

Galston Grange
 RETIREMENT VILLAGE

Galston Stage 3 First Look
 Preview the Stage 3 interiors and new CGI visuals
 Hear from our design team about the Stage 3 interiors

Wednesday 1st April 1:00 - 3:00pm
 392 Galston Road, Galston

RSVP by phone
1300 040 588

Stone Gorge
 Warm stone, soft oak tones

Cloud Ash
 Light tones, airy neutrals

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

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RWHF Opening - Piers and pavers perfection

by Glenorie Progress Association

This is a gratitude message saying a huge thank you to all those who have contributed to this amazing project. The ceremony of 15/02 2026 commenced with the unveiling.



Ken Whiteman (Ray's brother) Robyn Preston MP - State Representative, Hills Mayor Dr Michelle Byrne, Di Coxon-Ellis - President of Glenorie Progress Association, Hornsby Mayor Warren Waddell and Karl Van Middeldyk - local Stonemason cutting the ribbon.

It was an enormously successful opening, the rain stopped for the duration, honoured guests spoke glowingly of the success of the project. Welcome to Country was conducted by Dharug Senior Elder, Uncle Colin Gale. Callum Hoogesteger as MC kept the proceedings flowing, commencing with an interview with Karl on his stonemason's career path. President of the GPA, Di Coxon-Ellis spoke of the development from concept to fruition of this carved masterpiece. Robyn Preston Hawkesbury MP and our two Mayors, Dr Michelle Byrne and Warren Waddell were glowing in their praise of our dedicated community member Ray Whiteman and the amazing contribution of the community to this project. Ray's nephew Brian Whiteman spoke of the family's love and admiration of the dedication that Ray gave to this community in a myriad of ways.

We heard about the development of this "storybook in stone", starting with Ray's original idea to build a barrier wall to protect our attendees at Anzac Day and other military ceremonies at the Glenorie cenotaph in Wal Buckingham Memorial Gardens from *Hostile attack*. We gained a NSW Government \$20,000 grant, plus \$10,000 Discretionary Grant through Robyn Preston MP Hawkesbury.

continued on page 2...

from page 1...



Then we had an idea of a memorial to great community member, Ray Whiteman who passed away in 2019. The Whiteman Family Trust donated \$20,000.

Thanks to our incredible sculptor, stonemason, artist, *Karl Van Middeldyk* of

Aussie Stonemasons. This journey started with a neighbourhood chat which led to a vision of, not only a memorial to Ray, but a heritage fence, encompassing the history of our wonderful Glenorie District Community. In 2020, Warren Waddell and Michael Hutchings, then HSC Councillors A Ward, met us on site and we outlined the intended scope. Hornsby Shire Council approved the idea conditionally - that the GPA raise all the funds.

In 2021 we approached Sid Sarkis of Gosford Quarries who quoted sandstone at a discounted cost. The Sarkis family have been a trojan of a supporter all through the five and a half years of development.

The Galston Community Bendigo Bank came on board with a pledge of \$50,000 in May 2022. Ralph Steele, Director of Galston Community Bendigo Bank spoke on the bank's generosity in community support which now totals over an incredible \$ 4 million. This is where the word "Community" shines!



We secured two Veterans Grants totalling \$2650.

Our fence developed into a true story of the heritage of our district, 14 piers symbolising the First Australians, through the

pioneering spirit of our convict-built road, transport along the Great North Road, the farming of citrus fruits and other agricultural industries, the volunteers in scouting, sporting fields & during fire flood events plus honouring our veterans.

The Van Middeldyk family donated the Rising Sun Army carving topping an amazing contribution to this entire project.

Hornsby Shire Council contributed enormously - planning, paths, Wal Buckingham Memorial Park upgrade, infill fencing, mower strip, laying the turf. Then laying the pavers and upgrade of the Memorial Hall carpark.

A special mention for Hornsby SC Mayor of Hornsby Warren Waddell who has been on board working tirelessly planning and fund raising for the fence from day dot.

Plus our supporters:

- *The Hills Shire Council;*
- *HCM Building (John Bouchahine);*
- *Arthur and Betty Nicolson;*
- *Mrs Lyn Holt & Mark Holt;*
- *The Rotary Club of Greater Hills;*
- *Diana Paton & Karlene Brummer - Galston Glenorie & Hills Rural Community News;*
- *Woolworths Glenorie;*
- *Nathin Parrin N-Lite Electrical;*
- *Peter Shearing;*
- *Abell Signs.*



Pavers - through our fundraising effort by VP Hugh Bloch we raised enough funds to build the fence – approximately \$45,000. Many residents purchased a paver, all loving living in our semi-rural Village and beyond.

Josh Best catered great Aussie refreshments in our lovely Memorial Hall and guests mingled and discussed the past and the future of our district.

The fence is a testament of what can be achieved when a community comes together, following the example set by Ray Whiteman.

Glenorie Community you have excelled and we can boast of a lasting legacy for generations to come.

THANK YOU GLENORIE COMMUNITY!

Galston Gorge Pain Continues

by **Diana Paton**

Community anger boiled over when Transport for NSW announced a further delay until **10th March** on the closure of Galston Gorge. Calls and emails to State Member, James Wallace and Hornsby Mayor Warren Waddell, produced an update from Transport for NSW on 21st February "Under the revised work schedule, the road will operate under single lane, traffic control during the day (5am-8pm), with a full closure in place at night to allow critical work to continue safely.

