

Let's Hear it for the Girls!

by Karlene Brummer

The Arcadia Rural Fire Service recently concluded its Annual General Meeting, marking a watershed moment in its history. For the first time ever, the brigade has appointed both a female Captain and a female President, setting a new precedent for leadership and representation within the organization.

As Mike Melis steps down from the Captaincy, the baton has been passed to Sally Elvidge, who transitions from her role as Senior Deputy Captain to lead the brigade. This shift is complemented by the elevation of Georgia King, who moves from Vice President to assume the mantle of Brigade President. To maintain the strength of the command chain, Michael Hutchence has been promoted to Senior Deputy Captain, ensuring a seamless continuation of operations.

Mike Elvidge was warmly congratulated on his recent election as Deputy Group Officer. In this expanded role, Elvidge will play a pivotal part in providing strategic leadership and support to volunteers across the wider district, further strengthening the region's emergency response network.



Brigade President Georgia King with Brigade Captain Sally Elvidge



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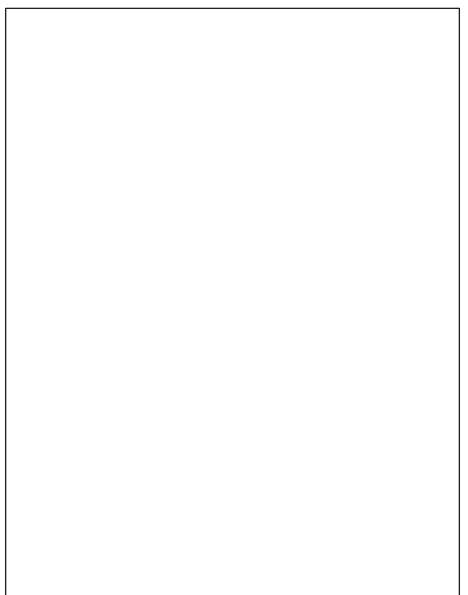

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Probus / Club News

WEST PENNANT HILLS & CHERRYBROOK LIONS CLUB - ANZAC DINNER

The West Pennant Hills Cherrybrook Lions Club held its 61st ANZAC Dinner on April 20, 2026, honoring the spirit and sacrifice of ANZAC forces since the club's 1964 founding. The sell-out event featured a solemn remembrance service with wreath-laying, a Catafalque party by School Cadets, and "The Last Post."



Guest speaker Mr. Graham Bruce, a New Zealander serving in the RNZAF, discussed "Putting the NZ in ANZAC." He shared experiences from the Sinai Desert, Desert Shield, and securing the 1990 Royal Tour, including a dramatic incident where a Royal aircraft's landing gear failed. Bruce also recounted his family's military history: his maternal grandfather served on the HMS Hood (sunk by the Bismarck), and his paternal grandfather died on D-Day at Normandy.

The club noted it may be Australia's only service club dedicating a dinner specifically to ANZAC commemoration, urging others to follow suit. Gratitude was expressed to the West Pennant Hills Sports Club for hosting the event.

GLENORIE PROBUS CLUB

The Glenorie Probus Club enjoyed a Brisbane Waters excursion, traveling by train and ferry to Davistown for lunch at the RSL, then returning to Hornsby. The club also held coffee at Galston High School, catered by students.



A significant ANZAC Day remembrance occurred at their monthly meeting, honoring women's contributions to wartime efforts, particularly Colonel Vivian Bullwinkel and the Australian Army Nursing Service. Bullwinkel survived the 1942 Bangka Island Massacre, where Japanese troops machine-gunned nurses wading into the sea after the SS Vyner Brooke was sunk. She feigned death after being shot, hid for 12 days with British soldier Cecil George Kingsley, then endured captivity as a prisoner of war until 2000.

The tribute recognized these often-overlooked heroes who sacrificed immensely. The club meets at 11:00am on the 4th Wednesday of each month at Glenorie RSL, welcoming new members. For inquiries, contact Wendy Black at 9653 1022 or wendyireneblack@yahoo.com.au

These activities reflect the club's commitment to community engagement, remembrance, and fellowship.

THE ROUND CORNER DURAL PROBUS CLUB

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



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

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

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

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

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

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Community Celebrates Victory Picnic at Johnson Road

by Clair Queenan

Recently, residents and supporters gathered at Johnson Road, Galston, to celebrate the end of a long and challenging chapter.

For the past three years, the local community has worked tirelessly to oppose the proposed industrial rezoning of 1-3 Johnson Road. What began as a concerning proposal grew into a sustained local effort, with many dedicating significant time and energy to ensuring their voices were heard.

That persistence was ultimately rewarded when Council unanimously voted to discontinue the rezoning plan. I extend my sincere thanks to Mayor Waddell, and all Hornsby councillors for this decision. This outcome has brought great relief to those who live nearby.

The picnic was a wonderful opportunity to come together and celebrate what had been achieved. Food and drinks were shared, speeches were given, and the atmosphere was filled with warmth and happiness. We were pleased to be joined by Councillors Tilbury, Ball, and Simons, along with former



Councillor Salitra, whose presence was greatly appreciated.

While the past three years have not been without their challenges, this outcome stands as a testament to the strength and unity of the Galston community. The Johnson Road campaign is a powerful example of what can be achieved when residents come together with a shared purpose. This was not just about protecting a piece of land, but about recognising the importance of community values and interests.

As Councillor Tilbury noted in a recent statement, the proposal fell short of the



essential groundwork and supporting evidence required for responsible planning. It also reinforced what many had felt from the beginning - that industrial development

was never appropriate for this location.

The celebration was a special afternoon held in the beautiful open green space that the community had fought so hard to preserve. I look forward to continuing to enjoy it as an informal park, with the hope that it may one day be permanently protected for that purpose.

Baby News for Galston Village Pharmacist

Congratulations to popular Galston Pharmacist, Paul Kang and his wife, Mel, on the birth of their first child; a little baby girl named Leia!





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MULTI-MILLION DRUG BUST

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The younger woman was released pending further inquiries.

Investigations under Strike Force Helix continue.

COLLISION

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

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

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

MURDER

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A 30-year-old man and a 34-year-old woman were arrested at the scene and taken to Kings Cross Police Station, where they were both charged with murder. Both were refused police bail and appeared at Bail Division Court 7 on Friday, 22nd May.

Inquiries under Strike Force Sunbach continue.



