who bring a reusable coffee cup will also go into the draw to win a prize. For more information or to book a free repair session, click on the link below.

<https://www.thehills.nsw.gov.au/Upcoming.../Repair-Fair>

# Toxic Weed Threatens Western Sydney this Winter

by Saswati Mukherjee

A poisonous weed prevalent across The Hills Shire, Blacktown and Penrith could wreak havoc this winter, with authorities warning that an intensifying El Niño weather pattern may accelerate the spread of *Mother of Millions* across Western Sydney. A potential 'Super El Niño' is expected to create ideal conditions for drought-tolerant weeds to thrive.

*Mother of Millions*, a fast-spreading succulent originally introduced to Australia from Africa as a garden plant, has now invaded Sydney bushland. With the Bureau of Meteorology forecasting a warmer, drier winter with reduced rainfall and above-average temperatures, the Western Sydney Weeds Authority (WSWA) has urged residents to remain vigilant and report sightings.

The weed reproduces rapidly through detachable 'plantlets' and thousands of long-lasting seeds, making it difficult to control once established. It can be identified by its pale green to brown pencil-shaped leaves with darker green

patches and shallow grooves, along with clusters of orange-red flowers growing from a pinkish-grey stem.

Its peak flowering period from May to October coincides with these dry conditions. Highly poisonous to humans, pets and livestock, *Mother of Millions* can cause heart failure in grazing animals within days, with toxins that accumulate after ingestion. The flowers are considered significantly more toxic than the leaves and stems.

The weed thrives in gravel and sandy soils, particularly along roadsides, fence lines, bushland, rubbish tips, abandoned properties and waterways, where floodwaters can also carry fragments into new areas.

WSWA General Manager Chris Dewhurst said early detection remained critical to preventing the spread.

"This makes it extremely difficult to control once established, which is why early detection and rapid response are critical.



Our reporting tool has increased awareness in the community of priority weeds, and the number of reports we receive each month has quadrupled. This helps us to proactively wipe out new weed growth."

Residents are encouraged to report sightings through WSWA's online Weed Notification Form, which has seen submissions increase by 400 per cent since launching four months ago.

WSWA's expert control teams respond quickly to reports using herbicide treatment or manual removal methods, including burning or solarising plant material while preventing further spread of plantlets.

"It's important that the community works together with us to manage *Mother of Millions* during this period of extreme weather and help protect our fragile natural landscapes and primary industries," said Dewhurst.

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# Combined Probus Club of Kenthurst

Kenthurst Probus Club has been active lately, with members playing Putt-Putt golf at Dural, enjoying a tour of Cockatoo Island (after a ferry ride along the Parramatta River) and a theatre experience at the Star theatre to see "Anastasia". More activities are in the works: a visit to the Nuclear Energy facility at Lucas Heights, a Christmas In July function at the Fiddler and later in the year Cirque Du Soleil at the Entertainment Quarter. Members participate in regular walking activities.

At the Club's last meeting members heard from Graham Sims who concluded the second part of his talk on Breaker Morant: the British immigrant to Australia who went on to fight in the Boer War in South Africa, was court martialled and executed by firing squad. Graham had some very intriguing facts to relate about the Breaker's life (and loves).



Kenthurst Probus meets on the third Monday of each month (other than December) at 9.30 AM in the Uniting Church building cnr Kenthurst Road and Jones Road.

Visitors are always welcome: any enquiries can be addressed to Roselie Chaloner on 0410 911 917.

# The Round Corner Dural Probus Club

Members gather monthly for a morning meeting at The Galston Club on the second Monday of each month at 9:30 am.

Each meeting features reports from our active special interest groups like the Movie, Tennis, Scrabble, Book, Craft, and Theatre Clubs. We also provide updates on upcoming events, outings, and lunches. Plus, we invite a guest speaker each month.

These smaller groups offer a great way to meet fellow members and share interests.

This month, some of our members embarked on a delightful getaway holiday to the Sunshine Coast. We enjoyed a five-day trip exploring local suburbs like Montville and Maleny. Lunchtime cruises on the Noosa River, tours of the Ginger factory, and visits to The Australian Zoo were highlights. Our holiday package included return flights from Sydney, accommodation at the Sunshine Coast, breakfasts, most lunches, and delicious evening meals. We also enjoyed fascinating day tours and access to all attractions.



Every detail from our departure from Galston to our return was meticulously planned, ensuring a truly enjoyable holiday.

We warmly welcome visitors to join us at a meeting to experience the club firsthand. If you have any questions, please contact us via email at [rcdprobus@gmail.com](mailto:rcdprobus@gmail.com) or give Lei a call at 0412 585 741.



