

DOORAL ROUNDUP



MAY 2026

Official Publication of the Dural Chamber of Commerce
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The Farmhouse That Broke the Rules



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Turn to page 2 for more information



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BowerBirds

When a local artist approached Turrell Building to renovate the family home, the brief was clear: "Go big or go home". This was never going to be a safe, neutral renovation. The homeowner knew her colour tones intimately and wanted them woven through every room. Bold blues. Pastel pinks. Burgundy that hits you the moment you open a cupboard door. It's a home full of personality, and the finished result is a masterclass in how colour and texture can coexist without competing.

The kitchen is the heart of it. Striking blue joinery anchors the space, tempered by handmade Moroccan Zellige tiles in rose pink that bring softness and texture to the splashback. Open the cabinetry with a dominant burgundy interior jumps out, elevating what's usually an afterthought into something luxurious. The rangehood disappears into the wall, letting the materials do the talking. A farmhouse sink and feature wall lighting sit alongside original colonial timber windows, reinforcing a modern country sensibility without forcing it.

Subtle curves on the island benchtop are echoed by fluted end panels that soften the transition into the living space. That fluted detail carries through to a long bench seat in the dining area, tying the two zones together.

Relocating the laundry opened up space for a rear scullery running along the back wall, tucking the fridge out of sight while keeping it accessible from the island. The laundry itself, occupying what was once a study, is anything but ordinary. A rejuvenated original Dutch door sits beside a farmhouse sink, and handmade Japanese finger tile mosaics line the splashback. The hero is the Calla Onyx Terrazzo flooring, a calming green natural terrazzo with white onyx that gives the room a richness most laundries never see.

Throughout the home, the original dark timber floors and dated 1980s tiles were replaced with White Smoked Oak engineered planks, 220mm wide with a wire-brushed finish that enhances a whitewashed, European feel. Natural light floods in, and the entire interior feels brighter and more open.

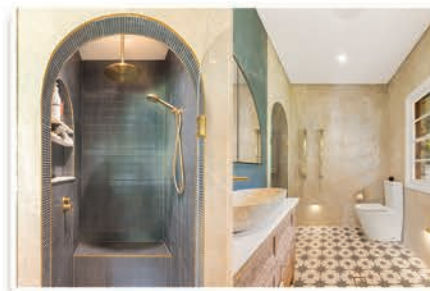
The fireplace was formed and poured on site in solid concrete, then encased in Moroccan mosaic tile whose colours integrate with the surrounding spaces. A single large-format porcelain tile was cut to form both the mantle top and hearth, and installed flush with the floorboards. Behind it, the bold blue reappears as V-jointed fireproof wall lining. Above, an original timber beam salvaged during construction was repurposed as a feature mantle shelf beneath a newly created arched TV recess.

Both bathrooms feature carved teak cabinets modified into decorative vanities. The ensuite is particularly striking, with an arched shower entry trimmed in brass and lined with individual finger tiles requiring four times the standard grout. Underfloor heating and heated towel rails run through every bathroom.

Interior designer Jess from Turrell Building, working closely with the client, brought together elements that might seem unlikely on their own. But that's the point. Colour treated with conviction evokes emotion. It tells a story.

That is the purpose of design.

For more images of Bowerbirds and other inspiring projects, visit www.turrell.com.au



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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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SENIORS DISCOUNT



ANZAC Day Service at ANZAC Jawan Cenotaph Unites Community

by Anand Manickam JP,
Vice President, Hindu Council (NSW)



The Australia India Cenotaph Committee (AICC), a Hindu Council of Australia project, hosted a moving ANZAC Day Service at the ANZAC Jawan Cenotaph in Cherrybrook. Commemorating the 111th anniversary of the Gallipoli landing, the event was delivered in partnership with the Hornsby RSL Sub-Branch to honor the shared sacrifices of Australian and Indian soldiers.



Mr. Sai Paravastu, National President of the Hindu Council of Australia, opened the service by highlighting the cenotaph's significance to Australia-India military heritage. Mr. Anand Manickam, Vice President of the AICC, served as Master of Ceremonies, ensuring a dignified program.

The ceremony featured federal, state, and local representatives, multicultural community leaders, and the Australian Army Cadets – 202 Unit, led by CAPT (AAC) Natalie Jackson,

who mounted the Catafalque Party. Distinguished speakers included Julian Leeser MP, Dr. Nirav Kumar (Deputy Consul General of India), Capt. Smriti Murali Krishna (ADF Chaplain), and Murray Norman (CEO of Faith NSW).

Supported by the Hornsby Shire Council, Cherrybrook Technology High School, and the IABBV Hindi School, the service included interfaith prayers, hymns, and a Wreath Laying Ceremony. The Ode of Remembrance, Last Post, and the national anthems of Australia and India concluded the event.

The ANZAC Jawan Cenotaph in Cherrybrook is recognised as a NSW memorial dedicated specifically to ANZAC soldiers of Indian heritage, and the cenotaph continues to stand as a powerful symbol of shared history, friendship, and remembrance.

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KNIFE SEIZED

Hills Police detected and seized a knife carried by a teenage boy on the afternoon of April 1st, 2026.

This is in part of the police's knife-scanning operation at Castle Hill Metro under the state's new knife-detection laws.

A senior officer has declared Castle Hill Metro a designated area, allowing police to use handheld metal-detecting wands to scan people for knives and other weapons. These powers aim to deter knife-related crime and keep the community safe.

Police say refusing a scan without a reasonable excuse can result in a \$5,500 fine, and carrying a knife in public without lawful reason carries penalties of up to \$11,000 or four years imprisonment.

PURSUIT

Police arrested a 23-year-old woman following a serious incident in Castle Hill on Saturday, 28th March 2026.

Around 10:15 AM, officers attended a domestic-related incident at a Baulkham Hills address. Shortly after, the woman left in a vehicle and failed to stop for police.

A pursuit through Baulkham Hills and Castle Hill followed, with police alleging the driver travelled at excessive speeds and drove recklessly. POLAIR was deployed, and road spikes were used to stop the vehicle.

She was arrested in Castle Hill and taken to Castle Hill Police Station. Testing allegedly returned negative for alcohol but positive for cannabis and cocaine.

The woman was issued a Court Attendance Notice and charged with multiple offences, including police pursuit, driving while suspended, reckless driving, and assault, including assaulting police.

DRINK DRIVING

At about 11.25 am on 8th April, officers were conducting stationary random breath testing on Annangrove Road near Annangrove Public School when a grey Ford Ranger was directed into the site.

Police alleged the female driver showed signs of alcohol consumption and admitted to drinking. She returned a positive roadside breath test and was arrested before being taken to Castle Hill Police Station for further testing.

A subsequent breath analysis allegedly returned a reading of 0.088, placing her in the mid-range PCA category. Police were told she had consumed alcohol overnight and had not eaten.

Her licence was suspended and she was issued a Court Attendance Notice to appear at Parramatta Local Court in May.

WORKPLACE INCIDENT

A man died following a workplace incident on Monday, 20th April 2026.

At about 11.30 am, emergency services were called to a home on Valencia Street, Dural, after reports of a workplace incident.

NSW Ambulance paramedics treated a 49-year-old man at the scene, however he could not be revived and died at the property.

Police attached to The Hills Police Area Command have been advised the man was delivering glass panes to the premises when several sheets allegedly collapsed onto him.

A crime scene was established and SafeWork NSW has been notified. A report will be prepared for the Coroner.

Anyone with information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or via <https://nsw.crimestoppers.com.au>.

Information is handled confidentially. The public is reminded not to report information through NSW Police social media pages.



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MARKETPLACE THEFT

Police are investigating a theft at Cherrybrook Village Shopping Centre after a man allegedly stole a gold wedding band during a pre-arranged meeting.

Between 3.30 pm and 3.50 pm on Sunday, 12th April, a person met with a prospective buyer in the centre's car park after responding to an online advertisement for the ring, valued at about \$1,000.

During the meeting, the alleged offender asked to inspect the ring before suddenly taking it and running across the car park towards a nearby road.

No injuries were reported.

