

# DOORAL ROUNDUP



MARCH 2026

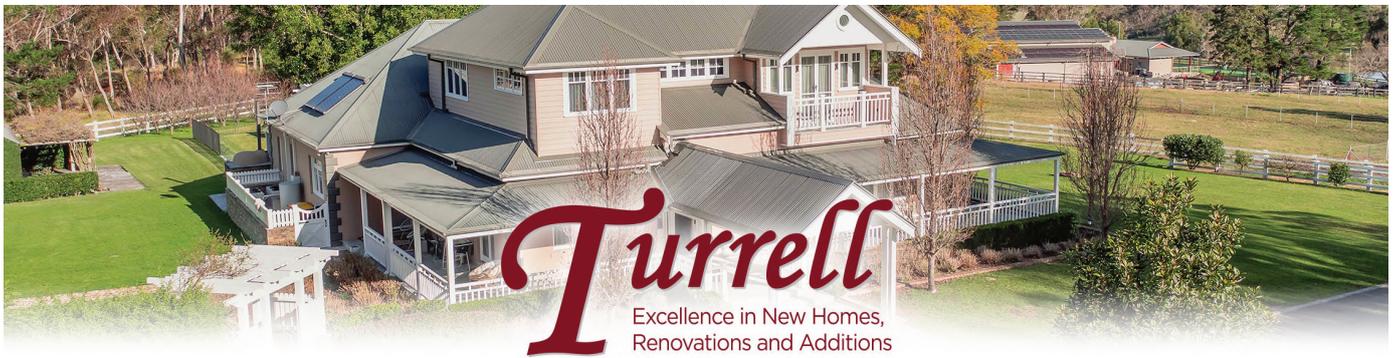
Official Publication of the Dural Chamber of Commerce  
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## ONE BLOCK. TWO PATHS

# Renovate or Rebuild?



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## Renovate or Rebuild? Making the Right Call for Your Home

There comes a moment in every homeowner's life when the house you're living in no longer fits the life you're living. Maybe the kitchen feels cramped, the layout doesn't work for your growing family, or the building itself is starting to show its age. When that moment arrives, you're faced with one of the biggest decisions in property: do you renovate what you've got, or knock it down and start fresh?

Both paths have real merit. The trick is understanding which one is right for your situation, your block, and your budget.

### ■ The Case for Renovation

Renovation is about working with what's already there. You keep the bones of your home and reshape the spaces that aren't working. It might mean opening up a floor plan, adding a second storey, updating a tired bathroom, or extending out the back to capture more living space.

For many homeowners, renovation makes sense because the existing structure is sound and the home has character worth preserving. There can also be planning advantages. Depending on your council and heritage overlays, a renovation may face fewer hurdles than a full demolition. It's often the faster route to a result, and for homes that just need targeted improvements, including landscaping, rather than a complete rethink, it can be the more cost-effective choice.

That said, renovations aren't without their challenges. Older homes can throw surprises like hidden structural issues, outdated wiring, or asbestos, all of which can affect your budget. And there's a practical ceiling: at a certain point, trying to force a modern lifestyle into an old footprint can sometimes cost more than it's worth.

### ■ The Case for Knocking Down and Starting Over

A knock-down rebuild gives you the ultimate blank canvas. You get to design a home that's purpose-built for the way you actually live, from the orientation and energy efficiency right through to the flow of every room. No compromises, no working around someone else's decisions from decades ago.

This path tends to make the most sense when the existing home is in poor condition, the layout is fundamentally wrong for what you need, or the cost of bringing an old home up to standard starts creeping toward the price of building new. A new build also means new plumbing, electrical, and insulation, so you're starting with a home that's built to current standards and should require minimal maintenance for years to come.

### ■ So, Which Path Is Right for You?

The honest answer is: it depends. Every home, every block, and every family is different. What we've found at Turrell Building is that the best outcomes come from having the right conversation early — before decisions are locked in. A straightforward chat about what you're hoping to achieve, what your home can realistically offer, and where your budget sits can save you months of uncertainty.

We normally explore the renovation path first by designing draft-level concept plans and providing an estimate to ensure the layout and approximate budget align. We then cross-reference that against the cost of a new-build of equivalent design. This exercise highlights the cost difference between the renovation and new-build options, so a clear direction can be established before spending too much.

If you're at that crossroads and not sure which direction to take, give us a call. We've walked plenty of homeowners through this exact decision, and even a quick conversation can make the next step a lot clearer.

■ **Get in touch for a no-obligation chat about your project.**



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The CWA of Galston has enjoyed a successful first meeting of the year, with many familiar faces returning and some new faces who came along to see what we're about. It was a wonderful way to begin what promises to be a busy and productive year.

We have several stalls planned for the coming months, keep an eye on our socials for more information.

### Save the date for our first stall of the year:

Rowland Village Open Day Market Stall  
 Saturday 28th March 10am – 2pm  
 301 Galston Road, Galston

Donations of any we fruits and vegetables are always welcome.  
 Contact Anne: 0404 228 209 Patricia: 0412 948 787

## Dooral Roundup Contacts



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# New Classrooms Open in Dural to Support Young Students with Disability

Families across the Hills District now have expanded access to specialist education, with Warrah Specialist School in Dural officially opening two newly renovated classrooms dedicated to students in Kindergarten to Year 2.

The new classrooms have been purpose-built to meet the needs of young students with moderate to severe intellectual disability, many of whom also have diagnoses such as autism or Down syndrome. With small class sizes and high staff-to-student ratios, the school provides an environment designed to support children academically, socially and emotionally.

“Early primary years are such a critical window,” Principal Dawn Grant-Skiba said. “With the right environment and support, every child can thrive. Our expansion allows us to welcome more young students into a nurturing, Steiner-informed setting. We partner closely with families and their therapists, inviting therapists to work onsite during school hours so that together we can provide a consistent, coordinated approach to each child’s growth and wellbeing.”

Located in Dural, Warrah Specialist School supports students from Kindergarten to Year 12, with families travelling from across Sydney to access its specialised programs.

Enrolments are now open for the new K–2 classrooms, and families are invited to attend one of three upcoming Open Days:

Thursday 12th March 2026 - 10:30am to 12:00pm  
 Monday 23rd March 2026 - 5:00pm to 6:30pm

Open Days provide an opportunity to tour the new facilities, meet staff and learn more about the school’s approach to specialist education. Families can register their attendance via the school’s website or by contacting Warrah Specialist School directly. Private tours are also available for families with K-2 students wishing to enrol in 2026.



# 60th Wedding Anniversary Celebration of Margaret and Eric Dunn

To the Publisher, we wish to advise that we recently celebrated our 60th Wedding anniversary on the 15th January, 2026.



We were married on the 15th January, 1966, in St Marks Anglican Church Granville, where we both lived and grew up. We built a house in Baulkham Hills & moved in 1969, we then moved to Dural in the 70’s where we still currently live.

We have 4 children (Cary/Murray/Sabrina & Brendan, 8 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren, with another due in March, 2026).

We have had an exciting life together, & wish to share with all.

Attached is a Photo from one of our many Cruises.

