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Galston Gorge Closure

The NSW Government has fully closed Galston Road between Calderwood Road and Montview Parade from 8pm Sunday, 11th January to 8am Saturday, 14th February 2026 (weather permitting) for essential maintenance. Work includes strengthening Tunks Creek Bridge, stabilizing slopes, and general maintenance such as asphalt replacement, guardrail repairs, verge works, gutter cleaning, and tree trimming. A temporary site compound will be set up in the National Park. Detours will be signposted via Galston Rd, Old Northern Rd, New Line Rd, Boundary Rd, Pennant Hills Rd,



and Pacific Hwy. Expect reduced speed limits, full-time road closure, and at least 30 minutes of extra travel time. Please follow all signage and directions.

For updates and further information please contact:

1800 735 563

Info.harbour@connectsydney.com.au

If you would like to receive program updates, please contact, ConnectSydney with the subject heading 'Subscribe me to Galston Road e-news'.



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From the desk of the Editor

by Karlene Brummer

Happy 2026 to all our readers! Welcome to our first edition of the year. I hope that you all had a lovely Christmas and holiday season and that the New year is a happy and positive one.

The team at the GCN are raring to go – hoping to bring you lots of news and happenings from our beautiful local area.

We invite contributions from our readers, including Letters to the Editor, announcements of special birthdays or anniversaries, memorials or obituaries, and any newsworthy items relevant to our coverage area. For submission specifications, please refer to the information provided on page 3.

While I don't usually follow fads or hop on the 'viral trends' bandwagon, I did actually succumb to one Instagram hack earlier this year and I



have to say that it was actually as good as it purported to be, so if you haven't already tried it for yourself I would definitely say give it a go!

All it takes is two ingredients:

1. A packet of Biscoff biscuits (available at most supermarkets)
2. A tub of Greek yoghurt.



You poke as many Biscoff bikkies as you can into the tub of yoghurt and leave it in the fridge overnight (or in my case only for 4 hours!) and then when you take it out and eat it tastes like a CHEESECAKE.

It's surprisingly delicious—just try not to eat it all at once!



**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.



Diana Paton
Publisher
0408 011 193

diana@adelphi.net.au



Karen Taylor
Advertising
0487 111 868

advertising@galstoncommunity.com.au



Karlene Brummer
Editorial

editorial@galstoncommunity.com.au

Ads/Artwork/Design

info@galstoncommunity.com.au

Accounts

accounts@galstoncommunity.com.au

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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Colour and creativity set to transform Hills public spaces

by Saswati Mukherjee

Local streets, parks and laneways across The Hills Shire are set to become more creative and colourful, thanks to a new Public Art Grant from The Hills Shire Council. This initiative aims to celebrate creativity, showcase local talent and bring residents and visitors together to enjoy art in everyday spaces.

The Public Art Grant was introduced after a review of the Hills Shire Council's Grant Policy, endorsed at the December Council meeting. The new funding stream is aimed at celebrating artistic expression and cultural diversity.

Mayor of The Hills Shire, Dr Michelle Byrne said the grant is to celebrate local artists alongside breathing new life into the region's public spaces.

"Public art helps make our streets and parks more engaging, encourages community participation, and highlights the stories and heritage of our area," said Byrne.

"This funding allows artists to create work that can be seen, enjoyed and experienced by everyone. Any location that is visible and accessible to the public can be considered, and we're excited to see how local creativity brings these spaces to life," she said.

The Public Art Grant round is open to individual artists, community groups, not-for-profits and for-profits, with funding available from \$5,000 to \$50,000.

All grants require dollar-for-dollar match funding and will be assessed by a panel based on the strength and community impact of each proposal.

Hills businesses, community groups, not-for-profit organisations, and individuals can now secure grant funding opportunities from across Australia with the launch of The Hills Grant Guru Hub.

The Hills Shire Council has partnered with Grant Guru to provide a free, centralised search platform that brings together government, private, and philanthropic grants in one convenient location.

"The Hub offers advanced filtering tools, the ability to favourite and save grants for future reference, search functionality for current and upcoming funding programs and email alerts notifying users to relevant new grants," said Michelle Byrne, Mayor of The Hills Shire Council.

The Hills Grant Guru Hub is available now and free for all to use.

The program aims to support projects that:

- Promote vibrant places
- encourage community participation in arts and culture
- celebrate local heritage and stories
- encourage placemaking and
- boost tourism and visitor economy.

The first round of the Public Art Grant is expected to open in early 2026, giving local artists and groups plenty of time to plan their projects.

As part of the recent review, Council also updated its Grants Policy – to ensure that funding is directed to projects that benefit the wider Hills Shire community.

A Blessed Life

by Karlene Brummer

Max Cowdroy, affectionately known as “Max the Minstrel,” has been a cherished resident of Galston for the past 48 years. He and his wife, Janice—whom he met at Teachers College—have shared nearly seven decades together. Their family has grown to include three children, seven grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren, with two more on the way.

A Lifelong Educator

After dedicating 51 years to teaching, Max built an impressive career spanning 12 years in primary education, 33 in secondary education, and six in special education. He retired at age 69 but quickly realized that a quiet retirement was not for him. Seeking new purpose, he began volunteering at Flinders Village in Castle Hill. After two years, his commitment and enthusiasm led to a staff position as Recreational Activities Officer, a role he held for the next seven years.

Musical Journey

A self-taught musician, Max mastered the guitar, piano, and button accordion. In the late 1980s, he formed a bush band called the Free Selectors with his sons, Rodney and Matt, and a few friends. The group performed at over 150 events, including weddings, 21st birthdays, and special occasions. Alongside his daughter, Michelle, Max also took part in numerous productions with the Dural Musical Society. Max is also an accomplished recitationist, with a great love of Henry Lawson, Banjo Patterson and other ‘Bush Poets’.

Community Involvement

Today, Max continues to share his love of music as a solo performer. He plays twice a week at the Galston Community Centre—entertaining guests at the Seniors Lunch on Tuesdays and the D-Caf dementia support group on Mondays. For many years, he also played at the Mark Donaldson VC Hostel, where he enjoyed engaging with residents and listening to their fascinating life stories. He most recently performed at the Australia Day Festivities at the invitation of the friends of Fagan Park and was a huge hit with both young and old.

When offered payment for his services, Max declines, requesting a donation to his chosen charity instead, and he has been a long-time supporter of the Leprosy Mission.

A Grateful Outlook

Reflecting on his journey of the past 86 years, Max describes his life as truly blessed. He lives by the mantra of

maintaining “an attitude of gratitude” each and every day, inspiring those around him with his positivity and dedication to community.

To contact Max:
Ph 0427 674 449 Email
maxcowdroy@hotmail.com



Galston Gossip

by Karlene Brummer

A cute and elegant looking little shopfront has recently opened in the Aldi Car park precinct at Galston Shopping Centre.

Eli's Clothing Alterations is tucked away in a corner position opposite Lasernik Clinic.

Word on the street is that a Barber's shop will be opening soon in the space that previously was home to A New U, upstairs next to All Smiles Dental.



Charity Bins Update

by Karlene Brummer



The Charity bins that were located at the old Andy's Takeaway site on Arcadia Road, and the Galston Club carpark have now been removed.

A new bin has been placed at Galston (just outside the perimeter of the Aldi Car park) but as of today (24/1) was overflowing. There are also bins at St Judes, and Helping Hearts both at the corner of Galston & Old Northern Roads.

If you know of any others please email: Editorial@galstoncommunity.com.au

Galston CWA

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

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

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

Contact Anne: 0404 228 209
Patricia: 0412 948 787

More Woes for Wiso's

by Karlene Brummer

The GCN is sad to report that another iconic business of Wiseman's Ferry Village has closed its doors for good. The scenic Heritage Café has ceased trading, allegedly due to increased rental charges. With the recent closure of the Ferry Artist's Gallery within the same complex, the vibrant little village shines a little less brightly now.



Dural & District Historical Society Speakers for 2026

February: History of Bagpipes - John Graham

March: Anniangrove - Sue Edwards

April: Aussie Hero Quilts - Jan-Marce Ball

May: Local Shows and RAS - Jenny Bradley and Murray Wilton

June: Joe Booth - Judy Horton

July: Local Memories - Mal Johnston

August: June Roughtley Memorial Lecture - Michael Griffith

September: The Great North Road and Convict Trail Project - Elyssa Fream

October: Annual General Meeting and Show and Tell

November: Hubson - David Jehan

All talks are held on the second Saturday of the month at 2pm in the Galston Uniting Church, School Road, Galston.

Free entry, afternoon tea provided for a gold coin donation.

2026: The year you finally fix that *thing*

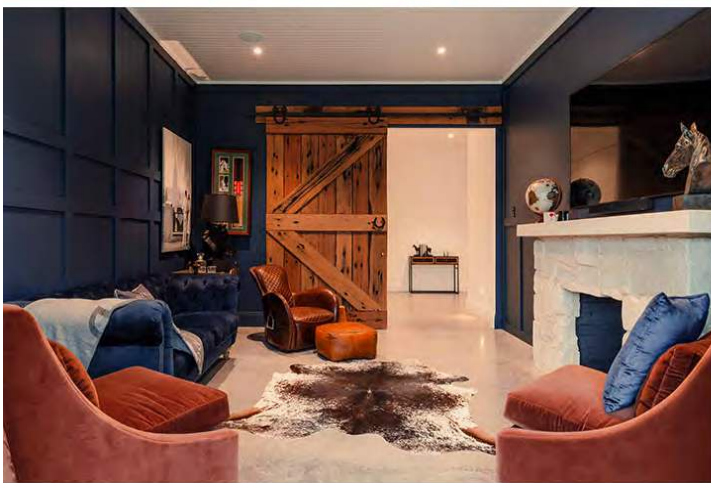
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DRINK DRIVING

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

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

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

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

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

INTOXICATED

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

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

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

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

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

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

FUN AT THE FARM

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

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

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



TWO BOYS ARRESTED

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

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

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

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



RANDOM BREATH TESTING

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

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

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

SANTA RUN

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

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

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

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

STRUCTURE FIRE

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

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



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

NSW Police and NSW Ambulance were present to provide support.

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

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Local Volunteers and Community Leaders Honoured at 2026 Australia Day Awards

Local residents and community groups whose dedication and service have made a lasting impact across The Hills Shire were recognised at Council's 2026 Australia Day Awards Ceremony, held on Wednesday 21 January at the Pioneer Theatre.

The annual event celebrated the outstanding contributions of individuals and organisations across five categories: Community Group of the Year, Environmental Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year, Sporting Citizen of the Year, and Citizen of the Year.

Mayor of The Hills Shire, Dr Michelle Byrne, said the ceremony was an important opportunity to acknowledge the remarkable volunteer spirit that underpins the community.

"The Hills is incredibly fortunate to have such a strong culture of volunteering and community service," Mayor Byrne said.

"From supporting families and veterans, to protecting our environment, mentoring young people and strengthening community connections, the people recognised today give their time and compassion purely to make life better for others."

"Their generosity reflects the very best of Australian values and reminds us of the power of community to create meaningful, positive change."

2026 Australia Day Award Recipients

Community Group of the Year

Winner: Soroptimist International of The Hills District

Celebrating 45 years of service, Soroptimist International of The Hills District was recognised for its long-standing advocacy, fundraising, sustainability initiatives and support for women, families and young people across the Shire.

Environmental Citizen of the Year

Winner: Anne Thompson

Anne was honoured for her innovative circular economy work, transforming textile waste into practical products, keeping tonnes of material out of landfill while educating and inspiring future generations.

Young Citizen of the Year

Winner: Jethro Sultano

Jethro was recognised for his exceptional leadership and volunteer work across community service, youth programs, fundraising and school representation, contributing positively to multiple organisations across The Hills.