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# Cherrybrook Probus Ponderings – Taking it to the Limit

Over the past month members of the Combined Probus Club of Cherrybrook travelled far and wide enjoying a range of events in perfect weather. We shared a full 'Opal' day excursion to Kiama, the limit of the \$2.50 metropolitan rail network with options for sightseeing and lunch. A bus outing to Warragamba Dam brought back many childhood memories and incorporated a magnificent view from Burragorang Lookout and lunch at Mulgoa. Closer to home members rode the Metro to Kellyville then walked to Rouse Hill for a lunch reward and visited the gardens in Fagan Park. As always, our sport and interest groups provided regular activities for fitness and fun.



Recent Guest Speakers included Dr Andrew Campbell who spoke on 'Links Between Hearing Health and Brain Health' and our morning teas have very special celebrating Easter, Anzac Day and Mother's Day.

Upcoming visits include the Quarantine Station at Manly, Eryldene Garden at Gordon, the Penrith Printing Museum, Dangar Island walk and shows, 'The Lion King', 'Waitress' and 'The Last Witch'.

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 Vicki on 0417 200 351. We look forward to warmly welcoming you to our Probus Club to share the good times.

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## Dural and District Historical Society Inc.

# News from History Cottage

The Society's May meeting had the pleasure of hearing two guest speakers, member Jenny Bradley and Murray Wilton, General Manager of the Royal Easter Show, who gave local and state stories of agricultural shows. The trophies won by Jenny's grandfather are an indication of the esteem given to good agricultural practices, while Murray told of the story of Agriculture & Sydney Royal Easter Show



and the place it holds in our history. Murray generously presented each attendee with a copy of the Easter Show's bicentennial book. A most enjoyable afternoon that generated much reminiscing over a welcome tea or coffee.

A foundation aim of our Society is: "To research and record the history of the area once known as The Durals." With this in mind local organisations have given our community, through the Historical Society, their old records. It is fortunate that many of the long time families involved in those early groups are still with us. Recently the Hayes Family generously gave material that is gold to a researcher. They are the papers that record the agricultural development, building a library, a community hall, a cenotaph, the subdivision and sale of land, education, running dances and agricultural shows. To read these papers is to see our community come into being.

Readers are encouraged to come to the open History Cottage on the last Sunday of each month between 1.00 and 4.00, maybe to begin one's own study for a family or some topic of local interest members are available to assist. Next is Sunday 28th June.



Murray Wilton with the RAS bicentennial book

The 13th June meeting will have member Judy Horton OAM, as guest speaker. Her topic is on Joseph Aaron Booth, the local stonemason whose work is a legacy in stone, seen in the local memorials and homes of our community. Judy's research took her down many "rabbit holes" to uncover wonderful connections. A revealing afternoon to enjoy.

Next meeting is the the Galston Uniting Church, School Road, Galston starting at 2.00 on Saturday the 13th June. Entry is free with a gold coin for afternoon tea. All welcome.

Enquiries to Michael Bell 02 9653 1365.

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# Latest News



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## from the Mayor's Desk

Following the recent opening of the Crusher Plant Precinct and Southern Lookout at Hornsby Park, I am pleased to share we have reached another major milestone with the official commencement of the Old Mans Valley Field of Play.

This marks an exciting new phase in the transformation of Hornsby Park into one of our Shire's premier recreation destinations. The Field of Play will deliver a high-quality multi-purpose sports field capable of supporting a range of community sports, along with open green space for informal recreation. Importantly, the project also includes new amenities, improved accessibility, landscaping and dedicated cycling facilities, creating a welcoming and active gateway into the park.

Once complete, Old Mans Valley will provide much-needed space for our growing community to play sport, connect with others and enjoy the outdoors. I thank our community for its continued support as we bring this landmark project to life.

The newly opened Crusher Plant has already provided a welcome boost for visitation to Hornsby's west side, with local businesses reporting increased foot traffic and renewed vibrancy in the precinct. As Mayor, I am passionate about supporting our local business community, and this is one of many ways Council is helping local enterprises to thrive.

We are proud to be major sponsors of the Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Business Awards, celebrating excellence and innovation across the Shire. We are also delivering public domain upgrades in Galston, Asquith, Mount Colah and Hornsby to create more attractive, accessible and inviting local centres. In addition, the recently exhibited Employment Lands Planning Proposal aims to help strengthen our local economy and create new employment opportunities for the future.

I look forward to seeing you out and about this winter. As always, please get in touch with any suggestions or concerns - [wwaddell@hornsby.nsw.gov.au](mailto:wwaddell@hornsby.nsw.gov.au)

**Warren Waddell**  
Mayor of Hornsby Shire

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**COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS**  
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**Wednesday 10 June, 10am-1pm**  
Meet local community service providers, get guidance, ask questions.

