LIVING HERITAGE IS PRODUCED ON ANCESTRAL DHARUG COUNTRY
AND WE PAY RESPECT TO DHARUG ELDERS PAST AND PRESENT

# LIVING HERITAGE

#### Maroota and Districts News

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VOLUME 26, ISSUE 11

**CIRCULATION 2000** 

**NOVEMBER 2023** 

#### What's On

#### 2nd Sun every month St Albans Village Market Wharf Street St Albans Info: 0419 977 535

# **29/Oct -Sun** *Halloween High Tea*Crowne Plaza Windsor

Info: 4577 4222

#### 3-5th Nov - Fri-Sun Papercraft Show Showground Clarendon Info: (02) 4577 3591

# 4th-5th Nov - Sat/Sun Lyrebird Gully Open Studio Webbs Creek...see pg 11 Info: carolgillgraphics@gmail.com

11th Nov - Sat Remembrance Day

#### 12th Nov - Sun Christmas Craft Workshop St Albans ...see pg 3 Info: 0419 977 535

18th Nov - Sat Paddlewheeler Homecoming & Gala Day The Wharf Windsor

Windsor Info:0401 798 088

2nd Dec - Sat DLHHS Christmas Lunch Wombat Café Gunderman ..see pg 3 Info: 0405 321 478

> ...Put these in your diary



### A Journey Back To Windsor

By..... Pat Schwartz

Fire, floods and pandemic have not been enough to keep Captain Ian Burns and the Hawkesbury Paddlewheeler from coming back to Windsor.

The community is invited to the homecoming celebration from 7am to 3pm at the Windsor Wharf in Thompson Square on Saturday 18th November. In the great tradition of Hawkesbury hospitality food and entertainment will be provided free of charge.

The last three and a half years have not been easy for the Paddle Wheeler and Ian Burns. The first flood in February 2020 forced the Paddlewheeler to Lower Portland but there was more to come and the next flood washed Ian and his boat to Wiseman's Ferry.

#### 'As many will remember the flood waters were ferocious.'

The boat was damaged by being washed against the banks of the River. Control was not possible in such raging waters. The roof was damaged which allowed water to enter the boat and the roof railings were ripped out. The journey down the River must have been

terrifying and the lack of food during the hours spent saving the boat from being wrecked was only one of the hardships to be endured by Ian.

The wheelhouse was destroyed, the timbers were soaked and the decking peeling off. Ian was left with a huge workload and huge debts and no income from the Paddle Wheeler, to pay for it. Through all this Ian did not lose his dream of coming back to Windsor, home of the Paddlewheeler.

With repairs going ahead the next obstacle was getting back up the River. The series of floods had left the River non navigable with sand bars, trees and objects like sunken caravans blocking the waterway. This had to be cleared before the Paddlewheeler could start its 10 hour journey back up the River.

At last with Ian's family home sold to provide funds for repairs and other obstacles overcome the Hawkesbury Paddlewheeler will be back.

The Hawkesbury Paddlewheeler returning to the colonial town of Windsor is an event to be celebrated so be part of the festivities on Saturday the 18th of November.









### ECO-NEWS



With Liz Wilkinson



oday marks the day a lot of my L little birds will pack their bags and depart for Summer - why? the Noisy Friarbirds have arrived in town!

A friend down the road had a visitor to his swimming pool - a Black-Faced Cormorant. He also sent me some photos to identify a quite a noisy little fellow - it turned out to be Jacky Winter. My Jacky led his current baby over to the regular feeding place then took off about his own business knowing baby would be fed.

Yesterday (26th Sept.) was my first hearing f or the season of the Walking Stick Cuckoo (Channel-billed) another bird that parasites other bird's nests. They also come when my Mulberry tree is in fruit. Two weeks later I watched as a Currawong and a Noisy Minor were dive bombing the pair of Cuckoos.

I have been watching the Plover that has been sitting on its nest for what seems to be weeks, then suddenly she was not there anymore. A few days prior to this I saw her being led away by her mate, then next day she was back, only to disappear again. Were the baby birds eaten by a predator - animal or bird. I did see a stray cat at our place recently, it was shooed - not welcome here!

I am amused by the antics of the tiny Rock Warbler. He watches the bigger birds feeding, then darts in quick as a flash, grabs one seed and takes off to eat it returning for more when it has finished.

