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LIVING HERITAGE

Maroota and Districts News

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VOLUME 27, ISSUE 3

CIRCULATION 2000

MARCH 2024

What's On

2nd Mar - Sat
True Grit Obstacle Challenge
Dargle Farm
Lower Portland
Info: 0413 843 908
support@truegrit.com.au

3rd Mar - Sun
Battle of Vinegar Hill Event
Thompson Square
Windsor
Info: 0419 321 276

3rd Mar - Sun
Clean Up Australia Day

10th Mar - Sun
Watercolour Workshop
Hawkesbury Duck
Spencer
Info: 0447 545 271

14th Mar - Thurs
High Tea @ The Heritage Café
Wisemans Ferry
Info: ANZAC2775
@hotmail.com

15th Mar - Fri
Charity Golf Day
Linwood Country Club
Pitt Town.
Info: (02) 9679 1246

24th Mar - Sun
Guided Walking Tour
leaving from
Hawkesbury Duck
Spencer
Info: 0447 545 271

31st Mar - Sun
St Albans Village Market
Wharf Street St Albans
Info: 0419 977 535



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Maroota Motors, Half A Century Of Service

By.....
Pat
Schwartz

Fifty years ago in 1973 Fred, Andy and George Giglio bought Maroota Motors. Since then they have provided unstinting service to the Maroota and surrounding community. A service station and repair shop already existed on the site when the brothers took it over all those years ago.

George explained that in some ways Maroota was a different place in the early days when the family first ran the garage. The whole area was citrus in the 70's.

However, in 1979 a huge hailstorm wiped out the citrus industry in Maroota. Digging up shale for making bricks was another industry that lasted for years in the area.

Doing farm machinery repairs and fixing earth moving equipment have been a major business over the years for Maroota Motors, as well as mechanical work on cars and selling petrol. This was an essential service at the time when farming was a major industry here.

Water skiing was a very popular sport that kept Old Northern Road busy on the weekends taking people down to the river. Petrol was cheap back then, bought by the gallon.

As a service centre Maroota Motors did everything mechanical and the community is grateful for their years of service.

Now there are many more people living around Maroota, many of the farms are gone and sand mining is now a major industry in the area.

The family have reached the stage where they feel they need to move on and we wish them all the best for their future. Thank you, Maroota Motors, for providing an essential service for the farming and mining industry as well as for the community at large.

George also wants to 'thank the local community' and said 'it has been a pleasure because everyone in the whole community has been fantastic'.



Before shop renovations



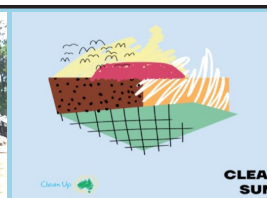
The workshop



As it looks today..... →



Cliftonville Road



STEP UP TO
JOIN

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY
SUNDAY 3 MARCH 2024



Cliftonville Crew

ECO-NEWS



With Liz Wilkinson



Each time I go outside onto the veranda or the grass and rocks I hear crunches under my shoes as the gum blossom caps are squashed - I have never seen so many as this year. Everything is also being coated with the gum blossom petals as well - all over the car, on the paths, window sills and on it goes.



I thought the hail storm (last month's LH) hadn't done any great damage at my place, but I'm still finding effects even now. We have dark grey roof tiles and now they look like a reverse Dalmatian - grey with a coating of white spots all over my roof. I'm finding gouges in woodwork and cement and the gum trees have many, many marks on their trunks and branches. Half an hour after the storm I took a photo of a group of hail stones as the shapes and patterns on them were so unusual.

Driving down Windsor Road we couldn't work out why all the oncoming traffic were flashing their lights at us. Around the bend and there was our answer, a quite young heifer was racing up the road with people in pursuit with a rope. Thank you light flashers for preventing a nasty accident.

We had a family of Superb Fairy Wrens breeding this year, one male and quite a few Jenny Wrens and male juveniles. When not seeing them for a while I began noticing four males feeding in my flower beds and on the

grass - where did these come from? I thought it might have been the males changing plumage ready for breeding, but no! On a close up look through my window, I noticed a reddish brown band beneath the dark blue around the head, and the blue had a tinge of mauve colour in it. Turned out to be the most widespread Fairy Wren in Australia, the Variegated Fairy Wren-Lamberti. I love to watch them hopping over my lawn seeking insects. They are not as fluffy as the Superb Wrens, but just a little taller and more slender. What a surprise it was to see them.

In this terrible heat and humidity I have been getting a few little outside friends visiting, lots of different spiders, crickets and ants galore, even a bright red mite. The most welcome of all was a baby gecko - have to be very careful as sometimes he just sits on the floor. We have had lots of flies trying to escape the heat - little black sticky ones that are very annoying and one that caught my attention - quite a large fly with very slender, long, long legs. I have no idea what type it was but it was very interesting.



Quote!

Hope is the belief that the future will be better than today, and that we have the power to make it so!

Chan Helman

Living Heritage News

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The opinions stated in the *Living Heritage News* are not necessarily those of the editorial staff, nor those of Eastbend Rural Communications Inc. They are published to provide the community with information and a medium for discussion on issues affecting them and their neighbours.

Copy Deadline: 15th month

Editor's Notes

As Liz says above, we're still finding damage around our property, and still waiting on repairs to commence. The assessors were very prompt in coming out and determining the damage, but now the insurance company has to agree on their assessment for the work to be done. One thing we learn very quickly out here in the 'sticks', is that you have to have a lot of patience when dealing with large companies. They did come out and seal off my roof temporarily so that no more water gets in. And a bonus, was electricity bill, now that I don't have my solar working. Grateful for that!

We are still having weird weather, sometimes we get four seasons in one day. The pool, looking lovely, has only been used twice, a waste of time, effort and chemicals. However, it does look

nice to see it clear and blue. We are now moving into autumn, so I'm not expecting any more swimming weather.

A nice result of all this wet weather, is the garden and trees. The vegies and flowers are loving it. The foliage on the gum trees is green and lush, dotted with colours from surrounding bushes. What a great outlook to view as I have my morning cuppa.

I have had so much input this month, there has been lots of shuffling around to fit it all in. The council's were very active in sending me quite a few emails, but alas I don't have room. To put 4 more pages in to accommodate the articles I get, we will need another \$400 of advertising revenue. That's a big ask! But you never know, one may come 'out of the blue'.

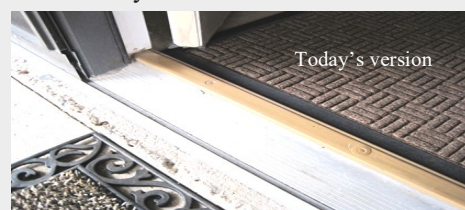
.....Enjoy your read....Carole

In Medieval times, the floor in houses was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt. Hence the saying "DIRT POOR".



The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on the floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they added more thresh until, when you opened the door, it would all start slipping outside.

A piece of wood was placed in the entrance-way. Hence: A THRESHOLD



The Dharug and Lower Hawkesbury River Historical Society 

A Book On Your Screen

By...Ben Anderson

April Speaker at the Dharug Chapel Gunderman.

The Dharug and Lower Hawkesbury Historical Society invites all to join us as we hear about the exploits of Martin Cash, the Wild Scotchman, Moondyne Joe, the Kenniff brothers and many other bush-rangers, as well as the troopers who pursued them, from the colonial past of three states – Tasmania, Western Australia, and Queensland. New South Wales and Victoria were not the only places to experience a wild colonial history and in his latest book *Bushranger Tracks II: Beyond the Legends* renowned author Greg Powell will again join us to entertain us with the stories of the above bushrangers plus others.