*Yours faithfully & regards,  
 Margaret and Eric Dunn.*



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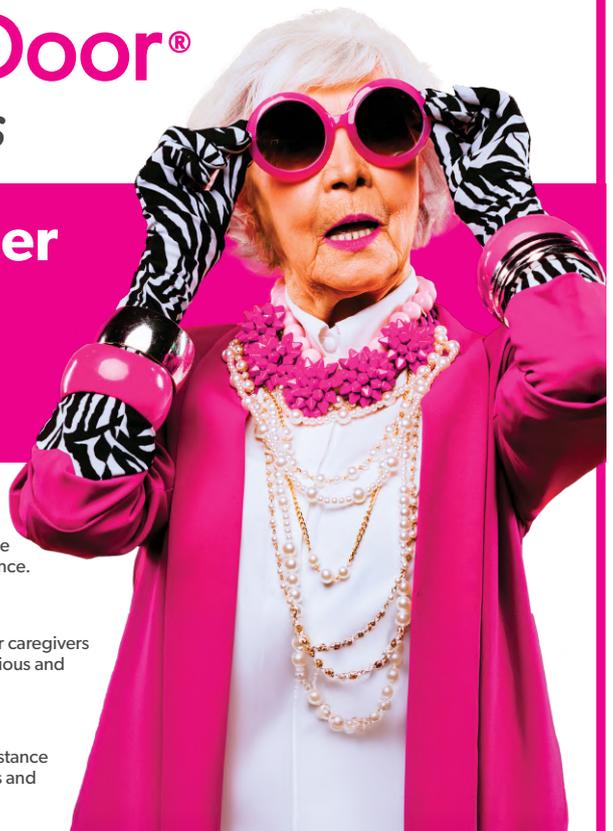
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# Kenthurst Probus Club

Kenthurst Probus Club met on the 16th of February to hear from frequent Guest Speaker Graeme Sims, whose topic was “Breaker Morant”. Most of those present had seen the film of that name, starring Edward Woodward as the Breaker, but Graeme gave an enormous amount of detail about Morant’s family and early life in England. migrating to Australia and life in this country where he displayed talent as a poet, raconteur, and above all horseman. With an enormous topic such as this, Graeme’s talk was only stage one of the saga, Graeme is booked to return to the Club in May to complete the Morant story.

Club activities in the immediate future include a visit to the Rail Museum at Thirlmere, the Premier’s Concert, theatre parties in March and May: and an extended excursion to Yarrowonga in October.

The next meeting on **16th March** will be the Club’s Annual General Meeting and election of office bearers, hence there will be no guest speaker.

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

Information can be obtained from Membership Direct Burt Stuuat on 0424 247 003 or 9652 1239.



Graeme Sims

# Do you have two or more long-term health conditions

Many people in Australia are living with multiple long-term health conditions such as diabetes, arthritis, stroke, depression, and cancer.



Exercise-based rehabilitation may help people with chronic conditions improve their physical function, symptoms and quality of life and help them spend less time in the hospital. However, until now there have been few exercise options for people living with multiple long-term health conditions.

Monash University is conducting a study at Mt Wilga Private Hospital to see if a personalised rehabilitation program (PERFORM trial), which includes exercises and education sessions, can improve wellbeing and physical function better than usual care in people with multiple long-term health conditions.

If you have Diabetes, Hypertension, Arthritis or other long term condition we encourage you to contact us to participate!

If you meet the inclusion criteria you may be randomised to the intervention group which includes 8 weeks of exercise and education sessions with attendance on Monday and Thursdays.

It is FREE to participate!

If you are interested to know more please contact the Principal Investigator at Mt Wilga, Jennifer King on 9847 5312 or email [kingje@ramsayhealth.com.au](mailto:kingje@ramsayhealth.com.au)



If you are interested in this study, please contact the following researcher for more information:

**Dr Simone Dal Corso**  
Trial coordinator  
Ph: (03) 9903 8934 / 0451 498 265  
E: [simone.dalcorso@monash.edu](mailto:simone.dalcorso@monash.edu)

**Ms Jennifer King**  
Principal Investigator  
Ph: 02 9847 5312  
E: [kingje@ramsayhealth.com.au](mailto:kingje@ramsayhealth.com.au)



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# Cherrybrook Probus Ponderings – Budget Buster Outings



Recently members of the Combined Probus Club of Cherrybrook enjoyed a cheap but very cheerful outing. With Opal cards in hand we headed off to Katoomba by rail. Little did we know that we were about to become part of history as we travelled on the penultimate day of the V Set trains. The carriages were filled with train

buffs and the train photographed by many along the way. We continued our thrifty day with an excellent Seniors' \$15 lunch including a beverage. A great day in many ways.

Other outings have included some spirited Ten Pin bowling and a relaxed happy hour, an exploration around the Rocks to The Discovery Museum, a walk across the Harbour Bridge from McMahons Point and a visit to Wendy's Secret Garden in addition to the regular activities of craft, book club, games including cards and mahjong, golf, walks and garden group.

Some upcoming events include theatre outings to 'The Great Gatsby' and 'The Graduate', a social drive to Patonga and the Club's Changeover Lunch.

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.

# New Training Facility at Karis Life

by Rejimon Punchayil

Karis Life has opened a new Training Facility at 67 Jersey Street, Hornsby, creating a local space for education and collaboration in safe and independent living.

The soft opening was led by Occupational Therapist Sarah

Collison, with Serena Owens, CEO of ATSA, and clinical educator Amy Bjornson, recognising the value of ongoing learning across the care sector.

The facility will host group training sessions for occupational therapists, support coordinators and care providers, focusing on practical strategies that help people remain safe and confident at home.

With more Australians choosing to age in place, early planning and shared knowledge are becoming increasingly important. The new space aims to support better outcomes by strengthening skills, confidence and collaboration within the local community.

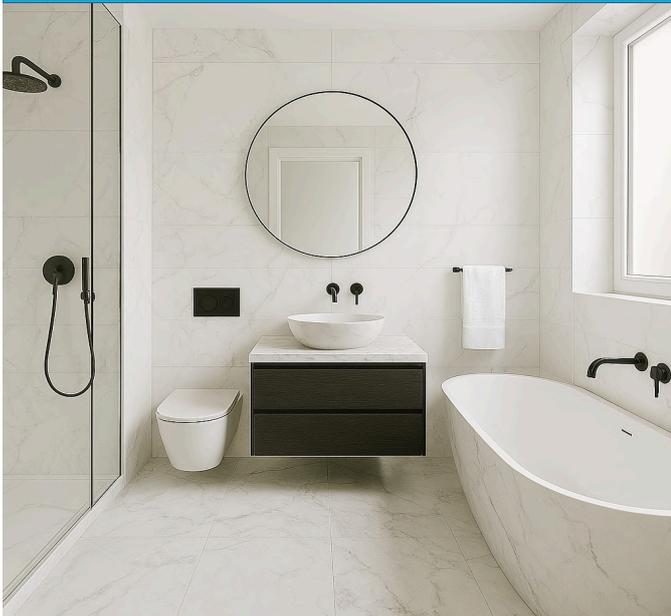


Sarah Collison, Serena Owens and Amy Bjornson at the Karis Life Training Room soft opening



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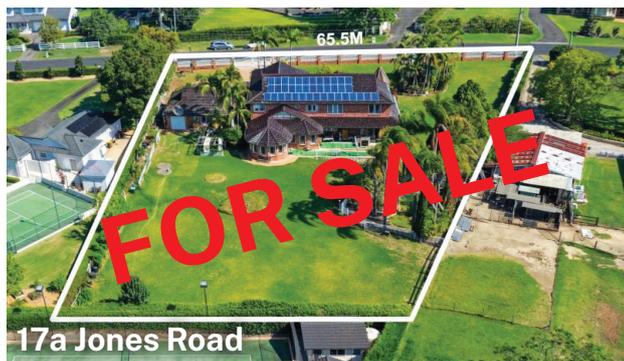
8 Quarter Street



361 Galston Road



2 Woodvale Place



17a Jones Road



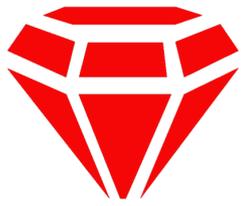
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118 Glenhaven Road



280 Galston Road



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## Local Agency. Global Reach.