**Hello HORNSBY**  
**Coffee and Chat**  
Thursday 11 June, 10am-12pm  
Wollundry Park, Pennant Hills  
**ALL ARE WELCOME**

**Reduce, Reuse, Recycle**  
**Waste Wise Corner**  
Tuesday 16 June, 2.30-4.30pm  
Hornsby Library

**Comfortable Homes in Summer and winter**  
**Free Webinar**  
Wednesday 17 June, 6.30pm-7.30pm  
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**STEP BACK IN TIME**  
Self-guided heritage walks in Hornsby, Pennant Hills and Brooklyn  
[hornsby.nsw.gov.au/localhistory](https://hornsby.nsw.gov.au/localhistory)

**HORNSBY ART PRIZE 2026**  
**ENTRIES CLOSE 20 AUGUST**  
Total prize money \$23,000 | [hornsby.nsw.gov.au/artprize](https://hornsby.nsw.gov.au/artprize)

**Next Council meeting** Wednesday 10 June, 6.30pm

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

## ADVERTORIAL

# Auditory Deprivation

Many people assume hearing loss is purely an “ear problem,” and that hearing aids should fix it instantly. But hearing professionals are increasingly focused on what happens in the brain after years of reduced sound input, and why amplification alone may not deliver the clarity patients expect, especially in background noise.

Ear Man Dan explains this through auditory processing. Understanding speech is not just about volume; it is a sophisticated brain function that blends what the ears detect, what the eyes see and the context of the conversation. Within this system are several skills: distinguishing pitch and loudness, processing rapid changes in sound, separating speech from noise, recognising where sound comes from, and using auditory memory to hold onto words long enough to make sense of them. The key point is that these skills need ongoing use to stay sharp, like any learned ability. He uses a simple analogy:

Golf. Stop playing for years, and your swing will not be the same when you return, you will need coaching, practice, and time to rebuild what once felt automatic.

With hearing loss, a similar “use it or lose it” effect can occur in the auditory system. Clinicians call this auditory deprivation: a decline in speech recognition and auditory processing that can result from prolonged reduction of sound input to the central auditory pathways. If the brain is not consistently receiving clear sound information from the ears, it may become less efficient at interpreting speech, particularly in busy environments, which is often where people first notice difficulties.

The complication is timing. Unlike a sports injury, auditory deprivation does not hurt. Many people do not recognise the change until family members point it out, and by then the hearing loss may already be several years old. Research often suggests people wait roughly seven to ten years before seeking help, meaning the brain may have spent a long time operating with incomplete information. That delay can set up unrealistic expectations when hearing aids finally arrive. People invest significant money and hope the devices will restore “normal” hearing overnight. But hearing aids cannot instantly rebuild performance without rehabilitation. The brain still needs time to relearn how to use restored sound, and some patients become discouraged within days, concluding “hearing aids don’t work for me,” when the real issue is limited adaptation time, inconsistent wear, or insufficient support.

The good news is outcomes can improve significantly with the right process: well-fitted hearing aids, realistic expectations, consistent daily wear, and guided auditory rehabilitation. Ear Man Dan points to modern app-based auditory training programs that use short daily listening exercises over several weeks to build speech-in-noise understanding, rapid speech processing, and working memory. For patients, the takeaway is simple: hearing aids restore access to sound, but the brain may still need time and training to translate sound into understanding. Treatment works best as a partnership; devices plus rehabilitation, so improvements become not just audible but truly meaningful.



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# Hornsby's Art Scene Flourishes in 2026

Hornsby's arts community is continuing to flourish in 2026, with both the Hornsby Art Prize and Remagine Art Prize drawing artists and audiences from across Australia.

Entries for the 2026 Hornsby Art Prize open on Monday, 15th June. Presented by Hornsby Shire Council alongside Hornsby Art Society, the competition offers a \$23,000 prize pool across painting, drawing, printmaking, photography, and sculpture, including a \$10,000 overall winner's prize.

Artists Guido Maestri and Mirra Whale have been appointed judges for this year's program, which Mayor Warren Waddell said continues to connect the community with contemporary Australian art while supporting local creatives.

Entries close on Thursday, 20th August, with selected finalists to feature in a

public exhibition at Wallarobba Arts and Cultural Centre from 16th October to 1st November 2026.

While preparations begin for the Hornsby Art Prize later this year, the 2026 Remagine Art Prize is already encouraging audiences to reflect on sustainability and consumer culture through contemporary art.

Hosted by Hornsby Shire Council in partnership with Hornsby Art Society, this year's theme, "Built to Expire," explored waste, overconsumption, and the lifespan of everyday objects.