Police have obtained CCTV from the area and are continuing inquiries. Investigators are urging anyone who was in the area at the time to review any available footage, including CCTV or dashcam vision from the shopping centre car parks, nearby driveways, access roads, and surrounding entrances.

Anyone with information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers.

HORNSBY, KU-RING-GAI VOLLIES RECOGNISED

In late-May, more than 40 NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) volunteers from across the Hornsby/Ku-ring-gai District were honoured at a medal presentation ceremony at the district's Fire Control Centre in Cowan.

RFS Deputy Commissioner Peter McKechnie AFSM, along with other invited guests, presented 12 National Medals and Clasps, along with 31 Long Service Medals and Clasps.

Together, the awards recognised nearly 900 years of combined service protecting lives and property across Sydney's north and beyond.

Deputy Commissioner McKechnie said the ceremony highlights the remarkable dedication of volunteers who have committed decades to supporting their communities.

"These medals represent an exceptional level of service. Behind each one is a volunteer who has stepped up during fires, storms and other emergencies to protect their community," he said.

"Many of those being recognised have also assisted in major incidents across NSW, supporting communities during significant fire seasons and natural disasters."

Three volunteers were acknowledged for more than 30 years of service. Mark Rodick from Berowra Brigade received the National Medal 1st Clasp, while Keith Koomen from Dural Brigade and Anthony Bouquet from Hornsby Brigade were each awarded the 30-year Long Service Medal 2nd Clasp.

Deputy Commissioner McKechnie congratulated all recipients and acknowledged the critical role volunteers play across the district.

"The Hornsby/Ku-ring-gai District spans bushland, waterways and urban interface areas, with volunteers responding to hundreds of incidents each year," he said.

"Their experience, training and commitment help ensure communities are prepared for bush fires, storms and other emergencies.

"I also recognise the families, employers and friends who support our volunteers. Their support makes this level of service possible."

FOURTH MAN CHARGED ON BAGHSARIAN'S MURDER

Robbery & Serious Crime Squad detectives investigating the alleged kidnapping and murder of 85-year-old Chris Baghsarian charged a fourth man.

Police were first alerted just after 5am on Friday, 13th February 2026, following reports an elderly man had been taken from his home in North Ryde.

Officers from Ryde Police Area Command attended the scene before State Crime Command's Robbery & Serious Crime Squad launched a coordinated investigation under Strike Force Chabot.

Early inquiries indicate Mr Baghsarian was not the intended target and was taken in a case of mistaken identity.

His remains were found about 8am on Tuesday 24th February 2026 near a golf club in Pitt Town.

Three people have already been charged and remain before the courts.

About 9.25 am on Tuesday, 21st April 2026, detectives arrested a 19-year-old man at Mt Druitt Police Station. He was charged with murder and detain in company with intent to ransom causing actual bodily harm.

He was refused bail and appeared in Mt Druitt Local Court on Wednesday 22nd April 2026.

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



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Member for Hornsby

James can help you by

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- Recognising Community Achievements



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Authorised by James Wallace MP. Funded using parliamentary entitlements.

Cherrybrook Probus Ponderings – a New Master or Master Chef?

Recently The Combined Probus Club of Cherrybrook celebrated its Changeover Lunch inducting President Steve and his new Management Committee. Attendance was wonderful with 100 members sharing the occasion and eagerly anticipating the coming 12 months. Due to Steve's interest in cooking he was dubbed Chief Chef with resounding cries of 'Yes Chef' heralding in a good year.



Our first meeting welcomed an outstanding guest speaker Chris who spoke with authority and clarity on the unfolding situations in Ukraine and the Middle East to an enthralled audience.

Special monthly events were a Coach Trip with lunch to Warragamba Dam, a walk from Kellyville to Rouse Hill followed by another lovely lunch, our Happy Hour in Cherrybrook, an 'Opal' train trip to Kiama and theatre outings to 'Cleudo' and 'The Graduate'.

Upcoming events include Ten Pin Bowling, visiting The Penrith Printing Museum, The Lion King and the Quarantine Station at Manly.

All regular activities including golf, bowls, craft group, book club, games and money matters continue with strong support.

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

Combined Probus Club of Kenthurst

At its April meeting Kenthurst Probus Club returned to its usual format with a Guest Speaker:

on this occasion members were addressed by Lindsay May, from the Sydney Maritime Museum, who spoke about the Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race. Lindsay has had a vast experience of competing as a crew member in the race over many years including crewing as the navigator. As he explained, navigating is not just a matter of pointing the vessel in a Southerly direction and hoping for a fair wind: these days navigators make use of modern technology to plot a course, taking advantage of ocean currents, wind patterns and tides. His talk was well received by Members and Visitors present.



The Club has a program of events in the foreseeable future: from an outing for Putt Putt Golf, a bus and ferry excursion to Cockatoo Island, theatre parties, and an expedition to the ANSTO facility at Lucas Heights.

Meetings are held in the Uniting Church Building on the corner of Jones Road and Kenthurst Road at 9.30 AM on the third Monday of each month: visitors are always welcome. Enquiries can be made to Rosalie Chaloner at 041 911 917.



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L-R: Lara van der Wall, Charles Mouyat with Julian Leeser cutting the ribbon.



Hornsby Mayor Warren Waddell giving a toast to Studio Nero.



L-R: Julian Leeser, Charles Mouyat, Warren Kirby and James Wallace.



Guests arrive for the grand opening of Studio Nero.



Hilarious speech by MC comedian Vince Sorrenti.



Entertainment by musicians Zane Banks (left), and Ian Moss of Cold Chisel.



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NEW Cyclorama Studio + Art Gallery NOW OPEN IN DURAL

Breathtaking professional studio in Dural

When young Charles Mouyat was growing up in Dural, he never dreamed his parents' beloved family home would one day become his own legacy to cherish and enhance. Together with his graphic designer wife Lara van der Wall, Charles has built a breathtaking professional studio on their Dural property.

At the peak of a design career that includes illustration, graphic design, photography and videography, Charles turned his creativity to fine art and mastering portrait painting. All of these disciplines enjoy a harmonious interplay in Studio Nero's brand new Cyclorama Studio + Art Gallery.

Motosphere°

The beating heart of Studio Nero is Motosphere°, a 13 x 7 x 3 metre bespoke cyclorama with integrated vehicle turntable. Charles' professional specialty is producing premium motor vehicle imagery, and this facility was literally designed from the ground up to produce knockout portraits and video of prestige vehicles.

A fully enclosed space designed to bounce light back at the subject, Motosphere° is one of only two commercial studios with built-in turntable available for hire in Australia (the other is in Melbourne). This facility is singular because the true 360° envelope eliminates unwanted reflections from every angle, including the rear, providing photographers with shooting flexibility that is simply unmatched.

Follow Motosphere° on Instagram
[@motosphere_dural](#)



True 360° envelope eliminates unwanted reflections from every angle

If you'd love a set of breathtaking portraits of your special ride, Studio Nero offers packages for photography and video. Come for a club day with friends, or arrive solo for extra special treatment. There's loads of off-street parking. Studio Nero is also available for photographers and videographers to hire by the day, or half-day. And it's not all about motor vehicles — Studio Nero is available for portraiture, product, music videos and fashion shoots.

Learn more at www.studionero.com.au, or phone for a chat! Inspections of the studio are welcome by appointment on 0407 110077.

During a busy day of photography, you'll need fuel for your crew. Studio Nero recommends the popular Benzin Cafe in Dural as their catering partner. Order your catering at benzincafe.com.au and have it delivered for shoot day.

Art Gallery

The new Studio Nero also features a bright gallery to display fine art. Having been hung twice in the Archibald Prize, Charles is currently building up a body of work for a solo exhibition. Studio Nero's boutique gallery is an intimate public exhibition space for works in progress.

Future artistic plans include hosting life-drawing groups in the cyclorama, and plein-air sessions in the gorgeous garden surrounds. Artists, stay tuned!

It's said that "If you love what you do, you'll never work a day in your life." For Charles and Lara, every day at Studio Nero is an adventure in creativity and beauty.