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



NEWS FROM NETHERBY

Through the Lens... the allure of old photos

"The curator's gloved fingers traced the surface of the of the old Fagan photograph... an image of four sisters, of innocence, beauty and elegance... a moment frozen in time".

Old photographs are more than just records; they connect us to our history. They provide a glimpse into the customs, fashion and daily life of past generations. Here at Netherby, Fagan Park, we have a collection of photographs that have helped shape our understanding of the Fagan family; their connection to the landscape through their citrus growing empire, the jersey cows that Bruce loved, the homestead Samuel built, numerous cherished weddings, the last photo of a beloved son, Leslie who left to fight in WW1 and the daily life of a family making a living on a farm, right here in Galston.

Without these photos, we would not have a clear record of the past. The volunteers are very thankful that copies of original photos, from members of the Fagan family over the years, are in our safekeeping.



Imagine the patience early photographers must have had. Vintage cameras with their intricate design and mechanical precision, played a crucial role in preserving our memories.

In our collection, we have numerous early cameras and projectors which gives a clear idea of how capturing images has changed over time: portable folding cameras with bellows were in use between 1890 and 1930 and don't forget the Kodak Brownie, a box camera!

Though pictures may not tell the whole story, they stand as proof of generations past, allowing them to live in the present and make a single moment last a lifetime.

Come and visit Netherby and its museums... we are open every Tuesday 9-4pm and every second Sunday of the month. Group tours can be booked through Hornsby Shire Council.

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BowerBirds

Some renovations play it safe. This one was never intended to.

The brief Turrell Building received was built around personality, a home that would carry its owner's artistic identity into every corner. Colour wasn't an accent here; it was the architecture. The bold blues, dusty pinks and flashes of burgundy that define the space weren't selected from a mood board; they were already living in the client's imagination long before construction began.

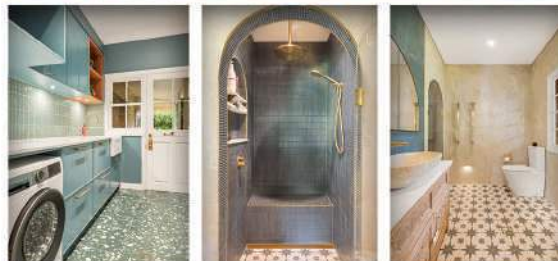
In the kitchen, blue joinery commands the room while handmade Moroccan Zellige tiles bring warmth and texture to the splashback. Curves soften the island. Fluted panels carry rhythm through to the dining area. Original timber windows frame garden views, grounding the boldness in something familiar.

Elsewhere, a laundry houses Calla Onyx Terrazzo flooring. Bathrooms feature carved teak vanities and brass-trimmed arched showers. A salvaged timber beam becomes a mantle. Nothing is accidental.

Turrell Building's approach was to follow the client's conviction rather than temper it, and the home is richer for it.

Great design doesn't impose itself on a space. It listens. And sometimes, when you listen closely enough, a home tells you exactly who it belongs to.

If you're ready to build something that's truly yours, visit turrell.com.au or call **(02) 9653 1003**.



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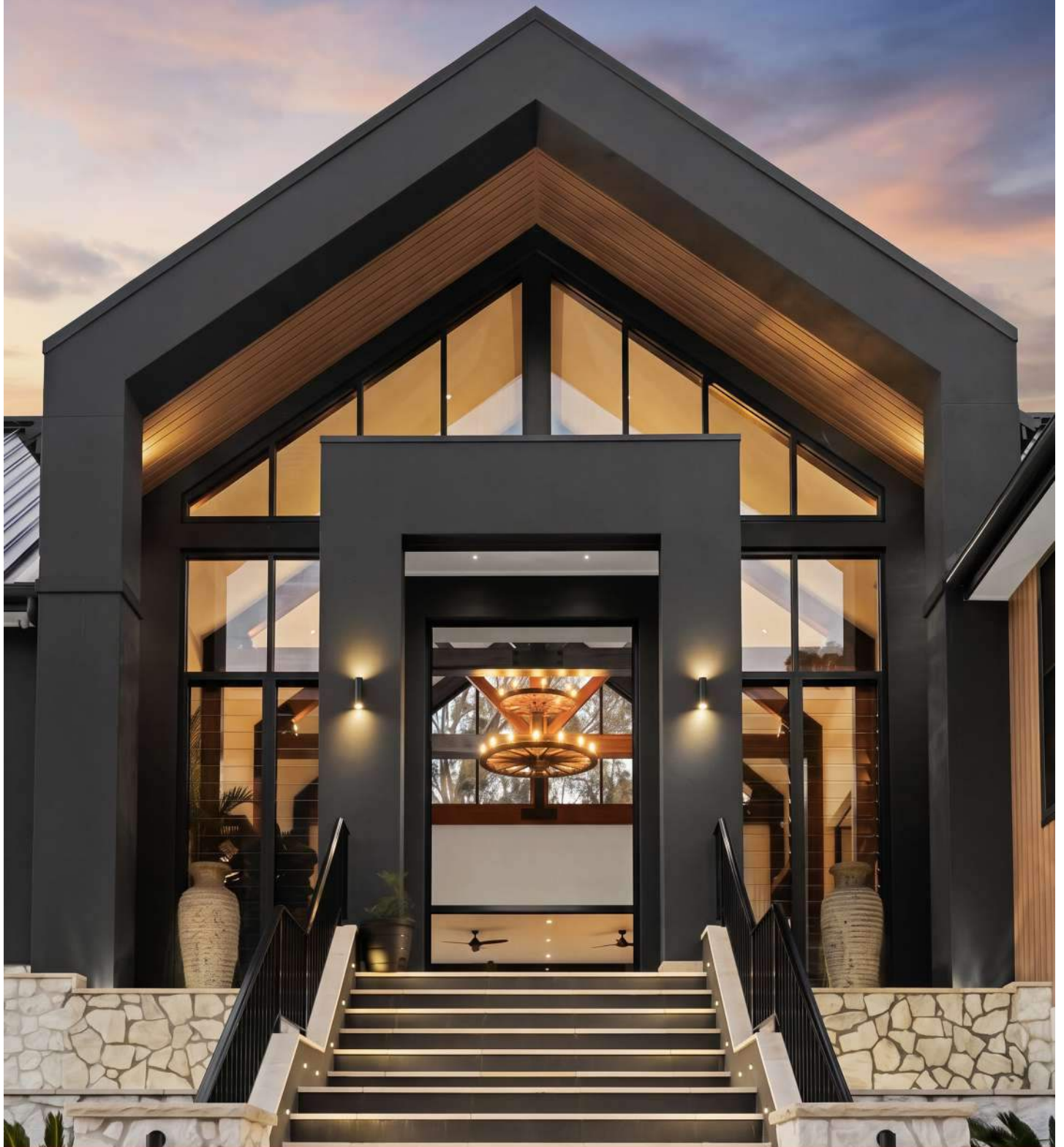
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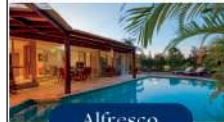
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WINTERFEST IS COMING

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

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

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

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

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

- The **Mounted Skill-at-Arms**, demonstrating the skills required for knights in training and in battle on horseback.
- The **Re-enactors's Row**, where you can try helmets, armour, shields and weapons. Friendly re-enactors from history enjoy sharing their knowledge about the people and period they are re-enacting.