The Gum blossom (not sure which one - possibly a Bloodwood) is spectacular this year - I am enjoying it down in our valley and driving around the district. I have a small tree that was

badly scorched by the prescribed burn off recently, so all the leaves are brown then right at the top are lots of blossom. Shows how they keep the species regenerating.

Carole, our editor has the most magnificent bower of a Bowerbird at her place and has kindly agreed to share her photos with us. Thanks Carole!!

There must be a good reason why I just haven't got around to weeding my courtyard lawn - lots of birds are feeding off the weed seeds including the female Bowerbird. I have seen Firetails Crimson Rosellas, White Cheeked Eastern Rosella as well as the regular Bronzed Wing Pigeons, Peewees, and the Wonga Pigeon.

Did you know that clovers can have pink flowers? On Saturday, Carole and I saw both pink and white clover growing close to each other on the grass at Stonehouse, which sent me racing to the computer. White or pink is Trifolium Repens, but other clover species come in red, yellow, and purple as well. It is native to Europe and a member of the legume family. Each flower head has 40 - 80 tiny flowers.

Learn something new every day!!



## Quote!

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.

Margaret Mead 

#### **Living Heritage News Published by:**

Eastbend Rural Communications Inc. 509 Cliftonville Rd Lower Portland, 2756 livingheritage@bigpond.com

#### **Editor:**

**2** 0407 949 899 Carole Sweeny

#### **Contributors:**

Pat Schwartz, Liz Wilkinson, Mens' Shed, Gail Sweeny, Bev Tollman, Harry Edwards, Peter Goldstien, Pamela O'Carroll, DLHHS, Councils, Councillors, Local Schools, Rural Fire Brigades.

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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 .....

s we age, our perspective changes. A After seeing warnings of high winds, high fire danger, and possible rain, I took note of the scene in front of me as I ate my breakfast and made an observation.

As Spring comes, trees and plants bloom with flowers, this brings the bees to pollinate. Also around this time, we get strong winds that blow the seeds from the trees and plants (and yes even the weeds), to the ground where they germinate and start the cycle all over again. I know that was included in the lessons I learnt in school, but today I actually saw it happening in front of me, and it made me realise how wonderful nature is.

What an amazing team we have at Wisemans Ferry Men's Shed! They have been instrumental in helping us move

from our residence of 25 years, to a temporary home, and have now found us a piece of land in Wisemans where we can place a demountable building for our use. They have been negotiating with the Bowling Club and Hornsby Council, to tick all the boxes regarding agreements and council laws.

Recently, Wayne Bonzer came with his excavator and cleared the site in readiness for our new home. We now have a site with a lovely view of Bonzer Lake, and now we wait until a suitable building is available.

The Eastbend Team are so grateful to these amazing men for their 'not giving up' attitude, to our plight of finding a place for our much needed Resource Centre. This is what community is all about.

...Enjoy your read....Carole

**D** ead cups were - used to drink ale or whiskey. The combination would sometimes knock the imbibers out for a couple of days.

Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would

gather around and eat and drink and wait and see if they would wake Hence the custom of holding a wake.



### The Dharug and Lower Hawkesbury River Historical Society



Dharug & Lower Hawkesbury Historical Society invites you to join them for a Christmas celebration on Saturday December 2 at the Wombat Café 5935 Wisemans Ferry Road Gunderman.

Annetta from the Wombat has promised us a

scintillating repast including

Ham and seasoned chicken platters

Garden salad and potato salad

Knotted chive and cheese roll.

A scrumptious dessert of peach or coconut meringue or a slice of triple chocolate fudge cake.

Tea and coffee included. Some alcoholic drinks will be available for purchase.

Locals know how delicious the food Annetta prepares is and now the rest of us can enjoy as well.

**Where:** We will meet at the Wombat Café 5935 Wisemans Ferry Road Gunderman at 12.00 pm for a 12.30 lunch.

When: Saturday December 2 at 12.00pm.

**Cost:** \$30 for members and \$35.00 for non-members per head. We will have a raffle with all tickets sold on the day and drawn on the

Bookings: essential <u>secretary@dlhhs.org.au</u> or 0405 321 478

Bookings to be received by 28 November. *All welcome*.