Highly Commended: Sienna Kallas

Sienna was acknowledged for her outstanding fundraising efforts



Australia Day Award winners pictured with Mayor Byrne

through Dance for Sick Kids, raising more than \$100,000 to support families at Ronald McDonald House, while also excelling internationally in dance.

Sporting Citizen of the Year

Winner: Sophie Polkinghorne

A three-time national champion, Sophie was acknowledged for combining elite sporting achievement with leadership, sportsmanship and strong community involvement.

Highly Commended: Ethan Odell

Ethan received Highly Commended recognition for his achievements as an inspirational para-athlete, demonstrating resilience, determination and leadership through his involvement in rugby league and athletics.

Citizen of the Year

Winner: Professor Olivia Mirza

Professor Mirza received the Shire's highest honour for her outstanding leadership in STEM education and her measurable community impact through outreach programs supporting girls, migrant families and under-represented students.

The Australia Day Awards Ceremony forms part of Council's broader Australia Day celebrations.

Other events scheduled for Monday, 26th January include the Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony, flag raising ceremonies, a pool party at Waves Fitness and Aquatic Centre and an evening celebration at Bella Vista Farm headlined by Australian Idol winner Marshall Hamburger as well as an appearance from some of your favourite Sesame Street characters and a fireworks finale.

To learn more about Council's Australia Day celebrations, visit www.thehills.nsw.gov.au and search 'Australia Day 2026'



NEWS FROM NETHERBY

Everything but the Kitchen Sink

My story could be as 'dull as dishwater' but I was so dreaming of a shiny, stainless steel kitchen sink...

To make more sense of this, let me fill you in. For some time now I have been championing for a kitchen sink and running water to be installed in the Friends of Fagan Park's lunch room without success. Such a simple, staple item of every household is non-existent, meaning that water must be collected from a nearby tap into a bucket and decanted into a plastic camp sink every time we need to wash up kitchen items. Sometimes we have to take home items to wash. It's reminiscent of living back in the 1900's when it was a routine job of collecting water for chores around the homestead for the Fagan family!

But it was not just a mere pipe dream. At our Friends' Christmas function last year, I received a surprise Christmas gift from my fellow volunteers... a second hand stainless steel kitchen sink with a lovely yellow ribbon. I was absolutely delighted and there was lots of laughter and merriment as everyone knew just how much I had been 'sinking' about something more substantial to wash the dishes in, and it was a double sink complete with mixer tap!



The next and most important step is to have my sink installed and fully functional for future use, something that the Friends of Fagan Park are hoping will eventually happen sometime in 2026.

Julie Graham, Honorary Curator
The friends of Fagan Park

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It's Hornsby's Time for an Active Transport Plan

by Councillor Nathan Tilbury

Active Transport means a network of infrastructure for cyclists and pedestrians to safely move around.

This also benefits motorists as these facilities keep cyclists and pedestrians safely off the roads and, in many cases, completely separated. It also equates to less motor vehicles on our roads.

In recent months I have been actively experiencing the impressive cycling and pedestrian networks that are enjoyed across other local government areas surrounding the Hornsby Shire.

The most disappointing thing for me is not that Hornsby doesn't have these amenities, it's that we don't even have a plan for them. Having a plan means we can apply for State and Federal government funding opportunities while working directly with our neighbouring councils and Transport for NSW to ensure the network links seamlessly.

Some of the impressive active transport facilities I have recently used include;

- Parramatta's use of the light rail corridor along the former Carlingford railway line.
- Ryde – Parramatta foreshore pathway network along Parramatta River that links the impressive facilities in Sydney Olympic Park & the Parramatta CBD.
- Willoughby Council's great network along a former drainage easement. This allows cyclists & pedestrians to easily access the Sydney CBD almost entirely off-road.
- Penrith has a popular loop circuit along the Nepean River.
- Central Coast has a variety of great pathways with my favourite being the Umina – Gosford shared pathway.
- Newcastle has an extensive network of foreshore tracks & with excellent links to its CBD.

All these are supported by clear signage, ample shade & various facilities such as public toilets, drinking stations, rest areas, even regular markets. In addition, there are thriving small businesses, such as cafes, dotted along the routes.

Safely cycling and walking is a crucial way for the whole family to move around for both recreation and commuting. While some councils are delivering this infrastructure for their residents in an impressive way unfortunately, in the Hornsby Shire this has not been council's focus, and our residents are missing out.

Each year we invest millions of dollars on upgraded our roads and this is crucial. But so is delivering alternative and healthier methods for residents to safely move around.

The Hornsby Shire has one of the highest rates of bike ownership and walking is our number 1 form of exercise. Our residents are pleading with Council to deliver the infrastructure and for too long Hornsby Council has talked about preparing an *Active Transport* strategy, only to have it fall by the wayside because a councillor's pet project has taken the resources.

It's time we listen to our community to deliver what so many residents are screaming for, before the Hornsby Shire falls further behind or misses out entirely.



I will be working hard to make an *Active Transport Study* a high priority for Hornsby Council in 2026. If you have an interest in engaging with council regarding an Active Transport strategy, feel free to reach out.

Clr Nathan Tilbury 0403 227 560
 ntilbury@hornsby.nsw.gov.au

Girl Guides Meet Near You

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

Galston Junior Guides, 414 Galston Road
Thursdays 4.30-6pm (term time only)
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GalstonJG@girlguides-nswactnt.org.au



BUSH MUSIC CLUB

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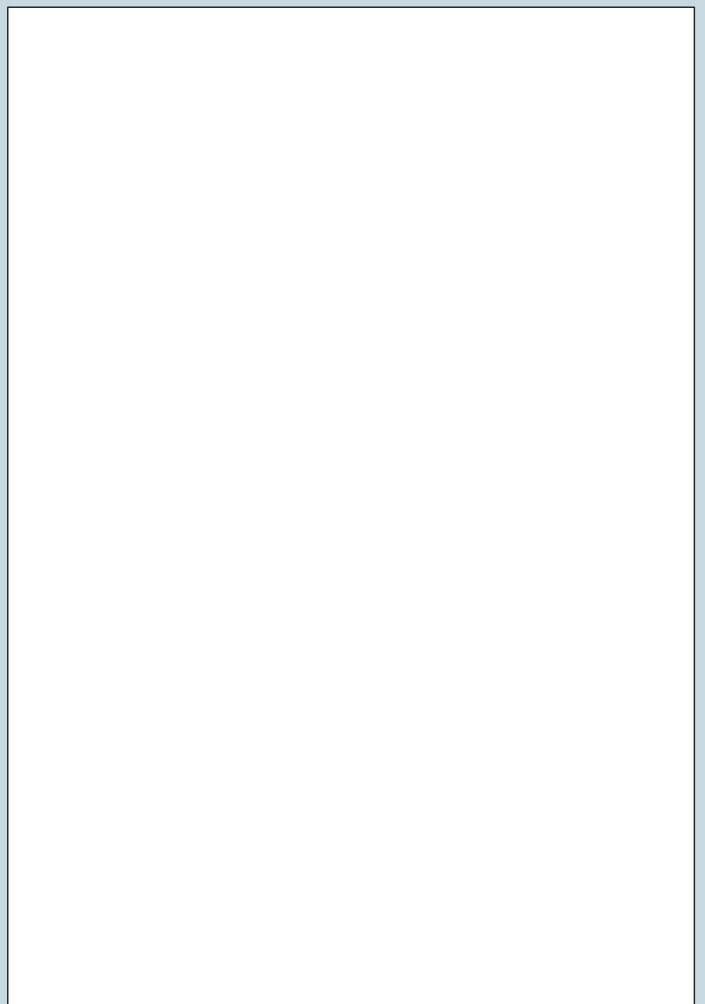
adults \$20, children <12yrs free, family \$40
 concessions: groups of 10 & BMC members \$15

The Bush Music Club www.bushmusic.org.au email: bmcmail1954@gmail.com

The Bush Music Club (BMC) Bush Dance

The Bush Music Club (BMC) was formed in 1954 to collect and promote Australian folk music, songs, and dance. We are Australia's oldest continuously operating folk club. The musicians are all members of the BMC and take pleasure in playing for an audience and to provide enjoyment for the dancers. It is all voluntary and the musicians are not paid. We welcome you to come along to this dance. It is not required that you know these dances. All dances are taught on the day, and then called during the actual dance, so beginners can quickly get involved. It is all about doing having a fun time and doing something different. Even if you don't wish to dance why not come along anyway to watch and the dancers and listen to live Australian folk music being played.

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



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maintenance of shared areas and gardens, and the operation of community facilities.

- **Exit fee (often called a Deferred Management Fee):** Agreed upfront and applied when you leave, helping fund long-term upkeep and future improvements so the community remains consistently well maintained.

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

What matters most is how the structure supports the way you want to live. A clearer framework can replace stop-start home

ownership costs with a steadier rhythm, freeing up time and headspace for travel, family, wellbeing, and the simple pleasure of a home that stays beautifully cared for.

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Yay! Pavers are now laid in front of the Glenorie Memorial Hall



If you were fortunate enough to order pavers, you can now find yours in front of our Memorial Hall and your name has been set into Glenorie's history and future. It was exciting to see the staff and contractors for Hornsby Shire Council piecing together the jigsaw puzzle so that the family pavers are laid together. Check them out and the further work that Council is doing to upgrade the carparking at the Hall, making our venue more accessible to all.

You are all invited to our Grand Opening Day of our brilliant RayWhiteman Heritage Fence!

Sunday 15th February 2026.

Any enquiries please contact Di on 0418 432 587.



We know you have been waiting with bated breath for the final instalment of the Hughes Family, noting their huge contribution to Glenorie...

In December we told you about the Hughes children and their contribution in running their own orchards, farms and sawmills and being part of the local community who were instrumental in the instigation of the local RSL club and the Glenorie 'Co-operative'. Their story continues...

Herbert is remembered for his service in the 1st Light Horse during the 1st World War serving in Gallipoli and the Middle East from 1915-1919. His uncle John Neil another local (Fannie's brother) gave Bert his best horse to take with him.

One of Bert's proudest moments was when he was chosen as an 'outrider' for the Prince of Wales visit in the 1920's.



Herbert (Bert) Hughes



Outriders for the Prince of Wales visit



Two of his nephews, Gordon (Gordon's son)-Left in photo and Neil Hughes (Neil's son)-Right in photo, have gone on to commemorate his and brother Neil's service by becoming representatives of the Light Horse, travelling all around NSW for particular events wearing replica uniforms, saddles and attachments.

Other notable servicemen from the Hughes'

- Neil Hughes Snr - who joined the Light Horse but did not see overseas service
- George Hughes - Son of Albert (Jack) who served in WWII
- Ronald Hughes - Grandson of Albert (Jack) for his service in Vietnam.
- Edgar Neil - Grandson of John Neil was killed in WWII
- Ronald Neil - Grandson of John Neil served in WWII
- Phillip Schwebel – son of Elsie (Hughes) and Ted Schwebel organised a Hughes Family reunion in 2005 at the Glenorie Memorial Hall

19 grandchildren of Thomas and Fannie attended along with well over 100 descendants!

There are many descendants from this pioneering family, and many still reside, work or are being educated in The Hills Shire.



PETS OF THE WEEK

The Hawkesbury Companion Animal Shelter (CAS)

is at 10 Mulgrave Rd, Mulgrave.