The \$5,000 first prize went to Glenhaven ceramic artist Maree Louise MacDermid for NVR ENF (Never Enough). Other award recipients included West Ryde's Karen Coull, Dulwich Hill artist Madi Feist, Hornsby local Patrick Heuzenroder, and Gordon resident Adelina Pochueva.



Remagine Art Prize 2026 winner Maree Louise MacDermid's work NVR ENF (Never Enough)

The Remagine Art Prize finalist exhibition remained open on display at Wallarobba Arts and Cultural Centre until Sunday, 31st May 2026.

## ADVERTORIAL

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*Aussie Pumps is urging business owners to consult with their tax agent to determine if they are eligible. Companies with a turnover of less than \$10 million can get the benefit of instantly writing off assets worth individually up to \$20,000.*

The benefits are enormous! Now is the time to buy and take advantage of these tax incentives. An example is plumbers looking to upgrade their jetter or replace their electric Eel.

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# Castle Hill Art Society

Art Demonstration  
 Saturday 6th June 2pm  
 HIREN PATEL *"Painting a Street Scene"*



Hiren will be painting a street scene and explaining his process of layering oil paint to achieve a finished painting that is expressive, contains mood and atmosphere. He will also show how to keep the painting fresh and loose in the end result and how to use the reference as a jumping board to create your own style of art.

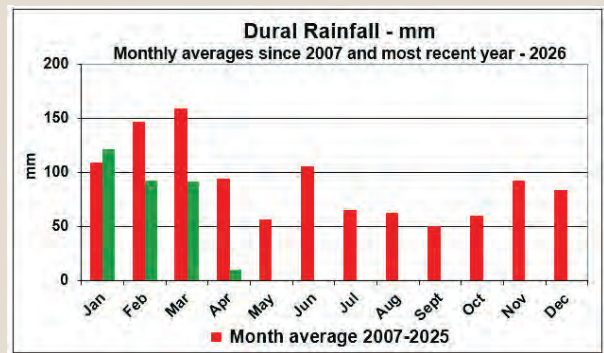
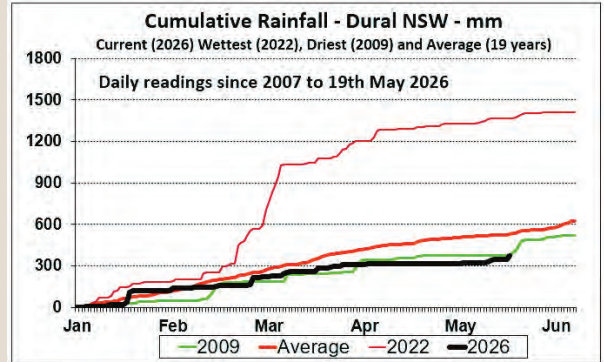
Visitors are welcome to join with the Castle Hill Art Society 2.00pm at Castle Glen Community Centre, 157 Ridgescrop Drive, Castle Hill.

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



# Dural Rainfall Charts

by Hans Kunnen



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# 60 Years of Bowling at Dural

Dural Bowling Club will celebrate its 60th anniversary in August 2026. It was established very soon after the Dural Country Club was opened. Being able to mark this milestone is a triumph over recent, challenging years. The planned celebrations will emphasise the resilience, community spirit, and the legacy of both founding and subsequent members, and will serve as a powerful bridge between a storied past and a revitalised future, allowing the past and current bowlers to celebrate resilience as much as longevity.



The 60th anniversary will also reflect on the recent amalgamation of the original Dural Country Club with Parramatta Leagues to become the modern Dural Club we know today. This amalgamation has brought some security for the Dural Club and its associated sports clubs.

Come along and enjoy both social and competition bowls at the friendly Dural Bowling Club. Free lessons by qualified coaches are available. Phone: Rob Whiddon 0411 375 580.

## Pennant

It was a disappointing end to the season for the Dural Squad with a loss to Pennant Hills in its last group game and misses the playoff. The pleasing aspect was how well all the players played over the season, and the new players gained valuable experience future pennant competitions.

# Pennant Hills High School Celebrates 60 Years with Carnival Spectacular

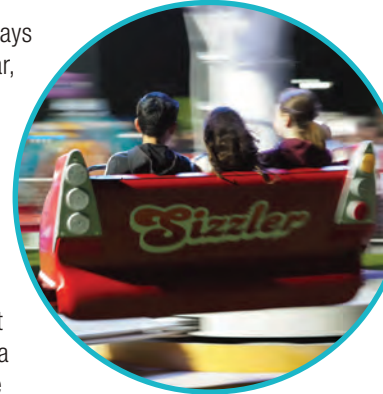
The much-loved Penno High Winter Carnival returns on Saturday June 27th, taking centre stage in Pennant Hills High School's 60th birthday celebrations.