Open Days at Studio Nero

As a part of our introductory celebrations, Studio Nero is hosting Open Days



Charles' Archibald finalist portrait of Australian quantum physicist, Michelle Simmons.

for those curious to inspect the exceptional new facility!

Drop by on Saturday 9 May or Sunday 17 May, between 10am and 3pm. Charles and Lara will be delighted to welcome you and give you a tour. There's plenty of parking, so drive right in.

Please note: Studio Nero is a precision facility with highly technical installations and original works of art. There is no safe area for children so please ensure children and pets are kept under strict supervision.

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+ Art Gallery**

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Glenhaven Probus



Are you retired and now possibly bored or lonely? Are you semi retired and planning what you will do when you are completely retired? If so, Glenhaven Probus has the answer for you.

We are fun group and yes, we do go out to eat often but it is range of activities we provide that you would enjoy.

We offer darts, golf, movie/theatre visits, croquet, Leisure walking cards, craft, photography, book club, garden club and other social activities that may interest you. Our aim is always for everyone to have fun, build friendships and keep active in both brain and body.

Our meetings provide Member speaker talks and outside speakers who cover a range of interesting talks.

There are regular outings, and trips. We're off to Sth Australia in May, Jazz picnic at Government House. OPAL cards are used regularly for visits to interesting places in the city and further afield. Bus day tours are popular. Come long and try us out.

Contact Robyn our secretary by email or just turn up at a meeting on the second Tuesday of the month at Castle hill Bowling Club at 10.30am secretary.glenhaven.probus@gmail.com

Round Corner Dural Probus Club

Come join the Round Corner Dural Probus Club and connect with new people to make your retirement truly enjoyable!

We get together every second Monday at 9:30 am at the Galston Club.

At our last meeting, as it was our AGM, we didn't invite a guest speaker, so after our usual reports, our regular joke master kept us laughing with some light-hearted and funny stories. After a break for morning tea, we held our AGM and elected the committee for the year ahead. Since we wrapped up the formalities early, we split into groups for a fun and challenging game of trivia.

Recently, for our planned activities, our members travelled to the Hawkesbury area. We had time to wander through Windsor's historic streets before meeting for lunch at the Church Bar. The Hawkesbury is always a hit, offering delicious food and beautiful scenery.

A week later, we relaxed outdoors with a picnic at Turkeys Nest Reserve in Beaumont Hills. The lovely spot has picnic shelters, walking paths, and a viewing platform overlooking the duck pond.

We're excited to welcome new members and visitors. If you have any questions, please contact us via email at rcdprobus@gmail.com or give Lei a call at 0412 585 741.



New committee for Coonara Cherrybrook Probus Club

The club elected Leonie Lawson as President at our recent Annual General Meeting.

We are an active club and welcome new members. For membership enquiries, please contact Sue by email at ccprobus2@gmail.com



ADVERTORIAL

For Everything She Gives, Give Mum A Moment to Herself

May is a time when many families pause to celebrate the mothers, grandmothers and special women who give so much to those around them. While flowers, chocolates and lunch outings are always appreciated, many mums would quietly tell you that what they truly need is something far more valuable - a moment to herself.

Modern motherhood often comes with an invisible load. Beyond the daily tasks are the things many people don't always see: the planning, remembering, organising, caring and emotional support that keeps family life moving. It is rewarding work, but it can also be exhausting.

At City Cave Float & Wellness Centre, we often meet women who are carrying a great deal while placing their own wellbeing at the bottom of the list. They are used to putting everyone else first. Over time, that constant giving can lead to physical tension, mental fatigue and difficulty switching off.

That is why experiences centred around rest and recovery are becoming such meaningful gifts.

Float therapy offers a rare opportunity to completely step away from noise, screens and constant demands. In a private open float pool filled with warm, magnesium-rich water, the body is fully supported in a weightless environment. Muscles can relax, the mind can slow down and many guests describe the experience as the closest thing to pressing reset.

For mums who hold stress in the body, massage can also be a powerful way to unwind. Tight shoulders, aching backs and general fatigue often begin to soften when someone else is taking care of them for a change.

Some guests choose a float, others choose massage or sauna, and many love combining experiences for the ultimate wellness escape. The beauty of gifting wellbeing is that it can be tailored to what mum needs most.

Most mothers do not ask for much. They simply keep showing up, day after day, for the people they love. Sometimes the most thoughtful gift is not another item to unwrap, but a moment to breathe, recharge and feel cared for.

This May, consider giving mum something she will truly feel.

To learn more or purchase a gift card, visit City Cave Float & Wellness Centre at Dural and discover why a moment to herself may be the most meaningful gift of all. www.citycave.com.au/dural

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Land for Wildlife

Earlier this year most of us would remember the heat and humidity of those summer days and how we escaped by either staying indoors, enjoying a cool drink or the cool breeze from a fan or air-conditioner. However our feathered and furry bush friends had to simply "duck for cover,!"

The Hills Shire Council put out a timely reminder for residents who lived and worked in suburbia to think of our wildlife and shared Macquarie University's initiative known as Habitat Stepping Stones. (www.habitatsteppingstones.org.au). This project encourages people to add items to their backyards, suitable workplace areas or balconies if living in an apartment to consider providing food such as native plants e.g. grevillea and banksias, shelter in the form of rock stacks or nestboxes and water such as potplant saucers at ground level for lizards and small birds or a birdbath, not just for summer but throughout the year.

For people living with more than ½ a hectare where there is native bush still

present and who want to maintain it themselves for habitat, there is the Land for Wildlife program which operates throughout The Hills Shire and into neighbouring LGAs. Already many landholders have got on board and recently one was successful in obtaining a grant from the program to undertake work on their property.

Across NSW it is coordinated by the Community Environment Network where the aims are to encourage landholders to care for their native bushland using environmentally sustainable methods. In this way habitat connectivity for wildlife is maintained across the landscape whether that be land or along the riparian zones of creeks, dams, swamps, lagoons and rivers.

Registration is free and the title of the property is not affected. Benefits include the opportunity to meet other landholders also involved in the program, attend workshops,



receive updates via fact sheets and newsletters and a Land for Wildlife sign which can be attached to the front fence or gate thus encouraging others to consider joining.

Landholders also receive a free environmental property assessment by qualified personnel who can provide advice on issues such as weed management, native/exotic plant identification, local wildlife,

including feral species and management of same.

If this appeals to you, then access the following website and complete an Expression of Interest. (www.cen.org.au)

Your details will then be forwarded to Cattai Hills Environment Network (CHEN) who is the Regional Provider in The Hills Shire. Further enquiries contact Ricki at cattaihillsenviro@gmail.com or 0432 716 577.

Croquet Players from the Hills and Hawkesbury Districts Shine at Cheltenham Recreation Club

The Cheltenham Recreation Club situated at 60-74 The Crescent, Cheltenham has the only croquet lawns close to the Hills & Hawkesbury districts and members of the club that reside in the Hills & Hawkesbury are winners.

Susan Parry from Glenorie won the Division 3 Championship with Deb Lawton from West Pennant Hills Runner Up. Deb's husband Rob Lawton did well as Runner Up in both the Handicap Singles and the Fay Rampling Comp and won the Doreen Dyce Good Member Award. Deb and Rob are both ex-golfers as is Sue Plaister from Pennant Hills who won the Bronze Award for Most Improved Newcomer. Bruce Kelshaw from the Gables was the winner of the Fay Rampling.

David Capple of Dural was the winner with our President Janelle Wood in the Select Your Own Partner and Warren Whyte of Castle with Ann Woods won the John Goodman Shield.

Croquet is a great game for the mind and the body and we find we are attracting a lot of ex-golfers who adapt very well to the game.

We have morning and afternoon social games and as you can see lots of competitions if you like a challenge. We also have Mollys Pavillion Cafe where you can enjoy coffee, breakfast and lunch and the only Real Tennis Court in NSW and Tennis.

Visit our website www.thecheltenhamclub.com.au

COUNCIL NEWS

Show The Hills through Your Lens to Win

Entries to the 2027 Waste and Recycling Calendar Competition are now open.