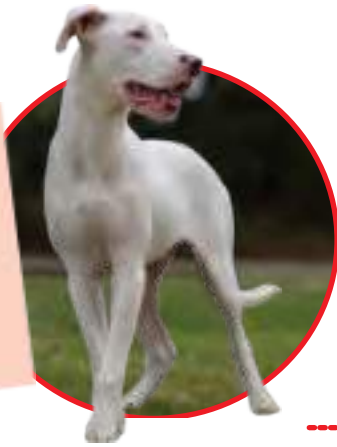
Call 4560 4644 for opening hours

or visit the new webpage

<https://hawkesburycas.com.au/>

AT A GLANCE:

NAME: GHOST
BREED: Bull Arab
Cross Large
Cross Breed
SEX: Male
AGE: 11 months
PRICE: \$99



MEET GHOST, a handsome 10-month-old puppy who is still full of that fun, playful puppy energy. He's curious, silly, and eager to learn - but like any young dog, he will need ongoing training, guidance, and patience as he continues to grow and mature.

Staff at the Hawkesbury Companion Animal Centre (CAS) say Ghost is partially deaf, so he will be best suited for a home with previous experience owning hearing-impaired dogs or adopters who are committed to learning positive training methods that work best for him. With the right structure and understanding, Ghost has so much potential to thrive.

Staff say if you're prepared for the joys and responsibilities of puppyhood and have experience with special-needs dogs, Ghost could be the perfect addition to your family. Ghost can go home with you right away. Be sure to bring any other dogs or children in your household to meet him to ensure he is the right match for your family!

MEET BELLE, a lovely feline companion with a gentle soul! She may be a bit shy when you first meet her, but it's only a matter of time before she warms up and reveals her affectionate side. Staff at the Hawkesbury Companion Animal Centre (CAS) say Belle embodies the perfect blend of mystery and warmth, offering endless companionship once she feels at home.

As you gradually gain her trust, you'll discover that Belle is a true sweetheart who thrives on gentle interactions and nurturing connections. She has a knack for observing her surroundings and interpreting human emotions, making her a sensitive and delightful partner in your day-to-day life.

Staff say she is ideal for a calm and understanding environment and will blossom with a patient and loving family who can respect her initial hesitancy. If you're ready to embrace the journey of discovering a newfound friendship, Belle is eager to embark on this path with you. With time, she'll reveal a rewarding bond filled with love, trust, and quiet understanding.

AT A GLANCE:

NAME: BELLE
BREED: Domestic
Medium Hair
SEX: Female
AGE: 5 Years,
2 Months and 2 Weeks
PRICE: \$99



Disclaimer: **All prices include microchipping, lifetime Council registration, desexing and 1st Vaccination R251000145

The Probus Club of the Hills Christmas Lunch

The Probus Club of the Hills held its Christmas lunch at the Galston Club and enjoyed a delicious turkey meal.

Entertainment was provided by the wonderful Singaleles band of ladies with a ukulele base, but many other instruments and fine singing voices. Many Christmas favourites, but the



highlight was the twelve days of Christmas with lots of audience participation. The ten Lords a Leaping are still recovering!

The Singaleles are a keen group of singers who play ukuleles and other instruments, enjoying harmonies and some a cappella. They utilise a wide range of musical genres to provide a very entertaining act that also



uses instruments like the flute, glockenspiels, and even plastic cups.

We are a small but very friendly Probus Club and would like to attract more members living around our base in Galston.

Membership enquiries to Bob Heyward
0427 360 389, bnlheyward@hotmail.com

Glenorie Probus Club Activities



Cherry warehouse

War Memorial Japanese Gardens



Glenorie Probus Club finished the year in a positive mood. Membership had grown and all activities had been strongly supported. The final activities for the year had been a putt-putt golf game which saw some members having their first golf effort while others demonstrated their previous experience on the large course. Following the game the members had lunch to discuss their performance. The Clubs final tour of the year was a three day visit to Young for Cherry Blossom time. The members viewed Cherry Farms,

Museums, the Cowra Japanese garden and other historic and memorial sights.

The guest speaker for November was Barry Leithhead a club member whose father-in-law was a very colourful and accomplished Doctor who lived on Cattai Ridge Road from the mid 1970's. He devoted his working life to improving the health of Australians as a whole. He held a number of positions which supported his objectives including Chief Medical Officer, Chief Health Officer, Chief Protector of Aboriginals and Quarantine Officer in the Northern Territory supported his aims. This was

followed by senior positions in Western Australia and then Federally. A very interesting and devoted Doctor.

The club held its Christmas lunch at Glenorie RSL. The traditional Trivia Quiz was held which kept all entertained and thinking. This was followed by a great meal for the members which was provided by the club.

Once again Santa visited and an enjoyable time was had by all to finalise the years activities.

The club resumes its activities in February with an exciting range of activities in plan for 2026. Once again the club will hold its monthly coffee club meetings, a very interesting range of



Japanese garden

guest speakers and a variety of activities and tours planned for the year.

The Club meets on the at 11.00am on the 4th Wednesday of the month at Glenorie RSL and new members are welcome.

Contact Wendy Black on 9653 1022 or email wendyireneblack@yahoo.com.au



The Arcadia Para Dressage Club

The Arcadia Para Dressage Club is a shining example of how sport can be a powerful vehicle for inclusion, empowerment, and community building. Based in New South Wales, this not-for-profit organisation is dedicated to supporting riders with disabilities from across NSW and the ACT who are passionate about dressage and committed to improving their skills in a supportive environment.

At its heart, the Arcadia Para Dressage Club exists to open doors in a sport that traditionally can be difficult for people with physical challenges to access. Para-dressage is a discipline that showcases the harmony between horse and rider, and for riders with disabilities, it offers a platform for achievement, competition, and personal growth. The club provides tailored training opportunities, expert coaching, and pathways to competitive events from local shows all the way to international games.

A core part of the club's mission is to deliver structured protocol days and training camps that allow riders to refine their technique, develop confidence, and receive valuable feedback from coaches and judges who have competed and officiated at the highest levels of the sport. These events aren't just about refining athletic skills — they foster resilience, discipline, and self-belief, essential qualities both in and out of the arena.

Importantly, the club also recognises the vital role that families, support teams, grooms, and coaches play in the success of its riders. By nurturing a broader community around para-dressage athletes, the Arcadia Para Dressage Club strengthens a network of

encouragement that helps every participant reach their fullest potential.

The impact of this work reaches well beyond competition results. For many riders, involvement with the club provides priceless opportunities for social connection, physical activity, and the joy of working with horses — experiences that can transform lives and boost wellbeing. Sport has the unique ability to break down barriers, and para-dressage, in particular, emphasizes partnership, strength, and adaptive achievement.

As a not-for-profit organisation, the Arcadia Para Dressage Club relies on sponsorship, volunteering, and community support to continue growing its programs and offering more riders the opportunity to participate. Supporting the club means investing in accessibility, athletic development, and a more inclusive sporting future for all Australians.

In championing riders of all abilities, the Arcadia Para Dressage Club stands as a testament to what can be achieved when passion, purpose, and community come together.

If you'd like to help support the club please reach out on Thearcadiaparaclub@gmail.com or Contact us on 0407 100 690.

Facebook / Website

Arcadia Para Dress <https://www.arcadiaparadressageclub.com/age> Club

Funding page

Training Camp for Para Dressage Riders | Australian Sports Foundation

GALSTON LIBRARY

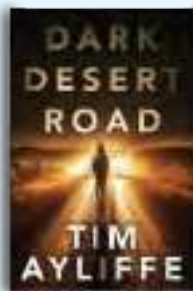
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ADULT FICTION

DARK DESERT ROAD BY TIM AYLIFFE

Police officer, Kit McCarthy hasn't seen her twin sister, Billie, in over a decade when she gets a frantic message from Billie, saying that somebody is trying to kill her. And then Billie disappears. Determined to find her estranged sister, Kit's only lead comes from their criminal father who claims that Billie has been living with a group of sovereign citizens in the desert country of the Riverina. Kit will risk everything to find her sister and the nephew she never knew existed.

Family loyalty meets extremism in this gripping, high-stakes thriller by one of Australia's best crime writers.



JUNIOR FICTION

The Wondrous Tale of Lavender Wolfe BY KAREN FOXLEE

Lavender Wolfe is a clapperdudgeon, pickpurse and all alone on a wharf when she is snatched by Big Agatha and thrown into the galley of *The Good Marchioness*. Captained by Odyessia Pleasant, a fierce pirate with long blonde hair, violet eyes and a bird's wing in the place of an arm, the crew are on a desperate voyage to find and return stolen treasure before all those on board are turned to sand. Lavender included.

An inventive and playful fantasy-adventure for ages 9+ from the bestselling author of *Lenny's Book of Everything*.



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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I would like to share my frustration regarding some drivers within the Aldi car park at Galston. When entering the carpark via the ramp, drivers are required to turn LEFT and follow a one-way path to the parking spaces.



Some drivers feel the desperate need to save the 5 seconds it takes to navigate to the parking spots adjacent to the ramp to the shops, and therefore go up the ramp, miss the first left turn and drive the wrong way to get to these spots.



If no one is in the carpark it's a moot point, however if people are exiting the carpark from this particular aisle they are then faced with an oncoming car resulting in one of the two vehicles having to reverse to allow egress. A couple of times I have stood my ground and refused to be the one to reverse, seeing as I am going the right way and they are not.

The car park is clearly marked with a "Left turn only" sign, so to all the impatient folk out there I say take the extra 5 seconds out of your life to drive the right way thus saving any possible altercations and inconvenience to the drivers going about their business and doing the right thing.

- *Name and Address supplied*

PAID ADVERTORIAL

The basics of exchanging property contracts

In property transactions, agreement does not yet equal commitment. While a buyer and seller may feel aligned on price and terms, a sale only becomes legally binding once contracts are formally exchanged. Until that point, everything remains provisional.

Reaching agreement on a sale price can feel like the finish line, however it marks the beginning of the most significant legal stage of the transaction. This is where intention becomes obligation, and where preparation, timing and trusted advice are essential.

The contract for sale does far more than confirm price. It defines the rights, responsibilities and expectations of both parties, which is why careful review is critical. Conditions, dates, inclusions and special clauses should be examined closely, as small oversights can result in

unexpected costs, delayed settlement or post-purchase limitations. Your solicitor or conveyancer can identify areas requiring clarification or amendment before the contract is ready for exchange.

Exchanging contracts is the legal turning point of a property sale. Two identical contracts are signed and formally exchanged, either immediately after an auction or, in private treaty sales, coordinated by solicitors, conveyancers or your agent. Before proceeding, finance approval should be confirmed, inspections completed and all negotiated terms accurately reflected. Once exchanged, both parties are legally bound and the focus shifts toward settlement.

At exchange, the buyer is required to pay a deposit, typically between 5 and 20 per cent of the purchase price. Held in trust, this forms part of the final purchase price and demonstrates commitment. Buyers relying on finance should ensure loan approval aligns with the exchange timeline.

In many cases, a cooling-off period applies after exchange, with timeframes varying by state. Buyers should understand their rights and obligations, including potential penalties if they withdraw during this period.

Following exchange, settlement usually occurs around six weeks later, unless otherwise negotiated. Ownership transfers once funds and documents are finalised, and in many states risk passes to the buyer at exchange, making early insurance advisable.

Exchanging contracts rewards preparation and expert guidance. An experienced agent helps manage timing, communication and expectations, ensuring the transaction progresses with confidence and clarity.

To find out more, call the Belle Property Dural office on 9129 2882 today!



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DURAL AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

News from History Cottage

Many readers took the opportunity of the Christmas break to travel and visit places away from home. It is always interesting to see how others have solved problems, remembered people; how they lived or to admire a landscape. How strong though; is the feeling of returning to the familiar surroundings of our district. As was recently said by a returning member, "A load dropped from my shoulders and I saw again what a beautiful place it is in which we live and I remembered some of its stories".

This enjoyment, of familiarity, is what local history is a part. Of gaining a greater sense of who we are and what makes us part of a community and our place within it.