Greg is a well-known author of books about the Hawkesbury, and he has explored the area over many years as well as writing about the characters who operated in other States.

We will meet at the Chapel 6445 Wisemans Ferry Road Gunderman at 12.30pm for a short AGM and then the speaker at 1.00pm. After Greg’s talk we will participate in a sumptuous afternoon tea. Greg will have some of his books available should you wish to purchase.

Date: April 6th
Time: 12.30 for short AGM and then the speaker
Cost: \$15.00 members/ \$20.00 non-members.

Bookings essential: Email the Secretary@dlhhs.org.au or phone/text **0405 321 478** by April 2.

Cash or credit card available. CC surcharge will apply.
 All are welcome.

Now, screens hold so much sway,
 Technology shapes our everyday.
 Books, once revered, now stand aside,
 Their ancient pages, they have died.

In fingertips, worlds unfurl,
 Digital realms, a modern whirl.
 But do we mourn the fading link,
 As screens replace the printed ink?

Knowledge flows in digital streams,
 Yet books linger in silent dreams.
 For within their pages, stories speak,
 A legacy no screen can peak.

In libraries, whispers still sigh,
 Echoes of wisdom reaching high.
 Yet amidst the technology's fast pace,
 Where's the charm of paper's embrace?

Let's honour both, in balanced view,
 For each offers a journey anew.
 In technology and bound books' lore,
 The heart of knowledge beats evermore.



Hawkesbury City Eisteddfod



The 2024 Hawkesbury City Eisteddfod will run from July to September at Windsor Function Centre. We have some exciting new categories and an updated syllabus, which will be available shortly.

So now is the time to decide on what to enter and get into rehearsal mode. Entries will be via Comps Online.

Are you interested in volunteering for the many jobs that need doing? We could sure do with some help.

There are vocal, speech, instrumental, pianoforte, and dance categories, and you are able to choose where you would like to volunteer. Info: Ph: **0428 228 646**

Vale Wayne Smith

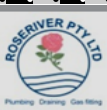
In the small community of Dargle Ski Park, a sombre cloud has descended with the heartbreaking news of Wayne Smith’s passing. The loss of such a beloved figure has left the tight-knit community in mourning, grappling with the void created by the departure of a man who was not just a resident but a beacon of warmth, compassion, and camaraderie. Wayne Smith’s connection with the river and the Dargle Ski Park was profound, a bond that went beyond the surface of mere residency.



For Wayne, the river wasn’t just a geographical feature; it was a part of his identity, an inseparable element of his being. He lived and breathed the spirit of Dargle, and this passion was evident to anyone fortunate enough to cross paths with him. Wayne’s love for Dargle wasn’t confined to his personal enjoyment; it extended to a genuine desire to share the beauty of the river and its surroundings with others. He was known for his generous spirit, always ready to lend a helping hand at the drop of a hat.

Whether it was assisting a neighbour with a task, offering guidance to newcomers, or contributing to community events, Wayne’s willingness to help was a testament to his character.

The impact Wayne had on those who knew him is immeasurable. His kindness resonated within the community, creating a ripple effect of goodwill that touched the lives of many. He wasn’t just a resident; he was a pillar of support, a source of inspiration for those around him. Wayne passed on 10th November from Pancreatic Cancer, aged 53.



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Wisemans Ferry Mens Shed

Last year we had the pleasure of introducing a new member to our Shed, Jeff Johnson, who had arrived from Broome in Western Australia to enjoy some quiet life before moving onto his next adventure. Now Jeff is not your normal retiree who had a mundane job in the city. Living in Broome he first set up a shop to fix radar units and electronics for the fishing fleet. This also attracted clients for the fixing of anything electronic. He has been able through the Shed to fix mobility scooters and battery-operated tools. His next move was to acquire the local plane charter business. For this he learnt to fly and obtained his pilot's license.

Then recently he disclosed that he has had a book written about him regarding a walk through the centre of Australia from the Spencer Gulf in South Australia to the Gulf of Carpentaria in Queensland. The book is titled *Gulf to Gulf - The Long Walk*, written by Cyril Ayris, published in 2009.

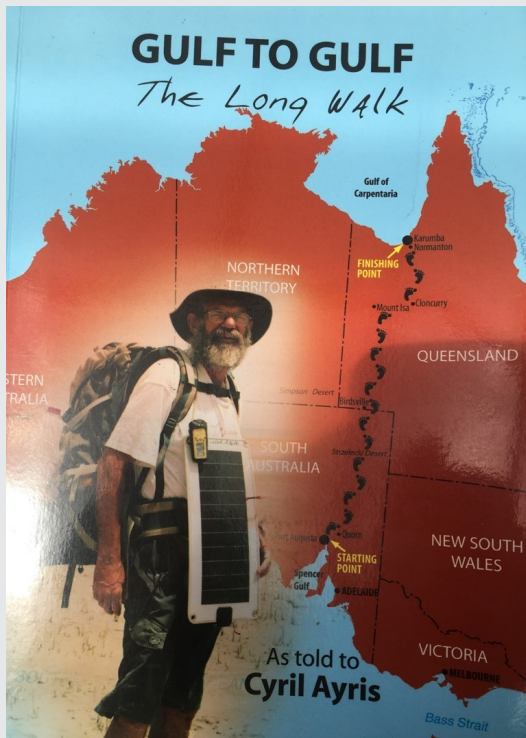
Jeff states "The challenge was in planning; navigation & communication and I was confident in all three areas. I had heard on the radio that a grandmother & her friends had cycled from Port Augusta, South Australia, to Karumba in Queensland. During the interview, she said they had stayed mostly in caravan parks and that the twenty strong group had back-up vehicles."

"To add purpose to the walk, I was introduced by my brother, Bill, to the President of the Deaf Blind Association in Sydney This resulted in me agreeing to allow my walk as a fund and awareness-raising venture for the Association."

"So, on 5th April, 2007 at 7.30 a.m. I dipped my toe into the waters of the Spencer Gulf and set off on my long journey. I had no back-up crew. I was all alone and 43. However, I could ring or radio for help if needed. My equipment consisted of radio, telephone, solar panel (which I wore around my neck) 8 litres of water, sachets of 2-minute noodles & powdered soup. I would find food along the way at towns, mining camps and various settlements."

"An emergency arose when the solar panel failed to recharge my GPS and I radioed my brother to send me replacement parts so I could repair the panel. I gave him the name of the next town and posted the required part to the post office in that town, which I picked up several days later."

Come on down and meet Jeff at the Wisemans Ferry Mens Shed (located behind Bowling Club). We are open Tuesdays and Saturdays 9 am to 2 pm.



This is a photo of Jeff Johnson setting out from the Spencer Gulf in South Australia on his journey to Gulf of Carpentaria in Queensland in 2007. Note the light-weight pack and solar panel hung around his neck to catch the sun.

St Albans Markets



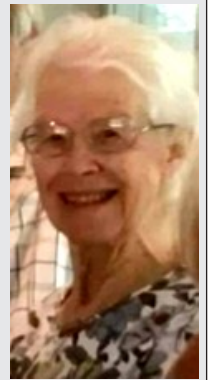
31 MARCH
10AM - 2PM

BRING YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY ALONG FOR A FUN-FILLED DAY OUT OF SHOPPING, MUNCHING, MUSIC, AND ENJOYING A TRUE COUNTRY MARKET



Vale Tessa Corkill, Friend And Colleague

Tessa Corkill passed away on the 9th January 2024 aged 88 years. Tessa, a skilled archaeologist with a deep love of natural history and the beautiful bushland of our local area, will be much missed by all the people who have worked with her over the years. Tessa, as a valued member of Eastbend Rural Communications and the Glenorie Maroota Bio-Regional Forum has contributed enormously to the work of these organisations.