The adjusted program will involve 21 shifts of work, with the road expected to fully reopen to normal traffic conditions by **Tuesday 17th March**, weather permitting".

Lets hope they stick to the 17th March re-opening!

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**GALSTON, GLENORIE & HILLS RURAL
COMMUNITY NEWS**
PO BOX 149 GLENORIE NSW 2157

The Galston, Glenorie & Hills Rural Community News prides itself on reporting about a variety of local topics and issues, covering news, features, sports, entertainment and the arts, community contributions, and much more.

We are interested in local stories from: Arcadia, Berrilee, Berowra Waters, Cattai, Canoelands, Dural, Fiddletown, Forest Glen, Galston, Glenorie, Maraylya, Maroota, Middle Dural, South Maroota & Wisemans Ferry.

To submit a story idea, editorial, community contribution, obituary, photo, letter to the editor or just a general news item, please email: editorial@galstoncommunity.com.au

Please send stories in editable text (word or email) not in PDF. **MAXIMUM words 500.**

Copy to be received by 15th of the month.

We love to hear from our community.



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IMPORTANT LOCAL INFORMATION

HELP AND INFORMATION SERVICES

General Emergencies	000	Lifeline (24 hours)	13 11 14
Energy Australia Energy	13 13 88	Poisons Information Line	13 11 26
Hornsby Hospital	9477 9123	Police - Hornsby	9476 9799
Hills Shire Council	9843 0555	Police - Castle Hill	9680 5399
Hornsby Shire Council	9847 6666	Sydney Water	13 20 90
Endeavour Energy (Outages)	13 10 03		

LOCAL RURAL FIRE SERVICES

(Station phones are unmanned and will operate answer phone services only. Call 000 for Emergencies)

Hills Rural Fire Service District Office	9658 9000
Hornsby Rural Fire Service District Office	9883 2000
Arcadia Rural Fire Service Fire Captain MIKE MELIS	0409 606 786
Galston Rural Fire Service Fire Captain MATT WHITE	0407 390 955
Glenorie Rural Fire Service Fire Captain DANE JOHANSEN	0457 596 283
Hillside Rural Fire Service Fire Captain ANDREW BAILDON	9652 2245
Middle Dural Rural Fire Service Fire Captain MORRIE MAAIT	0412 267 567

LOCAL JP's

Mary Ord, Glenorie - 0400 363 563

Julia Billyard and Darren Bonaccordo, Elude Games, Galston - 8005 0077

Vicki Brownless - 0423 727 826 (South Maroota area)

Cherrybrook Shopping Village, Shepherds Drive, every Saturday morning 10:00 AM to noon.

There will be a JP at Dural Library Wednesdays between 1:00 PM and 3:00 PM.

Also available at Cherrybrook Shopping Village, 10:00 AM to 12:00 noon Saturdays.

Contact Jane 0427 998 004.

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Tragic Events Hit Locals Hard

by Diana Paton

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of 3 young men from our area.

"On Wednesday, 28th January 2026, our dear Tyler tragically lost his life in a workplace accident after falling from a roof. He was just 34 years old. In a single moment, a young family's world was shattered.

Tyler leaves behind his devoted wife, Kiara (32), and their two beautiful little boys, Harvey (4) and Cohen (3). Harvey and Cohen have lost the most loving, caring, hands-on daddy who was the centre of their world. Kiara has lost her soulmate, the absolute love of her life and partner in every sense.

In an extraordinary final act of generosity, Tyler was a registered organ donor. Through this selfless gift, his major organs have gone on to save or significantly improve the lives of six recipients, including two children. In the midst of unimaginable grief, Tyler's legacy now lives on through the lives he has helped save".

The words above are extracts from their GoFundMe page. If you wish to support the family, please go to <https://www.gofundme.com/f/for-kiara-harvey-cohen-dean>

Then only 3 days later. As reported by NSW Police - two young men, 28, were found deceased on Saturday 31st January at their home in Harrisons Lane, Glenorie.

Locals quickly set up a GoFundMe page with the following extract: "Deeply cherished by all who know her, this devoted mother is a tireless worker and a quiet cornerstone of our community. Always showing up for others with strength, kindness and humility,

her presence has touched countless lives, and the loss she is now enduring is unfathomable.

The pain she and her family are now carrying is impossible to put into words. No parent should ever have to farewell their child, and now being faced with laying her two sons to rest is a burden no family should have to carry alone".

If you wish to donate please go to <https://www.gofundme.com/f/standing-with-a-mum-in-the-wake-of-an-unimaginable-loss>

We have taken extracts from GoFundMe pages as its difficult to contact the families for a report in such tragic circumstances.

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McFarland's Grave, Beside Old Northern Road, Maroota

by Hornsby Councillor Nathan Tilbury

There is a heritage listed roadside gravesite, just south of Maroota Public School, on Old Northern Road. The sandstone plaque on the grave reads "McFarland is Buried Here 19.1.1871" and the site is heritage listed by Hills Shire Council.

However, research by Diane Papandrea has revealed errors on the plaque regarding both the person's name as well as the year of burial.

On 18th January 1872, a drover, named T. Bowcock, was riding from Windsor to Wisemans Ferry when, not long after he joined the Great North Road, he was led off the road by his dogs. A short distance into the bush he discovered the body of a man who appeared to have been dead for several days. In his pockets several pawn tickets were found that were later traced to a dealer in Newcastle.