The Historical Society's first guest speaker for 2026, on the 14th February, is John Graham. John is an essential part of the way in which our community celebrates its wartime service, the way it remembers loved and valued members on their death, the coming together on the happy occasions of weddings and birthdays. For many

"The Pipes" are a way of expressing so much of what we are. John's talk "*The Bagpipe Story*", will discuss the known history of bagpipes, their significance in cultures as well as some of his own experiences. He poses a problem, did Nero play the fiddle or...the pipes?

Annangrove is another of the special places that made up the early European settlements known as "The Durals". On the 14th March, Sue Edwards will give her talk on this historic place with connections to many of the significant early residents in the Colony.

History Cottage will be open on the fourth Sunday of each month, the 22nd of February, then the 22nd March etc. between 1.00 and 4.00pm. The Society encourages readers to use its records for family and local history research.

All meetings are held in the Galston Uniting Church, School Road, Galston, starting at 2.00pm. Entry is free and all are welcome to hear the talks and enjoy afternoon tea for a gold coin donation.

Enquiries: Michael Bell 02 9653 1365



Murderous Mayhem in 'Arsenic and Old Lace'

by Lance Zafe

Castle Hill Players is kicking off its 2026 season with a classic black comedy, *Arsenic and Old Lace*, playing at the Pavilion Theatre, Castle Hill, from 30th January to 21st February.

Written by Joseph Kesselring and directed by Steve Rowe, the fast-paced farce is perhaps best known for its 1944 film adaptation starring Cary Grant. On stage, it brings to life the wildly eccentric Brewster family, whose charm is matched only by their unusual habits.

The story follows drama critic Mortimer Brewster, played by Brett Watkins, who has just married the girl next door, Elaine Harper, portrayed by Emma Lebeuf.

Mortimer's excitement is quickly tempered when he returns to his family home to discover that his two spinster aunts, Abby and Martha Brewster (played by Kate Mannix and Margaret Olive) have been serving lonely elderly men a very special elderberry wine, with fatal consequences.

Mortimer's household is further complicated by his brothers. Teddy, played by Myles Burgin, believes he is former US president Theodore Roosevelt and spends much of his time digging in the cellar.

Meanwhile, Jonathan Brewster, portrayed by Thomas Southwell, is a criminal whose appearance has been altered by the dubious skills of Dr Einstein, played by Jem Rowe.



Brett Watkins, Thomas Southwell



Kate Mannix, Margaret Olive

As Mortimer navigates the chaos, the audience is treated to a whirlwind of farce, dark humour and outrageous twists.

Reflecting on the production, director Steve Rowe said: "In *Arsenic and Old Lace*, Castle Hill Players have chosen an absolute banger to kick off our 2026 season."

"It's a classic dark comedy set in 1940s Brooklyn in the home of the murderous Brewster family. What's in the elderberry wine? What's down in the cellar? Come along to the Pavilion Theatre and find out," he said.

The Pavilion Theatre describes the play as a "fast-moving, farcical black comedy featuring the maniacal, and mostly homicidal, Brewster family" and promises audiences "an evening in stitches—no surgery required."

The production features a full supporting cast, including Chris Scarpelino, Ross Alexander, Pamela de Pomeroy, Matthew Robson and Chris Clark, and is supported by set design from Chris Lundie and Steve Rowe, lighting by James Winters, and costumes by Mia Rowe and Annette Snars.

Performances run Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm, with Sunday matinees at 4pm. Tickets are \$30 for adults and \$25 for concession. The Pavilion Theatre is located within the Castle Hill Showgrounds, with bookings available via the theatre website or box office.

For local theatre lovers, *Arsenic and Old Lace* promise a lively and entertaining start to the year, blending classic farce with a distinctly theatrical flair. Castle Hill Players' production invites the community to enjoy a night of laughs, surprises and a glimpse into the quirks of the infamous Brewster family.



Brett Watkins



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

by Kath Ware

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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- Find your vocal part, and have fun learning a new song together with the chorus – a popular favourite that you'll love!
- Starting 7.30pm Wed 18 February for 6 weeks for just \$150.

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

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CHORUS

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Castle Hill Art Society

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



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

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

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

Enquiries 9899 3179 www.castlehillartsociety.org.au



From the desk of
James Wallace

MEMBER FOR HORNSBY

The infrastructure we need to support growth

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

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

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

None of our local schools accept out-of-area enrolments due to capacity constraints. We need to plan for and manage the proposed population growth so that the high standards of education which local families have come to expect from these schools is preserved.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Julian Leaser

FEDERAL MEMBER
FOR BEROWRA

Education Shapes the Future of Our Young People

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

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

One of my priorities is ensuring every family has access to a high-quality education, whether they choose a government, Catholic or independent school. Strong communities depend on strong schools, and our system works best when students are supported to thrive.

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

Education must also prepare young people to participate confidently in our democracy, think critically, and engage respectfully with others. When we invest in knowledge, character and civic understanding, we invest in Australia's future.

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



Rural Roundup

Jane Seaglove

Hornsby Councillor



Hello Residents,

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

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

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

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

Hornsby Shire local events coming up in January/February:

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

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

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

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

ADVERTORIAL

Bush Fire...Get Ready!

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

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

The Aussie Fire Chief is regarded as the world's best lightweight, portable fire pump. Designed originally for Australian conditions, it's now a big seller around the world.

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

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

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

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



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

Action on Graffiti Crises

by Councillor Nathan Tilbury

Sadly, as can sometimes be the case during the school holiday period, there is currently an unpleasant spate of graffiti damage occurring across the Hornsby Shire. Particular problem areas that residents have reported to me include Mt Colah, Berowra and Beecroft/Cheltenham where fences, buildings, vehicles and signage have been targeted.

Graffiti is best removed as soon as possible, and it is the responsibility of the property's owner to remove it.

Council has always had a policy of aiming to remove graffiti damage on council assets within 48 hours of it being reported. Graffiti vandalism on council property can be reported via council's website (where images & short videos can be uploaded) or by calling council's graffiti hotline 1800 199 282.

When using on Council's website to report graffiti damage there are also direct links to report to other organizations if their assets have been targeted, such as *Ausgrid, Aust. Post, Service NSW, State Transit* and *Sydney Water*.

You can also report graffiti and other vandalism via the NSW Police Force's Community Portal, where you will receive an email within 48 hours with a NSW Police event number.

My personal preferred option is to report graffiti using the www.vandaltrak.com website. This is an easy-to-use single reporting source that works directly with local councils, businesses, the police and other organizations to combat graffiti vandalism.



Again, when reporting graffiti via *VandalTrack* photos of the incidents can be uploaded. This is important as these images are collated and stored, ready for when a perpetrator is apprehended and their current and historic "tag" damage can be attributed to them, even if it has long since been removed.

To encourage and support residents to quickly remove graffiti from their own property, Hornsby Council is working towards making available graffiti removal kits. The contents of these kits are currently being finalized, and Hornsby Council hopes to launch the initiative shortly.

Authorities are aware of the current graffiti situation and are allocating resources accordingly, with a focus on catching the tagger(s). From previous experience we know the best way to stop a graffiti problem is hold the offender(s) accountable. This will often deter others, including potential offenders, and, often, many of them they "grow out" of this pathetic crime.

Finally, I discourage people from putting up images graffiti on Social Media. Sadly, the offenders get a kick out of seeing their handiwork "published".

A Thank You to Our Local Firefighters

by James Wallace MP

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

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

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

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



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

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

Historic River Crossing Approaches Magic Milestone

by Nathan Tilbury

The ferry crossing that gave the Wisemans Ferry township its name, was established by Solomon Wiseman in 1827 to assist with supplying the convicts building the road. When the road opened the ferry became a crucial link over the Hawkesbury River.

With its bicentenary fast approaching and to ensure this occasion will be one to remember, a local-resident-committee has been established to plan commemorations for 2027.

With the longest continuous river crossing in Australia, Wisemans Ferry is a river township with deep cultural, social, and historical significance. This makes the area a wonderful place to both live and visit, with tourism the major industry in the area today.

The ferry's bicentenary presents a unique opportunity to bring together residents, businesses, visitors, and all levels of government to honour the past, while celebrating the present and future of Wisemans Ferry.

The Bicentenary Committee is currently in the early stages of planning a range of activities and events to mark this special occasion.

With Wisemans Ferry's in a unique location, at the junction of multiple government boundaries at all levels, the committee has already had early engagement and positive commitments of support from all representatives.

The Bicentenary Committee will continue to keep the community informed as commemoration ideas evolve and how individuals or businesses can get involved. Support and feedback throughout the process are very welcome.



For enquiries or to share your ideas, please contact: wisemansferry200@gmail.com

With active community involvement and collaborative support, the Wisemans Ferry river crossing 200-year celebration promises to be memorable and meaningful while showcasing the area's rich heritage and the strength of this unique riverside community.

Congratulations to the Class of 2025!

by James Wallace MP

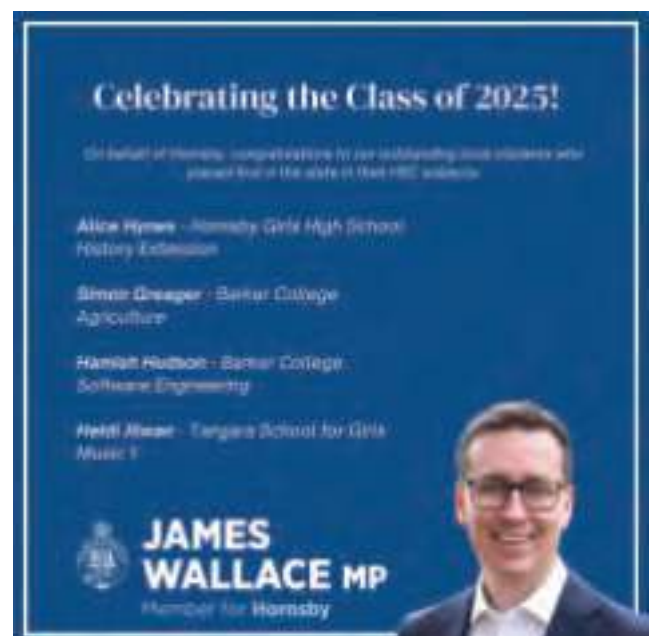
Congratulations to several Hornsby students on their outstanding HSC results, with four local students placing first in New South Wales in their subjects.

The top-performing students are:

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

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

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Upgraded BMX Track A Boon for Local Riders

by Lawrence Machado

Riders from the Castle Hill BMX Club have given the tick of approval for the upgraded Turon Avenue BMX Track in Baulkham Hills. The track layout has been expanded and includes a mix of new and individual jumps and pumps, catering to a wider range of ages and abilities.

Tara Cochran of the Castle Hill BMX Club said the new upgraded track was a great facility not just for BMX riders but anyone who loves riding.

"Pump tracks like Turon Avenue Reserve are fantastic because they're free, accessible and can be enjoyed by BMX riders, scooter kids and skateboarders alike," Ms Cochran said.

"This upgrade gives our riders another high-quality, local track where they can build skills, confidence and enjoy BMX in a safe, modern space."

Last year, Castle Hill BMX Club hosted the 2025 NSW State Titles, underlining their status as one of the most successful in NSW. Some of their best riders, Jack Lupton, Harry Rowlands, and Ivy Rowlands took part in 2025 UCI World Championships, while others have impressed at AusCycling National Rounds.

"This upgrade is all about giving our community fun, free spaces to get active, and there's nothing better than seeing local riders straight back on the track enjoying it," Mayor Dr Michelle Byrne said.



Mayor Dr Michelle Byrne with some of the local BMX riders at the Turon Avenue BMX Track. *Picture: The Hills Shire Council*

"BMX tracks like this are incredibly popular with young people and families, and it's great to see Turon Avenue Reserve back in action with a track that's safer, more fun and built to last."