By Lisa Zhang

### In today's market, selling a property is no longer a local transaction. It is a strategic global positioning.

As a long-established local agent deeply rooted in this community for nearly half a generation, I understand the rhythm, lifestyle, and true value of every street, every pocket, every opportunity here.

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## TWO CHARGED ON CHRIS BAGHSARIAN'S MURDER



Robbery & Serious Crime Squad detectives arrested two men in relation to the kidnapping and murder of 85-year-old Chris Baghsarian, police said in a 25th February press conference.

According to Detective Chief Inspector Andrew Marks, the human remains found near a golf club in Pitt Town at 8 am on Tuesday, 24th February 2026, were those of Mr Baghsarian.

At about 6.30 am on Wednesday, 25th February, officers executed two search warrants and arrested a 29-year-old man at a Kenthurst address and a 24-year-old man in Castle Hill. Clothing, electronic devices, and other items believed to be linked to the murder were seized.

They were taken to Riverstone Police Station, where they were charged with murder and take/detain in company with intent to ransom occasion actual bodily harm.

Another search warrant was executed at an address in Lake Macquarie.

"One of the persons arrested today travelled up to Lake Macquarie after the offence and spoke to somebody there. As a result, we seized two electronic devices from persons at the address in Lake Macquarie," Det Marks said.

He said the 85-year-old man was already deceased when he was left at the location where he was found. He reaffirmed that Mr Baghsarian was not the intended target.

Detectives believe the intended target was to be kidnapped for ransom and that more people are involved as part of a criminal organisation.

Police will allege in court that the two men participated in a joint criminal enterprise in kidnapping and holding Mr Baghsarian hostage, leading to his death.

They were refused bail to appear in Blacktown Local Court on Thursday, 26th February 2026.

"Our work is not done, and we will continue to find and identify those who are also involved in this horrible matter," Det Marks said.

On Friday, 13th February 2026, just after 5 am, officers from Ryde Police Area Command received a report that an 85-year-old man had been kidnapped from his home in North Ryde.

Local police attended before detectives attached to State Crime Command's Robbery & Serious Crime Squad began a coordinated response under Strike Force Chobat.

*Photos from NSW Police*



## SPEEDING

About 9.30 pm on Tuesday, 28th January 2026, officers from The Hills Highway Patrol detected a blue Volkswagen travelling north-west on Glenhaven Road, Glenhaven, in a clearly signposted 60km/h zone.

Police radar confirmed the vehicle was travelling at 134km/h.

The driver was issued penalty notices for exceeding the speed limit by more than 45km/h. Penalties included a six-month licence suspension, \$3,000 in fines, and confiscation of the vehicle's number plates for three months.

ROWLAND RETIREMENT VILLAGE

# Easter Market and Open Day

**Saturday 28 March, 10am - 2pm**

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- Easter market stalls & gifts, jewellery, handbags & clothing
- Face painting for the young and young at heart



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## GLENORIE MURDER

A third person was charged as investigations continue into the death of a 39-year-old man found at a Glenorie property last year. Strike Force Halderen was established after his body was discovered on Gleness Place around midday on 14th March 2025.

Initial inquiries led to the arrests of two men, 24 and 34, and a 35-year-old woman, who were later released pending investigation.

A 24-year-old man was charged with murder on 23rd March 2025, and a 35-year-old woman was charged with accessory after the fact on 4th April 2025.

Following further inquiries, a 33-year-old man was arrested in Agnes Water, Queensland, on 28th January 2026 with police assistance, exhibits seized for forensic examination, and extradited to NSW the next day.

He was charged with accessory after the fact to murder, refused bail, and appeared at Downing Centre Local Court on 30th January.

Investigations under Strike Force Halderen continue.

## FELL OVER A CLIFF

A rescue operation was launched after two teenagers fell about 10 metres over a cliff in Berowra Valley National Park, Cherrybrook, around 5.15 pm on Friday, 30th January.

A 17-year-old boy sustained multiple injuries and was stabilised by a TOLL medical helicopter team before being carried to the top and expected to be taken by road ambulance to Westmead Hospital in critical condition.

A 16-year-old girl was treated by NSW Ambulance paramedics, carried on foot to the top, and taken to Royal North Shore Hospital in stable condition.

A 47-year-old woman was treated at the scene for shock. Officers from The Hills Police Area Command, alongside Rural Fire Service personnel, assisted paramedics, with the operation continuing into the evening.

## KIDNAPPED MAN RESCUED

In a separate incident, Robbery & Serious Crime Squad detectives recovered a kidnapping victim and arrested one male following a police operation in Dural.

About 6.15 am on Tuesday, 24th February 2026, officers attached to Fairfield Police Area Command received a report that a 53-year-old man had been taken from outside a tobacconist on Meadows Road in Mt Pritchard.

Police were told four unknown males in balaclavas approached the man before assaulting him and forcing him into a Hyundai hatchback.

State Crime Command's Robbery & Serious Crime Squad were notified and commenced a covert operation to recover the victim under Strike Force Martinook.

About 10.30 am on Thursday, 26th February, strike force detectives, with assistance from the Tactical Operations Unit, attended a property in Dural.

At the location, police recovered the 53-year-old man and arrested a 16-year-old male.

The 53-year-old man was assessed by NSW Ambulance paramedics before being taken to hospital in a stable condition.

The 16-year-old was taken to Castle Hill Police Station where he was charged with take/detain in company with intent to ransom occasion actual bodily harm, possess shortened firearm (not pistol) without authority and participate criminal group contribute criminal activity.

He was refused bail to appear before a children's court on Friday, 27th February 2026.

Police say investigations under Strike Force Martinook continue.

Anyone with information about this incident is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or visit <https://nsw.crimestoppers.com.au>. Information is managed on a confidential basis. The public is reminded not to report information via NSW Police social media pages.

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



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# Latest News



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



## from the Mayor's Desk

As we move into March, I'm pleased to share that great progress continues on some of our major projects across the Shire. At Hornsby Park, work is advancing well around the old Crusher Plant and the Southern Lookout, and we look forward to unveiling these first stages of this generational project soon.

Over in Galston, improvements to the Galston Village Domain are set to begin this month, bringing exciting upgrades that will enhance the appeal and vibrancy of the village for residents, businesses and visitors.

March also brings a rich calendar of events that highlight the strength and spirit of our community. Our NSW Seniors Festival program once again offers a colourful mix of free activities designed to support wellbeing, build confidence and celebrate the enormous contributions of older residents. With workshops, expos, talks, art exhibitions, fitness sessions and intergenerational events on offer, there are plenty of meaningful ways to connect, learn and enjoy time with others.

We're also welcoming back our everpopular Food Truck Fridays, bringing delicious international cuisine, live music and a relaxed, familyfriendly atmosphere to Pennant Hills, Galston and Berowra. These evenings are a wonderful way to unwind, catch up with friends and neighbours, and enjoy the best of our local community.

I encourage all residents to make the most of these free opportunities to engage, explore and experience everything our Shire has to offer. For event details and bookings, visit [hornsby.nsw.gov.au](https://hornsby.nsw.gov.au)

I hope to see you out and about.