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

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



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

Have your photo taken with a unicorn, and kids can join in at the Kids' Knight School.

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

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

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

Scouting in Glenorie – Perspective of Ron Major

In Glenorie, we celebrated the life of Raymond Charles Whiteman, who passed on August 1st, 2019. The community lost an irreplaceable member. In February 2026, we honoured him by dedicating the Ray Whiteman Heritage Fence at the Glenorie Memorial Hall Precinct for his outstanding commitment to the community.



My name is Ron Major, and I want to share about the years I was a Scout and how Ray "Skip" influenced my life.

In 1953, with an increasing population, there was interest to start a Scout Group in Glenorie. The RSL Subbranch held a meeting of interest. The inaugural Group Committee meeting was held on December 9th, 1953, with Ted Schwebel as President, Jack Connolly as Secretary, and Ida Coughlin as Treasurer. Glenorie Scout Troop's first meeting was held on March 18th, 1954, at the Memorial Hall. Ray Whiteman was approached to become Scoutmaster; he accepted and gained his warrant on June 24th, 1954. He was the



driving force behind developing land, buildings, and amenities for the Glenorie Group, making it

the envy of many other Scout Groups.

I met "Skip" when he was installing electrical wiring in our family home in Stevens Road. He talked to my parents and me, encouraging me to join Scouts. This was about 60 years ago—the start of our scouting relationship.

He was a man who took me places, spent time with me, and taught me things I would have never known otherwise. I wasn't special; there were many other Scouts with whom he spent time over the years. Skip brought out the best in all of us, as seen by the names on the Queen Scout award plaque.

Skip taught me to read a map, tie knots, pitch a tent, and took me hiking, caving, camping, snow skiing, and sailing—which was the joy of my youth. My fondest Scout memories are my sailing days: traveling to Bayview, putting in at Bayview Reserve near 1st Bayview Sea Scout Group, sailing up Pittwater, stopping for lunch at North Palm Beach, and sailing back.

On April 29th, 1970, during the Bi-Centenary re-enactment of Cook's landing at Botany Bay, we sailed out to meet the Britannia at the heads of Botany Bay. One memorable camp was on the banks of the MacDonald River—it was freezing cold. The first sun appeared at 11am, tea towels were frozen on the line, and washing-up water was iced over.

I became Cub Leader with 1st Glenorie Cub Pack and remained a leader for some years.



The support and encouragement Skip gave me was immeasurable, which I only truly appreciated when I had a family of my own.

Ron Major is a member of the Glenorie Progress Association and a contributor towards the Scout pier at the beginning of the Ray Whiteman Heritage Fence.

If you wish to join the Association, come to meetings at 7:15pm on the second Thursday of each month at the Glenorie RSL Club. Membership is \$20, \$40 for 2 years, or \$80 for 5 years. Visit <https://www.glenorieprogress.org/> membership or join by direct debit.



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DURAL AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

News from History Cottage



Murray Wilton with the RAS bicentennial book

The Society's May meeting had the pleasure of hearing two guest speakers, member Jenny Bradley and Murray Wilton, General Manager of the Royal Easter Show, who gave local and state stories of agricultural shows. The trophies won by Jenny's grandfather are an indication of the esteem given to good agricultural practices, while Murray told of the story of Agriculture & Sydney Royal Easter Show and the place it holds in our history. Murray generously presented each attendee with a copy of the Easter Show's bicentennial book. A most enjoyable afternoon that generated much

reminiscing over a welcome tea or coffee.

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

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

are available to assist. Next is Sunday 28th June.

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

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

Enquiries to Michael Bell 02 9653 1365.



Galston CWA

Galston CWA would like to thank the local community for the amazing support at our recent Mother's Day stall. Thank you to everyone who visited, made a purchase. Your support allows us to continue helping those in need within our community.

Galston CWA meets every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at the Galston Community Health Centre, visitors are always welcome. We also happily accept donations of surplus fruit and vegetables, as well as craft items.

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



Ferry Artists

The Ferry Artists welcomed The Hills Mayor Dr Michelle Byrne to the presentation of the community collaborative artwork at the Wisemans Ferry Bowling Club recently. It was a lovely to present this colourful and creative artwork made at Taste of Wisemans last year created with brush strokes from many community members and visitors. We thank The Mayor and The Hills Shire Council for their continued support of The Ferry Artists and look forward to seeing it hanging in Chambers very soon.



A successful Paint and Sip event hosted by The Settlers Arms and facilitated by The Ferry Artists was a rousing success with calls for more so please stay tuned! The community who joined us for this event were well refreshed by the Inn and all took home a beautiful artwork professionally lead by local artist Mellissa Read-Devine.

Our stall at St Albans Village Markets is now a regular event looked forward to by everyone. If you are after our local handcrafted items and artworks, come along to the next market and you will find us in The Barn! St Albans Village Market has been very supportive of our organisation needing a place to exhibit and we thank them.

Next big event for us will be our exhibition "Vibrance" at Merrylands RSL Club opening on 4th June with a "meet the artists" on 13th and running for the month. Our artists are busy creating to make this a wonderful event and we invite our community to attend.

For information about what The Ferry Artists are doing next follow our socials or see our website www.ferryartists.org.au



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Smart ways to save money when purchasing a home



Smart strategies to reduce costs, maximise value and make confident financial decisions when buying property.

Buying a home is one of life's most exciting milestones, but it also comes with enormous financial decisions. There are many opportunities throughout the buying process to save money with the right preparation and advice.

Get your finances organised early

Before you start house hunting, take time to understand your financial position and borrowing capacity. Speaking with a mortgage broker or lender early in the process can help you secure pre-approval.