"Putting on the Winter Carnival is always a highlight on the community calendar, and celebrating the school's 60th makes it even more special," said Carnival Director Michelle Scott.

The carnival will be held on Saturday June 27th from 3 - 9pm, with rides for all ages, Sideshow Alley, Market stalls, and a delicious mix of food trucks and popular parent foodies, Smokin' Hot Dads. The Toyota Main Stage will feature an impressive line-up of performances from local primary school bands, Pennant Hills High music ensembles and talented young performers.

The night will wrap up with the Alto Mitsubishi fireworks display at 8:45pm.

Entry is \$2, with under 5s free, and all funds raised will support school resources.



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# Waddell Cottage Restoration Unearths Local History



Restoration works at the historic Waddell Cottage have recently reached an exciting milestone, with archaeological investigations uncovering artefacts dating back to the late 1800s beneath the original floorboards. Fragments of historic glass and other materials discovered during the restoration process led to a supervised archaeological excavation of the site.

As part of this unique educational opportunity, groups of Year 8 and Year 9 students were invited to participate in the excavation alongside professional archaeologists Fiona and Emily. Students learned about archaeological techniques, including stratigraphy and careful excavation methods, before taking part in hands-on trowelling activities inside the cottage.

The experience provided students with a rare insight into the process of uncovering and preserving local history. Many students expressed enthusiasm about learning how archaeologists date artefacts and interpret historical layers beneath the building.

Students were also able to view a collection of recovered artefacts, helping bring the history of Waddell Cottage to life. Once restoration works are complete, participating students will assist in sharing the cottage's story with the wider community during Open Days and special events.

The school extends its sincere thanks to the archaeology team and restoration specialists for providing such a valuable and memorable learning experience for students while helping preserve an important part of local heritage.



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**Jane Seaglove**  
HORNSBY COUNCILLOR

This past month at Council has been a busy and productive one, with a range of initiatives and community events reflecting the diverse work taking place across the Shire. From strategic planning decisions to community celebrations and support programs, it has been encouraging to see strong local engagement throughout the month.

A key milestone was Council endorsing the progression of the Glenorie Village Planning Proposal. This represents an important step in planning for Glenorie's future growth while protecting the character and lifestyle that residents value so highly. The proposal seeks to strengthen the village centre, improve local amenity and support future opportunities for residents and businesses alike. As the planning process continues, ongoing community feedback will remain an important part of shaping the final outcome.

There has also been continued discussion surrounding the State Government's proposed Statewide framework for planning

and approvals for a number of developments. While there is recognition of the need to deliver housing and infrastructure efficiently, it is equally important that meaningful community input remains central to the planning process. Residents should continue to have a genuine opportunity to provide feedback on developments that may impact their neighbourhoods, local character and quality of life.

Council also hosted another successful series of Hello Hornsby events for seniors, providing valuable opportunities for older residents to connect, participate and access useful information and services. These events continue to play an important role in promoting inclusion, wellbeing and social connection within our community. It was wonderful to see such strong participation and positive engagement across the program.

Another highlight this month was the opening night of the Reimagine Art Prize. The exhibition showcased the creativity and talent within our community while encouraging important conversations around sustainability and reuse. The artworks demonstrated how recycled and repurposed materials can be transformed into inspiring pieces of art, reinforcing the value of environmental awareness in creative ways.



**James Wallace**  
HORNSBY MP

## Taxes and our State Budget Wishlist

Taxes are top of mind this month. There is a growing sense that high taxes and inflation are punishing families and making it harder for people to pay the bills and save something for the future.

State taxes are often forgotten. But stamp duty, land tax, payroll tax and car registration all impact on family budgets and make it harder for small business.

Since 2023 when the Labor Government was elected, state taxes and charges have risen 31%. During this same period, the NSW economy has grown less than 5%. The path we are on isn't sustainable for the Government or local families.

This month, the NSW Government will hand down its State Budget. There are several important issues that I know local residents will be looking closely at.

## New Line Road

The first project is New Line Road. Funding for long-promised upgrades has been deferred in the last two Labor budgets. This is despite growing congestion and frustration for locals and residents of the wider North West. I will continue advocating for the delivery of the planned four-lane upgrade between



Purchase Road and Hastings Road over Pyes Creek. This funding is budgeted and needed.

## Infrastructure to support growth around Cherrybrook and Dural

We also need proper infrastructure planning to support growth in Cherrybrook and Dural. The State Government has approved significant rezoning around the Cherrybrook Metro station, allowing for thousands of additional apartments, but without matching commitments for roads, schools and healthcare infrastructure.