**Warren Waddell**  
Mayor of Hornsby Shire

• FOOD TRUCK •

## FRIDAYS

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FRIDAYS, 5 - 8.30 PM

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

NSW **Seniors Festival 2026** 2-15 March 2026

## Live life in colour

For details of our Seniors Week events visit:  
[hornsby.nsw.gov.au/SeniorsWeek](https://hornsby.nsw.gov.au/SeniorsWeek)

## Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Repair

- **Bicycle Repair Workshop**  
Saturday 7 March, 9.30am-12.30pm  
Storey Park Community Centre, Hornsby
- **Stitch and Fix: Clothes Mending Workshop**  
Saturday 7 March, 10.30am-12.30pm  
Storey Park Community Centre, Hornsby
- **Sort It Out – Make Recycling Easy**  
做好分類·讓回收更輕鬆  
Thursday 12 March, 10am-12.30pm  
Hornsby Library
- **Chipping for Mulch - Westleigh**  
Sunday 15 March, 7.30am-12.30pm  
The Old Dog Pound, Westleigh

- **Kimbriki Eco House & Garden Tour**  
Thursday 19 March, 9am-2pm  
Bus departs from Hornsby Park bus station
- **Waste-wise Café Chats and Trivia**  
Saturday 21 March, 10am-12.30pm  
Waste Warriors Volunteers Hub,  
4 Chilvers Road, Thornleigh
- **Scraps to Soil: The Secrets to Composting**  
Saturday 21 March, 1.30pm-3.30pm  
Community Recycling Centre, Thornleigh

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

## Free NATIVE PLANT GIVEAWAY

Free

NATIVE PLANT GIVEAWAY

For residents of suburbs in the southern part of the Shire (see QR code for full list)  
Friday 27 and Saturday 28 March  
[hornsby.nsw.gov.au/plants](https://hornsby.nsw.gov.au/plants)

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

## REMAGINE ART PRIZE

BUILT TO EXPIRE

## CALL FOR ENTRIES

Entries close: **19 March 2026**

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

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

## Second Hand

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## Market

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SAVE THE DATE

Sunday  
**12 April, 2026**  
9am - 1pm

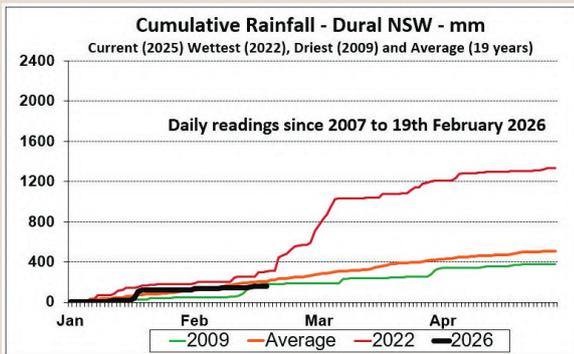
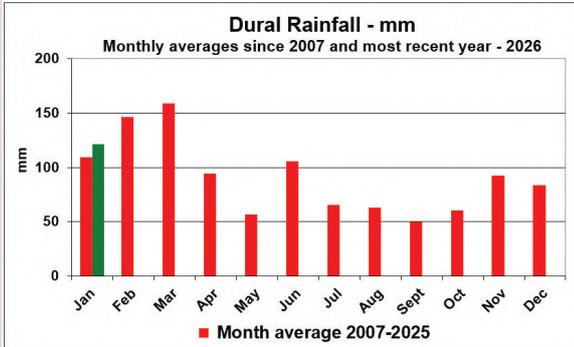
Coronation Street,  
Hornsby

**Next Council meeting** Wednesday 11 March, 6.30pm

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

# Dural Rainfall Charts

by Hans Kunnen



## Round Corner Dural Probus Club

### Probus is Fun and Friendship in Retirement

Members gathered at the Galston Club for our first monthly meeting in February. Six visitors joined us and our activities committee presented plans for the coming year.

Our Theatre group reported on their enjoyable day out at the Theatre Royal to see *Pretty Woman*. They thoroughly enjoyed the show and are planning another booking for later in the year.

Following our usual reports from the Book Club, Movie Club and our mini speaker, we were introduced to our first guest speaker of the year, Professor Greg de Moore a consultant psychiatrist at Sydney's Westmead Hospital and an author with four books to his name. The topic of his talk was his book on Thomas Wentworth Wills, a significant Australian sportsman born in 1835 and who tragically died by suicide at the age of 44 in 1880. Tom Wills is credited with being Australia's first cricketer of note and a founder of Australian Rules Football. He also coached and captained the first Aboriginal cricket team.



Greg explained in writing this biography on Tom Wills how he spent ten years researching and uncovered original medical records letters textbooks and notes previously thought lost or destroyed about Tim Wills.

His insights into this early Australian were truly astounding.

If you're looking for a new hobby in retirement, new members and visitors are welcome to join us at our monthly meetings.

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](mailto:rcdprobus@gmail.com)



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Castle Hill Players presents

**The Graduate**

at the Pavilion Theatre from 27th March – 18th April

A play adapted by TERRY JOHNSON, based on the novel  
by CHARLES WEBB and directed by STEPHEN SNARS



Brooke Salisbury, Mitchel Doran.  
Photo Penny Johnson

Welcome to Los Angeles in the 60s. The space race is in full swing, folk music dominates the airwaves, and the beat generation is yet to be replaced by free-loving hippies. The first Boomers are staring down

adulthood - armed with critical thinking, youthful awkwardness, and confusion over the world they are inheriting.

In Pasadena, Benjamin Braddock arrives home from college and tries to break away from the path his parents have laid for him. Enter Mrs Robinson, a married and much older friend of the family, who instigates an affair with the impressionable Braddock. This ends disastrously when Benjamin's amorous focus switches to Elaine, the Robinsons' daughter.

A delightful yet searing comedy of mismatches and generational divisions, of acceptance of social norms versus following your instincts. With a tune or two from the era thrown in, *The Graduate*, based on the novel by Charles Webb and the classic 1967 film, is bound to knock your socks off.

Here's to you Mrs Robinson!

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Castle Hill Players presents *The Graduate*  
Adapted by Terry Johnson, Based on the Novel by Charles Webb and the motion picture screenplay by Calder Willingham & Buck Henry. Directed by Stephen Snars  
27th March- 18th April, 2026 Wed, Fri, Sat 8PM, Sun 4PM  
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The Pavilion Theatre is located within the Castle Hill Showgrounds, Castle Hill

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Arcadian  
*Quilting News*

The recent visit in February of Andrea Eader and her dog "Bella" from Assistance Dogs Australia was a very busy and happy morning for the Quilting Group.

We were able to give Andrea 20 quilts on this occasion.



These quilts will be given to clients as comfort quilts and in some cases a reward/support quilt to a trainer for their ongoing work in 'educating' these marvellous dogs.

Assistance dogs are specifically trained to help people living with disability and trauma related issues.

The comfort and reliability of an Assistance Dog can give a person invaluable support to lead a more independent and fulfilling lifestyle and we value our opportunity to contribute to this work.

Due to the recent end-of-year-holidays we started 2026 with a wonderful supply of Charity Quilts, giving us opportunities to share what we make with the wider community.

Helping Hearts Survive, located 539 Galston Rd, Dural is another local group and during February we also gave 10 quilts to this busy, bright 'Corner Shop'.

Arcadian Quilters meet on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Wednesday of every month at the Community Health Centre, The Glade, Galston.

Contact Carole on 9894 7749 for further information.