Pre-approval not only gives you a clear budget but can also strengthen your position when negotiating with sellers.

It's also worth reviewing your savings plan, reducing discretionary spending and consistently contributing to your savings can help grow your deposit faster.

Research government grants and incentives

Depending on your location and eligibility, there may be government programs and home-owner grants designed to support buyers.

These can include:

- First-home buyer grants

- Stamp duty concessions or exemptions
- Shared equity or deposit schemes

Budget beyond the purchase price

Many buyers focus on the property price but underestimate the additional costs involved in buying a home.

Some factors to consider:

- Stamp duty – a state-based tax on property purchases in Australia, typically ranging 3-6% of the property's value, varying by state and property type.
- Legal and conveyancing fees
- Building and pest inspections
- Moving costs – removalists, technicians, etc
- Insurance

Compare lenders and loan features

Not all home loans are created equal. Taking the time to compare different loan options could save you thousands of dollars over the life of the loan.

A mortgage broker can often assist by comparing a wide range of lenders and finding a loan structure that aligns with your financial goals.

Don't skip building and pest inspections

While it may seem like an additional cost, investing in professional inspections before purchasing



a property can prevent expensive problems later.

Consider long-term value

Sometimes the

cheapest property upfront isn't always the most economical choice. A home in a desirable location, close to transport, schools and amenities, may offer stronger capital growth and lifestyle benefits over time.

Work with experienced professionals

Navigating the property market can feel complex, especially for first-time buyers. Working with experienced real estate agents, mortgage brokers and conveyancers can help you avoid costly mistakes and make confident decisions throughout the process.

Planning today for financial confidence tomorrow

Purchasing a home is a significant investment, but with the right preparation and advice, there are many ways to make the process more financially efficient.

If you're considering purchasing a property and would like tailored advice, speak with Belle Property Dural today – 9129 2882. Their local market expertise can help you navigate the process and find the right home for your needs.

GALSTON LIBRARY

Get your needles ready as we support Wrap With Love and make blankets for those in need at our annual Neighbourhood Knit In at Hornsby Library on Friday 12th June. A stunning exhibition of completed wraps will adorn the library as our knitting groups showcase their skills. Never tried knitting? Just bring your own 4mm needles and 8 ply yarn and our knitters will help you get started. Visit our events page at hornsby.nsw.gov.au/library to book.

ADULT FICTION

OUR PERFECT STORM BY CARLEY FORTUNE

Frankie and George have been best friends since they were kids. On the eve of Frankie's wedding weekend, she doesn't know if George will show up but just as the festivities are starting, in walks George. For one glorious evening, Frankie's life is perfect. But it all comes crashing down the next morning when her fiancé dumps her. Frankie returns to her family's home to wallow, but George has a different plan for healing Frankie's broken heart.

This heart-stopping romance coupled with stunning imagery is perfect for fans of Beth O'Leary and Elin Hilderbrand.



JUNIOR FICTION

ELLA AND THE MYSTERY OF THE MISSING FROGS BY CASSY POLIMENI

Have you ever had a day when everything goes wrong? Ella is having one of those and to make matters worse, the frogs that live in her backyard have disappeared! Ella is determined to solve the mystery of the missing frogs but there's one problem: her brother keeps getting in the way. Can Ella find the frogs and break the curse or will her little brother ruin everything?

Nature lovers and young scientists will love the fact-filled latest instalment of the *Ella and the Frogs* series.



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

Rural Roundup

Jane Seaglove

Hornsby Councillor

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

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

There has also been continued discussion surrounding the **State Government's proposed Statewide framework for planning and approvals** for a number of developments. While there is recognition of the need to deliver housing and infrastructure efficiently, it is equally important that meaningful community input remains central to the planning process. Residents should continue to have a genuine opportunity to provide feedback on developments that may impact their neighbourhoods, local character and quality of life.

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

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

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Julian Leeser

FEDERAL MEMBER
FOR BEROWRA

Jemma Jukes: A Glenorie woman who changed Australian healthcare

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



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

In April 2023, at thirty-three years old, Jemma was diagnosed with stage four non-small cell lung cancer carrying a rare EGFR exon 20 mutation. What began as what she thought was sciatica pain ended with a diagnosis that would define the rest of her short life, not by limiting her, but by revealing the full measure of her character.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

From the desk of
James Wallace
MEMBER FOR HORNSBY

Taxes and our State Budget Wishlist

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



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

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

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

New Line Road

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

Infrastructure to support growth around Cherrybrook and Dural

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

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

Cutting taxes

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

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

FIREWOOD FOR SALE

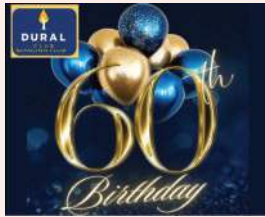
We have bags of mixed firewood offcuts for sale.

Three bags for \$20. Pick up in Glenorie.

Your contribution will help support the Hills Men's Shed.

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arrange collection.**

60 Years of Bowling at Dural



Dural Bowling Club will celebrate its 60th anniversary in August 2026. It was established very soon after the Dural Country Club was opened. Being able to mark this milestone is a triumph over recent, challenging years.

The planned celebrations will emphasise the resilience, community spirit, and the legacy of both founding and subsequent members, and will serve as a powerful bridge between a storied past and a revitalised future, allowing the past and current bowlers to celebrate resilience as much as longevity.

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

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

Pennant

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

Dural Bocce Club

April was a busy month for the members of Dural Bocce Club. All members of the club concentrated on their bocce skills as it was our second total point score format month. In this format each player's score each week over the entire month is accumulated with prizes awarded to the greatest score. Congratulations to Tony, in first place, followed by Franco and Mary in second and third for the Tuesday games while Dennis, Oreste and Giuseppe filled those positions for the Friday games. The next total point score month will be June.



The club is currently gearing up for the second last weekend of May as this is when the club Singles Championship will be held. Up for grabs is the prestigious title of Ladies, or Mens, Singles Champion for 2026.

These championships are an opportunity to see the club's top players in action under competition conditions when their skills will need to be at their best for them to achieve their goal of coming out on top.

Anyone is always welcome to drop in to check out the competition. Visit us on the courts at the Dural Club any Tuesday morning or Friday evening to try for yourself or contact us on duralbocceclub@gmail.com

Female Football Week at Hills Hawks FC



Last Sunday 10th May, Hills Hawks Football Club honoured Female Football Week on home soil at Hayes Park.