The Hills Shire Council said the track has been resurfaced and reshaped to deliver a smoother, faster and more fun ride.

"With refreshed jumps, rollers and flowing sections, the upgraded layout caters for everyone from first timers finding their balance to confident riders looking to sharpen their skills," the council said.

The BMX Track is now open to the public.



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Dural Bowling Club News

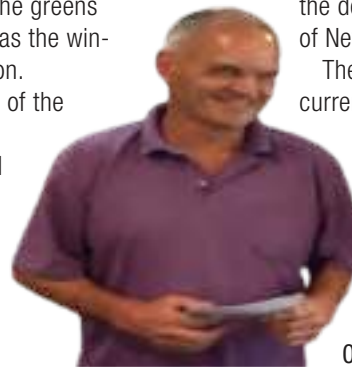
Eoin Gubbins the Dural Club Manager welcomed the bowlers at the Christmas lunch held on Saturday 13th December 2025. He stated that he took over this position just over a year ago and is thoroughly enjoying his interactions with the sub clubs. The award presentation took place after lunch and the winners and runners up of the various competitions held throughout the year were presented with their prizes by the president of Dural Bowling Club.

The day started at 9.30am with a game of scrungers whereby players are divided up into groups of 4 to a rink. Each rink players



plays an individual game against the others. Each player has 3 bowls and the closest bowls scores 3 points, second 2 points and third 1 point.

The players had a fun and entertaining morning on the greens and Graeme Giles was the winner of the competition. After the completion of the game of scrungers the bowlers that had elected to skip the morning games joined the rest of the group for lunch in the dining room.



We also farewelled Steve Barrett at the Christmas lunch as he had made the decision to return to his homeland of New Zealand.

The Open Gender Drawn Triples is currently in progress and started on 10th January 2026. The finals are scheduled for the 7th February 2026.

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

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Hills Hawks FC: A Community Built on Heart, Hard Work, and Hawks Spirit

As we look ahead to the 2026 season, it's impossible not to feel proud of what makes Hills Hawks FC truly special. Our club has always been more than jerseys, fixtures, and final scores. It's a community—one built on passion, generosity, and a shared belief in giving every player the chance to grow. Our 2025 season celebrated team spirit, with an increased number of volunteer coaches and managers, supporting our teams throughout the season and during the finals. We celebrated our 12/1 mixed (Premiers), 12/1 women's (Premiers) 12/5 mixed, 14/2's (Grand final Champions), AA9 (Premiers) and Superleague team successfully making the 2025 Grand Final for their age group.

Celebrating Our Volunteers

Every successful season begins long before the first whistle. It starts with the people who show up early, stay late, and give their time without expecting anything in return. Coaches, managers, committee members, ground staff, canteen crews, parents, and supporters—your dedication is the backbone of this club. We are pleased to welcome new members to our 2026 Committee, supporting our players, families and community.

You create the environment where children feel safe, supported, and inspired. You turn game days into memories. You keep the Hawks spirit alive. For everything you do, we offer our deepest thanks.

Eyes on Season 2026

There's a buzz around the club as we prepare for the year ahead. New opportunities, fresh challenges, and a renewed commitment to building a strong, united football community. Whether you're a returning player, a new family joining the flock, or a long-time supporter, 2026 promises to be a season full of energy and pride. Our 2026 Grading sessions will be held on Sunday, 1st and 8th February. Please email hfhfregistrar@gmail.com for more details.

Player Development at the Core

At Hills Hawks FC, development isn't just a slogan—it's our mission. We're focused on nurturing confident, skilled, and resilient players at every age and level. That means:

- Quality coaching that builds both technique and character
- A positive environment where players can learn, make mistakes, and grow
- Pathways that encourage long-term love for the game
- A culture that values teamwork, respect, and continuous improvement

Our goal is simple: help every Hawk spread their wings.

Together, We Soar

Community is our strength.

Football is our passion.

And with the support of our volunteers, families, and players, Hills Hawks FC is ready to make 2026 a season to remember.

Bring it on—because when the Hawks unite, we fly higher.

Looking for players over 35 for our men's and women's social competition on a Saturday afternoon.

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Two Decades of Care at Kenthurst Preschool

by Lance Zafe

Twenty years of care, leadership and community connection have shaped Kenthurst Preschool under long-serving Director Leanne Murray, who is now retiring.

Ms Murray's connection to the preschool began before she joined the team in 2005, when her own children attended the service. That experience sparked a passion for early childhood education that lasted two decades.

She started as an Early Childhood Teacher and became Director in 2011, following the retirement of Mrs Jane Sundarum, who also served the community for more than 20 years. Since then, Ms Murray has guided the preschool's culture and standards, supporting children, families and staff across generations.

Reflecting on how the community has evolved, she said families were busier and more digitally connected, but the heart of the preschool remained the same.

"Over the past 20 years, I've seen the preschool grow and change while still holding onto its strong sense of community," she said.

"Families are busier now, and there's a greater awareness around children's wellbeing, inclusion and individual needs. While the world has become faster and more digital, the heart of our community has remained the same. Families still want their children to feel safe, known and valued."

She said the quiet, everyday moments often left the strongest impression.

"There isn't just one moment, it's the many small interactions that stay with me," Ms Murray said.

"Watching a child who was once shy find their voice or seeing friendships form where children support and care for one another has been incredibly special."

She added that inclusion has always been central to the preschool's approach.

"Seeing children feel accepted, capable and confident, and knowing they truly belong, is something I will always hold close," she said.

"One of the most rewarding experiences has been welcoming back former students as parents themselves, a full-circle moment that truly captures why this role has meant so much to me."

Management Committee President Carlie Byrom praised Ms Murray's legacy:

"Leanne has done an outstanding job leading Kenthurst Preschool with passion, professionalism and genuine care. We cannot thank her enough for guiding the service through COVID, bushfires, and many memorable fetes."

One of Ms Murray's final major achievements was overseeing the preschool's assessment by the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority, receiving an Exceeding National Quality Standard rating, a distinction held by only 19 per cent of services in NSW.



Ms Murray will be succeeded by Kristen Coote, a familiar Early Childhood Teacher at the preschool.

As she begins retirement, she plans to travel overseas, starting with the Cook Islands.

Kenthurst Preschool is a not-for-profit, community-run service, allowing fees to remain lower, staffing levels higher, and funds reinvested for the benefit of children and families.

Choosing Service Over Schoolies

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

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

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

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

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



TLC for the Garden During Extreme Heat

by Marie Palmer

Currently Australia is experiencing weather extremes, particularly extreme heat this summer. Gardeners would have noticed plants flowering at unexpected times, plants suffering from heat stress and soil drying out. Many of the plants grown in Australian gardens are native to countries in the Northern Hemisphere and these plants are having difficulty in coping with the current extreme heat. All plants are stressed by extremely hot days or excessive rain. Australian native plants and some plants native to southern African and Mediterranean countries such as salvias, lavenders and gazanias cope better.

Plants have inbuilt systems to counteract heat and loss of moisture. Camellias and gardenias have hard, shiny leaves whilst other plants have leaves that curl under, droop or even drop so the surface area and evaporation is lessened. If given some TLC these plants can recover.

What can be done to help plants survive? Check soil is absorbing water. If water stays on the surface then the soil has probably become hydrophobic. Gently loosen the soil and apply a wetting agent following the instructions on the product you choose. This can also happen with potted plants, again, check that water is being absorbed and, if not, apply a wetting agent.

Mulch garden beds and potted plants ensuring the mulch does not touch the stem of plants.

Install an automated drip watering system and use self-watering pots. If using porous pots, such as terracotta or concrete, seal the inside of the pots to slow evaporation.

On days of extreme heat make sure roots are kept moist – water the roots not the leaves. Leaves may shrivel, dry out and die but often



Portulacca

if the root ball is kept moist the plant will recover once the weather changes. It is best if you do not immediately remove dead leaves as they offer some protection to new shoots. If plants are in pots move them to shaded areas, even inside temporarily. If in the ground cover the more susceptible plants with shade cloth. There are aerosol products available that help plants cope with heat stress.

If you want colour in the garden during our current hot summers think about portulacca, vincas, gazanias and small salvias. Many plants, like begonias and bromeliads, provide colour and cope with extreme heat provided they are in the shade.

Whilst it is always enjoyable to walk around your garden, during extreme weather conditions it is essential to do so every day, preferably in the early morning or late afternoon so plants that are stressed are noticed and some TLC applied.

Lastly, don't forget to keep any birdbaths or water bowls used by birds, lizards and insects full of fresh, cool water.



Vinca and succulents

Galston Garden Club

We will resume monthly meetings on the
11th February, 2026

HAPPY NEW YEAR: The Galston Garden Club will resume monthly meetings on the 11th February, 2026

The Garden Club is more than just coming to listen to speakers and purchasing a bargain plant. You will be rewarded by making new friends and sharing plant tips and ideas. We meet regularly on the 2nd Wednesday of each month in the Galston Community Hall, 37 Arcadia Road, Galston at 7.30pm. We welcome new members and visitors. We are an informal and friendly group, and no matter what your gardening ability or



gardening knowledge, you can be sure that you can look forward to pleasant company. Your botanical knowledge will be entirely adequate. Members range from beginners to very experienced. We use our interest in gardening as a great excuse for social gatherings and garden rambles. There will be interesting talks and displays at each meeting. We look forward to meeting you.

Protect your garden in a heatwave:

Didn't we have some scorching days before Christmas and in the new year. There are some simple precautions to take if a heatwave is predicted. Apply as much water as you can in the evening or morning before the temperature rises. Take special care of potted plants and young seedlings. Erect some temporary shade or spray Drought Shield onto every vulnerable plant. Drought shield is a polymer layer that provides protection from heat, salt, wind and water loss. Temporary shelters made from shade cloth or even a beach umbrella erected to shield plants can help them

through the worst of the heat wave. Move potted plants into a shaded area and water well. During heat waves, it's ok to keep pot saucers filled with water, as the plants can draw on that water over the day.

Water effectively: Try to apply enough water so that it penetrates into the root zone. Short, surface waterings only encourage the roots to stay near the surface where they are more likely to heat up and dry out. Avoid watering with a hose nozzle that delivers a strong jet that gouges holes in the soil, instead choose a sprinkler or water wand that delivers a gentle shower and allows the water to land gently with minimal disturbance.

Mulching on top of pots and garden beds is said to significantly lengthen the period of time between waterings.

For more information regarding the Garden Club please visit our website: www.galstongardenclub.com.au or Email: galstongardenclub@gmail.com

Are Our Creeks Safe?

by Chris Noon

The Still Creek Landcare Group has been sampling and testing water quality in our creeks for 17 years. Mainly at three sites at the upper, middle and at the Still Creek catchment exit. This is done as part of the Waterwatch/Streamwatch program around Australia. Results and conclusions are available on our website.



We check for nutrients and pollutants such as Phosphates, nitrates, salts, acidity, E. coli and other coliforms. We check for life by oxygen levels and macroinvertebrates, the small creatures that fish, yabbies and platypus feed on. These creatures are also a vital barometer of the health of the waterways. Our results show that in general water quality is good and has not deteriorated in the last 17 years, although the presence of E. coli has increased.

What causes problems and what can we do about them?

Pollutants we find come from poor wastewater management, livestock and other animal waste, detergents with phosphates, over-use of fertilizers all compounded by land clearing or mowing to the creek lines. This clearing and mowing stops the filtering that naturally

cleans waters and reduces turbidity before they enter creeks. Much of the pollution would be lowered drastically if we left 10-20 meters of natural scrub along waterways. Obviously maintaining wastewater treatments on properties will benefit the waterways.

So, are the creeks safe to paddle in? In the sites we test - yes, but not after heavy rain when more pollutants get washed in.