The sale of government-owned land around the Metro precinct will generate substantial revenue. Local families rightly expect that money to be reinvested back into our community. That includes road upgrades, a clear school infrastructure plan that protects existing catchments, upgrades to local sporting fields, and improved emergency services including a new ambulance station for the area.

## Cutting taxes

Finally, families and small businesses need some tax relief and reduced pressure. Fingers crossed for tax cuts.

As always, I work for you. Please don't hesitate to reach out if I can ever assist you or your family.

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MEMBER FOR CASTLE HILL

## NSW Seniors Festival Awards

As part of the NSW Seniors Festival, our community came together on 30 April for a special morning tea at The Hills Club to celebrate three outstanding local nominees for the 2026 Local Seniors of the Year Awards.

These remarkable individuals represent the very best of The Hills. Through decades of service, they have made a lasting difference in the lives of others and helped shape the community we are proud to call home.

Kenneth Walsh has devoted more than 30 years to supporting veterans and their families through the Castle Hill & District RSL Sub-Branch. From visiting veterans in aged care to assisting with RSL Funeral Services and supporting Anzac Day commemorations, his contribution has been both practical and compassionate. His quiet dedication continues to make a lasting difference across the community.

Ann O'Connor is widely respected for her compassion and leadership in supporting veterans and their families. For over a decade, she has regularly visited veterans and widows at the SAN Hospital, while also contributing to fundraising, poppy appeals and the Families of Veterans Guild. Her care and commitment have strengthened the local veteran community.

Elaine White, fondly known as the "Mayor of Annangrove," has spent more than 30 years protecting the environment and preserving local heritage. From her work with the




Annangrove Environment Centre to her involvement in numerous community and conservation groups, Elaine's efforts have helped safeguard the character of The Hills for future generations.

We congratulate Kenneth, Ann and Elaine on their well-deserved

nominations. These are the people who make The Hills such a special place to live.

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SCAN ME



**Julian Leeser**  
MEMBER FOR BEROWRA

## Jemma Jukes: A Glenorie woman who changed Australian healthcare

On 6th May, I had the honour of attending the launch of The Jem Jukes Wellness Program at Chris O'Brien Lifehouse in Camperdown. It was a moment of profound pride, and profound sadness.

Jemma Jukes was from Glenorie. For nine years she ran the Glenorie Pizzeria, not just a business, but a genuine community gathering place. She was a wife to Lang, a stepmother to Riley, a sister, a daughter, and a friend to more people than she probably realised.

In April 2023, at thirty-three years old, Jemma was diagnosed with stage four non-small cell lung cancer carrying a rare EGFR



exon 20 mutation. What began as what she thought was sciatica pain ended with a diagnosis that would define the rest of her short life, not by limiting her, but by revealing the full measure of her character.

When Jemma was offered Amivantamab, a drug specifically targeting that rare mutation, she was told it would cost \$10,000 per session with no PBS subsidy available. She did what Jemma did: she went public, raised the funds through Rare Cancers Australia, and her community and strangers rallied alongside her.

On her behalf, I lobbied the Health Minister to list the drug and attended her community fundraiser.

She passed away on the 18th of December 2024. She was thirty-four years old. Two days later, Amivantamab was listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

I have spoken about Jemma in Parliament because her story deserves to be part of our national record. The 150 Australians diagnosed each year with her rare mutation will now access that drug without the impossible financial burden Jemma carried. That is her gift to people she never met.

Family, including Lang, Riley, Todd, Elise, Lynn and Brett channelled their grief into action. The Jem Jukes Wellness Program offers a free online wellness space, grants for people living with advanced cancer, and the My Journey Wellness Journal, practical tools to help people feel grounded, connected, and seen as whole human beings, not just diagnoses.

Glenorie is our community. Jemma was ours. But her courage belongs to every Australian who will face a rare cancer diagnosis and find, because of her, that the path is a little less difficult.

For more information, please visit the Jemma Jukes Wellness Program website: Home Page - Jemma Jukes Wellness Corner.



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 **JULIAN LEESER MP**  
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR BEROWRA

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

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## Clr Mitchell Blue

THE HILLS SHIRE COUNCIL

Residents of The Hills know all too well that our region is no stranger to natural disasters. The repeated flooding of the Hawkesbury River in recent years has been a reminder of how quickly conditions can change—and how vital timely, reliable information becomes during an emergency. In the aftermath of those floods, many locals shared their experiences of water inundation, road closures, and the urgent need to evacuate animals. These conversations highlighted a clear gap: emergency information exists, but it is located in a myriad of places - residents needed a central, trustworthy source of real-time emergency updates fed from trusted sources. Recognising this, I put forward a proposal to Council to explore the creation of an emergency dashboard—an online hub designed to deliver clear, accessible information. Council has since presented a Disaster Dashboard Content Management Platform to the Hills Shire Local Emergency Management Committee, seeking feedback and support. Discussions ongoing, with a strong focus on ensuring the final product meets community expectations for accuracy, clarity, and ease of use.