A Coroner's Inquest was held by James Bligh Johnston and the jury concluded this unknown man had likely died from "exposure" to the sun. He was 5 ft 8 inches (172cms) tall, stout build with black hair, dressed in a black cotton coat and trousers, wearing blucher boots and a drab Californian hat.

Following enquiries made in Newcastle after the burial, this unknown man was identified as Thomas McFarlane (the surname is different to that on the grave). Thomas was a former newspaper "Compositor" who had recently been dismissed from his employment "on account of intemperate habits". It appears he was

attempting to walk from Newcastle to Sydney in very hot weather conditions.

Sadly, he died a very short distance from a waterhole and was buried near where his body was found. Gregory Fuller undertook the burial, with John James Fitzpatrick and William Henry Goodman acting as witnesses. For many decades a wooden post and sign marked his grave.

In the late 1990's when the road was upgraded by the RTA (now Transport for NSW), Paul McKinley, stonemason of Wiseman's Ferry, voluntarily installed the sandstone plaque and grave surround that survives today. The exact wording and burial date on the old wooden sign were replicated, but in 2010 it was discovered the burial year was different.

The grave remains easily visible alongside the road, initially located in front of scrub bushland before that was cleared for orchards. Eventually, the fruit trees were removed leaving an open grass field behind the gravesite.

As we approach the Bicentenary of the Great North Road, now known as Old Northern Road, it is hoped that McFarland's (McFarlane's) grave can be tidied up and include a plaque that accurately reflects his full name and the year of his burial.



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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 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.

SHED FIRE

On Thursday, 12th February, Oakville Brigade crews responded to a structure fire in Annangrove.

On arrival, Oakville crews joined firefighters from Fire and Rescue 094 Kellyville and Annangrove Rural Fire Brigade to tackle a shed fire. Despite the efforts of all crews, a large portion of the shed and its contents were heavily damaged.

Firefighters remain on scene working to fully extinguish the blaze. The public were advised to avoid the area while operations continue.

Other responding units include Round Corner Rural Fire Brigade, Kenthurst Rural Fire Service, Dural Rural Fire Brigade, Kellyville Rural Fire Brigade, Cherrybrook Rural Fire Brigade, and The Hills Police Area Command.

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.

MISTAKEN IDENTITY - 85 YEAR OLD MAN KIDNAPPED

Detectives from the Robbery & Serious Crime Squad established a crime scene in Dural believed to be linked to the kidnapping of Chris Baghsarian.

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

Local police attended before State Crime Command detectives launched a coordinated response under Strike Force Chobat.

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

As part of ongoing efforts to locate him, a property on Wildthorn Avenue in Dural was identified as a possible makeshift stronghold used by the kidnappers. Strike force detectives executed a search warrant at the property around 7pm on Thursday 19th February 2026.

Information can be provided confidentially via Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or at <https://nsw.crimestoppers.com.au>. The public is reminded not to report information via NSW Police social media pages.

Update: Following extensive inquiries, about 8am today (Tuesday 24th February 2026), detectives located what is believed to be human remains near a golf club in Pitt Town. Investigations under Strike Force Chobat continue.

PURSUIT

Three teenage boys were arrested following an alleged police pursuit from Castle Hill to the Central Coast.

About 3.40 am on Tuesday, 17th February 2026, officers patrolling Castle Hill attempted to stop a Mercedes SUV on New Line Road after checks revealed it had been reported stolen from a home in Weston on 10th February 2026.

When the driver failed to stop, The Hills Police Area Command initiated a pursuit.

During the pursuit, the occupants allegedly threw bricks and a hammer at police vehicles while travelling along the M1 Motorway. No officers were injured, and no police vehicles were damaged. Road spikes were deployed near Wisemans Ferry Road, but the stolen car continued on its rims.

The pursuit ended in Morisset, where the occupants attempted to flee into nearby bushland.

Following a search with assistance from Traffic and Highway Patrol officers, three boys (two aged 16 and one aged 17) were arrested and taken to Wyong Police Station. One 17-year-old was tasered after allegedly resisting arrest.

Police established a crime scene, with Strike Force Sweetenham investigating the incident. Investigations are ongoing.

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



**NEWS FROM
NETHERBY**

In Search of Horse Stories...

The Friends of Fagan Park are currently preparing a display for their next open day on ANZAC Day. Our theme will revolve around horses and their involvement in war. We are hoping there might be some personal stories or photos of servicemen and their horses amongst our community who would be willing to share with us.

We would like to include local content in our display and if you have such stories, please contact us as we would love to hear from you.

Follow our Facebook page for further updates on our open day.

Julie Graham
Curator Friends of Fagan Park
Email: juliegraham5020@gmail.com



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DURAL AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

News from History Cottage

So often the skirl of the pipes is heard as a thoughtful reminder of past events. At the February Historical Society meeting members were entertained by local piper, John Graham. John spoke of his lifelong love of the bag pipes, its ancient history and after telling the evocative history of his own, demonstrated how adaptable its music can be. Many tapping feet were is evidence.

On the 14th March, Sue Edwards will tell some of the history of Annangrove. This once isolated part of the Hills District has connections to the very beginnings of European settlement; with names such as Bligh, Johnston, Terry, Rouse and Rose featuring on the early maps. It is essential to hear Sue's talk to gain an understanding of Annangrove's history and what is quickly being covered by the urban spread of Sydney.