Tessa headed up a project to successfully date the Maroota sandmass and was an important contributor to the Living Heritage Magazine. Her advice and knowledge was always generously shared with the community to which she belonged.

In her professional life, Tessa wrote numerous papers, produced many reports on different aspects of aboriginal archaeology and did valuable work with the Australian Museum.

Tessa had lived in Glenorie with her partner John for many years but in her earlier life had lived elsewhere. Carolyn Hall, Chairperson of the Glenorie Maroota Bio-Regional Forum recalls meeting up with Tessa and John while sightseeing in Japan. Tessa was delighted to see Carolyn and shared many tales of her much younger life when she had lived in that country.

Tessa's professionalism was valued by those of us she worked with in our community organisations and her friendship over the years on walks, study tours and numerous adventures will be remembered with appreciation and gratitude.

Tessa with members of Eastbend for lunch at Sasanqua in 2020



Beyond The Fence

As the saying goes... Buy land as they aren't making any more of it!

We've all heard the saying before and it appears that land or more specifically detached homes, continue to be a solid performer over the long term. Over the past 50 years the north west sector has continued to see an appetite for the great Australian dream of the home in the burbs. And while we see suburbs like Castle Hill experiencing massive growth in home units, the demand for land continues to outpace units as does the capital growth.

During the pandemic we saw the demand for less density living where home buyers sought more space away from the capital cities with the ability to work from home. It appears this desire for space continues as recent research by Core Logics Tim Lawless highlights the gap between the growth of house versus units continues to widen.

In a recent article in The Real Estate Conversation, Mr Lawless discusses the underlying reason for the widening of the gap and how the trend has accelerated since the pandemic. "At the onset of the pandemic in March 2020, the house premium, or the difference between median capital city house and unit values, was just 16.7%. Fast forward almost four years later, and that premium has jumped to 45.2% or \$293,950."

Mr Lawless continues, "Since the onset of the pandemic to January this year, capital city house values have increased by 33.9% or by \$239,000. Unit values over the same period are up 11.2% or \$65,235. A similar trend has played out over the past 12 months with house values up 11.0% (\$93,552) while unit values are up a lesser 6.9% (\$41,789).

So how does this relate to our area which is traditionally dominated by detached dwelling houses? As buyer demand increases for lower density and more space we are well positioned to support this demand. We are also seeing large sections of previously rural land in the Hills and Hawkesbury being developed with smaller lot sizes and more homes per hectare. As a result, we are not just experiencing demand from buyers coming out of the apartment market, but we are seeing buyers from the higher-density house market seeking more space. Strict zoning policies are ensuring that this lower density is protected with limitations around subdivisions.

Interesting times ahead as our region experiences an increase in dwellings.

Article By Trent Iverson
Licensed Real Estate Agent

VELLA IVERSON



945 Settlers Road, Central Macdonald | FOR SALE \$1,950,000

MACDONALD RIVER - PRIME RIVERFRONT RETREAT

A beautiful riverfront estate spanning 18 hectares (44.5 acres approx.). The home is well maintained and deceptively large; featuring 4 good sized bedrooms, 2 with retreats, formal lounge dining and a mudroom.

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4728 Wisemans Ferry Road, Maroota | FOR SALE Guide \$1.8 mil

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30 Bulga Street, St Albans | FOR SALE \$350,000

RUSTIC WEEKENDER IN THE HEART OF ST ALBANS VILLAGE

Dreaming of a perfect getaway? This is the perfect weekend escape from the city. The cottage is full of character and reflects the colonial charm of a bygone era. Bring your tools as the cottage does require finishing off.

Contact Agent: Trent Iverson | 0409 738 388



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Delightful Pole Art

The Valley for Wildlife project is an initiative undertaken by the Macdonald Valley Association. In collaboration with The Ferry Artists Gallery, we have undertaken several community art projects, the latest being "An Artist for a Day" This project is supported and funded by Nepean Blue Mountains Primary Health Network (NBMPHN) as part of the Australian Government's response to the 2022 floods.

With the permission of Endeavour Energy, we painted 10 poles in the St Albans village with beautiful artworks inspired by the wildlife and natural environment of our valley. Artists Luke Kelly, Mellissa Read-Devine, Carol Gill and Mim Allan created unique designs for the poles and worked with local volunteers to make these artworks come alive.



Rural Roundup

Several residents have enquired if it would be possible to make the crossing of Arcadia Road even safer for children. The recently formed road verge and pedestrian island are an obvious benefit, however, the inclusion of a zebra crossing is also up for consideration.

If you would like to comment on this proposal, please go to the Council website or use the following link:

<https://yoursay.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/>

If the exhibition period should end in the meantime, feel free to email your comments and I will pass them on myself.

While you are at it, Hornsby Council is calling on people of all ages to contribute to a 10-year plan for a socially sustainable shire. The plan will set out clear directions for priorities and actions to support social cohesion, community connectedness, resilience, and wellbeing. To have your say, please use this online link:

<https://yoursay.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/social-plan>

On a broader note, Council has serious concerns over the State Governments plan to increase housing density. The blanket, "one size fits all", approach lacks planning merit and would harm the character of our Shire's suburbs, heritage precincts, environment, and tree canopy. Let alone a total disregard for lack of infrastructure. We will be making a case to the State planning authority that we already have existing planning strategies that have been developed from the ground up with substantial community consultation.

Our Rural Land Strategy is a merit and evidence-based strategy that seeks to preserve the integrity of our rural area while identifying a sustainable approach to housing, local economy, and our environment. State planning reforms will undermine all of this. I will be working hard to ensure that our community controls its own future in terms of planning.

As always, happy to assist with any issue via the contact details below.

wwaddell@hornsby.nsw.gov.au
Ph: 0499004861

Warren Waddell
Hornsby Shire Councillor



As your Federal Member, I am here to:

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

Please contact my office if I can be of assistance.

JULIAN LEESER MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR BEROWRA

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



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

NOTICE BOARD!



Advertise your event, notice or sale on our Noticeboard



High Tea 'Op Shop Glamour'
11.30 - 2.30
Tuesday 19th March, 2024
At the Heritage Café
2/557 Old Northern Road,
Wisemans Ferry 2775

Get some friends together and dress up in your best op shop clothes. Join us for a fun filled day.
Tickets: \$60 Purchase via ANZAC2775@hotmail.com
All profits go to ANZAC Day ceremonies, to cover insurances and traffic control costs.

Would you like the Living Heritage delivered? 12 months subscription is only \$25
Ph: 0410 504 132

Wisemans Ferry Seniors

We had our trip to Umina last month. A great time was had by all who went. There are no definite trips planned at this time, but we are looking at places we can go to and have fun. We enjoy the fact that members of the Sunshine Club are joining us on our bus trips, and also other guests are welcome. We can always make room.

We are looking into a trip to Mudgee in the Spring. It will be a two day trip, and will be a fun time as we explore Mudgee which we believe has a lot of interesting places to visit. Visitors are always welcome to join us for our Monday morning bingo and on our bus trips you do not have to be as senior.