A few years ago, a platypus workshop that I attended at the Community Environment Centre in Annangrove sparked an important conversation about the health of our waterways. During the workshop, participants collected observation data at known platypus habitats across the shire. Through conversations with the facilitators, it became clear that Council did not have a formal water quality monitoring program in place. I raised my concerns with Councillors and staff, and the gap has now been addressed. Water quality monitoring has commenced across eight sites within the Shire, offering valuable insights into the condition of our creeks and streams. Recent results show encouraging signs: pH, phosphorus, and salinity levels generally align with healthy freshwater standards. As expected, turbidity levels rose after rainfall due to natural runoff. However, the data also revealed areas needing closer attention. Two rural sites—Cataract Creek and Little Cattai Creek—showed indicators of potential impact, likely linked to nearby construction activity. These locations have now been prioritised for ongoing monitoring to ensure any emerging issues are identified early.

These initiatives reflect a commitment to protecting both our community and our environment.



## Dr Michelle Byrne

MAYOR OF THE HILLS SHIRE

In November 2025, the NSW Government scrapped its carefully considered and adopted Cherrybrook Place Strategy in place of an alarming new high-rise, high-density rezoning proposal. Under the new proposal, the NSW Government put forward 9,320 new dwellings for the precinct around Cherrybrook Metro station. This is nearly triple the original number of dwellings that were proposed under the Place Strategy.

Council and residents shared a number of concerns with this proposal. Given the magnitude of the changes, Council formally requested that the Government extend the one-month public exhibition period for the rezoning proposal. Yet Council's pleas fell on deaf ears.

If these plans go through as is, we could have people living in buildings up to 19 storeys in height on a steep slope. This is a real safety concern that the Government must take seriously.

The other main concern is the strain this high-density proposal would place on local infrastructure. Castle Hill Road is the main road for the precinct, and it's already bumper-to-bumper in the morning and afternoon peaks. The original Place Strategy also identified the need for at least one additional primary school and one high school to support the projected 3,200 dwellings. If rezoning plans that triple these projections are to proceed, then the NSW Government must also identify additional school sites for the precinct.

It's been five months since the consultation period closed. I understand that the post exhibition review of submissions takes time, but it's essential the Government confirms that the concerns of residents and Council are being thoroughly assessed and that the proposal is being revised to reflect these concerns.

I will be writing to the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces Paul Scully MP to request an update on the Government's progress on the planning proposal post-exhibition. I will be asking the Minister to engage with Council and our residents on decisions that will have long-term consequences for everyone who calls Cherrybrook home. I hope to provide an update on the Government's response soon.



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## Scribbly Gums

The name "Scribbly Gum" can refer to a number of eucalypts. The main owner of the name Scribbly Gum (*Eucalyptus haemastoma*) is possibly the best known example in our Hills District bushland. Its main habitat distribution is along the central NSW coastal plains mostly around the Sydney region.

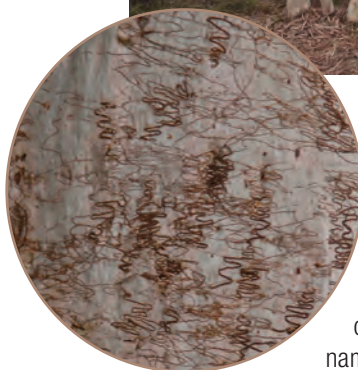
This tree generally is not very tall with a number of short trunks growing from a single root system similar to the group of eucalypts known as mallee. It is characterised by those wriggly lines that appear on the bark, which are more noticeable after the tree has shed its bark.

These wandering lines are where the larvae of the Scribbly Gum Moth has burrowed just under the surface of the bark, finding a source of food in or under this top layer, leaving the characteristic wriggly trails on the surface.

The pale colour of the bark makes this tree stand out against the dull green colour of the adjacent heathland in which it often grows.



A closely related variety known as the Hard-leaved Scribbly Gum (*Eucalyptus sclerophylla*) exhibits similar bark colouration and typical scribbles. However it prefers a habitat with open woodland and forest, surviving on shallow to deep sandy soils. This more



erect medium sized tree can grow up to 20 metres high.

Yet another similar variety found in the general region is the Narrow-leaved Scribbly Gum (*Eucalyptus racemosa*). It can grow to much larger proportions, is less mis-shapen and more erect when compared to the other two above. As its name implies, its leaves are much narrower

than the others. This tree can survive quite well in poorer but moist sandstone soils.