We have reduced our testing program due to lack of resources in the last 18 months. Could you help? The sampling and testing is easy because we have a new simpler kit that needs no chemicals and is now used in some schools. Please contact us if you would like to help once a month for a couple of hours. Data is entered into the Atlas of Living Australia.

<https://www.stillcreeklandcare.com.au/our-catchment/water-quality/>
stillcreeklandcare2159@gmail.com

Phone Barry 9653 3691



Bromeliad Society of Australia

What to do with Sun Damaged Bromeliads

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Sun burnt Neoregelia 'Rosy Morn'

by Lachlan Turner

Hidden in the Hills

Barks

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

Examples would be:

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

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

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

Some trees visibly shed their bark completely every year, usually during spring when the new growth commences. The manner in which the old season's bark is shed can produce interesting colours



and patterns depending on the type of tree. In some cases, last season's bark, if it is quite thin, will dry out and flake off the tree and fall in long sheets revealing the new coloured bark underneath. One such species is a variety of Angophora where the new bark is a bright orange.

In some trees, lightly scraping away the old flakey bark reveals a totally new coloured bark underneath. This is the case with Geebung (Persoonia species) and Paperbarks (*Mellaleuca quinquenervia*) in particular.

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

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



by Lachlan Turner

Hidden in the Hills

Bushwalking

Bushwalking means different things to different people. Some are quite dedicated to the challenge of a long and varied walk, whilst others may engage in just a short walk along their favourite track on a regular basis. Others may only enter bushland reserves on a casual basis. Some prefer to attend guided bushwalks.

Nevertheless, all who spend time in the bushland environment, express similar



feelings about having been there. There is a personal sense of freedom, relaxation and "discovery", as each individual enjoys an ever changing environmental scene as the seasons come and go.

Not all tracks are smoothly graded and easily traversed. Therefore bushwalking is not without unexpected challenges such as steep climbs, rocky terrain, wet areas such as creek crossings, as well as clambering over the occasional fallen log.

Adequate clothing and footwear are essential, tailored to the weather on any given day, the distance to walk and the season of the year. Due to the high level of effort that can be required it is a good idea to take a supply of water and maybe a snack bar or two. A light back pack is most useful in which to carry personal items securely. Some bushwalkers also take a small first aid



kit including sunscreen. Others may prefer the assistance of a walking pole.

Looking at this week's photos will give you an idea of how experienced bushwalkers prepare for their excursion into the natural world. Most are wearing a hat; some wear sunglasses; several have equipped themselves with a walking pole; all have substantial footwear for the occasion.

Temperatures in bushland environments can be variable, so it is advisable to dress appropriately.

Remember to enjoy your outdoor experience, leaving nothing but footprints and remember your camera to take nothing but photos and memories.

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Glenorie Rural Fire Brigade RFS Awards Presentation



The Rural Fire Service recently held an awards presentation at Dural Club issuing awards to members for their long-standing contribution to the NSW RFS.

Bruce Whiteman joined Glenorie RFS 51 years ago and received a 50 year-long service award. Bruce became a Crew Leader in 1988 and continues in this role, and in 2002, he was voted in as President and held this role until 2011. Bruce has been the mainstay for the daytime calls outs for the entire time he has been with the brigade. He was a part of the patrol contingency for the Papal visit in 2008. He actively supports district events and holds the honour of District Champion and runner up for four NAVEX events in a row. In 2003 Bruce was awarded with a life membership. His half century dedication to the RFS is a monumental contribution as a volunteer to the community and to the RFS.

Craig Whiteman joined Glenorie RFS in 1994 and has just received a 30 year-long service award. Craig was elected Deputy Captain in 2016; is currently Mitigation Co-Ordinator and assists in training at both district and state levels. He has completed numerous deployments in NSW and interstate including Tasmania and Northern Territory and during the 2019/2020 fire season, he was a Team Leader at multiple RAFT shifts into remote areas of the Gosper Mountains and Blue Mountains Fires. Craig is a highly skilled volunteer, with loads of experience with firefighting and is an asset to the brigade.

Matt Lloyd joined Glenorie RFS as a junior member in 1994 and has always shown an interest in brigade life. In 2008, Matt was elected Deputy Captain, maintaining that role until he stepped into the position of Senior Deputy Captain in 2011. He transitioned into the role of Captain in 2013, which he held until 2017 and then in 2022, he became a Hills District Deputy Group Captain. Matt has contributed to many NSW STARG deployments and assists with training courses across the district. He has a wealth of experience; is a highly skilled firefighter and has been honoured with a 30 year-long service award.

Colvin Ellis joined Glenorie RFS in 1994 and has been a Deputy Captain since 2002. He is currently Equipment Co-Ordinator and has been given a life membership. Col has attended several STARG deployments across NSW and in Victoria, South Australia and Queensland. He was honoured to receive a medal for assisting with



the emergency and recovery response team during the Hunter and Central Coast storms in 2007, and the fires at Gaspers Mountain and Badja Forest in 2019/2020. Col is committed to brigade life, he dedicates a lot of time to Glenorie RFS and with his vast experience with firefighting, he is a great role model to his fellow members.

Diane Coxon-Ellis joined Glenorie RFS and Communications in 1994. She held the role of Vice President from 2008-2011 and Communications Deputy Captain from 2005-2015. Di has served the RFS through communications at several major state emergencies and received a medal for assisting with the emergency and recovery response team during the 2007 Hunter and Central Coast storms. She took on CFLO roles during the floods in Lismore and Hawkesbury and was involved in the security crew for the 2000 Sydney Olympics and Para-Olympics and 2008 Papal visit. She was honoured to receive a 30 year-long service award.

Mark Bluett joined Glenorie RFS just before the fires in 2002. Mark assisted with the horrific Black Summer Fires and did extensive work as a safety advisor for the post floods clean-up at Wisemans Ferry and Dargle. During 2011-2019, Mark performed the role of President and for the past 5 years, he has been a Deputy Captain. He is a big advocate for supporting fellow members with their progression within the brigade and enjoys the sense of camaraderie with the team.



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God Is Love

"He who does not love does not know God, for God is love" (1 John 4:8).

Throughout scripture God is often portrayed as a God of love. But what is love? An article I read recently stated, "Love is not simply a law of nature.... a mere force of the cosmos... Nor is it the fragmented pieces of human goodness... No! Love is the very personal character of a very personal God." "1 Love is God's divine identity; it's the very essence of His eternal nature. Everything He does streams from a heart of love. But in order to believe that "God is love," one has to experience it for themselves. As King David succinctly said, "OH, taste and see that the Lord is good" (Psalm 34:8).

A few months ago I experienced that God is indeed good. As I laid on a bed in ICU, Royal Northshore Hospital, having suffered a stroke, I realised that I could talk clearly and I could move my limbs correctly. I began to pray and thank God for His mercy when suddenly I felt a hand rest upon my head. He was there! I remember calling out to God for help when I woke up on the floor at home. At that point I couldn't speak or walk. I'm very grateful that, although unconscious when I landed on my back on the tile floor, why did I not hit my head? It doesn't always happen this way I know, but God does say He is near to those who "hope in His mercy" (Psalm 33:18).

God's mercy, goodness, and love is for everyone because "God is love." All we have to do is ask. He says, "Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full" (John 16:24). And He also says, "Whoever comes to Me,



I will never turn away" (John 6:37). Maybe you have wondered where God is at certain times in your life? You don't need to wonder, just claim His promise, "I am with you always even to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20). If you would like to know more about the amazing love of Jesus come and visit us.

Every Saturday morning at 9:30am we have a group study time, followed by the Divine Service at 11am. Each Wednesday evening at 7:30pm is Prayer Connect. Everyone is welcome. Please continue to pray for each other and for our community.

1 An Endless Falling in Love, Ty Gibson, p11

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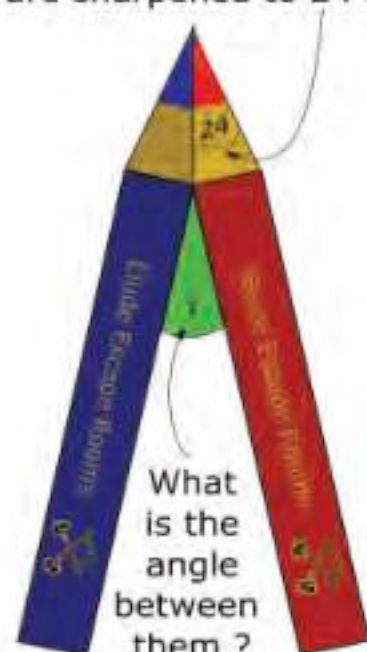
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Galston Uniting Church

Its 2026... and Happy New Year to everyone! Our regular activities have recommenced and church services continue at 10am on Sundays.

We strive to be a church for the whole Community. So, in addition to our regular worship services, there are activities throughout the week and there is something for everyone. You are assured of a warm welcome.

Some activities include:

- *Jabez* - our drop-in centre where people can meet for a chat over a decent cup of coffee or tea with a special treat to nibble on. Jabez is open on Fridays from 10am - 3pm.
- *Bible Study* - also on Fridays, at 1.00pm
- *Tai Chi* - a group that also meets on Fridays at 10am, with Meditation at 11.30.
- *KUCAs (Kids in the Uniting Church of Australia)* - for children K - 6. They meet each Friday of school term from 5.00-6.30pm. This varied program includes dinner. (Cost \$5 per night)
- *The Men's Choir* - Come and release your inner Pavarotti! Great stress therapy and a whole lot of fun. Contact church office for details.
- *Ladies Choir* - For ladies of all ages who like to sing! Practice is on Sundays at 11.30am after church.
- *Exercises for Seniors* - Mondays, 11.30am - 12.30pm.
- *The Craft group* - meets on Thursday at 12pm. Come for a great time of friendship while doing patchwork, crocheting, sewing and other crafts and all are welcome.



- *"Over 55s"* - a social group with a variety of outings and activities for the slightly older fraternity. Please come and join us. Contact church office for details.
- *Galston Concerts*. We love good music! - so, we hold four concerts throughout the year featuring a variety of outstanding performers. Concerts are available to all to attend.

Our first concert is: Sunday 22nd February @ 2pm. (Piano and clarinet.)

Church services continue in church at 10am on Sundays, and you can also watch our live-streams. You can find Galston Uniting Church on Facebook (don't forget to 'like' us) or "Google" Galston Uniting Church Facebook posts.

If you, or someone you know needs prayer support or just someone to chat to, please do not hesitate to get in touch. The church office is open on Tuesdays and Fridays.

Contact Elizabeth Garlick, Office Manager.
11 School Road, Galston. Phone 9653 2039

News from St Benedicts February 2026

A happy lunch

The catechists who teach in our local schools ended their year with a very special celebratory lunch before their welcome break over Christmas and the summer period. The picture shows them all enjoying good food and company on the day.

Miriam Brown, the Catechist coordinator, passed on the parish's thanks to all the



catechists for giving their commitment and time throughout the year.

Sharing the meaning of Christmas

Once again our small band of St Vincent de Paul volunteers carried out a Christmas appeal and distributed goodies to bring Christmas cheer to locals who needed help over what can be a very difficult time, especially for families in need. Thanks to all who contributed.

A message to all

At the end of last year our parish priest Father Shansana, sent a special note of gratitude to all the parishioners of St Benedicts who work together to make the parish such a success. 'As we step into 2026, let us continue to come together in faith and unity to build up our parish community, spiritually and socially,' he concluded.

St Benedict's Country Fete: Sunday 22nd March 2026

The countdown is on with the fete coming up fast. The organisers are looking for new items to go on the gift stall so if you have been given an unwanted or unsuitable present, please contact the parish office (below) about giving it a new home. Items such as hampers, candles, books, toys, kitchen items, home décor, games, or novelties would be very much appreciated.