Don't forget our facebook page **Wisemans Ferry Bingo Group** and for any queries contact Jo 0419 413 523 or Noelene 4566 8226



sydney wildlife RESCUE

Your local registered Sydney Wildlife Carer is Helen Coy
0427 358 096

Free Legal Advice

Tony Simpson Law Firm will be running a free legal aid service from his new office – behind the Doctor's Surgery, next to the Sunshine Club - once a month for people who are financially vulnerable, including people on Centrelink or pensions. Please ring for an appointment or further information

45 664 911 

Richmond/Windsor View Club

Meets every second Wednesday of the month at The Richmond Club.
VIEW (voice, interest and education of woman) supports the Smith Family and Learning for Life.
Contact:
Trish Carter **0417 010 619**

A Visit To Tumut

By Liz Wilkinson

In late November our car club held a President's weekend away. We went to Tumut so that any members so wishing from the Victorian club could attend as well. A Swedish couple who were having a down under tour, and who owned several very rare Daimlers, contacted our club and joined our group in Tumut which made for some very interesting conversations. Sweden no longer has any physical money in use, only digital, even children have a digital system for small transactions.

Some of us met at Pheasant's Nest where we heard of the weekend's first Disaster - one car got as far as Cremorne Junction and failed to proceed, three hours later NRMA arrived so John's weekend away was aborted! We were to be met by a couple near Mittagong and unknown to us they did not join on the queue but also failed to proceed - disaster two. Fortunately the NMRA was very quick and they caught up with us hours later. It was a slow trip as the lead car was only travelling very slowly due to its age. (Rolls Royce Silver Dawn). Lunch (a very late one!) was at the Long Track Pantry at Jugion - a place I had never been to, and what a delightful, very old township, with an old pub and lots of buildings made of stone. This town is geared up to capture the tourist dollars, with the Long Track Pantry (delicious!) and shop selling local produce, clothing and toiletries, as well as a jam shop, a winery and an old pub all side by side.

It was good to catch up with everyone at the motel and Friday night was an in house night with everyone just sitting around, chatting and catching up- some people we haven't seen since before Covid. On Saturday morning (in the rain!!) we drove to Batlow, where we took up residence in the local bakery until the rain had eased. Here I bought some Black Garlic which turned out to be smoked garlic - very delicious especially in pasta dishes In a yard next to the bakery was a stunning and very unusual tree, covered all over in large blooms - it turned out to be a Dogwood tree. Caught the eyes of all the ladies!!

What did we get up to in Tumbarumba ???

..... tune in next month to find out.



Latest News



As a Council, we're committed to delivering events and activities across the Shire for the whole community to enjoy. So, we're excited that our popular 'Food Truck Fridays' are returning in 2024.

'Food Truck Fridays' will showcase some of Sydney's best food truck offerings at different locations in Hornsby Shire on Friday evenings from 5pm to 8.30pm. The events will feature great live music, too.

In March, the trucks will roll into Pennant Hills and Berowra, then in April they will visit Galston for the first time as well as Cherrybrook.

More than just providing delicious treats, our 'Food Truck Fridays' are an opportunity for residents to come together and enjoy our public spaces. And they help activate our local evening and night-time economy.

For locations and other details, see hornsby.nsw.gov.au/fff

We're also excited to present a special event celebrating our diverse multicultural community on Saturday 17 February in Hornsby Mall. For more information visit hornsby.nsw.gov.au

I'm proud that Hornsby Shire is a diverse and welcoming community. To support all our residents, we are developing a Plan to foster social cohesion and encourage community connectedness, resilience, and wellbeing. Please help shape the new Hornsby Shire Social Plan by sharing your thoughts. Find out more and complete a short survey at yoursay.hornsby.nsw.gov.au

Philip Ruddock AO,
Mayor, Hornsby Shire Council

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING WEDNESDAY 13 MARCH, 6.30 PM

For more Council information visit
hornsby.nsw.gov.au

EASTBEND MEETINGS
2024

May 13th

August 12th

November 11th
AGM

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FROM THE PASTORS DESK

The Overcoming Spirit
"Their Weakness Was Turned To Strength".
(Heb 11:34)

A grindstone can make a diamond shine, or reduce solid rock to dust. It depends what you're made of. Charles Steinmetz, one of the founders of General Electric, was made of the right stuff. Crippled from birth, he was so short in stature that he looked like a dwarf. His mother died before he reached his first birthday. His father was poor but he was determined that young Charles would have an education. Charles couldn't run and play games like normal boys so he decided to devote himself to science. He set this goal: *"I will make discoveries that help other people"*.

When Charles immigrated to the United States, he couldn't speak a word of English. His face was swollen from the cold he'd endured on the boat passage.....His sight was defective..... His clothes were shabby. The port authorities were tempted to return him to Switzerland. But he stayed and found a job that paid \$12 a week. There he showed amazing abilities. The infant company General Electric quickly realised his incredible potential. His career was marked by unparalleled research and development. When he died in 1923, one writer said,.....*"He had the mind of an angel and the soul of a seer"*.

What did Charles Steinmetz have?.....**The overcoming Spirit!** Do you have it? If what you're doing doesn't produce resistance, it's not worth doing. The winners in your Bible are described this way: *"Their weakness was turned to strength. They become strong in battle"*. (Heb 11:34) What turns weakness into strength? Faith that refuses to back up, back down or settle for less than what God has promised.

God Bless!.....PS Peter Goldstien, JP, Community Chaplain. Midway Christian Centre

LIVING HERITAGE FOLDING DAYS

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May.....Mon.....Apr.....22nd
Jun.....Mon.....May.....24th
Jul.....Mon.....Jun.....25th
Aug.....Mon.....Jul.....,24th

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Community Chaplain

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- Funerals
- Baby Dedications
- Grief Counselling

email:
petergoldstien12@gmail.com

Mob: 0428 234 228

Stage 3 Personal Income Tax Cuts Redesigned

The personal income tax cuts legislated to commence on 1 July 2024 will be realigned and redistributed under a proposal released by the Federal Government.

After much speculation, the Prime Minister has announced that the Government will amend the legislated Stage 3 tax cuts scheduled to commence on 1 July 2024. Relative to the current Stage 3 plan, the proposed redesign will broaden the benefits of the tax cut by focussing on individuals with taxable income below \$150,000. If enacted, an additional 2.9 million Australian taxpayers are estimated to take home more in their pay packet from 1 July.

It's not how Stage 3 of the 5 year plan to restructure the personal income tax system was supposed to work, but a sharp escalation in the cost of living has reshaped community sentiment. As the Prime Minister said, "we are focussed on the here and now" and by default, not on long term structural change.

The redesign will increase Government revenues from personal income tax by an estimated \$28 billion to 2034-35 as bracket creep takes its toll.

What will change?

The revised tax cuts redistribute the reforms to benefit lower income households that have been disproportionately impacted by cost of living pressures.

Under the proposed redesign, all resident taxpayers with taxable income under \$146,486, who would actually have an income tax liability, will receive a larger tax cut compared with the existing Stage 3 plan. For example:

An individual with taxable income of \$40,000 will receive a tax cut of \$654, in contrast to receiving no

tax cut under the current Stage 3 plan (but they are likely to have benefited from the tax cuts at Stage 1 and Stage 2).

An individual with taxable income of \$100,000 would receive a tax cut of \$2,179, which is \$804 more than under the current Stage 3 plan.

However, an individual earning \$200,000 will have the benefit of the Stage 3 plan slashed to around half of what was expected from \$9,075 to \$4,529. There is still a benefit compared with current tax rates, just not as much.

There is additional relief for low-income earners with the Medicare Levy low-income threshold increasing by 7.1% in line with inflation. It is expected that an individual will not start paying the Medicare Levy until their income reaches \$26,000 and will not pay the full 2% until \$32,500 (for singles).