The crowds were there in droves to support three of our all female teams in the Women's Competition who were playing at home.

With five women's teams in total from U10-U18 representing Hills Hawks FC this season, the program is going from strength to strength. Post match, our Hawks teams and their opponents were treated to delicious chocolates which tasted even sweeter after some fierce battles on the pitch.

As it was also Mother's Day, we included in our celebration all of the mums, nanas, aunts and friends who were there to support their players. As a club, Hills Hawks recognises the important role played by women and girls in our community: as players and friends, but also as coaches, managers, committee members and extremely loyal supporters and fans.

To continue the momentum, Hills Hawks FC & Belle Property extend the invitation to our 10th Anniversary Ladies Day on Saturday 20th June at Hayes Park. We'd love to see you there. Go Hawkies!



Waddell Cottage Restoration Unearths Local History



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

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



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

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

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



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Celebrating Community and Connection at Glenorie Public School

At Glenorie Public School, our strength lies in the connections we cultivate with our local community. Through shared experiences and meaningful partnerships, we provide students with enriching opportunities that enhance learning and foster a true sense of belonging.



Our Easter celebrations were a joyful occasion filled with creativity and collaboration. We welcomed local preschools to join our K-2 students for a vibrant Easter hat parade, cheered on by many community members. Stage 3 students showcased their problem-solving skills in "The Great Egg Drop," while visitors explored Stage 2's innovative "Eggshibitions," highlighting our students' artistic talents. We are grateful to families who donated Easter eggs and crafts for the SRC raffle, and to parent helpers who wrapped the prizes. Together, the raffle raised an impressive \$2,020 for Stewart House.



This April, our school captains led a moving ANZAC Service, a solemn tribute to the bravery and sacrifice of those who served. We were honoured to welcome guests from the Glenorie RSL Sub-Branch, including Mr Graham Bruce and Mrs Donna Medway, alongside representatives from Galston High School. Students demonstrated

exceptional respect, laying floral tributes at the cenotaph. On ANZAC Day, staff and students participated in the Glenorie RSL dawn and afternoon services, with many marching behind our school banner. Our leaders also attended the Galston High School service, joining others to honour the ANZAC legacy.



Recognising the importance of inclusion, students and teachers marked Autism Awareness Day on April 29th by wearing blue. Through thoughtful discussions, students explored what autism means and how it shapes the unique talents every individual brings to our community. Our goal extends beyond awareness; we are committed to fostering genuine understanding and appreciation of diverse experiences and strengths.



Our annual Cross Country Carnival united the school for a day of healthy competition and teamwork. Students from Kindergarten to Year 6 represented their sport houses—Emus, Wallabies, Red Roos, and Kookas—with enthusiasm. They showed strong competitive spirit and resilience while cheering on all participants. The Glenorie P&C enhanced the atmosphere with a bake sale and coffee van, much appreciated by everyone.

These events reflect our commitment to nurturing students not only academically but as connected, compassionate community members. We are grateful to all who contribute their time and energy to create these enriching experiences, making our school a place where learning is vibrant and community spirit thrives.

If you are considering enrolling your child or wish to see our school in action, we warmly invite you to contact us to arrange a tour. We look forward to welcoming new families.

- Rebecca Wallace, Principal

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Galston Public School Kindergarten 2027



If you or anyone you know has children who will be enrolling in Kindergarten in 2027, we are now accepting enrolment enquiries, applications and completed enrolment forms!

As Galston Public School is currently beneath our enrolment availability, priority will be given to students from our local drawing area.

At this stage, we are also able to consider all out of area applications on a case-by-case basis.

UnitingCare Galston Early Learning Centre – Bush Program



Children at UnitingCare Galston Early Learning Centre recently enjoyed opening our Bush Program with a wonderful morning of nature play and gardening alongside students from Pymble Ladies' College. Together, the children explored the outdoor



environment, worked collaboratively to pull weeds, care for the garden, and learn about the importance of looking after the land around them.

We would like to acknowledge and thank Pymble Ladies' College for their generous donation of gardening gloves and buckets. The children proudly carried their buckets through the garden, enthusiastically engaging in hands-on learning while developing teamwork, confidence, and gross motor skills.

Throughout the morning, children delighted in discovering insects, worms, and other living creatures, sparking curiosity and imaginative conversations about nature and fairies. One child wondered, "Are there any fairies here? I've never seen a fairy in real life."



These meaningful outdoor experiences encourage children to build resilience, creativity, and a deeper connection with the natural world through exploration, imagination, and play. We look forward to continuing our visits to the bush area and helping our community care for the land on which we live.

For further information about our centre or to arrange a visit, please contact Centre Director, Daniela Palmer, via email at galstondaycare@bigpond.com or by phone on (02) 9653 1475.

Hillside Happenings

100 Years of a Hidden Treasure in the Hills District

Set among bushland along Cattai Ridge Road in Glenorie, Hillside Public School is celebrating 100 years of history while quietly capturing the attention of families across the Hills District and surrounding regions. In a time where bigger often seems better, Hillside offers something increasingly rare — a true sense of belonging, where every child is known, valued, and supported.

It's a close-knit community where friendships form naturally across year groups, older students look out for younger ones, and families feel part of something meaningful from the moment they arrive.

Surrounded by nature, Hillside is a place where children have space to breathe, explore, and grow. From the well-loved vegetable garden and outdoor learning areas to the oval, playgrounds, courts and yarning circle, every corner of the school invites curiosity, connection, and play. Learning here extends beyond the classroom — it's hands-on, active, and full of discovery.

At Hillside, learning is personal. Small class sizes mean teachers truly know each child - how they learn, what excites them, and where they need support or challenge - and they explicitly teach to this. Not only do they provide tailored support, but also enrichment, extension and acceleration opportunities to foster every child's potential.

But what families often notice most is the feeling. A calm, welcoming environment where children arrive happy and leave confident. Where wellbeing is just as important as achievement, and where creativity, leadership, and self-belief are encouraged every day through music, dance, French, sport, and a wide range of opportunities beyond the classroom.

For 100 years, Hillside Public School has been shaping young lives. Generations of students have built friendships, grown in confidence, and created lasting memories within its grounds. That legacy continues today — a community built on care, connection, and the belief that every child deserves to feel seen, supported, and valued.

This year, Hillside proudly celebrates its centenary - a milestone honouring a rich history and the vibrant community that has shaped it.