This is a wonderful opportunity for both aspiring and experienced photographers to capture the landscapes and unique characteristics that make our community so special.

Thirteen images will be selected, including a standout front cover winner who will receive a \$100 Coles/Myer gift card. Each monthly winner will receive a \$50 voucher.

Entries close on 30th June 2026. Images must be taken within the past two years, within the Shire, and must not include people or faces.

To enter, visit www.thehills.nsw.gov.au and search for 'Waste Calendar Photo Competition'.

Year One Reading Club

Do you know a child in Year One at school this year? The Year One Reading Club is a fun and rewarding way to help kids build a love of reading, with logbooks, stickers for every visit, and prizes along the way.

Sign up today at Dural Library or any Hills Shire Library branch.



HILLVIEW

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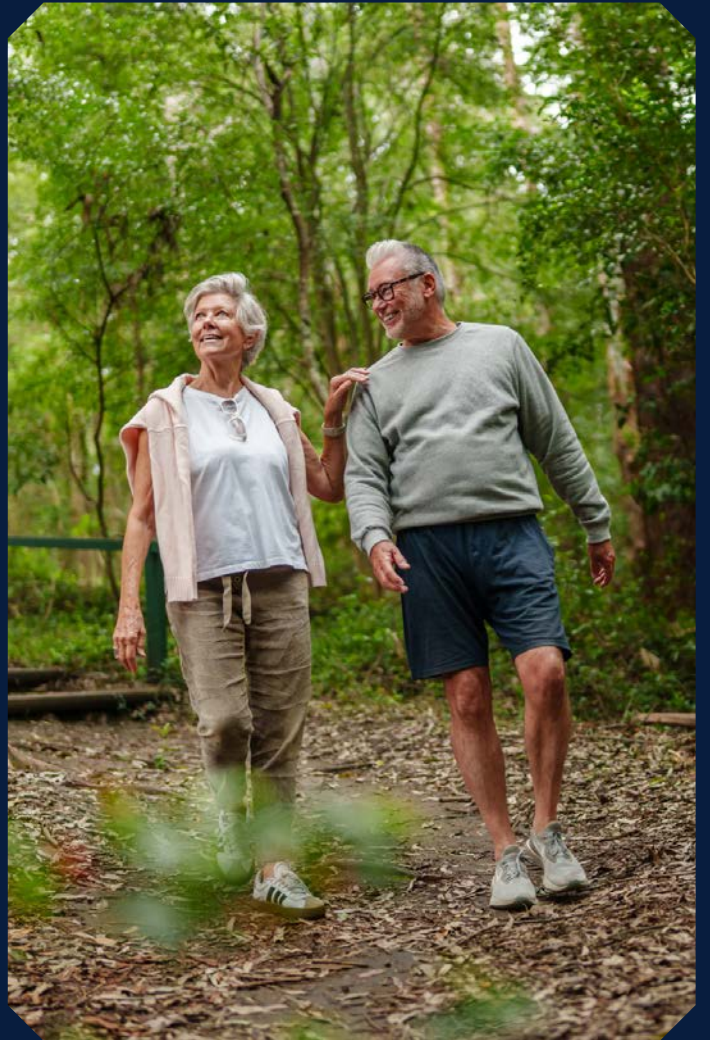
Welcome to Hillview, an exclusive residential community of 36 free-standing homes, perfectly positioned in the leafy heart of West Pennant Hills. Designed to support a relaxed lifestyle, Hillview offers a peaceful sense of retreat while keeping you effortlessly connected.

Enjoy easy access to Castle Hill and Cherrybrook Metro stations and Castle Towers Shopping Centre, home to an excellent selection of cafés, restaurants and dining destinations — all just moments from your door.

A thoughtfully balanced lifestyle is encouraged through nearby walking trails, parklands and tennis courts, ideal for low-impact exercise and social enjoyment.

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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



from the Mayor's Desk

Our Draft Delivery Program and Operational Plan is currently on public exhibition. This important document outlines the many projects and initiatives Council will work on over the next four years, and I encourage you to share your feedback before 11 May. It sets out how Council will continue investing in community facilities, parks, open spaces and major public domain improvements that help create more liveable and welcoming places across Hornsby Shire.

This month, we also mark National Volunteer Week from 18–24 May, a time to recognise the important role volunteers play in supporting our community. As Mayor, I am continually impressed and humbled by the outstanding contribution volunteers make across Hornsby Shire, generously donating their time, skills and services for the benefit of others.

Volunteering can be incredibly enriching, providing opportunities to form connections and a strong sense of fulfilment. Council offers a wide range of volunteering opportunities through our Bushcare program, events, libraries and even our Waste team. I encourage anyone interested to find out more on our website.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who gives their time freely, whether for Council, emergency services, charities, sports clubs, schools and many other community organisations. Your contribution makes a real difference to the lives of others.

Later this month, Council will present the Remagine Art Prize exhibition at Wallarobba Arts and Cultural Centre, featuring more than 60 finalist artworks responding to this year's theme, *Built to Expire*. The artists have captured the importance of reuse and repurposing materials beautifully through their outstanding expressions. I encourage residents to visit the exhibition, support the artists and take part in this important conversation about our environmental future.

I am also pleased to see the positive feedback about the first stage of Hornsby Park which is now open. The new Crusher Plant Precinct and Southern Lookout offer access to an exciting new bushland destination. I encourage you to visit and experience it for yourself.

Warren Waddell
Mayor of Hornsby Shire

REMAGINE ART PRIZE

BUILT TO EXPIRE

EXHIBITION

15 – 31 May 2026

Wallarobba Arts and Cultural Centre

hornsby.nsw.gov.au/remagine

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle



- **Gardening for small spaces and balconies**
Thursday 7 May, 10am – 12pm
Community Recycling Centre, Thornleigh
- **Composting and worm farming**
Saturday 9 May, 9am – 11.30am
Community Recycling Centre, Thornleigh
- **Waste Warrior Volunteer Induction**
Saturday 16 May, 10am – 12.30pm
Waste Warriors Volunteers Hub,
4 Chilvers Road, Thornleigh
- **Waste and Recycling Pop-up**
Wednesday 20 May, 1pm – 4pm
Hornsby Library
- **Kimbriki Eco House and Garden Tour**
Wednesday 27 May, 9am – 2pm
Departing Hornsby Pool Bus Stop at 9am

Bookings essential:
hornsby.nsw.gov.au/waste

- **Delivery Program 2026-2030 and Operational Plan 2026/27**
Submissions close:
Monday 11 May

YOUR SAY
HORNSBY

- **Draft Coastal Management Plan**
Submissions close: Wednesday 27 May
- **2026 Library Satisfaction Survey**
Submissions close: Sunday 31 May
For more information visit:
yoursay.hornsby.nsw.gov.au



Libraries are more than just books. Sometimes they're a lifeline.

Free mental health support in Hornsby Library



Explore Your Backyard

Join a free guided bushwalk and discover Hornsby's hidden natural gems.

hornsby.nsw.gov.au/bushwalks

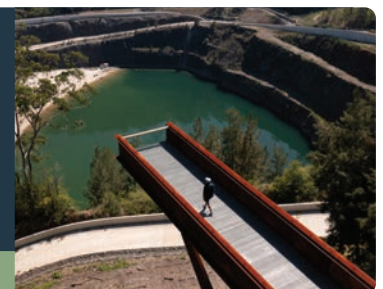
Hornsby Park



First Look

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

Find out more at hornsbypark.com.au



Next Council meeting Wednesday 13 May, 6.30pm

hornsby.nsw.gov.au

Rotary Club of West Pennant Hills & Cherrybrook



The Rotary Club held a very successful Annual Giant Book Sale on 6th, 7th and 8th March at the Uniting Church at Cherrybrook. This is the Club's biggest fundraiser of the year and we had a record number of books. Amazing bargains were found on good quality books, original CDs, DVDs, records and sheet music. Proceeds from the Book Sale will be going to Mental Health Research and other Rotary charities.



Members of our Club assisted Goods Rescued and Rehomed in preparing goods for shipping to the Pacific area. A shipping

container was cleaned out and re-organised. Amongst goods being distributed were many heaters now on their way to Indigenous communities.