This obvious infestation of insects does not appear to be detrimental to the welfare of the tree. These trees are useful habitat trees forming wildlife nesting hollows as they grow older.

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# Galston District Garden Club

The Galston District Garden Club met on the 13th May welcoming visitors and new members.

The members enjoyed a wonderful presentation by Judy Horton all about "Climbing Plants". Judy has a way of keeping your attention with the way she presents her knowledge of plants with humour and wit.

In June our guest speaker will be Chris Jones presenting the topic "Successful Composting". You are warmly invited to join us for an enjoyable evening of gardening discussion, followed by supper. The Club meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7.30 in the Galston Community Hall, 37 Arcadia Road, Galston.

To follow on from Judy Horton's informative talk I wondered what I could use to cover up an old timber fence and I was taken by the climber "Hardenbergia".

Hardenbergia, commonly known as Native Wisteria or Happy Wanderer, is a beautiful Australian native climbing plant admired for its masses of purple, pea-shaped flowers that appear from late winter through spring. This evergreen climber features attractive dark green

foliage and twining stems that can quickly cover fences, pergolas, arches, trellises and retaining walls. Although the deep purple flowering form is the most common, white and pink varieties are also available and equally attractive in the garden.

Native to eastern Australia, Hardenbergia is valued for both its ornamental appeal and its hardy nature. It grows best in a sunny or partly shaded position with well drained soil and once established is reasonably drought tolerant. The plant responds well to occasional watering during extended dry periods and benefits from a light application of slow release fertiliser in Spring. Light pruning after flowering encourages dense growth and helps maintain a neat appearance.

Hardenbergia is widely used in Australian gardens because of its versatility and low maintenance requirements. It can be trained as a climber, used as a ground cover on slopes, or grown in large pots with support structures. Its colourful flowers attract bees, butterflies, and other beneficial pollinators adding life and activity to the garden. Because of its vigorous growth and attractive display, Hardenbergia



remains one of Australia's favourite native climbing plants for both modern and cottage style gardens.

For more information regarding the club and meeting times please visit our website: [www.galstongardenclub.com.au](http://www.galstongardenclub.com.au) or email: [galstongardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:galstongardenclub@gmail.com)



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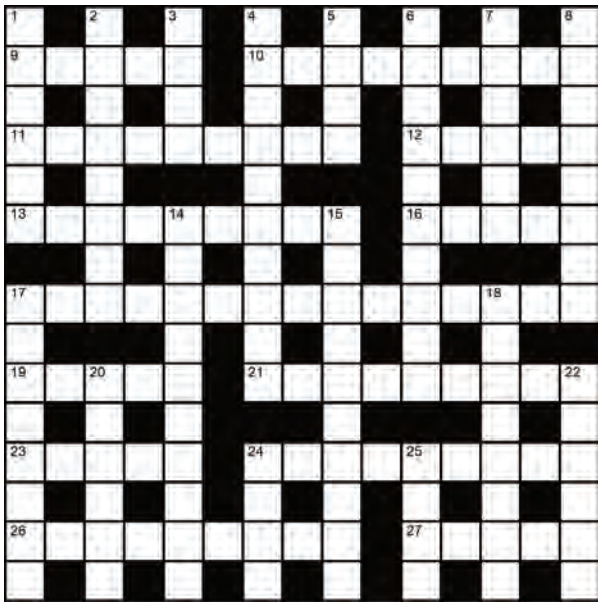
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# CROSSWORD PUZZLE



## Across

- 09 Peers (5)
- 10 It's normal to be hammered - priests don't like it (6,3)
- 11 Paroo River feature internationally important as a wetland (5,4)
- 12 Sound (5)
- 13 Interplanetary transport (9)
- 16 Coward (5)
- 17 Darwin garden sight (11,4)
- 19 Diving kit (1,1,1,1,1)
- 21 Cease operations (5,4)
- 23 It's nicknamed the "Capital of Latin America" (5)
- 24 Type of pea (5-4)
- 26 Recall past experiences (9)
- 27 Not concealed (5)

- 07 Allocate (6)
- 08 Place for waiting (8)
- 14 Side views on blueprints (10)
- 15 Illustrious people (10)
- 17 Fine, soft goat's wool (8)
- 18 Assistants (8)
- 20 Say! Rum manoeuvres for some soldiers (1,1,4)
- 22 Natural state? (6)
- 24 One burned but was not consumed (4)
- 25 Board flaw (4)

## Answer from May Issue



## Down

- 01 Skiers' challenges (6)
- 02 In all honesty (2,2,4)
- 03 Barbecue cooler (4)
- 04 Feeling the pain of others (10)
- 05 Superficially, it's all bark and no bite (4)
- 06 Champion surfer/shaper, father of Noa (5,5)

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