A PLAY ADAPTED BY  
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BASED ON THE NOVEL BY  
**CHARLES WEBB**  
AND THE MOTION PICTURE SCREENPLAY BY  
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Preview the Stage 3 interiors and new CGI visuals

Hear from our design team about the Stage 3 interiors



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Indicative imagery for the Stage 3 interior direction. Finishes and selections may be subject to change

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## Sleep Better, Live Better: Discover Float Therapy This Sleep Awareness Month at City Cave Dural

March marks Sleep Awareness Month, a time dedicated to understanding how quality rest supports long-term health, energy, and resilience. With World Sleep Day falling on 13th March, City Cave Dural is helping our local community explore a powerful yet often misunderstood wellness experience: float therapy.

### So, what exactly is float therapy?

At City Cave Dural, floating takes place in a private open float pool filled with warm water and magnesium-rich Epsom salts. The water effortlessly supports the body, creating a feeling of weightlessness that allows muscles, joints, and the nervous system to completely switch off from daily pressure. With reduced light, sound and physical strain, the body has an opportunity to enter a deeply restorative state that many guests describe as the closest thing to “pressing reset.”



For those struggling with sleep, the benefits can be significant. Poor sleep is often linked not just to habits or screens, but to elevated stress hormones, physical tension, and an overstimulated nervous system. Float therapy helps calm the body’s fight-or-flight response, supporting a natural shift into rest-and-recovery mode. Many guests report falling asleep more easily, experiencing deeper rest and waking feeling more refreshed after regular float sessions.

As part of Sleep Awareness Month, City Cave Dural is sharing education around how float therapy, infrared sauna and massage can work together to support better sleep and overall wellbeing. Rather than offering a quick fix, the focus is on helping our community build sustainable rituals that encourage relaxation and recovery beyond the session itself.

Float therapy is suitable for a wide range of ages and lifestyles, making it an accessible way to prioritise health in a gentle, low-impact environment. Whether you are managing a busy schedule, navigating physical tension, or simply seeking deeper rest, floating offers a calm and supportive space to unwind.

If you’re curious to experience the benefits for yourself, visit City Cave Dural at <https://www.citycave.com.au/dural>, follow our socials or call 8418 9924 to learn more about how slowing down can help you sleep — and live — better.



# Mark Hodges MP

## Member for Castle Hill

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Authorised by Mark Hodges MP. Funded using parliamentary entitlements.



## ADVERTORIAL

# Ear Man Dan's New Video Breaks Down the "Miracle Technology" of the Human Ear

In a new educational video on the YouTube channel *Ear Man Dan*, audiologist and clinic director Daniel—founder of Ear Studio in Castle Hill, north-west Sydney—invites viewers across Australia to take a closer look at the ear and why it deserves “the utmost respect” in both assessment and everyday care. His message is simple: the ear may seem small and ordinary, but its role in human life is enormous, and its design is nothing short of remarkable. Framing the ear as “human biology” and even “technology,” Daniel aims to make hearing science understandable without stripping away its importance.

A key point in the video is a distinction many people overlook: *hearing* is not the same as *understanding*. Daniel explains that, in everyday conversation, the terms are often used interchangeably, but they represent two different processes. Hearing is the sensory conversion of sound waves into electrical signals, while understanding is the brain's

interpretation of those signals into meaningful information. By separating the two, he sets up a clearer way for viewers to think about why someone might “hear” sounds yet still struggle to follow speech—particularly in noisy environments.

Daniel outlines what he describes as a five-step pathway involved in hearing and understanding. The first three steps relate to hearing itself: the outer ear, middle ear, and inner ear (the inner ear being housed deep within the skull bone). The final two steps move beyond the ear: the hearing nerve, which carries signals onward, and central processing in the brain, where understanding occurs. In this particular episode, he focuses primarily on the sensory side—how sound is collected and transformed into an electrical impulse.

The video then zooms in on the outer ear, which Daniel initially describes in simplified terms as a funnel: it collects sound waves and guides them into the ear canal. But, he stresses, that is only part of the story. The outer ear also plays a crucial role in sound localisation—the brain's ability to determine where a sound

is coming from. He highlights two mechanisms that help with this.

First is a “barrier” or *shadowing* effect. Sounds arriving from behind the ear lose some high-frequency detail because high-frequency sound does not bend around the outer ear as easily. Second is the way sound can enter the ear canal not only directly from the front, but also after reflecting around the bowl-shaped concha of the outer ear. This reflection creates subtle patterns that help the brain determine sound direction, supporting localisation in both horizontal and vertical space.

The takeaway is that even the “simple” outer ear is a finely tuned structure supporting everyday communication and safety. By encouraging viewers to respect the ear's complexity, Ear Man Dan's video sets the tone for the channel: practical education grounded in anatomy, with the goal of helping Australians better understand their hearing and when to seek professional advice. To see more, scan the QR code and watch the full video.

**EAMAD** | EAR MAN DAN  
Expert Audiology, Explained Simply.

Watch the video here & subscribe!

YouTube

## Dural Bowling Club

Dural Bowling Club hosted the first club final of the new year on Saturday 14th February 2026 in overcast and showery conditions. The team of Pat Bugden, Mark Tremain and Kishore Rampersad and the team of Glen Davey, Brian Stevens and Henri Chan competed in the final. The team of Pat Bugden, Mark Tremain and Kishore Rampersad were the winners.

### Pennants Metro North West Region

Preparations have been underway for a number of weeks for the 2026 Open Pennants season commencing on February 14th. The Dural team had a Bye for the opening game.

Coaching and skills development sessions took place on Friday afternoons with a number of prospective Pennant bowlers in attendance. The bowlers took the opportunities in these sessions to develop skills that would help them in inter-club competition.

A Pennant Trial match against the Rosehill Bowling Club side took place on Saturday, 7th February. Dural and Rosehill Pennant Managers have decided to make this an annual event, and both sides are looking forward to this arrangement benefitting both sides.

Anyone interested in playing bowls please contact Robert on 0411 375 580.

## West Pennant Hills Sports Club Bowls Club

West Pennant Hills Sports Club Bowls are looking for new members who are interested in learning/playing lawn bowls. It doesn't matter if you are aged 8 or 80, everyone is welcome no matter what your ability. The club is situated at the West Pennant Hills Sports Club, 103 New Line Road, West Pennant Hills, and have two greens, one currently being fully renovated and expected to be available for play later this month. The other green will also be fully renovated once the current renovations are completed.

We offer both social bowls and competition bowls to players from beginners to those who have many years experience. If you haven't played before, don't worry, we have accredited coaches that can assist you.

Social Bowls are on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays and commence at 10:30am during daylight saving months and 12:30pm for the other months. Our greens are also available for free "Barefoot Bowls" from Thursdays to Sundays, from 4pm for club members.

We have various social activities during the year (Christmas party, Presentation Evening, BBQs etc). One of our highlights is the annual Travelling Bowlers trip away. These trips occur annually, in October, to various locations for around 10 days. This year's destination is Wagga. Previous destinations range from Cairns, Norfolk Island to Tasmania and various towns in regional New South Wales. These trips include staying at the one location and playing 3 games against local clubs as well as many sightseeing activities.

If you are interested in playing lawn bowls in a friendly atmosphere contact President Lyn Van Wyk on 0417 752 997 for more details.

## Eels Bring the Energy to Pacific Hills During NRL Blitz



Pacific Hills Christian School was buzzing with excitement last week as the Parramatta Eels stopped by as part of the NRL Blitz initiative. School Sports Captains, along with students from New Hope Christian School, were treated to an engaging and memorable morning.