The Club got involved in another community service in building shelves at the Helping Hearts Survive store. Helping Hearts Survive is a community charity in Dural that supports those in need through various initiatives including providing food hampers and selling second hand goods.

A regular program of lawn mowing, line trimming and pruning is carried out by members at several transitional houses at Kenthurst.

Another successful BBQ was held at Bunnings Castle Hill on Monday 27th April with all proceeds going to Rotary charities.

Our next BBQ at Bunnings Castle Hill will be on Saturday 6th June.

If you would like to know more about Rotary, be involved or join us for dinner please call 0412 064 336.

Rotary Club of West Pennant Hills and Cherrybrook

Web page: <http://www.wphcotary.org/>

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When was your last pumpout??



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

The Tiny Homes Expo, directed by Phae Barrett, is a major Australian touring event showcasing various tiny houses, alternative living solutions, and off-grid technology.



The Expo provides education on regulation, finance, and design, featuring expert speakers and numerous models for viewing to help attendees navigate council and building challenges.

If you have never seen a tiny home up close this is your chance. Local as well as interstate builders are onsite with their displays and can answer all your questions you may have. There are a range of builds from studio to 3 bedrooms, single level and double storey. All the latest trends and appliances to make your tiny home journey simple and straight forward.

2026 Hawkesbury Tiny Home Expo keys features:

Locations: Hawkesbury Showgrounds. Friday 29th, Saturday 30th and Sunday 31st of May.

Features: Displays include

varied tiny home designs, solar power, composting toilets, and sustainable building materials.

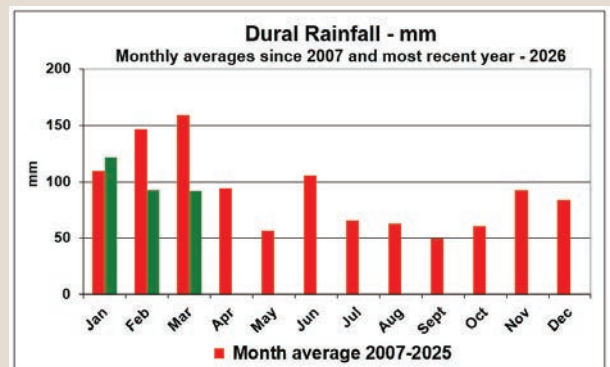
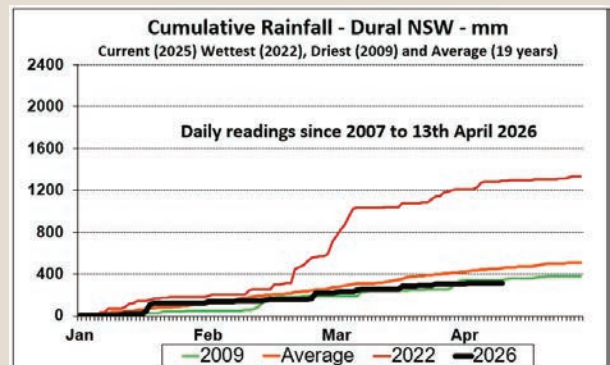
Information Hub: Experts provide insights into the buying/building process and zoning regulations.

Tickets: At the gate or purchase online at www.tinyhomesexpo.com.au click tickets.



Dural Rainfall Charts

by Hans Kunnen



HAWKESBURY

TINY HOME EXPO

Hawkesbury Showgrounds - 29, 30, 31 MAY

TICKETS ONLINE OR AT THE GATE

www.tinyhomesexpo.com.au

TIC
TICKET

Opening times:
Fri 10am - 3pm, Sat 9am - 5pm, Sunday 9am - 5pm

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Autumn Preview

Over-55s resort-style living in Dural

Tuesday 12 May | 1PM-2PM

Rosella Showroom, 3 Pellitt Lane, Dural

RSVP: 1300 040 588

rosellaretirement.com.au



A more considered way to live in the Hills.

Set in Dural, Rosella brings together beautifully designed homes, resort-style amenity and the reassurance of a welcoming over-55s community.

This stage of life is not about giving something up.

It is about choosing a home that feels easier, lighter and better suited to the way you want to live now.

At Rosella, that means more ease and enjoyment.

Elegant interiors and thoughtfully designed spaces support comfort, connection and everyday living.

With 40% of Stage One homes now spoken for, the Autumn Preview is an opportunity to explore the vision and discover what life at Rosella could feel like.

“For those ready to rightsize without compromising on how home should feel.”

ADVERTORIAL

What really happens in a hearing test – step by step

Many people walk into their first hearing test expecting it to be quick and simple. What often surprises them is how detailed a proper hearing assessment is. That is because it is not just about measuring whether you can hear certain tones. It is about understanding how you hear, how your ears and brain work together, and how this affects your daily communication.

For some, a hearing test feels intimidating. Not because it is painful or risky, but because they are unsure what will happen. It is important to know that a hearing assessment is not about passing or failing. Unless you are completing a specific medical requirement, there is no score you need to achieve. The purpose is to build a clear and accurate picture of your hearing ability.

A comprehensive assessment takes time. Not because the tests are overly complicated, but because understanding your hearing should not be rushed. When you include the initial consultation, ear health checks, hearing measurements, speech testing, and a full explanation of the results, the appointment can take over

an hour. This time is an investment in your hearing health, as every future decision is based on the information gathered here.

In many professional clinics, the first appointment focuses purely on understanding your hearing. Detailed discussions about hearing aids or other technology options are often scheduled for a follow-up visit. This approach is intentional. It gives you time to absorb the information and return with informed questions. It keeps the assessment centred on clarity rather than immediate decision-making.

A proper hearing assessment usually follows a clear and logical process. It often begins with a conversation about your daily life. The clinician will ask about your work or retirement, the environments you spend time in, and the situations you find most challenging. You may also discuss your goals and what improvements would make the greatest difference. Questionnaires are sometimes used to explore the social and emotional impact of hearing difficulties.

You may be encouraged to bring a regular communication partner, such as a spouse or close friend. They can provide

valuable insight into how hearing challenges affect conversations and relationships.

The next step is an ear health check to rule out issues such as wax blockages or infections that could influence both your hearing and the accuracy of the results. After that, your hearing is measured through a series of simple listening tests. There are no tricks and no right or wrong answers. The goal is accuracy, not perfection.

Speech testing is also an important part of the assessment. Ideally, it is conducted in both quiet and background noise to simulate real-life listening situations. This helps the clinician understand how your hearing affects everyday communication.

Finally, your results should be explained clearly and in plain language. You should understand what was tested, what was found, and how it relates to your daily experiences.

By the end of a thorough hearing assessment, you should feel informed and reassured. When you know what to expect, the process becomes far less intimidating and allows you to make confident decisions about your hearing health.

We have made a detailed video on YouTube, scan the QR code below to watch it.



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THE LAST WITCH

WRITTEN BY
RONA MUNRO

DIRECTED BY
JENNIFER WILLISON

22 MAY - 13 JUN 2026



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paviliontheatre.org.au/
the-last-witch/
The Pavilion Theatre
Hills Showground

A Bewitching And Provocative Tale

Castle Hill Players presents

THE LAST WITCH

at the Pavilion Theatre from 22nd May – 13th Jun

By Rona Munro and Directed by Jennifer Willison

Based on the historical case of the last person ever to be executed for witchcraft in Britain, *The Last Witch* explores that dark epoch where superstition overruled common sense and fear over compassion.

In 18th century Scotland, Janet Horne lives on the fringes of society. Spirited, arrogant and stubborn, but fiercely protective of her daughter Helen, Janet seems able to turn nature to her will. Her neighbours fear and admire her in equal measure as she uses her “powers” as both a salve and a weapon.

Her skills attract the wrong kind of attention from the men in her sphere – the new sheriff Captain Ross, Niall the minister and her estranged neighbour Douglas Begg. And then of course, there’s Nick, a mysterious dark stranger.