The closure of Galston Gorge presented a possibility for the Society to safely walk through and check on the remaining archaeology. Unfortunately the historical value of the Gorge has made it a victim of its own success. The Bridge is now probably the only one of its type; the increased traffic is causing damage that is hard to manage and the whole area is a construction site with heightened safety issues. The local concern, knowledge and love of "The Gorge" is genuine. The Society hopes this is valued in future discussions before final decisions are made.

It is gratifying to see work has started on the repair of "Waddell Cottage". This building is another valued part of Community History. Local action saved the building from demolition

at the very beginning of the construction of the High School. Local volunteers repaired the building. Local volunteers made costumes, donated furniture and records so that the Education Department could use the building as a teaching resource. It is hoped that the building will once again become a proud, integrated part of our community.

Next meeting in the Galston Uniting Church, School Road, Galston 14th March at 2.00pm. Entry: free. Afternoon tea: gold coin donation. Enquiries: Michael Bell 02 9653 1365.



Galston ANZAC Day

Dawn Service Galston Memorial

25th April 06:00 am

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ADVERTORIAL

New Training Facility at Karis Life

by Rejimon Punchayil

Rej Punchayil, founder of Karis Life, addressing the group.



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.

Ferry Artists

The Ferry Artists are excited to have members exhibiting at Hornsby Shire Council's Seniors Week exhibition, "Live Life in Colour" at Wallarobba Hornsby from 6th-22nd March.



This is a great opportunity where we join with other local art societies and bring our artist's work to the Hornsby community. Our exhibiting members will be rostered on duty during the 2 week show so make a date to visit and talk to one of our on duty. More details can be found on the Hornsby Councils web page and our socials.

Our next St Albans Village Markets will be Easter Sunday April 5th 9am to 1pm.

You will find us in The Barn with our tables stocked with our usual high quality giftware, jewellery and artworks. Come and visit us and have a wonderful day out in beautiful St Albans!

The Ferry Artists are continuing their 25 year long association with our community through regular stalls at St Albans Village Markets and exhibitions at various venues throughout the year. Keep an eye on our

website www.ferryartists.org.au and our socials to find out where we will be next!

You can contact us at ferryartistsgallery@gmail.com



Galston CWA

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 fruits and vegetables are always welcome.

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

ADVERTORIAL

The Local Company Success

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PAID ADVERTORIAL

Kyle Sandilands Sells Glenorie Acreage Following Significant Transformation

King of the radio, Kyle Sandilands and his wife Tegan are selling their Glenorie acreage property, with the sale handled by Carolyn Wheatley of Belle Property Dural, marking the next chapter for one of the Hills District's most distinctive lifestyle homes.

Set across 2.34 acres in Glenorie's tightly held boutique acreage precinct, the property, known as Kingsview Estate, takes its name from its elevated position capturing sweeping district views towards the Blue Mountains. Originally purchased in March 2022, the residence has since undergone a comprehensive transformation blending timeless architectural character with contemporary finishes and functionality for modern family living.

The Georgian-inspired double-storey home offers exceptional scale, with approximately 832sqm of internal living space (excluding alfresco). A grand arrival experience



sets the tone, with a parliamentary-style circular driveway leading through to a porte-cochère and a welcoming balcony above.

Designed to accommodate extended or multi-generational living, the residence features six-plus bedrooms, five bathrooms and multiple formal and informal living zones with soaring ceilings. At its centre, a substantial eat-in kitchen anchors the home, complimented by generous preparation space, extensive storage and adjoining formal and casual dining areas. A private study with custom library detailing and concealed storage further enhances the home's flexibility.

Outdoors, the estate offers a true lifestyle setting, with beautifully transformed gardens, expansive rolling lawns and a paddock framed by sweeping district and mountain views. A resort-style in-ground pool is surrounded by diamond-laid paving with contrasting lawn, while an attached entertainer's lodge overlooks the pool and connects seamlessly to the alfresco area. An oversized balcony provides an elevated vantage point across the grounds.

Located just minutes from Glenorie Village and within easy reach of quality schools and major centres including Rouse Hill and Castle Hill, the property offers a rare combination of rural tranquillity and everyday convenience; a balance

that continues to underpin strong demand across the Hills' prestige acreage market.

Carolyn Wheatley of Belle Property Dural said the property reflects growing buyer demand for high-quality lifestyle homes that deliver both scale and refinement.

"Buyers are increasingly drawn to properties that offer space, privacy and a genuine lifestyle, without sacrificing proximity to essential amenities," she said. "Kingsview Estate is a strong example of how thoughtful design and considered renovation can elevate an already exceptional setting."

Ms Wheatley added that the Glenorie market continues to show resilience.

"Demand for prestige lifestyle properties in Glenorie remains robust despite broader market fluctuations. Homes that combine acreage, quality improvements and long-term liveability are particularly sought after by buyers looking for both lifestyle and investment potential."

The sale highlights Belle Property's track record in the prestige lifestyle and acreage market across Sydney's north-west.



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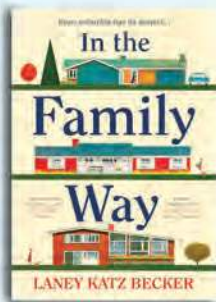
Looking for something to do after school? Our Tuesday Chill Zone is a free after-school program for 5–12-year-olds. It runs from 4pm to 5pm every Tuesday during Term 1 at Hornsby Library. Enjoy a range of activities including construction and craft with no bookings required. Visit hornsby.nsw.gov.au/library to find out more.