All are invited to join the celebration on Friday 30th October 2026. Once part of Hillside, always part of the community. This is more than a milestone — it's a moment to come together, honour the memories, and continue a story that connects generations. Celebrate the past. Enjoy the present. Be part of what's next.

Enrolling Now. Kindergarten to Year 6!

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

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



Middle Dural Public School



Middle Dural Public School has had some wonderful new additions to our beautiful grounds in recent months. In a fantastic boost for our school community, we recently unveiled newly installed shade sails over our sandpit area and outdoor learning space. This improvement has been eagerly anticipated by our community for many years. Our students will now enjoy cool, shaded areas for outdoor learning and play, especially during the warmer months.

The installation of the shade sails was made possible through the support of a State Government Grant under the 2026 Community Building Partnership program. We sincerely thank our local State Member of Parliament, James Wallace, for supporting our application.

We also celebrated the return of our students after the Easter break with some vibrant new playground markings.



These markings complement our beautiful mural and provide additional opportunities for fun, learning, and fitness.

Our spacious grassy areas have always been a favourite place for students to run and explore. With our

chickens and vegetable garden continuing to be lovely spots to relax and enjoy nature, we are excited to introduce a fabulous new mud kitchen. We are confident this will be a big hit with students of all ages.

Book a tour:

- Explore our grounds, classrooms and learning spaces
- Meet our teachers and support staff
- See our classrooms in action

We are always proud to showcase the differentiated learning that happens in our classrooms every day and we welcome you to come to see it for yourself.

Enrol now...

Scan the QR code to our Website to enrol now, or contact our school to arrange a visit or speak with our team.

Contact us for more information

📧 middledura-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

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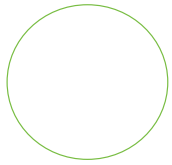
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by Lachlan Turner

Hidden in the Hills

Prickly Moses

Several of the wattle family have an extended flowering period commencing in mid autumn through to near the end of spring. One such plant is Prickly Moses (*Acacia ulicifolia*), which, as its name implies, has rigid narrow “leaves” with a sharp spike at the end.

It has been observed that the spiky nature of the fairly open foliage allows small birds a measure of protection from larger aggressive birds that have a tendency to attack them.

This variety of Acacia, mainly flowering from June to September, is often overlooked due to its small inconspicuous flowers found at the end of a short stalk spaced intermittently along the stiff branchlets. The new flower bud appears as a cluster of small yellow balls collected together in a spherical shape at the end of the stalk, this spherical shape being about 5 - 10 mm across.

The small balls open out to create the fluffy cream flower as seen in the adjacent images. They can be up to 15 mm across.

When the flowers mature they slowly turn a somewhat unattractive brown colour before dropping off the branchlets.



Another reason why this wattle is often overlooked is due to its low straggly, untidy habit. At times there can be more spent flowers visible than there are new ones. It is not usual for this wattle to grow more than about 1 metre tall and around 1 metre wide.

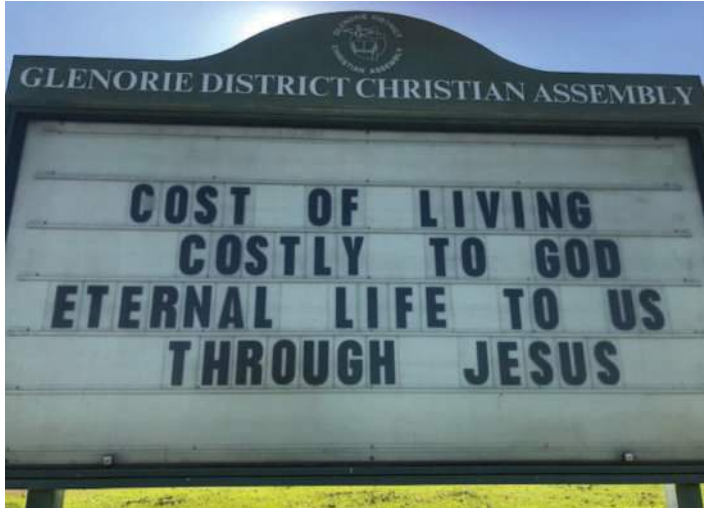
It can be successfully cultivated in the form of a low hedge being readily propagated by normal seed raising methods and pruned to form a more compact shape. Its prickly nature makes it unsuitable for growing adjacent to paths and walkways.

A similar species flowering a couple of months later is the Golden Prickly Wattle (*Acacia brownii*). This variety has flowers that are a much richer yellow colour than Prickly Moses.

The High Cost of Living

How often, in our conversations with family, friends and even strangers as we wait for the bus or stand in the grocery line at Woolies, does the phrase “High cost of living” come up? Very often I would suggest! Some even say it’s a crisis and many people are wondering when the rises will stabilise. It’s certainly a challenge we are facing right now.

A very respected author, Derek Prince, tells of a parable he related to a group of Polynesian Māoris, who are great wood carvers, to explain the extremely high cost God made so the people of our world could have hope and “live” eternally.



“There was once a boy who carved a beautiful little wooden sailboat. One day he took it down to the ocean to sail but the wind changed and took his boat out to sea. Since he couldn’t recover his boat, he went home without it.

The next high tide brought the boat back again and it was found by a man walking along the seashore. He inspected the boat and saw that it was beautifully made so he sold it to the shopkeeper who cleaned it up and put it in his window, priced to sell.

Some while later, the boy passed by the shop and saw his boat. He knew immediately that it was his but he had no way to prove it so, if he wanted it back, he knew he would have to buy it.

He set to work to earn the money by washing cars, mowing lawns and other tasks. When he finally raised the necessary funds, he walked into the shop and bought back his boat. He took it in his hands and, holding it to his chest, said, ‘Now you’re mine! I made you and I bought you.’

Picture yourself as that boat. You may feel inadequate or even worthless; you may wonder if God really cares, but God is saying to you - ‘I made you and through My Son Jesus’ sacrifice of His perfect life for your sins, I can buy you back to be doubly mine.

Each of us has a choice- believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved eternally - part of God’s family now and forever. Our living hope is in Him.

God bless.

Pr. Alex and Dee Valich, Glenorie Community Church.

1507 Old Northern Rd, Glenorie.

Sunday service: 10am. We’d love to see you there.

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Garden Club Dinner

Everyone loves a beautiful garden! Some of the best gardens I've seen are right here in New South Wales. From native shrubs and winding paths to beautiful colours that makes one feel, I just want to sit here and take in this beautiful moment. Some people are really gifted at designing gardens. They seem to have the natural ability to envisage the finished display long before it is even realised. Their gift is truly a blessing we can all enjoy.