While the proposed redesign is intended to be broadly revenue neutral compared with the existing budgeted Stage 3 plan, it will cost around \$1bn more over the next four years before bracket creep starts to diminish the gains.

The material and contents provided in this publication are informative in nature only. It is not intended to be advice and you should not act specifically on the basis of this information alone. If expert assistance is required, professional advice

Harry (Brett) Edwards
Managing Director
Bell Partners Norwest
Accountants and Advisors
02 8292 9700
hedwards@bellpartnersnorwest.com

Rainfall for

JAN 11th To FEB 21st

- Week 1. 2mm
- Week 2. 67mm
- Week 3. 4mm
- Week 4. nil
- Week 5. 67mm
- Week 6. 10mm
- Week 7. 52mm

Taken at South Maroota

Bush Philosophy

Money can't buy happiness, but it sure makes misery easier to live with!

CHECK YOUR SMOKE ALARMS

ST ALBANS RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

St Albans Station:
4568 2013



Captain: Sherri McMahon
sherrimcmahon4@gmail.com

Senior Deputy Captain:
Ian Sawyer
SAWYERIAN23@gmail.com

Permit issuing officers:
Lilly and Warwick:
<https://www.stalbansrfs.org/>



SPENCER RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

4778 Wisemans Ferry Rd,
SPENCER NSW 2775



New members always welcome.

Captain Alison Wade
T: 1415 668 953

E: captain.Spencer@ccrfs.org.au
Facebook:

Spencer Rural Fire Brigade

- 2nd Monday of Month – Meeting @ 18.30
- 3rd Monday of Month – Maintenance @ 18:30
- 4th Monday of Month – Training @ 18:30

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Hills Shire News



THE HILLS
Sydney's Garden Shire

It was a pleasure to attend the Lower Portland and Sackville North Progress Association meeting on Thursday, 15 February. A great discussion was held on numerous local topics, and I would like to thank President Miro Maodus for arranging the evening. I encourage local residents to get involved and attend the next meeting at 7pm on Thursday, 16 May at the Sackville School of Arts.

A real focus of local residents at the meeting was roads, and it was a pleasure to announce that Council has successfully completed extensive road repairs at more than 170 locations across The Hills Shire thanks to the Regional and Local Roads Repair Program (RLRRP).

I was proud to lead a campaign of Western Sydney Mayors for greater statewide road funding following significant rain and floods in 2021 and 2022. We were incredibly thankful when the previous State Government allocated \$500 million to the RLRRP, with The Hills receiving an allocation of \$11.1 million.

As part of the program, Council worked relentlessly to improve the quality of our roads, which involved re-sheeting and heavy patching works on critical sections of vital roads, including but not limited to Cattai Ridge Road, Cliftonville Road, River Road and Sackville Ferry Road.

I would like to acknowledge the previous State Government and the Member for Hawkesbury, Robyn Preston, for her instrumental role in establishing the RLRRP. This initiative has significantly improved the condition of our road network in The Hills, which we are very thankful for.

Progress also continues on the repairs to roads in our rural north not covered by the RLRRP funding.

The resealing of Cliftonville Road from Wisemans Ferry Road to River Road was completed in November 2023. Patching and resealing works were also completed on Pages Wharf Road in late January.

Patching and resealing of a section

of Mitchells Road was completed in November last year. Designs have now been prepared for further repairs to the road. Repairs to Chapel Hill Road have been funded through the Australian Government's Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA). Design work is currently being prepared for this project.

Further repairs to River Road are scheduled for later this year. Detailed design for the section of River Road in front of the Ski Gardens site has been prepared and will progress to the next stage.

Resealing works on Sackville Ferry Road are scheduled for March this year, weather permitting.

Maintaining and upgrading our road network is a top priority of Council, and residents can be assured that we will continue to do what we can to deliver key projects for our community.

**Mayor of The Hills Shire Council,
Dr Peter Gangemi**

Australian Butterflies and Moths Watercolours

Hosting a watercolour workshop in Spencer on Sunday 10th March. Join us in a creative immersion into the beauty and expression of Moths and Butterflies inspired by local naturalists Harriet and Helena Scott who between 1846 to 1866 documented the colony's species of butterflies, moths and caterpillars from their home on Ash Island in the Hunter River. From the tropics to the local sandstone heath and your own backyard gardens, there's a myriad of Australian fluttery creatures that are a delight waiting to be celebrated – from the flamboyant Ulysses Butterflies to the common grass blue. Your workshop tutor Leonie Loewe, Central Coast artist and designer introduces you to the loose, fluid style of watercolour painting - a perfect introduction to this gorgeous medium, even if you've never tried it before. Learn the art of colour, shade, and texture to create your own beautiful artwork in the company of other enthusiasts. All watercolour paints and materials provided. Morning tea, lunch, and a special take home gift included.

Leonie Loewe is a fantastic inspiring tutor. With over 15 years experience in teaching adults, she loves sharing her wealth of knowledge with one on one and group classes and has a passion for Australian native Flora and Fauna. With a focus on watercolour as her medium of choice, she loves painting what she sees around her. Her designs have been featured nationally, in magazines including Cleo and NW, and featured on advertising for native products.

Location: The Hawkesbury Duck, Spencer

Time: 9am - 3.30pm

Cost: \$120

Further information:

www.heritageventures.com.au/butterflies

Or phone **0447545271**



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Core stability classes held on Tuesday mornings @ 9.30 am and a 10.30 am class for men only.

Classes are also on Thursdays during the day, plus an evening



Up High Over Spencer



A 10km Walking tour on Sunday 24th March adventuring into rarely visited landscapes above Spencer to view history from on high and appreciate indigenous use of land and deep time. On this exploration of the varied landscapes behind Spencer village to the top of the ridge we pass through open forests, heath land and visit a hanging swamp learning to identify some plant community species. Enjoy

freshly brewed Billy tea by a waterfall before investigating the caves, overhangs and regrowth after the 2019/2020 fires. Heading up the sandstone bluff we view history from on high with spectacular views looking out towards Dyarubbin (the Hawkesbury River) and into deep time. Ascending to the ridge brings forth new plant communities, bird species and evidence of indigenous engravings along the plateau.

Our walking guide Mike Breheny has lived in and explored the Mangrove Creek area for over 30 years gaining extensive geographical and botanical knowledge that he loves sharing with others. As an experienced outdoor guide, he has led bush walks and run leadership courses in and around the Hawkesbury River and is an active member of Central Coast Birders. Mike is joined by local historian Dr Bernadette Flynn who brings a rich knowledge of the public and social history of the Mangrove Creek catchment area.

Tour starting from the Hawkesbury Duck, Spencer into Dharug Footslopes and along the sandstone ridges

Time: 9.00am-4.00pm

Further information: www.heritageventures.com.au/uphigh2024

Or phone 0447 545 271

Cost: \$85

Recipe Corner With Liz

Mars Bar Mud Cake

Ingredients:

- 200g butter chopped
- 200g dark chocolate chopped
- 1/4 cup cocoa powder
- 1 cup castor sugar
- 3 eggs lightly beaten
- 3/4 cup self raising flour
- large packet of mini mars bars



Method: Melt chocolate and butter till almost melted. Add cocoa and whisk till smooth Add sugar, mix well. Add eggs one at a time and stir till combined. Sift flour over mixture and stir gently till just combined. Pour into a paper lined tin. (I used round) Press mini mars bars over the top of cake pressing in lightly. Bake in oven 160 ° for 60 -70 mins or skewer has moist crumbs clinging to it .It may still be a little wobbly in the centre. Cool in tin.