ADULT FICTION

IN THE FAMILY WAY BY LANEY KATZ BECKER

In 1965 America, women can't have their own bank accounts, divorce is scandalous, and abortion is illegal. After prim and proper Lily Berg discovers she's pregnant with her second child, she takes in Betsy, a pregnant teen from the local home for unwed mothers. Betsy is to live with the Bergs for six months, help with babysitting and housekeeping, have her own baby, and then agree to never contact the family again. But things quickly get complicated.

Moving and atmospheric, full of history and heart, *In the Family Way* captures the experiences of women on the cusp of liberation.

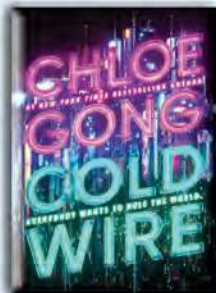


YOUNG ADULT FICTION

COLDWIRE BY CHLOE GONG

To escape rising seas and rampant epidemics in a future world, most of society lives "upcountry" in glistening virtual reality, while those who can't afford the subscription are forced to remain in crumbling "downcountry." But upcountry isn't perfect. A cold war rages between two powerful nations, Medaluo and Atahua—and no one suffers for it more than the Medan orphans in Atahua. Their enrolment at Nile Military Academy is mandatory. Either serve as a soldier or risk being labelled a spy.

From bestselling author Chloe Gong comes the start of a daring new dystopian series following two young soldiers who must depend on unlikely allies in their fight for survival.



Reserve your copy at hornsby.nsw.gov.au/library, via the Hornsby Shire Libraries app or call Galston Library on 02 9847 6160.

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.



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

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 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 or www.hillswildlifesanctuary.org



Julian Leaser

FEDERAL 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>



Rural Roundup

Jane Seagrove

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).



Dural Bowling Club News



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.

Dural Bocce Club

For members of Dural Bocce Club 2025 ended with lots of celebration. The annual combined Christmas Party and Presentation Ceremony was held in mid December. Many thanks to the management of The Dural Club and the bocce club committee for a wonderful afternoon of friendship, food and fun.

Annual awards were presented to our 2025 champions, Tony and Mario, and runners-up, Guido and Ferdinando. Also receiving awards were our most improved female and male players for the year – congratulations to Patricia and John.

Most importantly, at the suggestion of club members, the club paid tribute to our long-time member Aldo awarding him the Lifetime Contribution Award. Aldo has been an important club member for over 40 years. During that time, he has been an active player and member of the committee, as well as representing Dural at inter-club competitions.



However, it is in his role as our club captain that he quietly demonstrates good sportsmanship and encourages all members to play to the best of their ability and enjoy the game.

All club members now look forward to lots of fun and competition in 2026.

Anyone wishing to “come and try” bocce is invited to join us on any Tuesday morning or Friday night at The Dural Club.

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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Email enrolments@pacifichills.nsw.edu.au
Visit www.pacifichills.nsw.edu.au

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.

Hillside Happenings

Celebrating 100 years of Learning, Opportunity and Community at Hillside Public School

The Hillside school community is excited to begin another positive and rewarding year of learning in 2026. A warm welcome is extended to all families, especially those new to Hillside — it is wonderful to have you joining such a supportive and connected school community.

Students will start the year with an engaging learning program designed to build confidence, encourage growth and support success. Alongside classroom learning, students will enjoy a range of enriching experiences, including the Stage 3 Leadership Program at Longneck Lagoon, the Swimming Carnival, and another High Potential and Gifted Education (HPGE) Day. These opportunities help students develop leadership, resilience and a love of learning beyond the classroom.



This year also marks a significant milestone for Hillside Public School as we proudly celebrate 100 years of learning, growth and connection. Built on care, inclusion and a

belief in every child, Hillside has become a place where lifelong friendships are formed, achievements are celebrated and students are supported to be their best. This centenary year honours the legacy created by students, families and educators past and present, while looking ahead to a future shaped by the same strong values that have guided Hillside for the past 100 years.

The year ahead promises meaningful learning experiences, memorable moments and strong connections across our wider community. Be sure to keep an eye on Hillside Public School for exciting events and celebrations as we mark 100 years of learning and community.

Enrolling Now Kindergarten to Year 6!

Looking for a school that feels like family? At Hillside Public School, small classes mean big attention, loads of fun, and endless opportunities to shine. **Out-of-area applications welcome!**

Join our wonderful school community - visit our website to see what's happening at Hillside or book a school tour to experience the Hillside difference.

Loyalty. Duty. Knowledge.

HILLSIDE PUBLIC SCHOOL

122 Cattal Ridge Road, Glenorie NSW 2157
 ☎ 02 9652 1459
 ✉ hillside-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
 🌐 hillside-p.schools.nsw.gov.au

Open for Tours

A Strong Start to the Year at Arcadia Public School



Arcadia Public School has begun the academic year with great momentum, placing personalised learning at the heart of all we do. Our small class sizes allow every student to receive individual attention from their teachers, with tailored learning goals set and achieved across the school. We proudly celebrate these achievements at our fortnightly school assemblies, fostering a culture of growth and encouragement for all students.

This year, we are delighted to welcome our largest Kindergarten intake in many years, enabling us to create a dedicated small class where young learners receive focused support and nurturing throughout the year.

With a maximum class size of 20 students in every grade, our teachers are able to effectively tailor programs to meet the diverse learning needs of each child.

Beyond differentiated classroom teaching, we offer specialised programs designed to support students who require extra assistance while also extending and challenging our high-potential learners both within the school and beyond.