Over the last two years I've had the privilege of meeting many beautiful gardeners from the Dural & Hills District Garden Club. Every month they have a day out (morning tea supplied), visiting and enjoying the amazing efforts of other gardeners in

the community. It's a lot of fun and the community spirit is very inviting.

Just recently, the Galston Adventist Church put on a dinner for our beloved garden club as a thank you for the great contribution they make for our community. For us it has been an opportunity to meet and make friends with those who love and appreciate



beautiful things. On the night, Jon Hestelow (who loves orchids), gave an amazing presentation, showing the numerous varieties of orchids found in Western Australia. Thank you Jon. It was fantastic!

As a church, we acknowledge and appreciate the abundant beauty and design of our world, recognising that, if there is design there must be a Designer.

Each Saturday 9:30am, we have a group Bible study, followed by the Divine Service at 11am. On Wednesday evening 7pm, is Prayer Connect. Everyone is welcome!

Please continue to pray for one another and for our community.

Pastor Steve Belson 0438 459 223
Galston Adventist Church
49 Arcadia Road Galston
Website: galston.adventist.org.au
Email: galstonsadventistchurch@gmail.com

Galston Uniting Church



A Tongan Children's Tradition

At Galston Uniting Church, we are fortunate to share in the rich traditions of our minister's Tongan heritage, including the meaningful celebration of Children's Sunday, held on the first Sunday of May.

This joyful occasion sees children take a special role in leading worship, celebrating their important place within the life of the church community. Dressed for the occasion, the children led the

congregation in singing beloved songs, read the lesson for the day, and shared a musical item.

Following their part in the service, the children gathered in the kitchen to prepare biscuits, which they later served to the congregation during morning tea.

Children's Sunday is a wonderful celebration of faith, family, and community, bringing people together in gratitude and joy as we recognise and encourage the next generation.

Of course, we have many other things for children at Galston Uniting.

Other Children's Activities

KUCAs – Kids in the Uniting Church of Australia – is for children in Kindergarten to Year 6. Meeting on Fridays during school term from 5:00pm to 6:30pm, KUCAs offers fun, games, craft activities, and a shared meal. All children in the community are welcome, and parents are welcome too. Interested? Contact the church office or simply come along!

Sunday's Kids meets each Sunday during the 10:00am service for Bible stories, songs and discussions about faith. All children are warmly welcome to join.

Messy Church is held two or three times a year during regular church time and is specially designed for children and families. With games, craft, animals, and a range of activities, it is always a fun and engaging experience for all ages. You are warmly invited to attend.

Save the Date

Concert – Sunday 21st June @ 2pm – The Canberra Musicians with Galston's own Kimberley Steele as pianist and conductor. An afternoon of beautiful music!

Church services continue in church at 10am on Sundays. You will also find us on Facebook where you can find live-streams of our service and other information about all our events (don't forget to like us).

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 Jayne Young, Office Manager.
11 School Road, Galston. Phone 9653 2039

The Missing Piece of the Easter Story

It is now over fifty days after the celebration of Easter, and we have passed, and possibly missed the celebration of God's Great Gift on the fiftieth day. This Gift is so important, that Jesus, before he went up into Heaven, told his followers that they were not to leave Jerusalem without it!

This gift would enable them, and us, to live the lives that God intended. In fact, the Apostle Paul said no one could be a true follower of God without it! It would transform lives, even those guilty of murder. It would produce in us the 9 lovely qualities of love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Jesus' promise was that this gift would be a gift of "Power," (which translates the Greek word "*dunamis*," from which we get the English word "dynamite!") Not only

power to enable our own good living, but power to minister to others, and bring change into their lives.

The initial outpouring of this gift from God came in the form of God's supernatural Holy Spirit, bringing not only Power, but God's indwelling presence. It came on the day of the Jewish festival of Pentecost, by which name it is still celebrated. And it is still available, for, as the Apostle Peter said on that first day

of Pentecost, when the people asked what they should do: "*Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*"

This gift is often not evident in our society today, but if you wish to receive this gift, or want to know more about it, find a church, and ask the Pastor.

- John Davies

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News from St Benedicts

The St Benedict's fete was back on Sunday 31st May

We'll have a full report next month about this long-awaited event that was postponed from the original date in March due to the period of wet weather we were experiencing at the time. Again this year we ran a very special raffle with the prize of a Limousin calf from the Arcadia Monastery herd. If the lucky winner doesn't have anywhere to keep a calf, the monastery is happy to look after it until it's grown up and saleable. There can't be too many church fetes that can offer such a unique prize!



Father Michael's birthday celebration

Last month we mentioned Father Michael's 80th birthday and later in May we took the opportunity to join him in a happy birthday celebration after the 9am Mass. Father Michael proved he was a deft hand with the cake knife, as can be seen here in the photo. Congratulations Father Michael (by the way, the cake was delicious.)

Other happenings

The ladies at the Makers' Table will be creating beautiful frames filled with 'Tree of Life's Treasures' at their workshop on 3 June. They're busy collecting old jewellery, chains or trinkets to put in their frames so they can keep them as lasting mementoes.

Sacramental program

Parents of children in Year 3 or above who wish to have their names added to the list for the 2026-27 parish sacramental program can do so by emailing the parish: arcadia.parish@bbcatholic.org.au; The program will begin with confirmation classes in October this year.

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.

Glenorie Rural Fire Brigade

Permits, Notifications & Pile Burns

In NSW, fire permits and notifications are required to manage risks, particularly during the statutory **Bush Fire Danger Period (BFDPP)**, which typically runs from **October 1st to March 31st** annually. For the 2025-2026 season, this period was in effect until March 31, 2026. [1, 2]

1. NSW RFS Requirements (General)

- **Permits:** During the BFDPP, you must obtain a free Fire Permit from the RFS before lighting any fire in the open. Permits are automatically suspended on Total Fire Ban days.
- **Notifications:** You must give at least 24 hours notice to your neighbours and the NSW RFS before lighting a fire, regardless of whether a permit is required.
- **Online Notification:** Use the RFS online notification tool to notify of planned burns.
- **Safety:** The permit holder must be present at the fire site until it is completely extinguished. [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]

2. The Hills Shire Council

- **Permits:** Residents in rural zones (RU1, RU2, RU3, RU6) outside the

Sydney Fire District may not need a council permit, but they must still obtain an RFS fire permit during the BFDPP.