The above recipe is a half of the original recipe - the full amount does make a quite large cake for which I use a square tin. This recipe is super delicious!!! and is kept for special occasions in our household.



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Community Fire Wise





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MAROOKA RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

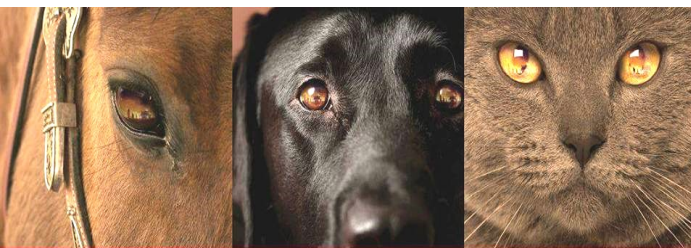
Our brigade has had a busy January with trees down on our roads due to storms passing through and assisting the ambulance with a person suffering heat stress on a walking trail. Several of our members also participated in The Hills Australia Day Event at Bella Vista. This was a fantastic day (although extremely hot) and a great opportunity to connect with the community, sharing a lot of valuable information on Home Fire Safety, Urban Interface (where homes and bushland meet), Using Triple Zero and making a Bush Fire Survival Plan. There was also the opportunity for children to explore our fire trucks, have some photos taken in the trucks as well as enjoy some fun with hoses and water.

During a bushfire, your safety depends on your preparation and planning. In an emergency such as fire, are firefighters able to access your property?

-  Is the house/property number or name clearly visible?
-  Can gates be opened without restriction?
-  Is the access route to your house clear of overhanging trees and powerlines and are paddocks and grasses slashed and mown?
-  Is a "Cat 1 Fire Truck" able to fit through your gates, and around your home and buildings? We need the gate-way clearance to be a minimum 3metres wide x 4metres high and big enough to manoeuvre an 8metre long vehicle.

We so far have been spared this season from serious bush fire in our district, but we still have a month before the bush fire danger period ends. We must not get complacent; we all must continue our property maintenance and be on top of knowing our plans. We must always be living bush fire ready! www.rfs.nsw.gov.au.

...Robin Hitchcock



For their sake...

Know your bushfire risk...and make a plan for all your family.



Bushfire Information Hotline 1300 362 361 (TTY 133 677)
www.cfs.sa.gov.au



Maroota: Capt:
Mob: ☎0417 216 306
Sth Maroota: ☎0414 430 959
 " ☎4575 0433
Canoelands: ☎0417 216 306

W/Ferry: ☎4566 4244
W/Ferry Capt: ☎0419 448 537
Hillside: ☎9652 2245
Glenorie: ☎9652 2017
Gosford Fire Cont: ☎4340 2911

MAROOKA SOUTH RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

Preparation for the next fire season.

As we start to head out of the fire danger period it is essential that we all take bush fire mitigation seriously. We had a short period in October and November of elevated fire danger days but then we started to get storms and humidity. In short, if the fuel is damp it is will not burn.

From April 1st, residents that have the resources can burn piles and the process will most likely be the same as last year.

That is; notify on the RFS website, notify any neighbours affected by and that can easily see the smoke. Then have a pressured water source ready to extinguish any spots. Stay in attendance after the fire is lit.

There are avenues to burn larger areas but these need to be planned with fire control. Planning needs to start now, not in September, as it takes time.

There are numerous ways to minimise fuels and burning is only one way, explore others. You cannot burn rubbish and building materials at any time.

...Garry Chatman



WISEMAN'S FERRY RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

During the last month the team have attended several activities in the area including a tree down on Old Northern Rd Maroota, tree down at Berry Hill, River Rd Leetsvale, and a motor vehicle accident on Wisemans Ferry Rd Gunderman. Spencer and Wisemans Ferry brigades had a training exercise at Muskoka on our fire boat and the sessions with other brigades.

With the recent floods, brigades are now being requested to do training in flood rescue. This training is provided by the State Emergency Services so that members can assist when the need arises. Wisemans Ferry brigade member have already been going through the training for this competency which will be a great asset in future times of need.

Some members attended the Australia Day event at Bella Vista Farm along with other Hills RFS teams and Hills Fire Control. The day was very successful with interest from the public at all our information stands which included:

Tripple Zero for kids: How to phone 000, who to ask for, what to do if a building is on fire and what is a safe meeting place.

Home hazards: smoke alarms, LPG cylinder safety, batteries, E-bikes & scooter charging safety.

Urban interface: seasonal outlook, bush fire prone areas, bushfire history, fire plan preparedness, preparing your home, ember attack, the AIDER program, the Hazards Near Me App, and access for Firetrucks.

Fire truck: equipment displays & information.

...Margaret Cavanagh

Hawk Fire Cont: ☎4575 1601
Hornsby/Ku-ring-gai
Fire Control: ☎9883 2000
The Hills
Fire Control: ☎9658 9000

Sackville North: ☎9658 9000
 " **Mob** ☎0419 522 088
Lwr McDonald: ☎4568 2168
St Albans: ☎0409 322 236
Spencer: ☎4566 4640

Galston CWA News



Galston CWA Branch will be returning to their meetings in 2024 at the Galston Health and Community Centre. Our meetings are held on the second Wednesday morning every month, starting at 10.30am.

Please come along and check us out, we welcome visitors and enjoy sharing the friendship that comes from contributing to our community.

We also welcome any donations of fruits and vegetables for our clever cooks to turn into relishes and jams, to sell on our stalls.



For any further information, please phone **Anne on 0404 228 209** or **Patricia on 0412 948 787**

Commemoration of the Battle



A Commemoration will be held for The Battle of Vinegar Hill and Philip Cunningham at 4pm on 3rd March 2024 in Thompson Square in Windsor.

There will be two talks on the day, one about The Battle of Vinegar Hill which occurred on 5th March 1804 and Philip Cunningham the leader who was executed and buried in Windsor, and the second about the town of Green Hills as Windsor was called in 1804.

A question was asked about the day, and the reply is:

There is no booking required for this free, open air event. It is being organised by Defenders of Thompson Square.

From 3pm there will be live Irish music.

From 4pm there will be a talk in Thompson Square about Philip Cunningham and the 'Battle of Vinegar Hill' and a walk to the convict cemetery on South Ck. This will be followed by a talk and walk about Green Hills the original township of Windsor.

Re wet weather: the event will go ahead if the rain is very light but in heavier rain the event will be cancelled.



Matt Kean MP

Member for Hornsby

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Matt

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PO Box 1687, Hornsby Westfield NSW 1635

Authorised by Matt Kean MP. Funded using parliamentary entitlements.

North Ward News

Well, the year has started out hot, wet and humid! Certainly not what we were expecting. Nonetheless, it has been great to see the Hawkesbury River back in full use and the river communities starting to get back on their feet after the floods.

The Lower Portland Ferry went offline in late January for its 3-month overhaul. This prompted the conversation in the community about just how important this ferry is to the locals and tourists in the area, and this certainly isn't lost on me. Lower Portland Ferry is the only ferry on the Hawkesbury River that is not fully funded by the NSW Government, instead, jointly funded by The Hills Shire Council and Hawkesbury Council. I am of the view that this service should be funded by the State Government, just like Sackville, Webbs Creek and Wisemans Ferries are. I will continue to advocate for long term funding of this critical service.

The ongoing ferry strikes at Wisemans, Webbs Creek and Sackville are causing significant disruptions to our river communities, and I hope that this can be resolved swiftly.