But is Janet a witch or just a dirt-poor widow relying on her wits to keep herself and Helen alive? A summoner of winds and rain or a savvy charlatan manipulating her friends and foes? Or can she perhaps be both?

Paula Searle, Penny Johnson



By arrangement with ORIGIN™ Theatrical on behalf of Nick Hern Books

It's enchanting, magical and mysterious. Jennifer, Director

Castle Hill Players presents *The Last Witch*
By Rona Munro. Directed by Jennifer Willison
22nd May – 13th Jun 2026 Wed, Fri, Sat 8PM, Sun 4PM
Pavilion Theatre, Castle Hill
Tickets \$30, Concession \$25

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

Bookings paviliontheatre.org.au/the-last-witch or call 02 9634 2929

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

Media enquiries email Abby marketing@paviliontheatre.org.au



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Castle Hill Art Society

Workshop with Morris Yang
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 Sunday 17th May 10am-4pm



Join us for an Inspiring Landscape Painting Workshop at Castle Hill Art Society. Whether you're a beginner or an experienced painter, this intensive session will transform how you see and create landscapes. You'll learn the secrets of brushwork as a personal language, discover how edges give your painting rhythm and focus, and master the balance of warm and cool colours to evoke mood and depth. You will learn how to simplify the shape with broad brushworks. All these techniques will be explained through a live demo then you'll practice in two stages—first by copying a master's work to absorb key techniques, then by painting from the photo references (provided), applying these skills to create your unique art.

Phone Luce Lopez now on 0419 496 621 to book your place and unlock your creative potential!

Bookings close Friday 1st May 2026.



West Pennant Hills Sports Club Bowls Club

West Pennant Hills Sports Club Bowls Club recently celebrated the reopening of our renovated green. Following our hosting of the Living Choice Carnival, on Monday 20th April, our other green was closed for renovation with it hopefully being ready for play in the spring. The Living Choice Carnival saw about 80 to 90 bowlers from various clubs competing.

The club's mixed pairs competition was recently completed with Lindie and Tinus Van Vurren winning a close final over Diane and John Healy 16 shots to 11. This was the first time a mixed pairs competition has been won by a husband-and-wife team at our club for over 15 years.

The club is now moving into a mixed triples competition which will be run during April and May. The club has also been competing in Grade 6 of the regional Pennants competition with mixed success.

We have recently welcomed a number of new members to our social bowls on Wednesdays and Saturdays



Winners Lindie and Tinus (on the right) with runners up Diane and John

however we are always looking for more members. With the finish of Daylight Savings start times have now moved back to 12:30pm.

Bowls is a great social activity for people of all ages and we cater for everyone. We have dedicated coaches who can teach you all the aspects of bowls. If you are thinking about taking up bowls, make West Pennant Hills Bowls Club your first choice.

West Pennant Hill Sports Club is located at 103 New Line Road, West Pennant Hills.

If you are at all interested in playing bowls with a friendly and very social club, please contact Lyn Van Wyk on 0417 752 997.

Fun for the Whole Family — It's Carnival Time!



Pacific Hills Christian School and New Hope Christian School would like to invite you and your family to our upcoming Carnival on Saturday 23rd May from 12:00pm to 5:00pm.

Enjoy a vibrant mix of rides, food stalls, games, performances, markets, carnival entertainment, a silent auction, and attractions including a petting zoo, pony rides, and face painting.

Our school Carnival is about celebrating community — giving people a place to meet, enjoy themselves and support local groups and businesses at the same time.

This is going to be a fun and exciting day for the whole family. We look forward to seeing you there!



SATURDAY 23RD MAY

12 PM - 5 PM

9-15 Quarry Rd, Dural

- ✦ Free Entertainment
- ✦ Petting Zoo & Pony Rides
- ✦ Rides For All Ages

- ✦ Face Painting & More
- ✦ Food Stalls
- ✦ Games & Activities
- ✦ Market Stalls



Brought to you by PACIFIC HILLS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL and NEW HOPE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



Dural Bowling Club

The regional Pennant competition started on February 14th 2026 with a home game at Dural. Three teams of Fours are representing Dural at the competition and enjoying some success. Dural was leading the competition with 3 remaining away games, however a loss to North Ryde on Saturday 11th April has contributed to Dural to go down to second place. The next opponents are Castle Hill and Pennant Hills respectively. With only the winner from the group progressing through to the final series, to determine the overall

Grade 7 winner for the region, Dural will be keen to win their remaining games.

The first game of the Living Choice Carnival for the calendar year 2026 took place on March 16th at Beecroft Bowling Club. Four teams of triples represented Dural and the team of Brian Stevens, Stuart Yeend and Phil Laing picked up the runners up prize on the day. The next Living choice Carnival is on the 20th April at West Pennant Hills Sports and we hope that one of the Dural teams could go one better.



Dural Bowling Club wishes the teams that will be competing in the next games for the Pennants and Living Choice the best of luck.

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

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Aussie Pumps is headquartered in the Hills Norwest area, near Hillsong. Onsite parking and excellent staff facilities.

If you are keen to find a position that is rewarding, simulating and want to make a positive contribution to Australia, we may have the right job for you.

For further information ... contact Linda-Sue on 8865 3500 or email your resume at careers@aussiepumps.com.au



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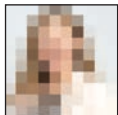
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Jane Seaglove
HORNSBY COUNCILLOR

Hello Residents,

The opening of the Crusher Plant Precinct at Hornsby Park on 28th March marked an exciting milestone, with the first stage of the long-awaited park opening to the community. The former quarry has been transformed into a welcoming space featuring scenic lookouts, picnic areas, lawns and walking paths. A little-known fact is that the quarry was compulsorily acquired by Hornsby Shire Council under direction from the state government. This opening is the first step in a staged rollout, with more features to come as the park evolves into a major destination for recreation and community connection.

While Council maintains many local and quieter streets, Old Northern Road, Galston Road and Newline Road are owned and maintained by Transport for NSW. Maintenance on these roads is undertaken on a reactive basis, meaning issues are addressed once they're reported. If you notice potholes or other concerns, please report them directly so they can be scheduled for repair.

You can contact Transport for NSW on 131 700 or lodge a report online at transportnsw.info/help-contact.

In March, James Wallace State MP and I held a community listening post in Asquith, where we had the opportunity to speak directly with local residents about the issues that matter most to them. Held at the lovely Corner 5 Café, the listening post created an informal setting for locals to share feedback and raise concerns. Topics discussed included pedestrian safety, traffic conditions and local development, with many residents highlighting the need for improved crossings and safer connections around the Asquith centre. Thank you to those who came along to meet with us.

Recently, the inaugural Mars Wrigley Hornsby Community Heroes Awards (announced March/April 2026) recognized three local volunteers, each receiving a \$5,000 donation for their selected charity. The winners announced were: Pauline Wong (NSW SES Hornsby Unit) was named Emergency Services & Frontline Volunteer Hero, Leisa Liddelow (The Dish of St John's) received the Community Service Hero award, and Ross Anderson (West Pennant Hills Cherrybrook Cricket Club) was honoured as Community Sport Hero for his dedication to community sport.



James Wallace
HORNSBY MP

Hornsby's Quiet Heroes Step Into the Spotlight

I recently attended the Hornsby Community Heroes awards sponsored by Mars Wrigley, and was proud to be part of the judging panel. It was a chance to recognise the volunteers who quietly make a real difference across our community.

These awards shine a light on people who rarely seek attention. They are putting out the cones before anyone else arrives, getting up at 5am to set up, and stepping in without hesitation when something needs to be done.

One of this year's winners was Ross Anderson from West Pennant Hills who was also recognised for his long standing contribution to local sport. Over 50 years with the West Pennant Hills Cherrybrook Cricket Club, he has helped shape the club into what it is today. He has supported grassroots programs like Kanga Cricket, helping generations of young players get involved.

Ross has also played a major role in growing women's participation in the game. Since 1995, more than 1,300 women



have joined the club, which is now one of the largest community based girls cricket programs in the country.