Reflecting on their experience, one parent shared:

"The strengths of Arcadia Public School are the inclusivity, caring for the kids' wellbeing and a great space for learning and playing."

Another parent affirmed: *"Small class size with excellent teachers means children get far more attention. There is a great closeness amongst students across all grades and happy, proactive teachers."*

We have had an incredible start to the year at Arcadia Public School and currently have enrolment vacancies across all grade levels. We warmly invite families to book a private tour to see firsthand the exceptional opportunities our school offers.

To arrange a tour or find out more about enrolments for 2026 or 2027, please contact our friendly office staff on 9653 1207 to make an appointment with Mrs Belinda Reedman, our proud and passionate principal.



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Galston Garden Club

The Galston District Garden club meetings are up and running after the Christmas break, and our guest speaker for the February night was Ken Smith who gave a wonderful talk on his passion for Clivia. Our guest speaker for March will be David Fripp - all about African Violets, The Garden club meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month in the Galston Community Hall, Arcadia Road Galston at 7.30. Guests to our meetings are welcome to come and listen and meet our members and enjoy a cuppa at the end of the meeting.

CLIVIA is a hardy evergreen perennial valued for its bold foliage and vibrant flowers. Native to South Africa, it belongs to the amaryllis family and is especially popular in shaded gardens throughout Australia. The most widely grown species is *Clivia miniata*, known for its clusters of trumpet-shaped blooms in shades of orange, red, yellow, and cream.

Clivias grow from thick, fleshy roots rather than true bulbs, forming dense clumps of dark green, strap-like leaves. Even when not in flower, the rich foliage provides an



attractive feature in garden beds and pots. Flowering typically occurs from late winter to early spring, when sturdy stems rise above the leaves carrying rounded heads of long-lasting blooms.

One of the main advantages of clivia is its tolerance of shade. It thrives in dappled light under trees or along shaded walls where many other flowering plants struggle. Well-drained soil enriched with organic matter suits it best. While regular watering during active growth is beneficial, clivias prefer to dry slightly between waterings and do not tolerate waterlogged

conditions. A cooler, drier rest period during winter helps encourage reliable flowering.

Clivias are long-lived and relatively low-maintenance. Established plants are quite drought tolerant and require only occasional feeding with a balanced fertiliser. Over time, large clumps can be divided to produce new plants, although they often flower best when slightly crowded.

Their resilience, elegant form, and dependable colour make clivias a favourite choice for shaded gardens.

I bought one yellow Clivia from the side of the road for \$40 dollars (I can't believe I did) about six years ago and planted it in the front garden which faces west, but it is in the shade of a Teddy Bear tree. My one plant if I divided it would be now, if I wanted to divide it, would probably be 30 plants. The accompanying photo is my beautiful Clivia.

For more information regarding our club please visit our website: galstongardenclub.com.au or email: galstongardenclub@gmail.com

Autumn is here and it's time to plant...



by Barry Lees

The scorching heat of summer is fading and the soil is still warm – what an opportunity to plant something!

We suggest you plant natives, and lots of them. Plant trees, shrubs, groundcovers and grasses. Enjoy the birds, animals and insects that have come to live in their new home – the one you provided. It makes you feel really good.

Some landowners have big areas of lawn. They spend many hours every week picking up sticks and mowing. This makes a lot of noise and costs money. They think the end result looks nice, but it is just a biological desert! Mother Nature would be

more impressed if some or all of the lawn was planted out with trees and shrubs. For our Landowner, this would mean a change in mindset – do we want to live with Nature or continually fight it?

Still Creek Landcare is your local Landcare group. We are keen to see fewer empty paddocks, less lawns, less weeds like privet and lantana, more local native trees and shrubs, more native wildlife, more residents living close to nature. We are able to help residents do this by giving them free native trees, shrubs and groundcovers. If you want, we can come to your property and advise on what plants would suit



your location. There are no hidden agendas here – we just love the bush and want more people to do likewise.

If interested, call Barry Lees on 9653 3691. Also look at our website at www.stillcreeklandcare.com.au

Glenorie Mission Church welcomes guests to our Sunday services at 10 am.

This year we have organised an exciting line up of visiting Pastors some of whom will deliver a series over several weeks. On **March 1st** Pastor Phil Evans will begin a three week series.

The series titled 'The Public Ministry of Jesus' Phil will break Jesus' ministry down into three parts:

1. Passion for God and people - March 1st
2. Pursuit of God and people - March 8th
3. Power of God through people - March 15th

Phil is a Baptist Pastor currently working full time with Anglicare as a Chaplain in Silverwater Correctional Centre. Phil lives in the Hawkesbury with his wife and three primary school aged children.

Harry Mitton will be returning from Adelaide and preaching for one service on **March 22nd**. He's always a favourite at GMC.

We are organising some fun community events this year. Look out for dates coming soon for the:

- Church Anniversary Service and Congregation lunch - March 28th.
- Sunday School Olympics - May - loads of fun old fashioned games for the whole family,
- Bush Dance - August - a Glenorie family favourite.
- Bush walks - several times through the year (searching for local koala's and hunting for the largest trees)
- Spring dinner - September - raising funds for Glenorie Christian Education Association.

We hope to see you soon at Glenorie Mission Church

**GLENORIE
MISSION
CHURCH**





0414 584 303
www.glenoriemission.org

Sunday Service 10am
1409 Old Northern Rd,
Glenorie

Our Forever God

For the past couple of months, the word “forever” has been floating around in my thoughts! It can be quite a difficult concept to understand because we live our lives in a time frame of birth, growth, childhood, adulthood, ageing and death.