### **Procrastination**

By...Ben Anderson

In leisure's embrace, I find my solace sweet, Procrastination, thy name is my reprieve, No haste, no worry, in this calm retreat, I wander, aimless, no need to achieve.

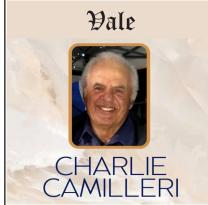
While others toil, I savour idle hours, Embracing the art of the unhurried mind, No frantic rush, no burdened heart that sours, In procrastination's haven, I unwind.

The world may spin with tasks left undone, But here I linger, undisturbed, unfazed, In the realm of sloth, I've gently spun, A tapestry of ease, where I am praised.

For in this choice to languish and delay, I find contentment in life's slow ballet.







It is with much sadness, that we say farewell to Charlie Camilleri, who passed away recently. He was a well known member of our local community, always lending a helping hand with a smile. He will be sadly missed by his family and all who knew him. Rest in peace Charlie....



# Anita Nicholas PHYSIOTHERAPIST

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## Wisemans Ferry Mens Shed

The Men's Shed in Wisemans, are always getting appeals to help out members of the community, with repairs to property or transport of locals for outings etc. They accept these requests, as part of their mission to work with and for the community for the best outcome.

As part of their commitment to help Eastbend secure a place and premises for their Resource Centre, one of the members of WFMS gave his time and equipment to clear the chosen site. Local, Wayne Bonzer, is one who always puts up his hand to help in any way he can. Most of the concrete works around the Mens Shed have been done by him.

When it comes to helping out with no expectations of accolades or rewards, the WFMS always put their hands up. They are truly a wonderful group in our community. ...the Ed









IN THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY WITH THE COMMUNITY AT HEART

## Community Carols Night.

Enjoy an evening with good óle fashion Carol singing with the Hawkesbury Concert Band led by Jessica Dickinson and Tom Carter.

Date: Friday 8th December, 2023

Maroota Public School

4540 Old Northern Rd, Maroota

7pm - 9pm

(with BBQ available from 6pm provided by the combined Local Rural Fire Brigades)



Please bring a blanket or chair, a candle or torch and insect repellent.

For further information contact: Pastor Peter Goldstien 0428 234 228

### 1923 - 2023

Congratulations to the Christie Family of Canoelands Orchard on a hundred years farming in Canoelands Rd Glenorie. A celebration was recently held which was well attended by family, community and dignitaries.

John Christie's memory stretches back over the many years which have seen huge changes to the farming industry. Learning, being adaptable and working hard have been key to the Christie's success.

John can remember 3 major fires and one in which a fireball completely jumped his orchard. In the early days a chipping hoe and wet bag were the only fire fighting tools available. Fire risk was reduced by keeping fuel load down with regular cool burning in the winter months.

John's recalled early days of his childhood before electricity was available and very long trips to school which started with a bike ride to Forest Glen.

The farm is now managed by John's son Nathan and daughter in law Jamie. It has become a huge tourist destination with pick your own fruit, farm produce shop, cafe, and lots of other farm activities available.

The great tradition of the Christie's in Canoelands Rd is continuing with great success.

> Photo... The Christie family



#### WISEMANS FERRY HAIR DESIGN



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# Beyond The Fence

#### Sydney Housing Prices Continue to Climb as Building Costs Start to Ease.

If we take a quick look at the Sydney prices for the month of September, research house Core Logic is reporting an increase of 1.0%, just shy of Augusts increase of 1.1%. Although these increases are modest it highlights that the Sydney market is passing recovery and heading into growth territory. Year on year Sydney house prices have increased by 8.1% and Unit prices have increased by 5.2% (Core Logic Home value index 30th September 2023).

Clearance rates, which are generally a good indicator of market sentiment remain strong in comparison to the same period last year. As always, the Sydney housing market is not one market and we need to dig deeper to identify where the growth is coming from and what is driving that growth. What is clear is that quality Agrade, family friendly properties are still in strong demand as supply remains limited.

It then ponders the question that are buyers seeking turn-key renovated homes in contrast to the once popular "renovators delight". Is this due to the recent explosion in the cost of building materials during and post the pandemic? Due to lockdowns and subsequent restrictions around travel, householders took to the tools and invested in renovations of the family home. A shortage of materials locally and abroad due to manufacturing shutdowns drove the cost of goods sky high.