Pauline Wong from the NSW SES Hornsby Unit was also recognised. Over 15 years, Pauline has given an incredible amount of time to supporting the community. In the past year alone, she responded to more than 190 storm incidents, often working through the night, before returning to her day job as a high school mathematics teacher. She also contributed more than 350 hours to training and mentoring new volunteers, helping build a stronger and more capable team.

It was great to see a local business with strong ties to the area giving back in such a meaningful way, and recognising the people who help make Hornsby the community it is today.



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Julian Leeser
MEMBER FOR BEROWRA

Apprentice Shortage Puts Local Small Businesses at Risk

Across Berowra, small businesses are facing a perfect storm and nowhere is this clearer than in the growing struggle to attract and retain apprentices.

In conversations with local operators, alongside Jacinta Nampijinpa Price, Shadow Minister for Small Business and Shadow Minister for Skills and Training, it was clear that workforce challenges are now one of the biggest threats to their viability.

At Camerons Nursery, the issue starts even earlier. I was told *"it's not flagged at school, and it's not really thought of as a career pathway."* As fewer young people enter trades, businesses are left competing for a shrinking pool of workers.

Mitchell Burge from Licensed to Chill A/C highlighted just how broken the pipeline has become: *"Last year I contacted 17 schools... only two responded, and only one we went into and took an apprentice from."* For businesses trying to train the next generation, the lack of engagement is both frustrating and unsustainable.

At the same time, the burden on employers continues to grow. Apprentices require supervision, cannot work



independently for years, and often don't contribute enough to cover their cost. Training gaps are compounding the problem, with one employer noting *"they're learning more at work than what they are at TAFE."*

Despite this, many business owners feel current government responses are missing the mark, focused on announcements rather than practical, on-the-ground solutions that make it easier to hire, train and retain apprentices.

If we want strong local economies, we must back the small businesses carrying the load by rebuilding the apprenticeship pipeline and making it viable to train the next generation.

If you are a local business struggling to hire or retain apprentices, I encourage you to share your experience by contacting me at: Julian.Leeser.MP@aph.gov.au

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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

Level 11, 423 Pennant Hills Road, Pennant Hills NSW 2120 | 02 9980 1822
julian.leeser.mp@aph.gov.au | julianleeser.com.au | [julianleesermp](https://www.facebook.com/julianleesermp)

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

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Mark Hodges
MEMBER FOR CASTLE HILL

Expressions of Interest are now open for the 2026 Community Building Partnership (CBP) program

Community organisations and councils across the Castle Hill electorate are encouraged to apply for funding to support local infrastructure projects.

Could your project benefit from a grant of between \$10,000 and \$100,000?

The Community Building Partnership program provides funding to help deliver projects that strengthen the wellbeing of our local community — from upgrading facilities to improving access and purchasing essential equipment.

Since 2009, the program has awarded more than \$505 million to over 22,400 projects across the state, including:

- Building an access ramp to a community hall
- Resurfacing a sporting court
- Installing a shade sail for a playground
- Upgrading a clubhouse kitchen
- Purchasing equipment for a public announcement system

If you have a project that will benefit the Castle Hill community, I encourage you to apply.

Community Building Partnership

grants now open



Mark Hodges MP
Member for Castle Hill

To find out more or apply, visit: nsw.gov.au/cbp or scan the QR Code.

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SCAN ME



Clr Mitchell Blue

THE HILLS SHIRE COUNCIL

A Taste of Wiseman's Returns!

The much-loved *Taste of Wisemans* festival is set to return to Wisemans Ferry Park after two highly successful years.

The community has embraced this event for its celebration of local farmers, artists, producers and the rich culture of the Rural North and Hawkesbury River regions.

A *Taste of Wisemans* showcases the very best food, wine and produce from local businesses across the rural north of the Shire and along the Hawkesbury River. Visitors can sample delicacies from local producers and businesses, enjoy live entertainment, and take part in free family-friendly activities.

This event is a true foodie's heaven, with local producers, wineries, distilleries and food vendors offering an outstanding array of choices — all set within the stunning surrounds of Wisemans Ferry Park.

The festival also features our emergency services, including the NSW Rural Fire Service as part of its annual *Get Ready* weekend, which encourages residents to prepare their properties ahead of the bushfire season.

I have long advocated for more engagement with our rural communities and to do all we can to highlight just how special this part of the world is! This event promotes tourism in our Rural North and showcases everything the region has to offer. It truly is one of the most magnificent parts of Sydney.

Save the date: Sunday, 27th September.

Hawkesbury River Governance

As highlighted in last month's edition, The Hills Shire Council is continuing its call for a dedicated authority to manage the

Hawkesbury River — one of NSW's most important natural assets.

Stretching 120 kilometres from Yarramundi to Box Head and Barrenjoey Head, the river is currently overseen by a complex network of plans and responsibilities shared across eight local government areas: The Hills, Hawkesbury, Penrith, Blacktown, Hornsby, Liverpool, Wollondilly and the Central Coast.

Six of these councils are collaborating on a Coastal Management Plan aimed at improving coordination around estuary health, water quality, biodiversity and sustainable use.

However, at least thirteen agencies — most of them NSW Government bodies — hold some responsibility for the river, creating a fragmented system that has long frustrated residents and stakeholders. This needs to change with the establishment of an overarching body. The consequences of inaction would be significant for the river, its ecosystems and the communities that rely on it. Meaningful progress will require cooperation across council boundaries. Recent media attention on our call has helped elevate the issue, and it is hoped that continued advocacy will lead to a positive and lasting outcome.

River Road Repairs Continue

Restoration works are progressing along River Road, Wisemans Ferry, following extensive flood damage in recent years. The project focuses on improving drainage, stabilising the roadside embankment and repairing the road pavement to ensure safer and more reliable access for residents and visitors.

Draft Hills Shire Plan Released

Council has released its 2026–2027 Draft Hills Shire Plan, outlining a significant **\$268 million investment** in new infrastructure, operational services and the renewal of existing community assets. Residents are encouraged to review the plan and share their feedback via Council's website.



Dr Michelle Byrne

MAYOR OF THE HILLS SHIRE

Statement on NSW Budget from Mayor of The Hills Shire Dr Michelle Byrne

The NSW Government is today announcing \$2.6 billion in funding for four new schools across Sydney as part of next week's NSW Budget.

And while we welcome the already-announced upgrade of Excelsior Public School — we are yet again bitterly disappointed.

No new schools in The Hills Shire is simply not good enough.

Our schools are at breaking point.

We have the most overcrowded schools in the state.

We have the highest housing targets in the state — set for us by the NSW Government.

Yet the same NSW Government has not allocated us the infrastructure funding to match.

Our population is set to boom by an additional 140,000 residents over the next 16 years. That's an increase of 71 per cent by 2041.

So, if you think our schools are overcrowded now — they are only going to get worse.

Castle Hill High is operating nearly 1,000 students above its cap, relying on over 50 demountable classrooms, many of which are occupying vital sporting fields and depriving our children of essential outdoor play areas.

Rouse Hill Public School is over capacity by 502 students, while Ironbark Ridge Public School exceeds its limit by 427 students.

Families are facing waitlists at Santa Sophia Catholic College in Gables, and many cannot access the existing pop-up Box Hill Public School due to the boundary restrictions. Other students are being redirected to Rouse Hill, further stressing our already congested roads.

We need 13 new state schools in our Shire.

Our data clearly shows that Box Hill alone requires at least three primary schools and one K-12 school.

Across The Hills, we need a minimum of 10 additional schools to meet the skyrocketing population growth.

Specifically, we require one in the Showground Precinct where the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces irresponsibly lifted the cap on the number of dwellings to 9,500 homes in 2023.

This cap was initially set at 5,000 until a new school site had been identified and funded. To this day, no school site has been publicly identified or funded.

Hills residents can only assume that the high housing targets — combined with the lack of infrastructure funding — is a partisan decision by the NSW Government.

This is exactly why we're running the Fight for a Fairer Hills Future campaign.

More than 12,000 people that live, work, visit or send their kids to school in the Hills Shire have already signed.

And the NSW Government cannot ignore these people any longer.