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.

Crossword

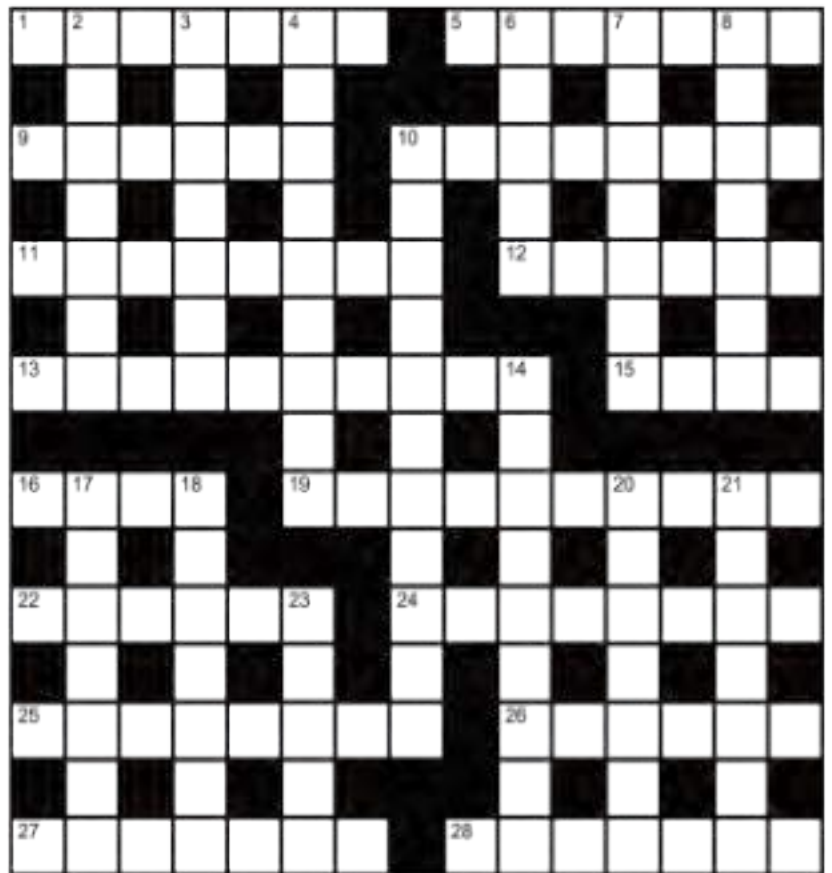
PUZZLE

ACROSS

- 01 Incident (7)
- 05 Arts hub reinvigorated common shrub (3,4)
- 09 Printers' or Tasmanian (6)
- 10 Fire-resistant tree (8)
- 11 Take it easy! (4,4)
- 12 Large beer bottle (6)
- 13 Scissors grinder (10)
- 15 Repose (4)
- 16 Global airline body (1,1,1,1)
- 19 Reliance (10)
- 22 Part of a car's steering system (3,3)
- 24 On the books (8)
- 25 Sydney surfing beach (4,4)
- 26 Pro bono (6)
- 27 If you're doing it, you're on this (3,4)
- 28 Unfavourable (7)

DOWN

- 02 Triumph (7)
- 03 Earth-shaking (7)
- 04 Twisted out of shape (9)
- 06 "The game's ---!" (Shakespeare - and Conan Doyle) (5)
- 07 Chatterbox (7)
- 08 Beach habitués (7)
- 10 Former national cricket captain (3,8)
- 14 Evasion (9)
- 17 Horizontal bearing (7)
- 18 Popular type of paint for artists (7)
- 20 Overshadow (7)
- 21 Closing items, usually, on TV screens (7)
- 23 Just what the doctor ordered (5)



ANSWERS FROM DECEMBER ISSUE



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

Sudoku

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

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

The Secret of Contentment

How often did you say "Happy New Year" during the past couple of months? It's a very familiar greeting in languages all over the world: "Bonne Annee" in French and "Felice anno nuovo" in Italian.

What does the expression really mean? Is it as simple as it sounds? I checked it out!

The New Year part is quite obvious so then I looked for the best definition of "happy".



Wikipedia: "The term 'happiness' is used in the context of mental or emotional states, including positive or pleasant emotions, ranging from CONTENTMENT to intense joy."

Now THAT is certainly something we like to express to others!

The issue then is- HOW do we have a happy new year?

My favourite book, the Bible, explains the secret which God wants us to understand and walk in each day despite our circumstances. Philippians 4:11-13 says

"I have learned the secret of being content in any & every situation... I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength."

In other words, the secret of contentment (happiness) is found in having a love relationship with Jesus Christ, God's Son, seeking Him through prayer and Bible reading and also through living life HIS way.

"Godliness with contentment is great gain." (1 Timothy 6:6)

So- Happy New Year to everyone who is reading this article and let God bless you.

Pr. Alex and Dee Valich
Glenorie Community Church.
Sunday service: 10am.

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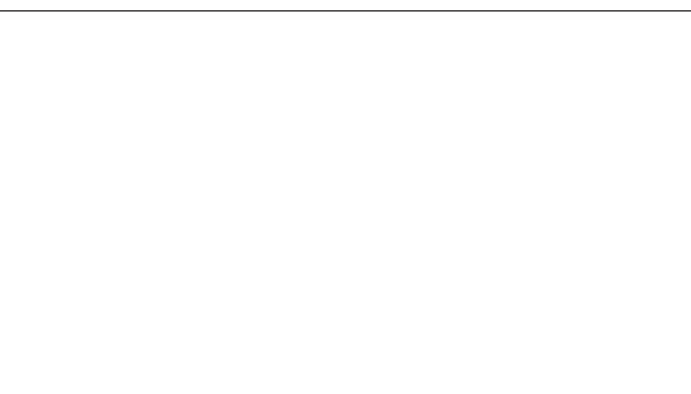
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 ● Galston Community Health Centre
 ● 9264 9255

Arcadia Community Hall
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 ● 136 Arcadia Road, Arcadia
 ● 9847 6504

Arcadia Galston Residents' Association
 Membership is open to all adult residents/Ratepayers of postcode 2159.
 ● www.AGA2159.com.au

Arcadian Quilters
 Every 1st, 3rd and 5th Wednesdays of each month at 9.30am.
 ● Galston Community Health and Resource Centre
 ● Carolee on 9894 7749

Australian Independent Retirees
 Meetings are held on the first Friday of each month at 10am.
 ● Molly's Pavilion, Cheltenham Recreation Club, 60/74 The Crescent, Cheltenham
 ● Wayne Strandquist on 0412 434 467

Castle Hill Art Society
 Monthly meetings and art demonstrations are every first Wed of each month at 7.30pm.
 ● 155 Ridgecorp Drive, Castle Hill
 ● 9899 3179

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 ● 0479 137 131
 ● www.cphills.org.au

Coonara Cherrybrook Probus Club
 Meets at the Castle Hill Bowling Club 79 Castle Street, Castle Hill on 3rd Tuesday of each month at 10.30am. New members welcome.
 ● Sue 0419 994 948
 ● sueandjb@bigpond.com

Dural and District Historical Society Inc
 Holds its lecture meetings on the 2nd Saturday of each month at 2pm in the Galston Uniting Church, School Road, Galston.
 ● History Cottage, 412 Galston Road, Galston is open for research 4th Sunday of every month
 ● Michael Bell 9653 1365

Dural and District Prostate Cancer Support Group
 We meet the 3rd Monday of every month. 7:00pm for 7:15pm start.
 ● Blue Gum Centre Glenhaven Green 607 Old Northern Rd, Glenhaven
 ● Graham 8677 7896 or 0402 421 060

Dural and Hills District Garden Club
 Meetings at 8pm on 1st Wednesday of each month.
 ● Mid Dural Fire Station, 57 Mid Dural Road
 ● Di Glasgow 0409 909 161
 ● duralgardclub@yahoo.com.au

Dural-Glenorie Scouts
 Joeys (aged 6-7 years), Cubs (aged 8-10 years) and Scouts (aged 11-15 years) meet weekly at the Scout Hall in Galston Road, Galston. Learn new skills, challenge yourself, experience outdoor activities, make new friends, have fun!
 ● Warren Payne 0419 280 967

Dural Mens Shed
 Meets Thursday and Saturday 9am. Woodwork & Metalwork/Welding facilities.
 ● Dural Sport and Leisure Centre corner Pellitt Lane and Kenthurst Rd
 ● Chris Thomas 0402 478 498
 ● www.duralmensshed.org

Friends of Fagan Park
 Volunteer group actively preserving the remarkable rural history of Hornsby Shire. The Friends meet every Tuesday from 9am-4pm maintaining historic Netherby Cottage and its garden and also restoring farm machinery and implements to working order. Members of the public and new friends are always welcome! Open days are the 2nd Sunday of each month, 1.30pm - 4.00pm, and other special occasions.
 ● Julie Graham 0412 766 553
 ● friendsoffaganpark3@gmail.com

Galston Area Residents' Association Inc
 Meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 8pm (during school terms). New members always welcome.
 ● Galston Primary School Library, School Road, Galston
 ● 0403 076 175

Galston Branch CWA
 Meets on the second Wednesday of each month. New members are sure of a friendly welcome.
 ● Galston Community Health Centre
 ● Patricia 0412 948 787 or
 ● Jan 0439 222 217

Galston Community Hall
 37 Arcadia Rd, Galston available for functions, air-conditioned, inspections welcome. Bookings call 9847 6050.
 ● Galston Community Health Centre. This centre is an outreach of Hornsby and Kurung-gai Health Service and is situated at 17 Arcadia Road, Galston (cnr of The Glade), 9485 7599

Galston Garden Club
 New members are always welcome. Meetings held at 7.30pm on the second Wednesday of every month.
 ● Galston Community Centre
 ● Lorraine Muscio 0448 478 161

Girl Guides
 Is an exciting opportunity for girls to learn and develop life skills, meet new friends, enjoy the outdoors, make their own challenges, express their creativity and much more. Junior Guides (age 6-9) meet Thursdays 4.30-6pm at Galston Guide Hall and Guides (age 10-14) meet Thursdays 6-8pm at Annangrove Guide Hall.
 ● GalstonDM@girlguides-nswactinc.org.au

Glenorie Maroota Bioregional Forum
 Meets at 7.30pm on the first Wednesday of each month. Let us know of your local environment and heritage concerns.
 ● Glenorie Community Hall
 ● Carolyn Hall carolyn@dhphc.com.au

Glenorie Memorial Hall
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 ● Pat Schwartz 0419 321 276

Glenorie Progress Association
 Meets 2nd Thursday of each month at 7pm.
 ● Glenorie RSL Club
 ● secretary@glenorieprogress.org.au
 ● 0418 432 587

Glenorie Probus Club
 This Club meets every 4th Wednesday at 11.00am. New members are welcome.
 ● Glenorie RSL Club
 ● Wendy 9653 1022
 ● wendyireneblack@yahoo.com.au

Glenorie RSL Club
 Glenorie RSL Sub-Branch meets on 2nd Tuesday of the month commencing at 7pm.
 ● Glenorie RSL Club
 ● Graham Bruce 0432 391 811

Gregoriana Arcadia
 We welcome new members to join a community choir, Gregoriana Arcadia, dedicated to learning and singing the ancient, spiritual Gregorian music. It is sung in Latin and without accompaniment. No previous choir experience or knowledge of Latin is required, and there are no fees. We practise from 2-4pm on the second Saturday in the month, in the beautiful chapel.
 ● Benedictine Monastery, Arcadia
 ● Andrew: ajihede@gmail.com

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Hills Shire Garden Club
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 ● Barton Hall, David Rd, Castle Hill
 ● 9624 5034

Hills Farmers' and Gourmet Food Mkt
 2nd Saturday of the month, 8am-12pm.
 ● Castle Hill Showground
 ● www.hawkesburyharvest.com.au

Hills District Pipe Band
 Bagpipe band based in Castle Hill. Join to learn the bagpipes, snare drum or tenor drum, or enquire for gigs.
 ● Pipeband.hillsdistrict@gmail.com
 ● www.hillsdistrictpipeband.com

Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Four Wheel Drive Club
 Is a family orientated club that meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 8pm.
 ● Hornsby Heights Community Centre, Galston Road, Hornsby Heights
 ● www.hk4wd.com.au

Meditation Classes
 Every Wednesday from 6.30pm.
 ● Annangrove Progress Hall
 ● James on 0400 015 614

Pennant Hills Photographic Club
 Meets on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Mondays each month at 8pm.
 ● Uniting Church Hall cnr Boundary Rd and Bellamy St, Pennant Hills
 ● www.phpc.org.au

Probus Club of the Hills
 Is a mixed club which meets on the second Wednesday of each month (except January) at 10am for 10.30am. New members welcome.
 ● The Galston Club
 ● Bob 9624 8954 or Ken 9629 6459

Probus Club of Round Corner
 Now has vacancies for new members. Join our club and enjoy new friendships, interesting meetings and a large variety of activities e.g. Walking Group; Mah-Jong Group; Theatre Group; Tennis Group; plus overseas and extended local tours and local day trips. We meet on the 2nd Monday of the month at 9.30am for 10am. We look forward to you joining with us.
 ● Galston Club 19 Arcadia Rd, Galston
 ● All enquiries to The Secretary, PO Box 822, Round Corner. 2158 or come one month as a visitor.