Players Charlie Guymer and Isaiah Longi spoke genuinely about the importance of both physical and mental well-being, offering students a valuable glimpse into the life of a professional athlete. Their humour and encouragement inspired many young listeners.

The visit quickly shifted from conversation to action as students joined the players for hands-on drills, footy passes, and even a few spirited rounds of scissors-paper-rock. Laughter, teamwork, and muddy boots marked the afternoon in a true celebration of sport and community.

We extend our warm thanks to the Eels for investing in our students and sharing their time, wisdom, and enthusiasm.

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# Small School Community, Big Opportunity: Class of 2025 Shines at Galston High



The HSC offers a snapshot of academic achievement — but at Galston High School, it tells only part of the story. The Class of 2025 has not only achieved outstanding results, but has grown into confident, creative and community-minded young adults.

Across six years, these students embodied our core values of Respect, Responsibility and Personal Best — in the classroom, through leadership, in the arts, and in service to others. They built lasting friendships, embraced critical thinking, and developed the character to shape the future with confidence.

The results reflect this commitment to excellence:

- 97% of university applicants secured early entry offers before sitting their HSC exams.
- Six students achieved NSW Distinguished Achiever Awards (90%+).



- Ten subjects performed above the state average.
- 90% of subjects achieved results in the Top Two Bands.
- 84% of students achieved in the Top Three Bands.
- Six students were nominated for HSC showcases, including Drama and Science Extension (representing 100% of that class).

These achievements highlight the strength of our diverse curriculum, the dedication of our exceptional teaching staff, and the unwavering support of families.

At Galston High School, our small school community truly provides big opportunities.

We congratulate the Class of 2025 and look forward to seeing the remarkable contributions they will make beyond our gates.

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## Clr Mitchell Blue

THE HILLS SHIRE COUNCIL

Readers may recall my previous articles about the Hawkesbury River, where I highlighted the shared responsibility we all have in keeping this vital waterway healthy.

Over the past few years, I've had the privilege of attending meetings of the long-established Upper Hawkesbury River Users Group—a passionate collective of ski parks, power boat clubs, commercial fishers, maritime agencies, local councils and other community stakeholders. What unites them is a genuine commitment to the wellbeing of our river. This group consistently raises concerns about the river's health and strongly advocates for greater understanding and action.

At our Council meeting on 12th August, a Mayoral Minute was put forward calling for a more unified approach to managing the river. The aim is to ensure that real measures and an effective governance model are established—not just words, but action. This includes clearer responsibilities, stronger coordination, and building on the good work already underway through initiatives like the Hawkesbury-Nepean Coastal Management Program.

While the Coastal Management Program that The Hills Shire Council is part of, alongside five neighbouring councils is an important start, much more is needed. The conversation has begun locally, and we are now taking it to the state level. The cumulative impact of development in the catchment can no longer be ignored. If we fail to address these issues, the consequences for the river, its ecosystem, those who use it and those who depend on it, will be significant.

To better understand the issues affecting the river, I was recently invited by local fisherman Gary Howard to spend a day on his prawn trawler. We launched before dawn from Lower Portland and travelled as the sun rose. I was shocked by how much exotic weed was pulled up—a clear sign of the damage being done, alongside many other contributing factors. I learned a great deal about the fishing industry, its sustainability practices, and how fishers like Gary are working hard to raise awareness of current concerns. He explained the prawn lifecycle, the nutrients they rely on, and possible reasons why prawns in the river aren't reaching their usual size. I can positively report one thing: the prawns were delicious.



Navigating the river was challenging in parts. At one location, low tide revealed water barely more than two feet deep due to significant sand build-up—yet another issue that needs attention. It was also fascinating to learn how the river behaves during dry periods and how flooding reshapes the riverbed, how upstream treated water inputs alters water quality, and the impacts of where salt and freshwater meet.

Spending the day with Gary was an invaluable experience that highlighted not only his passion for the river, but the passion shared by so many others who rely on and care for it. Together, we must continue working constructively to achieve better management outcomes for this vital waterway. We've made an important start at a local level, and our advocacy will continue. This will not be the last time you hear me speak about the Hawkesbury River and the important responsibility we all share in protecting it.

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## The Local Company Success

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water blasters are being sold all over the world because of their quality and performance", said Aussie Pumps Chief Engineer, John Hales.

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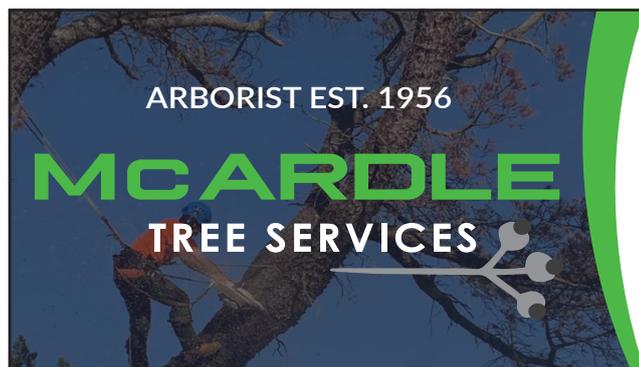
"That a small operation on a 3.5-acre site could develop better products than those built in Europe or the US is surprising even to us", said John Hales.



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**James Wallace**  
HORNSBY MP

## Supporting Those Who Protect Our Wildlife

One of the great privileges of representing Hornsby Shire is meeting people who quietly make an extraordinary difference in our community. Ben Dessen, Co-Founder and Director of Hills Wildlife Sanctuary, is one of those people.

Hills Wildlife Sanctuary has been operating in our region for nearly 50 years, rescuing and rehabilitating thousands of native animals, from possums and birds to kangaroos and other local wildlife, and helping many return safely to their natural habitats. This work relies on skilled volunteers, community donations, and crucial funding to keep operations running smoothly.

I was pleased to support the recent \$9 million government funding boost for the NSW wildlife rescue sector, which recognises the vital work of organisations like Hills Wildlife Sanctuary. While funding and grants is in its process, continued support, whether through corporate partnerships, philanthropic donations, or community grants, is essential to allow the sanctuary to expand its services and build for the future.

The sanctuary has two key priorities. The first is a portable wildlife hospital, which can be set up on-site during emergencies or in high-need areas to provide immediate treatment and rehabilitation. The need for this was made clear during the



**James Wallace MP and Mayor Warren Waddell during their recent visit to support the Hills Wildlife Sanctuary.**

Black Summer bushfires, when rescue teams were stretched to their limits.

The second priority is a permanent, purpose-built wildlife hospital, which will expand treatment capacity, improve rehabilitation spaces, and provide better resources for volunteers and veterinary staff. These developments are crucial as the sanctuary approaches its 50th year of operation.

Hornsby Shire is fortunate to be home to extensive bushland, waterways, and semi-rural areas that support over 660 native animal species and more than 1,200 native plants. This biodiversity is something our community can take pride in, but it also comes with responsibility.

If you happen to come across an injured native animal in need of assistance, please ensure the animal is kept in a quiet, dark place away from pets and children and call Sydney Wildlife Rescue (9413 4300) or WIRES (1300 094 737).

Ben Dessen and the team at Hills Wildlife Sanctuary embody the very best of Hornsby Shire, showing dedication, compassion, and a commitment to protecting our native wildlife. Supporting their work through corporate, government, or philanthropic funding is essential to keep these life-saving programs running and thriving.