Sign here: Parliament of NSW

For more information visit: fairerhillsfuture.com.au

Fagan Park off-leash dog park

by Councillor Nathan Tilbury

Since the large off-leash dog park at Fagan Park, Galston was opened in January 2025, it has been a popular new facility for both owners and their dogs.

Prior to becoming operational, there were concerns raised from some members of the community about the Fagan Park Dog Park. As a result, Council has closely monitored the site since it became operational. I am pleased to report that none of the concerns raised have materialized.

Visually the dog park has blended in very nicely and the bird life around the park



is thriving, including in the adjacent dam where the water remains uncontaminated. Some park visitors have even reported spotting the occasional pelican in the dam.

Being such a large area the grass within the dog park it has remained in pristine condition, even after more than a year since it opened.

In addition, the unwelcome interactions between an illegally unleashed dogs and visitors in Fagan Park have greatly reduced. It seems that since the dog park opened the greater majority dog owners are doing the responsible thing by keeping their hounds securely under their leased control outside the dedicated off-leash area.

Whilst there is a parking fee for visitors most locals avoid this by walking with their dogs into the park. It is also important to note that all funds raised from the parking fees are reinvested into maintaining and enhancing Fagan Park.

Whilst the off-leash area has a good amount of shade available the shaded



areas will increase in a few years, once the surrounding landscaped area starts to mature.

The Fagan Park off-leash dog park users are a mix of locals and visitors from outside the area. There are two entrance points making it easily accessible from both the upper and lower carpark areas of Fagan Park.

There are public toilets located very close to the dog park, in the Norther Amercian Garden, and the good news is that these will shortly be upgraded to make them more comfortable to use.

As is the case with all new amenities, Council will continue monitor the dog park and if you have any feedback about how we can further improve the space feel free to contact me directly. 0403 227 560 or ntilbury@hornsby.nsw.gov.au

Hornsby Council Residents can apply for an annual parking permit for \$52 per year. Applications can be made via their website.



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Murray Park Road Track

Bush tracks can take the bushwalker through a variety of landscapes and vegetation. One such track, which is in reality a fire trail, starts and ends at the end of Murray Park Rd Kenthurst. This track is hardly hidden but the diversity of native flora that can be “discovered”, certainly in many cases, is hidden from the view of the casual walker.

At most times of the year the walker can be rewarded in finding a wide variety of wildflowers both large and small, along the fringes of the track. The track passes through ridge top landscapes of open forest and heathland scrub, to a spot where there are views over adjacent forested valleys and slopes.

There is a relatively steep descent into one of these valleys which supports an extensive regrowth forest of towering Blue Gums.

The track then follows Blue Gum Creek upstream a short distance before ascending a reasonably steep hillside to the ridge top plateau.

When walking slowly and quietly through this area it is possible to sight many birds, some that are not usually visible in built up areas, as this is now their preferred habitat.

Depending on the pace chosen to walk, it may take up to two hours to complete. Remember to take your camera as there is always the opportunity to capture something memorable.



If you are not a frequent bushwalker accustomed to being out in this environment there are some points of advice to consider when you venture out into bushland. Adequate strong footwear is essential, so too is a hat. If going out for an extended time always take some water and maybe a snack bar or two. In places the track

may become overgrown with grasses which may have sharp or serrated leaves, so it is worthwhile to consider long trousers. Above all, enjoy the experience of being out and away from “civilization” for a short time at least.



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Bromeliad Society of Australia – Learn how to Grow Competition worthy Bromeliads

The next meeting of the Bromeliad Society of Australia will be held in the Federation Pavilion, Castle Hill Showground, Castle Hill on Saturday, 13th June.

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

The latest group to qualify as Bromeliad Judges in NSW would like to share their knowledge at a hands-on workshop during the meeting.

So why not join the fun in an interactive workshop and learn how to choose and prepare competition worthy plants.

Each of the five judges will work with a group and show them how to prepare plants for a competition.

The judges will talk through the elements, considerations and factors that go into judging a plant. You will get hands on experience in choosing an appropriate plant, deciding if it is competition worthy, and getting it ready for competition: trimming leaves, top dressing, cleaning plants and pots. Once the plant is ready, it will be presented for judging.

During the workshop you will get a crash course, in determining: cultural perfection, conformation, colour and markings, judging an inflorescence and the maturity of a plant.

Please note that this workshop and judging competition will be in addition to the regular monthly plant competition.

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



Back row L-R: Trainer Narelle Aizlewood, Judges Warrick Varley, Amal Eid and Harold Kuan
Front row L-R: Nina Woodcock and Edwina Wain

just like to share a plant with others without it being critically judged or discussed.

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

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



Australian Plants Society Parramatta Hills Group Details of Our Next Meeting

Native orchids will be the topic at the next meeting of the Parramatta Hills Group of the Australian Plants Society which will be held on Saturday 23rd May at 2pm.

The speaker will be Jim Cootes, a well known orchid expert and popular speaker on orchids. An enthusiastic amateur botanist, he is an international expert on the orchids of the Philippines and has published two authoritative books on this subject. He is also very knowledgeable

about Australian native orchids and is active in the Macarthur Australasian Native Orchid Society (ANOS). Jim is an accomplished photographer and undertakes many field trips in the Macarthur area. He makes many contributions in 'Out and About in Macarthur', which appears within the Macarthur ANOS Facebook page.

Jim's topic will be on native orchids native to the Macarthur LGA and will mention some of the rarities he has found in his adventures with other

native orchid enthusiasts. There will also be mention of the conservation efforts being made to protect these species.

The meeting will be held at Gumnut Hall, Gumnut Place Cherrybrook. Native plants will be for sale and afternoon tea will be provided after the meeting. Visitors are very welcome to attend.

Enquiries to Jennifer Farrer 0407 456 577 or apsparrahills@gmail.com



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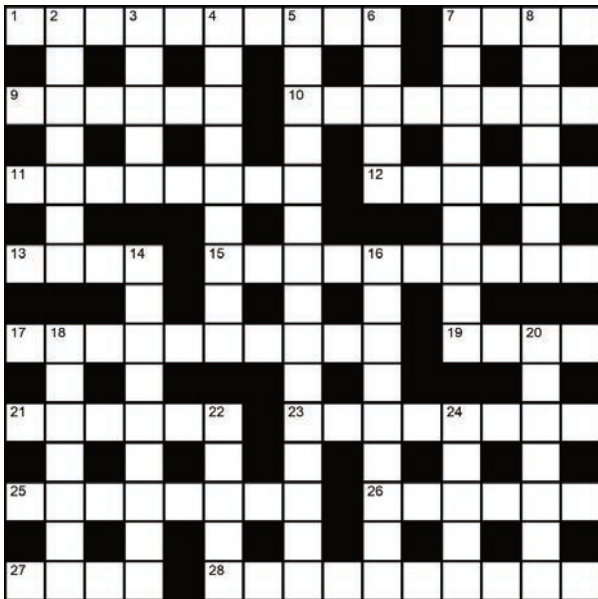
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Across

- 01 Like rings on a target (10)
- 07 Allegedly factual TV programme (4)
- 09 Ramble (6)
- 10 Having considerable worth (8)
- 11 Shirley Temple or Manhattan, maybe (8)
- 12 Outback horror (6)
- 13 Swamp menace (4)
- 15 Pesky (10)
- 17 Generally useful (3-7)
- 19 Small blemish (4)
- 21 Croatian capital (6)
- 23 One way to order a meal (1,2,5)
- 25 Huge fins adjusted for Chinese space system (4,4)
- 26 Stand for hot dishes (6)
- 27 Body of soldiers (4)
- 28 Chaotic (10)

- 05 Stirrers unveil oratories, stirring things up (15)
- 06 Big star (5)
- 07 Doctor's news (9)
- 08 Bone-building element (7)
- 14 Author's protection (9)
- 16 Eternally (4,5)
- 18 Stet (5,2)
- 20 Breakfast dish (7)
- 22 Get taken (2,3)
- 24 She meets a smoking caterpillar (5)

Answer from April Issue



Down

- 02 Alfresco (7)
- 03 Its produce can be poached (5)
- 04 It's plain short of trees (9)

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