The popularity of reality television shows such as The Block, reenforces our addiction to DIY and renovating projects. So, will our love of renovating come back into vogue as building costs continue to decline and stabilise?

In a recent article by Core Logics Cordell Construction Cost Index (11th October 2023) notes that construction costs increased by just 0.5% for the September quarter in stark contrast to the Q3 2022 of

CoreLogic Head of Australian Research Eliza Owen said while construction costs are still very elevated, the ongoing level of increase has normalised. "This is the fourth consecutive slowdown in the quarterly pace of growth for residential construction costs." Interestingly in the same article CoreLogic Construction Cost Estimation Manager John Bennett said cost pressures in construction are shifting from an issue of materials to labour. "While material costs appear to have stabilised in general, labour costs have had a number of new pressures applied."

Where we have seen some resistance to the good old fixer-upper due to construction costs, we expect that these unpolished diamonds in the rough will once again become highly sought after properties.

> Article By Trent Iverson Licensed Real Estate Agent

## ELLAIVERSON



#### 92 Paulls Road South Maroota | FOR SALE \$1,695,000

27 ACRES, PRIVACY AND VIEWS - RENOVATIONS DREAM This property offers significant opportunity with an architecturally designed home awaiting renovation. Spanning some 27 acres and showcasing the most incredible views across to Blue Gum Gully.

Contact Agent: Trent Iverson | 0409 738 388





HAWKESBURY RIVERFRONT DREAM

An ideal property for either a weekender or permanent residence with the opportunity to renovate into your dream riverfront home with deep water frontage, jetty, boat shed and slipway.



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### Proposed Road To Connect Wisemans Ferry With Brooklyn...cont. By Nathan Tilbury Hornsby Shire Historical Society

he road was eventually constructed from Wisemans Ferry as far as Gentlemans Halt, with firm plans to extend it all the way to Fisherman's Point. From that point it could be linked, by ferry (or even a bridge) to St John's Road. This would have provided road access all the way between Wiseman's Ferry and Brooklyn.

This road would have also likely created major settlements along the banks of the Hawkesbury River, including at Laughtondale, Singletons Mill, Gentlemans Halt, Courangra, Pumpkin Point, Melvys Wharf, Fishermens Point, Peats Bight, Bar Island and even up Marramarra Creek.

Instead, authorities eventually chose to construct the road to Berowra Creek in 1900. This road opened with a ferry crossing in January 1903. As a result, the Hawkesbury River continued to be the "river highway" for moving around people and goods between the remote communities that today have all but disappeared.

East of Singletons Mill most of the land along the 1830s proposed road route has been absorbed into Marramarra National Park when it was established in 1979.



Gentlemans Halt school circa 1890's



Old Singletons Mill



Laughtondale former school building

### The Wellness Walk

ant to get fit, healthy, walk your troubles away, catch up with friends or meet new friends? Well look no further than the exercise walking track that is finally taking shape in Wisemans Ferry.

This has been a dream of the Wisemans Ferry Men's Shed for some time now, and apart from installing the exercise stations, is available for the public to use right now.

This is unlike any other walking track you'll find. The peace and serenity locked in by the majestic mountains surrounding the track, make exercising a most pleasurable task. All amenities are on site, children's play area, resting seats, and a tennis court for those more

ambitious.

Make sure you visit soon!











#### As your Federal Member, I am here to:

**Assist with accessing Federal Government services** 



Arrange congratulatory messages

Please contact my office if I can be of assistance.

JULIAN LEESER MP FEDERAL MEMBER FOR BEROWRA















**Noticeboard** 

### The Sunshine Group

If you would like to join us on a Wednesday, at Casserley Cottage, we're open from 9.00 to 2.30.



Call in and have a cuppa with us or call Judy **0429 042 775** 

#### BOOKKEEPER WANTED

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#### Wisemans Ferry Seniors

We have been having a very busy time. First up was our trip to Canberra which was another huge success with many thanks to Peter, our ever patient bus driver and to the wonderful organization of Tracy our accommodation was first class, bus parking was all organised not to mention how she guided Peter through those confusing Canberra streets.