Rotary Club of Greater Hills
 New members welcome. Meets every 1st & 3rd Monday of the month at 6.30pm for

7.00pm. Join us and help make a difference through our local and international projects. Enjoy the fellowship of fellow Rotarians in our many and varied projects and social activities.
 ● The Galston Club
 ● Annette 0437 148 126
 ● membership@greaterhillslotary.org.au

Rowland Village Workshop Club
 Invites enquiries about the Club from members of the wider community who are 55 and over years of age.
 ● Michael Bell 9653 1365

Soroptimist International of The Hills District Inc
 Meets at 6.30 on the 3rd Wed of the month.
 ● Crestwood Community Centre Baulkham Hills
 ● 04 3583 7118

Social Dance Workshops
 Old time contemporary, set and couple dances. Specialising in Australian, Irish and Scottish Folk Dance. Beginners and experienced dancers. \$7.
 ● Pennant Hills Community Centre, Yarrara Road.
 ● Wilma 0413 673 339

Still Creek Landcare Group
 Have a say and help in the future of our catchments in Galston, Arcadia and Berrilee. We meet at 7.30pm on the 2nd Thursday of each month.
 ● www.StillCreekLandcare.com.au
 ● StillCreekLandcare@inet.net.au
 ● Nick 9653 2056

The Hills Trefoil Guild (Guides NSW)
 The Trefoil Guild is the adult section of Guiding which links Members, former Members; female Members of the Scout Association; and women who have not been Guides but are prepared to make the Guide Promise. Our meetings are held on the 3rd Friday of the month commencing at 10am, concluding approx 12.45pm.
 ● Guide Hall, Bounty Ave, Castle Hill
 ● Evelyn 02 9634 4987

The Shed Studio - Arcadia
 Womens Shed held on third Thursday of the month 10-12. Different creative projects each month.
 ● The Shed Studio on FB
 ● Suzanne 0419 603 122

Wanderers Bushwalking and Outdoors Club
 We have frequent bushwalks, city walks and social activities. Meetings on 2nd Tuesday each month at 8pm.
 ● Crestwood Community Centre, Crestwood Drive, Baulkham Hills
 ● John Harris 0423 167 467
 ● www.bushwalkingsnsw.org.au/wanderers

Churches

Christ Church
 Has a service at 9.30am every Sunday morning. You are most welcome to join us.
 ● 26 Pitt Town Road, Kenthurst
 ● Rev. Chris Baxter 0423 119 13

Dural Salvation Army
 1st Tuesday of the month at 10am for an informal worship service. Everyone welcome.
 ● 277 New Line Road Dural (entry from Old Northern Road)
 ● 0405 560 211

Galston Uniting Church
 Service times 10.00am. Children's programmes KUCA for children K-6, each Friday of the school term 5.00 to 6.30pm. #ThePower (Youth Group) for those in high school. Fridays of the school term 7.00pm to 8.30pm. CRAFT group Thursdays of the school term from 12noon to 4.00pm. OVER 55's for seniors 2nd Monday of each month from 10am to 12noon. Other groups of interest: Men's Choir, Ladies Choir.
 ● church office 9653 2039
 ● 11 School Road Galston

Galston Seventh Day Adventist Church
 Every Saturday 9.30am to 10.45am Bible Study, 11am to 12noon Church Service.
 ● 49 Arcadia Rd Galston
 ● Minister Steve Belson 0438 459 223

Glenorie Community Church
 Pentecostal and Evangelical - meets every Sunday at 10.00am. Ladies meeting at 10.30am last Tuesday of every month. All welcome.
 ● 1507 Old Northern Road, Glenorie
 ● Pr Vallich 0420 602 989
 ● Church 9652 0577

Glenorie Mission Church
 Sunday Service 10:00am.
 ● 1409 Old Northern Road (Cnr Muscios Rd), Glenorie
 ● 0414 584 303 or 0411 422 236

St. Columb's Anglican Church
 1st Sunday of the month 9.30 am. All welcome.
 ● 9651 1119

St Benedict's Catholic Parish
 Mass at Monastery 7am every morning.
 ● 121 Arcadia Road, Arcadia
 Mass at the Parish Church 7pm Saturday, 9am and 10:30am Sunday.
 ● Cnr Fagans Rd and Arcadia Rd
 ● 9653 2312 or Parish Priest
 ● Fr Shansana 0437 884 233

St Jude's Anglican
 Service Times: 8am Traditional; 10am Contemporary with Sunday Kids and Yr 5-9 Teen group; 6pm Evening church for youth and parents; 'Epic' kids club and Youth Group - Fridays (see website for details).

● Galston and Old Northern Rd, Dural
 ● 9651 1119
St Madeleine's Catholic Church
 Mass times Mon-Fri 9.15am Sat 5.30pm Sun 8am, 10am and 5.30pm.
 ● 28 Annangrove Rd Kenthurst

Local sports associations

Asquith Indoor Carpet Bowls
 Meets every Tuesday at 9.30-12.30pm.
 ● Mt Colah Community Centre, Pierre Close, Mt Colah
 ● Jenny 9477 1855

Dural Country Club Bowling Clubs
 New members are welcome. Free lessons are available to men and women wishing to learn lawn bowls and meet a new social network.
 ● 0421 315 074 or 0411 375 580

Dural Country Club
 Fishing Club meet at Dural Country Club on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm. Activities include a monthly offshore charter, estuary and open fishing, organised short stay holidays and great social BBQ's. New members welcome.
 ● Murray 0407 950 939 or
 ● Bruce 0428 970 439

Dural Rugby Club
 ● efi86029@bigpond.net.au
 ● 0412 230 328
 ● http://dural.rugby.net.com.au

Galston Glenorie Amateur Fishing Club
 Meets 1st Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm. The meeting has a raffle at 7pm with lots of prizes and every meeting has a guest speaker.
 ● The Galston Club
 ● Lachlan 0438 801 170 or
 ● Warren 0416 061 428

Glenorie District Cricket Club
 Cricket Season runs from Mid September until March each year.
 ● Amanda Fraser 0411 293 499
 ● Glenoriectcc@gmail.com
 ● Les Shore Oval, Old Northern Rd Glenorie NSW 2157

Glenorie Social Golf Club
 Plays monthly.
 ● www.glenoriesf.com.au
 ● Stephen Osborne 0416 546 789

Galston Equestrian Club
 New Members are always welcome. Training/Competition days held on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month.
 ● Rural Sports Facility Centre off Mansfield Road
 ● Liz 0409 992 920
 ● www.galstonequestrianclub.org.au

Galston Netball Club
 ● secretary.galstonnetballclub@gmail.com
 ● https://www.galstonnetball.com.au/

Hills AUSSI Masters Swimming Club
 Adults 18 years to 80+ are welcome to swim with us every Tuesday at 7pm. Whether you want to swim laps for competition, fitness, or simply fun and friendship.
 ● Hornsby Aquatic Centre
 ● Di 0418 432 587

Hills Hawks Football Club
 ● Rob Annanel 0417 483 818
 ● president.hillshawksfc@gmail.com

Hills Hawks Softball Club
 Our competition is held during the summer season (September to March, excluding school holidays). We welcome new members!
 ● Hayes Park, Galston
 ● hillshawks softball.org.au

Hills Pumas Football Club
 ● Sarah Sumskas 0430 883 385
 ● registrar@hillspumasfc.com.au

Tennis/Squash Social Group
 Looking for new players.
 ● 9847 6050
 ● tennisandsquash@live.com.au

Tennis Court for Hire Galston
 Available Day or Night.
 ● Rear of Galston Community Hall
 ● Jane 9847 6050

Tennis Court for Hire Glenorie
 Available Day or Night.
 ● Les Shore Reserve
 ● 0404 600 460

CALLING ALL Playgroups

If you are organising or running a playgroup in the local area, please let us know. We would like to help you promote your playgroup, and also let our new mums know what groups are open in the area.

Please send your Playgroup location and meeting days/hours to: editorial@galstoncommunity.com.au

- GLENORIE

Located at Les Shore Oval playground, every Thursday (weather permitting) 9.30am onwards. The kids can play whilst the adults chat. Bring allergy friendly snacks to share and a picnic rug. A great informal setting to meet some locals.

- LEARNING BLOCKS

Dural, Level 1, 242 New Line Rd Dural at Learning Blocks Dural. It is open to the public free of charge. Hills Playgroup takes every Mondays restarting from July 6 between 10am-12pm. It's fun, informal and a great way to socialise.

- KENTHURST

Thursdays, during school terms, 9.30am til 11.30am at the Literary Institute. 131-135 Kenthurst Rd, Kenthurst.

- GALSTON

Galston Kids Playgroup is located in the lower room of the Galston Community Health Centre. We have a fully stocked indoor/outdoor play area with sandpit, cubby, ride-on toys, craft supplies and more!

Sessions span over a couple of hours and are unstructured, providing lots of time for kids to play while adults chat. Bring your own morning tea (nut-free). New members are very welcome to drop in; the first two visits are free. Email galstonkidsplaygroup@gmail.com for info about current session times, or ask at the Galston Community Health Centre office.

- PLAYTIME AT THE CENTRE DURAL

Thursday's 9:30-11:30am during school terms. Playtime is a welcoming group for children aged between 0-5 and their parents. We have lots of playtime, craft and singing. You are welcome to just turn up on the day. Contact us on 9899 0000 for more information. Located at 1 Pellitt Lane, Dural.

- MUSIC AND PLAY

Dural Salvation Army, 277 New Line Road Dural (entry from Old Northern Road) Wednesdays during school term. 10am-11.30am. Qualified Music Therapist with a planned themed morning of music, craft and playtime. A great way to meet more local families. For more information please phone 9651 3456.

New Year, New Listings! Now For Sale



9 Cairnes Road, Glenorie



12 Belbowrie Close, Galston



16 Calabash Road, Arcadia



20 Post Office Road, Glenorie



23 Johnson Road, Galston



37 Colbran Ave, Kenthurst



78 Quarry Rd, Dural



79A Cattai Ridge Rd, Glenorie



235 Pitt Town Road, Kenthurst

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