**If you would like to donate or find out other ways to support the organisation, please contact Ben Dessen at [ben@hillswildlifesanctuary.org](mailto:ben@hillswildlifesanctuary.org) or [www.hillswildlifesanctuary.org](http://www.hillswildlifesanctuary.org)**



**Jane Seaglove**  
HORNSBY COUNCILLOR

Hello Residents,

The Galston Village Public Domain Plan (PDP) contract has been awarded and following community engagement and public exhibition of the draft plan, a range of traffic-calming measures and public domain enhancements have been approved. Aiming to retain Galston Village's distinctive semi-rural character while supporting future growth and increased visitation, the key elements include upgraded footpaths, improved pedestrian crossings, revised parking arrangements, new street tree planting, and enhanced public spaces. These improvements are designed to create a safer, more accessible and welcoming village centre for residents, visitors and local businesses, while preserving the unique ambience that defines Galston. Over the next few weeks, you will start to see the establishment of mobile site construction in the area.

It is anticipated the first phase of the construction works for the stormwater drainage upgrades will also commence very soon. The Stormwater Drainage Upgrades in Galston aim to improve drainage and lessen flooding in the area and will include doubling the capacity of the existing stormwater pipes between Gardiner Road and creek outlet off Glen Street. It is also necessary to upgrade and formalise existing secondary overland flow paths as part of the works. The proposed works also include the installation of a Gross Pollutant Trap at No.29 Glen Street (Council owned property). This will help to improve the ecological health of downstream watercourses by improving water quality through the removal of pollutants including litter and sediments. Due to the high construction cost, the construction works may need to be conducted in stages over the next two to three years. Directly affected residents will continue to be consulted directly during the continued design and construction phase.

Alongside planning for physical upgrades, we have the return of Food Truck Fridays. These free events are part of a broader series run by Council that brings food trucks, pop-up bars and live entertainment to locations throughout the shire. These evening events offer residents a chance to relax at the end of the week with a variety of international street food, drinks and music in a family-friendly atmosphere. The trucks will roll into Pennant Hills Library Car Park (5pm-8.30pm, 6th March), Galston Recreational Reserve (5pm-8.30pm, 13th March) and Berowra Oval (5pm-8.30pm, 20th March).





**Mark Hodges**  
MEMBER FOR CASTLE HILL

## A new year in State Parliament

Parliament returned from its recess in February, and it is good to be back, working for the people of Castle Hill and ensuring that the voices of our community are heard loud and clear in Macquarie Street.

In one of my first speech for the year, I spoke about the state of our electorate and the community campaigns my office has been running on your behalf. These campaigns are driven by the real concerns raised with me every day by families, commuters, parents, students and local community groups.

### Our Schools: not keeping up with Growth

The Hills is one of the fastest-growing regions in New South Wales. Thousands of new homes are approved or under construction — yet not a single new primary or secondary school has commenced construction in our electorate.

Parents rightly ask how this can be justified when schools are already over capacity.

While the Government points to the planned 22-classroom upgrade at Excelsior Public School, the reality is that this alone will not solve the problem. Castle Hill High School continues to rely on 51 demountables. Baulkham Hills North Public School is operating at nearly double its intended capacity. Families are feeling the strain now — and waiting until mid-year for construction to begin on a small expansion at one school simply isn't good enough.

Our community needs new schools — not just temporary fixes.

### Transport: dots still unconnected

Transport remains another major concern.

Nearly 2,500 residents have signed my petition calling for a direct bus route linking Cherrybrook Metro Station, West Pennant Hills, the Oakes Road interchange, North Rocks and the Carlingford light rail. It is a practical

east-west connection that would ease congestion and improve access to public transport for commuters, students and seniors.

Despite overwhelming support, the Government has stated it has no plans to introduce this service.

At the same time, congestion on Annangrove Road, Kenthurst Road and New Line Road continues to worsen. These are not minor local streets — they are key arterial corridors relied upon by thousands every day. More than 1,000 residents have signed my petition calling for urgent planning and upgrades to this critical infrastructure.

The message from our community is consistent: growth must be matched with proper infrastructure.



### Listening to You

To better understand local priorities, I conducted a community survey towards the end of last year. The feedback was remarkably consistent. Residents identified cost-of-living pressures, traffic congestion, inadequate public transport, overcrowded schools, access to healthcare and poor infrastructure planning as their top concerns.

People are not asking for special treatment — they are asking for responsible planning and timely delivery.

Last year, I was proud to support the Hills Shire Council petition, signed by more than 20,000 residents, calling for urgent infrastructure investment, particularly new schools. I worked closely with the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and councillors to ensure our community's voice was formally brought before Parliament.

Strong local representation means working together across all levels of government to advocate for our region.

I will keep bringing your petitions, your concerns and your stories into Parliament. I will continue pushing for new schools, better public transport and safer, more efficient roads. And I will continue holding the Government to account until the needs of our community are properly delivered.

As always, my office is here to assist you. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if there is an issue affecting you or your family.



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## Dr Michelle Byrne

MAYOR OF THE HILLS SHIRE

### Celebrate Seniors Festival with Us!

From 5th to 12th March, residents aged over 60 are invited to take part in a variety of activities that support wellbeing, spark connection, and promote active living. Our seniors bring energy, wisdom, and heart to The Hills – they are the backbone of our volunteering community, with 77% of Council volunteers aged over 60. Seniors Festival is a wonderful opportunity for us to say a huge ‘thank you’.

Seniors can chat directly with experts at the Seniors Expo, boost balance and mobility during a Tai Chi session, or roll up their sleeves at a hands-on environmental sustainability workshop. Those looking to relax and socialise can enjoy a brunch at Castle Hill RSL or sit back for a screening of *Elvis Presley in Concert* at Event Cinemas.

To find out more about each event, visit [www.thehills.nsw.gov.au](http://www.thehills.nsw.gov.au) and search ‘Seniors Festival 2026’.

### Road Projects Upgrade Cattai Ridge Road and Halcrows Road Upgrade

I’m pleased to share that road construction is now underway on the long-awaited upgrade of the Cattai Ridge Road and Halcrows Road intersection, with works expected to be completed by mid-2026. The project involves reconfiguring the centrelines of each road and creating a more perpendicular intersection, which will improve visibility and driver comfort.

### River Road Embankment and Drainage Restoration

Work has now started on River Road to repair the roadside embankment, with the project set to be completed by April 2026, weather and site conditions permitting. These upgrades will improve drainage, strengthen the embankment, and repair the road pavement, making travel safer and more reliable for everyone who uses this road.

To keep up to date on these projects, visit [www.thehills.nsw.gov.au](http://www.thehills.nsw.gov.au) and search for ‘Council Works & Projects Under Construction’.



## Julian Leeser

MEMBER FOR BEROWRA

### Recognising Berowra’s Australia Day Honours List Recipients

Each year, the Australia Day Honours List recognises those who have served their community, their profession, or their country with distinction. This year, the Berowra electorate is home to several outstanding local recipients.

**Jan Childs** was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for service to the community of Berowra. Her service reflects long-standing community work over many years. Through the Berowra Rotary Club, she helped lead the annual arts and crafts exhibition that celebrates local creativity and raises funds for good causes. She has also made significant contributions through guiding, including the Trefoil Guild and Girl Guides in Berowra.

**Tony Morgan** was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia, for service in insurance. Many in our area know Tony through the church communities in Hornsby. Professionally, his career has combined technical excellence, leadership and a commitment to training the next generation. He spent decades helping individuals and businesses recover after major loss. Within the Australian and New Zealand Institute of Insurance and Finance, he made an extraordinary contribution to professional standards and education, including the long-term development of the diploma of loss adjusting.