The first day was spent exploring Floriade which was amazing, followed by a lovely meal. The second day we went to Cockington Green, which was something well worth exploring. We then returned home via Yass not forgetting stopping at the popular Bakery at Gosford for a completely unhealthy meal. Our second trip was a picnic to Fagan Park. It was a fun day, the weather was perfect, we had a lovely picnic lunch, the more energetic went off for a walk exploring the park while the others enjoyed themselves relaxing in the sun.

Our trip on the River Postman is now being organised for our next trip.



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



2023

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 Clubonce 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

#### 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

### Travelling Around Tasmania

C aturday, our last day in Tasmania, we headed towards Devonport where we were to

Doard the Spirit of Tasmania, sailing at 11:30 pm.

Our first port of call was Westbury with lots of old stuff and the most exciting rock collection I have seen for a while - a huge Amethyst, a Rose Quartz boulder and an interesting rock (I've forgotten its name- can anyone help me?) that had crystallized inside which is an extremely rare happening. I purchased a very colourful Peacock stone which is a copper ore and when it reaches the surface air it oxidizes into iridescent colours of gold' purple, blue, orange-gold and a limey blue/green. It is found in Oueenstown - an old copper mining centre. I had to tear myself away from here.

We drove on to Deloraine - more old quirky shops, had lunch then set off through Elizabeth Town and on to Sheffield - the town famous for its murals. When we visited In the nineties there were only a few murals - now they are everywhere, depicting the history of the town and surrounding areas . A very interesting town - I saw an alpaca being led, like a dog on a lead, down the main street!

From Launceston to Devonport the countryside is really picturesque with lots of farming land and villages full of old buildings used commercially or as homes. We were very envious of Tasmania's wonderful old buildings and hope they have the commonsense to keep them preserved for generations to come.

Once in Devonport we went to a very large antique centre, looked around the coastline, then all met up for our last dinner all together at Mrs Jones' Restaurant at the Devonport Bluff where the food was so yum. Then we joined the queue and patiently (very) waited to board the ship. We breakfasted on board, saying goodbye to most of our friends as we headed off in different directions .

On disembarking (small cars are always last!!) we headed to Junee, dined at the pub, then the following morning after a must do visit to the Junee Liquorice and Chocolate Factory we headed for home loaded up with nibbles for the family.

The trip was very enjoyable but to do Tasmania justice you would need at least 2-3 months stay - so many contrasts to see on this stunning island. We didn't do much Hobart exploring with its wonderful old building on this trip.



....Final Episode



By Liz Wilkinson

Sign for Hotel

**Old Hotel** 

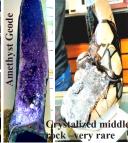




The first mural painted in Sheffield

Old Inn





### **Latest News**





In Hornsby, one landmark stands out as an icon of the town centre — our famous Hornsby fountain. Love it or hate it, our unique fountain-clock, *Man, Time and the Environment*, as it's officially known, has been a central point of Hornsby Mall, and part of our lives, for thirty years.

To celebrate three decades of the fountain, and a raft of recent upgrades made possible by a grant from the Australian Government, we are hosting a community event in Hornsby Mall on Friday 24 November. Friday at the Fountain will be an opportunity for us all to come together and enjoy music, food, kids' activities and more. Check hornsby.nsw.gov.au for details. I hope to see you all there

Community events like this are part of Council's range of initiatives to build resilience in the community, and help combat social isolation, by providing opportunities for people to connect. Other initiatives include our Hello Hornsby program for seniors and our work with young

people. We've also partnered with Lifeline to launch Lifeline Connect each Thursday at Hornsby Library. This free service, staffed by compassionate and non-judgemental Lifeline volunteers, is an opportunity for people to have a confidential conversation in a safe space. Please feel free to drop in for a chat if you need support.