In the Bible, the word ‘forever’ can be translated: “eternity”, “everlasting” or “of a very long duration.” It denotes completeness rather than a temporary state of being and is used countless times to describe God’s character. I read a quote from “got questions.org” - “From duration stretching backwards without limit, to duration stretching forward without limit, from eternal ages to eternal ages, God was and is forever.”

I could only say “wow”!!

So let’s take a brief ‘dive’ into 3 aspects of God’s forever nature that will give us hope as we do life every day.

1. In Genesis 9:16, God said “The rainbow shall be in the cloud and I will look on it to remember the everlasting covenant

between Me and every living creature of all flesh on the earth.”

*Psalm 111:9 states: “He has sent redemption to His people. He has commanded His covenant forever. Holy and awesome is His Name.”

*This covenant (binding agreement) is foundational in understanding God’s relationship with humanity throughout history = HIS story.

2. God’s “forever” Word is discovered and lived, in and through the pages of the Bible.

* Psalm 119:89 “Forever O Lord, Your Word is settled in heaven.”

* Psalm 119:105 “Your Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.”

* Isaiah 40:8 “The grass withers, the flower fades but the Word of our God stands forever.”

3. This understanding of God’s forever covenant and forever Word underpins God’s love for humanity which remains constant and unwavering through all ages.



* John 3:16-17 “For God so loved the world (you and me) that He gave His only begotten Son; that whoever believes in Him will not perish but will have eternal (forever) life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world but that the world (human beings) would be saved through Him.”

God bless.

**Pr. Alex & Dee Valich,
Glenorie Community Church.**

1507 Old Northern Rd
(cnr Munros Lane) Glenorie.

Sunday service: 10 am.
Readers, you are welcome to join us.

FEELING UNSURE IN TODAY’S SHIFTING FINANCIAL MARKET? THE RIGHT ADVICE CAN TURN UNCERTAINTY INTO OPPORTUNITY



Interest rates are shifting, property prices are fluctuating, navigating the world of home loans and refinancing can be confusing.

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- Looking to Upgrade, or
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Recent trends show more Australians are rethinking their finances, consolidating debt, securing better interest rates, and using equity more strategically.

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**Welcome to
“Sunset Melodies”**

“Where blessings flow from music”

MARCH 14 @ 6PM

Galston SDA Church
49 Arcadia Rd
Refreshments provided

Rediscover Jesus at Dural Anglican this Easter

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

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

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

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

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

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

Chronic multi-tasking produces distraction. And distracted people can't reflect well

on life's important questions... questions of substance.

Jesus offers a timely word with a simple equation:

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

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

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

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

Jesus promises life to the full – now and forever. I agree, that's a bold promise. And we need to think carefully about what Jesus means. At the same time, when Australian's are working themselves to an early grave... surely there must be a better way!



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

You'll find a welcoming community of everyday people...everyday people with everyday issues who are being transformed by Jesus. Jump online and check us out: duralanglican.org.au

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

Dougal Michie
Senior Minister, Dural Anglican Churches
Visit us at: duralanglican.org.au

News from St Benedicts March 2026

St Benedict's Country Fete: Sunday 22nd March

After a two-year break, it's time again for the 2026 St Benedicts Country Fete which will be held on Sunday 22nd March from 10am to 2pm. Entry is from 2 Fagans Road and there is plenty of parking in the grounds. There'll be all the fun of a traditional Fair: giant fruit and veg stall, chocolate wheel, raffle, flowers, crafts, gifts, coffee, plants, rides, face painting, homemade cakes and more. This very popular community event is open to all and there'll be something for everyone to enjoy.

Everyone's back!

All the regular parish activities are back after the summer break. The craft group, the Italian rosary group, the prayer group, the youth

group and all the other happenings. And we're busy leading up to Easter in early April.

The more than 20 catechists who teach in the local schools had a special celebration on Catechist Sunday in mid-February where those who were able to attend proudly renewed their commitment to this work. Here they are pictured with Father Eugene at the 9am Mass.

Parish Notices

Service times and parish information are found at www.bbcatholic.org.au/arcadia. Click on the News and Events tab to find the weekly Parish Bulletin. Or ring Paula 9653 2312 on Monday or Friday at the Parish Office, St Benedict's Catholic Church 2 Fagans Road Arcadia.



A Sign with Hidden Meaning

by John Davies

A sign with hidden meaning has appeared on the shelves of many supermarkets since the beginning of the year. Originally it would not appear until later in the year, around Easter time with a specific message, but obviously because many people enjoy it, the supermarkets were happy to introduce it earlier. While it would seem the most popular thing about it is its flavour, it is the symbol on the top of it that carries the meaning that most people don't seem to be aware of.

I am referring of course, to the Hot Cross Bun, which comes in a number of variations, but all of which come with a white cross on top. The meaning of this, and its relationship to Easter is that the cross relates to the execution by Roman soldiers, some 2,000 years ago of a man named Jesus, by nailing him to a wooden cross. This Jesus had claimed to be the Son of God and had told his followers that his death would be the sacrifice that was necessary to pay the price of

humanity's sin, and ransom men and women from their bondage to sin and death.

The fact that Jesus rose from the dead three days after his execution, and then gave the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit to his followers who put their trust in him as the "Christ" or "Messiah" promised by God, verified the claims he had made. From this point, a new religious group emerged, labelled by others as "Christians." Over 2,000 years this group has spread to almost every country in the world and has shaped the morality and spirituality of millions.