- **Notifications:** 24 hours notice must be given to adjoining neighbours and the NSW RFS - The Hills District.
- **Pile Burns:** Piles must be max 2m long and 1.5m high, and only dry/dead vegetation can be burned.
- **Contacts:** Call (02) 9658 9000 or email thehills.fcc@rfs.nsw.gov.au. [1, 2]

3. Hornsby Shire Council

- **Permits:** During the BFDPP, residents require two forms of permission to conduct a pile burn:
 1. A permit from Council.
 2. A permit from the Hornsby Fire Control Centre or Fire & Rescue.
- **Notifications:** 24 hours notice is required to neighbours and the RFS.
- **Contacts:** RFS Fire Control: (02) 9883 2000; Fire & Rescue: (02) 9493 1071. [1, 2, 3]



Summary Checklist

1. **Check Dates:** Is it 1st Oct – 31st Mar? (BFDPP)
2. **Apply for Permit:** If in BFDPP, get an RFS permit via Guardian Portal.
3. **Notify Neighbours:** 24 hours in advance.
4. **Notify RFS:** Online 24 hours in advance.
5. **Check Conditions:** No burning on Total Fire Ban days. [1, 2, 3, 4]

ADVERTORIAL

Instant Asset Write-off

ATTENTION PLUMBERS, TRADIES, AND SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS... Don't let the end of financial year to creep up unnoticed. Aussie Pumps are alerting small business owners to the *Government's Instant Asset Write-off support which finishes on 30th June 2026.*

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

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

Aussie Jetter Sale

Aussie Pumps has been able to double production of their Jettets. This has led to increases in efficiency to offer exceptional pricing as they head to the end of financial year.

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Where Do You Get 'Em?

Aussie has got a wide network of professional distributors operating in the region. Contact Aussie on (02) 8865 3500 and they will put you in touch with the right dealer for your application.

ADVERTORIAL

Community Bank Galston & District Donates \$25,000 to Hills Wildlife Sanctuary



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

and protect native Australian wildlife.

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

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



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Rainfall

Rainfall recorded period 16/04/26 to 14/05/26 is **27mm**



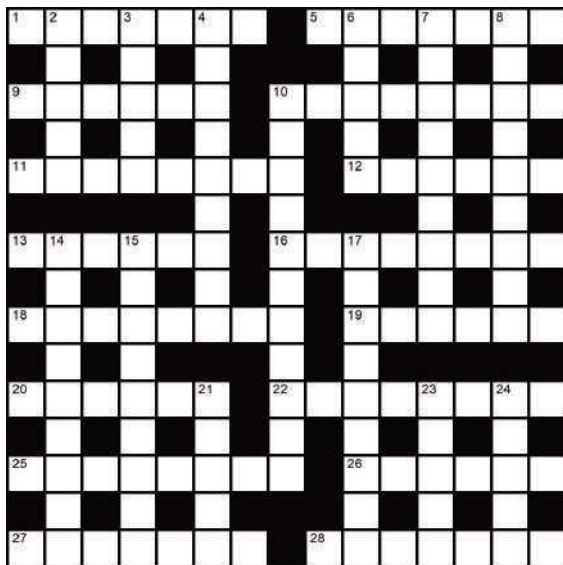
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Crossword

PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 01 Short prayer (7)
- 05 Bounded (7)
- 09 Underlying structure (6)
- 10 Football's "Captain Blood" of yesteryear (4,4)
- 11 Sole wetland in Central West Queensland (4,4)
- 12 Tallied (6)
- 13 Keynote (1,5)
- 16 Rhett's belle (8)
- 18 Software (8)
- 19 Last movement (6)
- 20 Designer McCartney (6)
- 22 Group of spectators (8)
- 25 Olive-green, black and white avian with a distinctive call (8)
- 26 Chamber music instruments (6)
- 27 Preparing for publication (7)
- 28 3-D artworks (7)

DOWN

- 02 Japanese port city (5)
- 03 Substantial (5)
- 04 Red-flowered leafless shrub (6,3)
- 06 Obtained on Route 66? (5)
- 07 Small brush wallaby (9)
- 08 Primitive (9)
- 10 Baird Bay, SA, pelican breeding site (5,6)
- 14 Out of the race (9)
- 15 Sydney electronic music band (9)
- 17 Sworn statement (9)
- 21 One of 4.5 billion or so (5)
- 23 Small German WW2 marine raider (1-4)
- 24 Pursue (5)

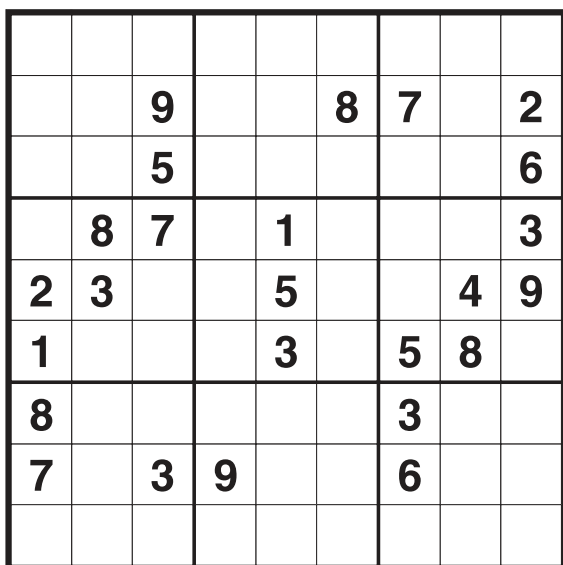
ANSWERS FROM MAY ISSUE



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

Sudoku

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



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IMPORTANT LOCAL INFORMATION

HELP AND INFORMATION SERVICES

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

LOCAL RURAL FIRE SERVICES

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

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

LOCAL JP's

Mary Ord, Glenorie - 0400 363 563
 Julia Billyard and Darren Bonaccordo, Elude Games, Galston - 8005 0077
 Vicki Brownless - 0423 727 826 (South Maroota area)

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

There will be a JP at Dural Library Wednesdays between 1:00 PM and 3:00 PM. Also available at Cherrybrook Shopping Village, 10:00 AM to 12:00 noon Saturdays. Contact Jane 0427 998 004.

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

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, and Wisemans Ferry.

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

Please send stories in editable text (Word or email), not in PDF. The maximum word count is 500.

Copy must be received by the 15th of the month.



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