**Tom Parker** was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for his stewardship of one of Australia’s most iconic sporting venues. For 20 years, Tom was head curator at the Sydney Cricket Ground. Maintaining a venue of that significance requires judgement, deep knowledge and uncompromising standards—and that is what Tom has always provided.

The late **Stuart Pittendrigh** was recognised for service to horticulture and landscape architecture. He was a leader in his field for decades, respected for his contributions to professional standards and education, and for major public projects, including Barangaroo Reserve.

**Marilyn Chilvers** was awarded the Public Service Medal for outstanding public service to New South Wales in data research and analysis. Her career shows public service at its best: rigorous, evidence-based work to improve outcomes, strengthen evaluation, and inform better decisions in human services.

Finally, **RAAF Air Commodore Kaarin Kooij** received the CSC and Bar for outstanding devotion to duty as Director General of the Joint Transition Authority. Her work has focused on building a more responsive and integrated transition system for veterans and their families.

The service from these recipients have strengthened our community and our country.

If you know someone who should be recognised for their contributions, you can nominate them at <https://www.gg.gov.au/australian-honours-and-awards>



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

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

Please contact my office if I can be of assistance.

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

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

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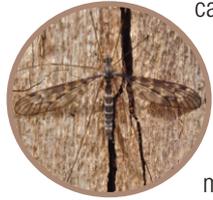


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## Insects

The variety of insects that can be found in a bushland environment is quite amazing. However, it does take a considerably sharp eye, coupled with much patience to be able to get close enough to many of them - the larger ones in particular.

Most visible insects do not stay very long in the same spot which makes it difficult to observe them closely. Even to get a clear photograph of an insect can be a challenge. Sudden movement can cause them to take to the air without warning.



Some of the really small ones become evident only after a photograph of a flower has been downloaded to a computer and that flower has been enlarged.

The small size of these creatures is amazing. So too can be their colouration which in some cases can match the colour in the flower.



Most are masters at disguising themselves to look like their surroundings. Some look like sticks (that move), while others with almost transparent wings are hard to discern when on a leaf or tree trunk.

Not all flying insects are pests as they do have a role to play in maintaining a balance in the environment. Some are a food source for both birds and reptiles whilst others are in the transition stage of their reproduction cycle.

In gravelly areas it is possible to come across a nest of red Bull Ants which may be around 20 to 25 mm in length. These ants have been observed launching themselves towards any source of disturbance at their nest site.

If you are an early morning bushwalker it may be advisable for you to keep a sharp eye out where the track may be narrow enough for bushland spiders to construct their web between closely growing trees and bushes.

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DOORAL ROUNDUP MARCH 2026

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# Bromeliad Society of Australia Inc

## Colours and Patterns in Bromeliads

The next meeting of the Bromeliad Society of Australia will be held in the Federation Pavilion, Castle Hill Showground, Castle Hill on Saturday, 21st March.



**Kerry McNicol**  
with examples  
of Bromeliads

Sales to the public are from 10am with the meeting commencing at 11.30am. Kerry McNicol, BSA's Deputy President will discuss colour and its variations in bromeliads.

The combinations of a huge variety of reds, greens yellows and blues, not to mention variegations and the patterns on the leaves is seemingly endless, especially in the Neoregelia Genus.

Bromeliads have developed inbuilt sun protection in the form of Anthocyanins, which combine in giving us the colouration in the leaves of Bromeliads.

Other bromeliads have tiny hairs or 'scurfing' forming patterns on both upper and lower leaf surfaces. Spots that look like windows through leaves, banding and concentric rings forming on leaves as they develop. The variety is endless.

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](mailto:ianhook1@bigpond.com) or refer to [www.bromeliad.org.au](http://www.bromeliad.org.au) for the latest updates.

# Dural and District Garden Club

We have come to a new year, 2026, how quickly are the years going.

Looking back at 2025, we enjoyed Guest Speakers, Elizabeth Swane, Judy Horton, Mark Massey and others talking about Garden trips, Nurseries and Garden tools to name some which were helpful to our members.

We also had interesting Garden rambles at members gardens with delicious morning teas.

Two meetings were held in the Galston SDA Church where light meals were provided. This will happen again in 2026.

We had a wonderful Christmas party in December and finished the year at a members home to view a display of a small alpine winter village with trains running through the village and enjoyed a lovely morning tea to finish the morning.

2026, again we have Guest speakers lined up to share their knowledge with us and members gardens for us to ramble through followed with morning tea.

Our club meets in the Middle Dural Fire Station, Middle Dural Road, Middle Dural on the first Wednesday night of the month at 7.30pm.

Please contact our Social Secretary, Dale Blakey, on Phone 0411 299 200 for more information.

You are very welcome to come and join us at our meetings, new members are most welcome.



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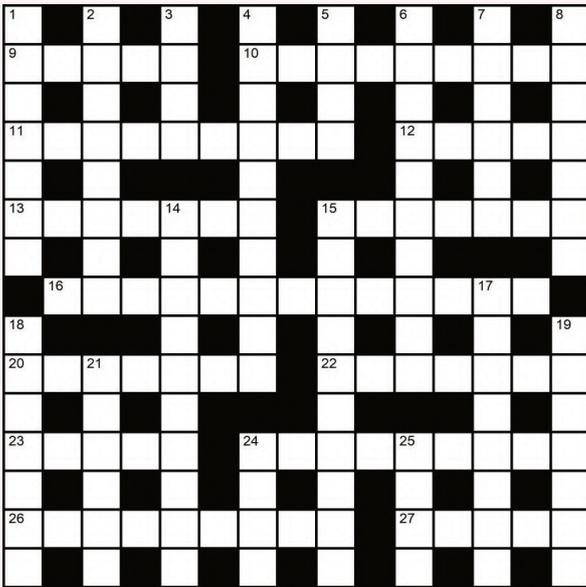
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# CROSSWORD PUZZLE



## Across

- 09 Fast (5)
- 10 Exaggerating (9)
- 11 Upset, Donna Rica is very unforgiving (9)
- 12 Basra native, perhaps (5)
- 13 Instruments of offence (7)
- 15 Some newspapers (7)
- 16 Supervised spot for the infirm (3-4,6)
- 20 Compel (7)
- 22 Sri Lankan capital (7)
- 23 Name (5)
- 24 Former Wallabies captain, who died young (4,5)
- 26 Dictate (9)
- 27 Metallic compound (5)

## Down

- 01 "The clock struck one, the mouse --- ..." (3,4)
- 02 Sydney beach suburb (8)
- 03 One on the streets (4)
- 04 Electric spit (10)
- 05 Bird's nest ---, which can be grown indoors (4)
- 06 Supplementary (10)
- 07 Former national field hockey captain Sandy --- (6)
- 08 Con (7)
- 14 Event (10)
- 15 Dubya's VP (4,6)
- 17 Transfers of furniture from one house to another (8)
- 18 Deep tar, stirred, causes delay (3,4)
- 19 Lunch feature, often (4,3)
- 21 Gyve (6)
- 24 Broad smile (4)
- 25 Double (4)

## Answer from February Issue



## accounts all sorted

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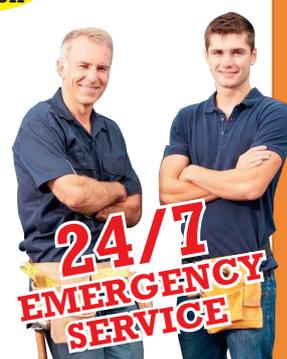
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