I recently attended a meeting with the Upper Hawkesbury River Users Group, where water quality was the topic of discussion. It is critical we do all we can to ensure the Hawkesbury, and its feeder rivers, creeks and tributaries are free from contaminants to ensure the long term river health.

There are still a number of road rehabilitation projects to be completed. By way of an update;

1. Pages Wharf Road In late January 2024, patching and resealing of the road between no. 139 to no. 165 was completed.

2. **Chapel Hill Road** Designs and specifications have been prepared for two of the sites and the procurement process is underway. Request for quotations and design documentation for the remaining sites is in progress. The damaged embankments will be reinstated with stacked stone retaining walls.

3. **Mitchells Road** Designs have now been prepared for these failures. It is anticipated that project briefs will be issued February/ March 2024 so that the procurement process can commence. Patching and resealing of a section Mitchells Road from Sackville Ferry Rd to No. 14 was completed in November 2023.

4. **River Road** The embankment failures opposite No 647 (Near the boat shed) and the 150m section between Chainage 17300 to CH 17450, will undergo a detailed geotechnical investigation at the end of March 2024. The geotechnical investigation could not proceed earlier due to the presence of an 11 KV high voltage overhead power line opposite No 647. Due to the constraints associated with proximity to the road and low clearance to power lines, Endeavour Energy require a power shut down to satisfy the essential safety requirements to operate a large drilling rig in proximity to high voltage overhead cables. Endeavour Energy have scheduled a half day shutdown currently to enable the investigation to proceed. The drilling is required to obtain geotechnical information critical for the structural design of the retaining wall structure.

A detailed design and specification has been prepared for the restoration of the embankment failure in the vicinity of No 2916 River Road, Wisemans Ferry (NSW Ski Gardens). It is anticipated that the procurement process will be finalised by early March 2024.

Designs and specifications and documentation for the remaining grant funded minor sites is in progress. Scheduled to be placed on open tender in February / March 2024.

Other embankment failure sites are still in the project design and preparation phase. They are subject to a detailed structural assessment and design phase.

5. **Cliftonville Rd** Resealing of Cliftonville Road from Wisemans Ferry Road to River Road was completed in November 2023.

6. **Sackville Ferry Rd** resealing works between no. 460 to no.712 are scheduled for March 2024, weather permitting with some preparatory patching work to be undertaken prior to the resealing.

I recently attended the Lower Portland Sackville North Progress Association meeting. Well done to President Miro Moadus. The next meeting is 16th May, 7pm at Sackville School of Arts.

As always, if I can be of any assistance, please either call me or send me an email. You can follow me on Facebook –

Councillor Mitchell Blue

THE HILLS
Sydney's Garden Shire



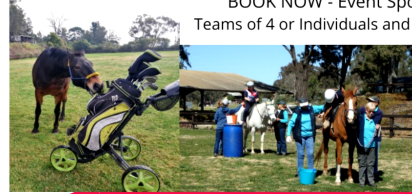
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 Please Contact Alan Prosser for more information
 Ph 4341 7946



Anglican Parish of St Albans

Next service at St Albans is....

First Sunday of the month -
 10am St Albans

Blokes' Coffee: Fridays 10am

Women's Coffee: Tuesdays 10am

Sunday March 3rd is our next scheduled service, and is also when we hold the AGM of the Parish Council. So please let me know of any agenda items, if you are interested in any positions, etc. We do need new blood.



Michael Wilkinson,
 Lay Assist 0400 735 530
 Guy Cox, Parish
 Secretary 4568 2188

Holy Trinity Catholic Church Spencer

Vigil

2nd Sunday of each month at 4:00 pm
 For more information

Phone 4377 1374 4377 1168



Pitt Town Anglican

Sunday Church Services

8.30am - Traditional Services

10am - Family Services with Kids Church



Midway Christian Centre

Services commencing every last Sunday of the month except July and December 9.30am
 Easter Sunday and Christmas Day will also have a service 9.30am
 All welcome to the gathering.

Bring A plate for brunch and enjoy the fellowship
 Cnr Sackville & Wisemans Ferry Road, South Maroota

Phone 0428 234 228



Old Australian Photos

A suggestion was made that we do a series of the wonderful old photos that we post on our Living Heritage Facebook page. These photos are an historical record of the people, towns and cities of our great country. We hope you like them. If you have some old photos of our district or any that you think would be of interest to our readers, please send them in. to: livingheritage@bigpond.com

This picture captures how historic Windsor used to be.



This image of Clarendon Station, was taken after an accident between a train and a vehicle at the level crossing. The date is unknown, however there are reports in the Windsor and Richmond Gazette, of an accident in the late 1930's..

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SCHOOL SNIPPETS

Speed - Another Road Kill - Wallaby

MACDONALD VALLEY PUBLIC SCHOOL



We have all had an amazing start! Our new Kindergarten children have settled in so well. They are so fortunate to have had time with Mrs Butler and Mrs Slater at day care, in the years before coming to school. Spending time socialising with other children and playing together, reading stories, cooking, doing craft work etc, in the early years, is the most important part of a child's education.



compass to show the accurate directions of the river painted on the water tank, gum nuts on our art/craft and performing shed and the gorgeous frog looking down on our frog pond. Yes - we have a frog pond as well as a fishpond and waterfall, all thanks to the skills of Mr Hughes our General Assistant. As you can see, we have named the pond after him.



New in-ground trampoline!

We all love our brilliant new in-ground trampoline. Thank you to the P&C for funding this incredible asset! We don't know of any other schools with such a fantastic playground to use every recess and lunchtime. We decided that one minute of bouncing each would be a great start to give everyone a fair go. In the heat, one minute at a time was enough!



New murals at Mac Valley! WOW! WOW! WOW! Have you seen our new paintings around the school? Luke Kelly, our local artist extraordinaire, has created beautiful additions to our school grounds. Our curling python going towards the water tank, a

MACDONALD VALLEY

FAMILY DAY CARE

ENROLLING NOW FOR 2024

TUESDAY WEDNESDAY

Are you looking for care for your little one in a safe nurturing environment? We provide the opportunity for 0-5 year olds to have fun learning experiences and make some new friends in our Valley community. We are located at Macdonald Valley Public School, Central Macdonald, and have spots available on Tuesdays and Wednesdays in 2024. If you would like to know more please email or phone us.

email: macvalleyfdc@outlook.com
 phone: Simone Butler on 4568 2034
 Rachel Slater on 0459 420 261

Another Wallaby killed on Monday 12th Feb, in Mitchells Road, its brother killed last year.



Drivers please slow down in the side roads.

Animals such wallabies graze early morning and early evening on the side of the roads.

Your car speeding towards them makes them jump out. Buy whistles for the front of your car from any car shop to prevent more road kill. They work BUT please slow down, our animal LIFE is more IMPORTANT.



"I'm taking my laptop to be repaired. The guy told me to bring all my passwords!"

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Michael Hawkins B.V.Sc
 Jenni Taylor B.V.Sc

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NOTICE PLAYGROUP

Wisemans Ferry Community Centre
 Singleton Road WISEMANS FERRY
 Thursdays 9.30 am to 11.30 am
 Bring a drink and fruit.

Contact: Mary Howard Treasurer
0437 131 721

Mums and their Bubs

SCHOOL SNIPPETS

CATTAI PUBLIC SCHOOL



Welcome to the new year!! And what a wonderful start we have had. The year 1 to year 6 students arrived back with huge smiles and many holiday tales to tell. Classrooms were decorated ready for the new term and once everyone found their seats it was heads down and off they went on the next step of their educational journey.