The most common celebration almost everywhere is what we call "Easter," which commemorates Jesus' death and resurrection. And the most common emblem or sign is the Cross. The peculiarity of this is that the cross is the instrument of a most horrendous death. No other religion has such symbol, but it is still the key to the new life that Jesus won for us. As we approach the season of Easter, if you would like to know more of this, as you eat a Hot Cross Bun, search out the nearest Church, and ask.

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Crossword

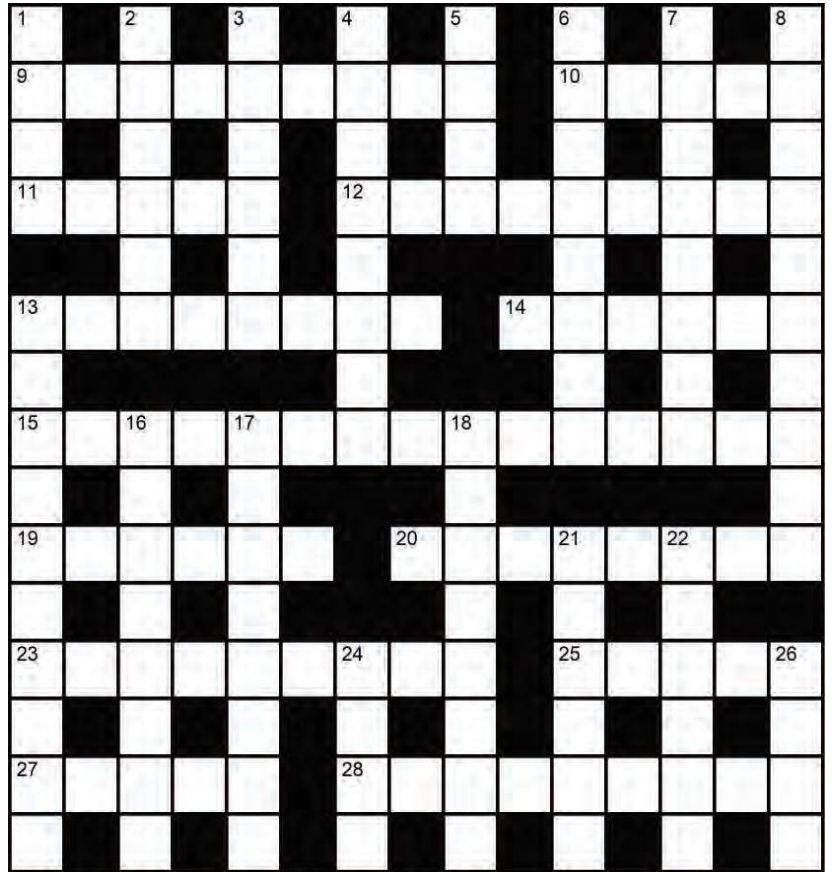
PUZZLE

ACROSS

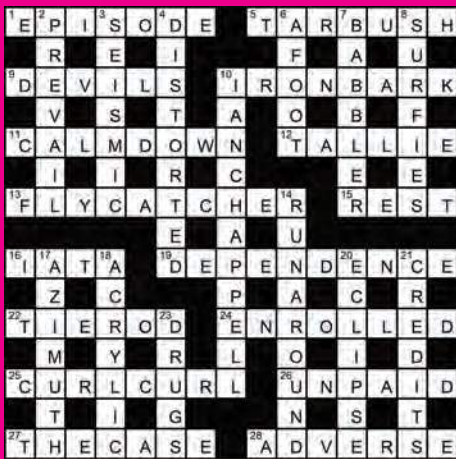
- 09 Independent kind of writer (9)
- 10 Broadcasting (2,3)
- 11 Hold sway (5)
- 12 Immigrant-processing island (9)
- 13 Somewhere unimportant (4,4)
- 14 Geniality (6)
- 15 Flinders Island climbing challenge (10,5)
- 19 Teach bit by bit (6)
- 20 Egg-laying mammal (8)
- 23 Widespread shrub with petal-less flowers (9)
- 25 Gesture of indifference (5)
- 27 Frequently (5)
- 28 Clover bush (6,3)

DOWN

- 01 At a distance (4)
- 02 South North American republic (6)
- 03 Completely redone (3-3)
- 04 Short true story (8)
- 05 Mean (4)
- 06 Mallee archaeological site (3,5)
- 07 Meryl Streep musical (5,3)
- 08 Product of an arms factory? (10)
- 13 President saw nothing wrong (10)
- 16 Honours (8)
- 17 Variants (8)
- 18 Pro golfer known as "The Pymble Crusher" (3,5)
- 21 Prepares a salad (6)
- 22 Equivalence (6)
- 24 Corporate image (4)
- 26 Plot holes (4)



ANSWERS FROM FEBRUARY ISSUE



1	6	4	8	2	7	3	9	5
8	7	3	9	4	5	2	6	1
5	9	2	3	6	1	8	7	4
2	4	6	1	7	8	9	5	3
9	3	8	2	5	6	4	1	7
7	5	1	4	9	3	6	2	8
6	2	5	7	3	4	1	8	9
4	1	7	6	8	9	5	3	2
3	8	9	5	1	2	7	4	6

Sudoku

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 to 9.

		3	2	8				
7				1				
	4				6			1
					3		4	6
			5		8		9	
9		4		5				
4				3				1
						2		8
						5	3	2