The incoming Kindy students had a staggered start allowing them to complete some activities to gauge their starting point on this incredible journey. Once everyone was on site, buddies were reunited and children were all settled, it was all stations go!! The school now, both staff and students, are focused on completing all tasks in a fun and meaningful way.



Promotional photos for the school allowed the children to showcase their activities in the classroom and the school grounds. Best smiles were put on and class work was completed. The photos

will help future families see what the school is about as well as being used for formal occasions, social media and brochures.

Sweethearts Day is a day very close to our hearts. The students wore red or pink for a gold coin donation and purchased cupcakes to raise extra money for HeartKids. Thank you to everyone who donated to this worthwhile cause.

This term the extra curricular activities include Lego, Cattai Croppers, yoga and girls' soccer!! So much extra for the children to do. This, with cupcake Wednesday and iceblock Monday and Friday, keep the children working together and enjoying their social time.



This looks to be another wonderful year for the Cattai family.

WISEMANS FERRY PUBLIC SCHOOL



Welcome back to all students and families for the 2024 school year. We know that the year ahead will be filled with many wonderful learning experiences for our students and we are looking forward to what 2024 will bring. Last week we welcomed our newest Wisemans Ferry students to school with the start of Kindergarten. We look forward to watching Jaxon, Chloe, Josh,

Matthew, Ares, Koa, Eoin and Lucy grow and develop as they embrace big school life. Welcome to the Pazmandy, McCloskey and Walker families who are new to Wisemans Ferry, we know that you will enjoy the nurturing family atmosphere of our wonderful school.

Hawkesbury Citizen of the Year - Keith Acton

Congratulations to our General Assistant, Keith Acton who was named Hawkesbury City Council's Citizen of the Year. The criteria for the nomination included a significant contribution to the community in which they live, an inspirational role model for the Australian community and the contribution the individual has on their local government area. There were a number of worthy nominations for this honour, however Keith was named the worthy recipient of 2024 Hawkesbury Citizen of the Year. Congratulations Keith on receiving this honour - you always go above and beyond for all members of our Wisemans Ferry community.



First Day of School

There was great anticipation from the staff at Wisemans Ferry P.S. as we awaited the arrival of our students at school for the 2024 school year. We were thrilled as the excitement and laughter filled the playground and classrooms upon the return of our students. All students are happy to be back at school and have settled straight into their learning routines.

First Day of Kindergarten



On Monday 5th February, eight new Kindergarten students began their primary school learning. There was lots of excitement and no tears - except for a few from the parents. They are all settling in well to school routines and learning within the K/1/2 classroom. We look forward to watching them grow and develop throughout the year.

Parramatta Eels School Blitz Clinic

Early this term we enjoyed a clinic hosted by the Parramatta Eels school blitz team. Students in 3/4/5/6 participated in this session and learnt valuable team work skills along with some rugby league skills. We were very fortunate to have first grade players, Makaanesi Makatoa and Kelma Tuilagi, joined in the workshop with the children, which was a highlight. Thank you to the Eels school blitz team for providing our students with this opportunity.



Clean Up Day 3rd March

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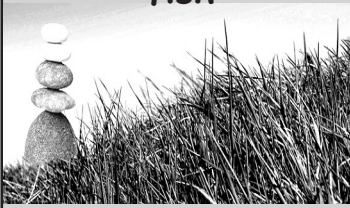


Ian Black 0408 192 408

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Dharug word of the Month "mogra"

Means... fish



Robyn Preston MP
Member for Hawkesbury



Can I help you?

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Kids Corner

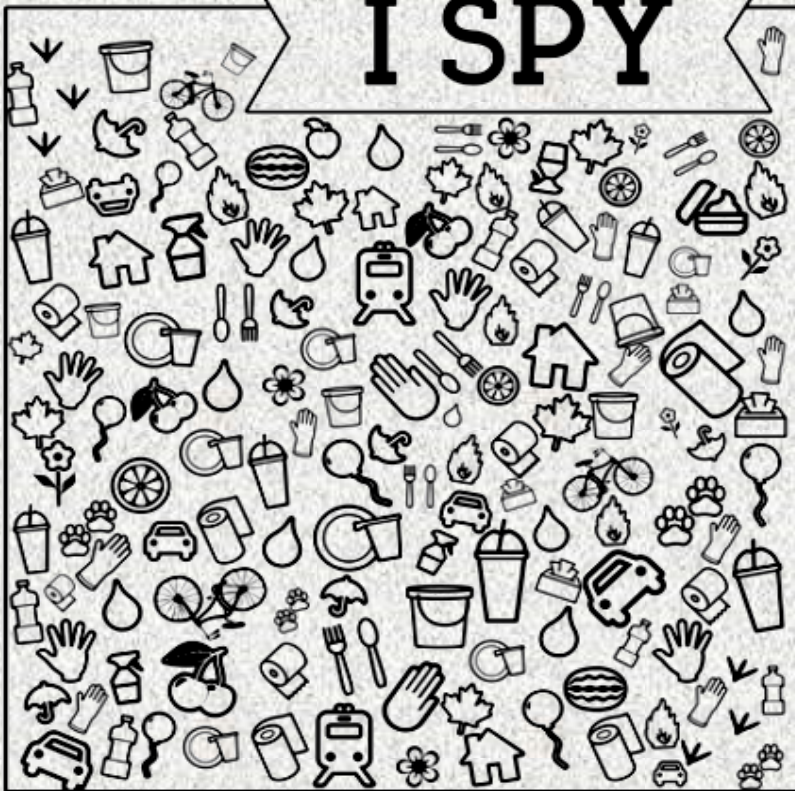
BEST PUZZLES, FACTS, JOKES, GAGS ETC...with Gail...

Q - Where do you someone who's been injured in a peek-a-boo accident?



A - The ICU

I SPY



- | | | | | | | | | |
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| 1 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 7 |
| 3 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 3 | 9 | 6 |

BIRTHDAY CLUB



March 2024..

- 4th - Maria Dominello will be 12
- 6th - Lillyamber Berthold will be 13
- 9th - Bella Wheatley will be 14
- 10th - Zsa Zsa Millward will be 15
- 13th - Christian Sherrington will be 15
- 15th - Lucy Ramm will be 12
- 19th - Kaylee Hinton will be 14
- 20th - Oscar Brown will be 15
- 29th - Benji Duncan will be 6



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

KIDS! (16 & under)

Would you like your birthday listed here?
Call 0407 949899 and leave your details.....



46 Wollombi Rd, St Albans

2 1 4

\$695,000

Over Half an Acre - St Albans Village

Situated right in the heart of St Albans Village with direct access to the Macdonald River.

Featuring a dual road frontage and spanning an impressive 2514sqm (approx.) of level land, this well built home has so much to offer. Comprising of 2 good sized bedrooms and an enormous main bathroom with spa bath.

The lounge/dining are open plan and there is a family/meals room off the kitchen. The home is bathed in year round sunshine which can be enjoyed by family and friends on the large entertaining decks off the front and the rear of the home.

The established gardens are low maintenance and offer a sense of privacy. The level grounds offer plenty of space for a caravan or boat and there is also a large lock up garage.

The significant space in the lower level of the home could be utilised as storage, games room or additional living. The home is located just a short stroll from the historic Settlers Arms Inn, Pickled Wombat Cafe and is surrounded by national parks, walking trails and of course the Macdonald River ideal for swimming and kayaking.

Contact

Trent Iverson
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