Our major project to build a new park at Westleigh reached a major milestone last month as we lodged a Development Application (DA). Adopted earlier this year, the Westleigh Park Masterplan outlines how the redevelopment of the former Sydney Water site will create a major recreation facility with much needed spaces for sports including football, rugby, AFL, athletics and cricket, and activities such as mountain biking, walking and cycling. You can view the DA and provide feedback until 20 November at yoursay.hornsby.nsw.gov.au

Philip Ruddock AO,

Mayor, Hornsby Shire Council

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING WEDNESDAY 8 NOVEMBER. 6.30 PM

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

### EASTBEND MEETINGS 2024

February 12th
May 13th
August 12th
November 11th
AGM



BEAUTY & MASSAGE

Shop 6, Wisemans Ferry

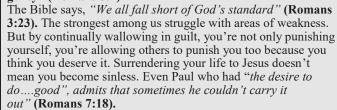


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### FROM THE PASTORS DESK

Get Off The Guilt Train!
"Those....in Christ, are not judged guilty" (Romans 8:1)



The good news of the Gospel is that whenever you're "in Christ...(you're) not judged guilty," and when you repent and seek forgiveness, God's bound to honour His Word. Nothing you do surprises Him. He knows "We carry this....message around in the ....clay pots of ....ordinary lives.....to prevent anyone from confusing God's .....power with us" (2 Corinthians 4:7). In Disciplines of the Hungry Heart, Pastor R Paul Stevens writes: "while our church was worshipping....as I looked at the people I've come to love, I saw that each was an earthen vessel. I looked into each mud pot and ....saw exquisite molten gold. Each person frail, vulnerable and half-fashioned had treasure inside....each pot was cracked....and ....the gold was oozing through the cracks. That's how ministry comes into the world, not poured out of expensive vases, but through....the faults and weaknesses of real people who are being transfigured by Christ".

Now Satan, "the accuser of our brethren: (Revelation 12:10) will try to make you feel bad about yourself. That's his speciality! But you can defeat him by reminding him that Jesus paid the price for your sins – past and present and future. So get off the guilt train today and begin to "serve the Lord with gladness" (Psalm 100:2)

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

## LIVING HERITAGE FOLDING DAYS Dec. Man. Nov. 27th

Dec....Mon....Nov....27th
Jan/Feb....Mon....Jan.. 8th
Mar....Mon....Feb....26th
Apr....Mon....Mar....25th
May....Mon....Apr....22nd
Jun...Mon....May....24th

We fold from 11.30am and usually it takes about 2-3 hours depending on the number of helpers.

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### Tax On Super Earnings

### 30% tax on super earnings above \$3m

Treasury has released draft legislation to enact the Government's plan to increase the tax rate on earnings on superannuation balances above \$3m from 15% to 30% from 1 July 2025. This is the final step before the legislation is introduced into Parliament and a step closer to reality.

The draft legislation appears largely unchanged from the Government's original announcement.

The proposed calculation aims to capture growth in total super balance (TSB) over the financial year allowing for contributions (including insurance proceeds) and withdrawals. This method captures both realised and unrealised gains, enabling negative earnings to be carried forward and offset against future years.

The ATO will perform the calculation for the tax on earnings. TSBs in excess of \$3 million will be tested for the first time on 30 June 2026 with the first notice of assessment expected to be issued to those

impacted in the 2026-27 financial year.

From a planning perspective, for those with superannuation balances close to or above \$3m, it will be important to explore the implications to your personal situation – there is no one size fits all strategy here and what is best for you will depend on your circumstances. Superannuation, even with the increased tax, remains a tax efficient vehicle.



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

### Gunderman on the Map

The Wombat Café is located 10 km from Wisemans Ferry on Wisemans Ferry Road or 14.6 km from Spencer. The Wombat Café offers friendly country hospitality and delicious home style cooked meals made fresh daily from their kitchen since opening their doors in August 2019. The Wombat Cafe's menu has a wide selection of classic meals to take you through breakfast, lunch and dinner (kids meals included). The Wombat Café are renowned both locally and throughout Sydney for their famous delicious homemade pies, sausage rolls, cakes and pizzas. This summer the Wombat Café will be officially opening their new deck (seating up to 20 people comfortably) overlooking an amazing country vista with the backdrop of the Hawkesbury River and the distinct sandstone cliffs.

The historic and cultural significance of this area includes the Lower Hawkesbury Wesleyan Chapel site (6445 Wisemans Ferry Road, Gunderman) for its association with the development and practice of Wesleyan Methodism and also for its association with early European settlement along the Lower Hawkesbury. The stone chapel built in 1855 is a rare example of a place of worship for the Wesleyans in this area during the 19th century, not to mention the fact that this is the oldest intact usable stone chapel of this era in the Lower Hawkesbury.

The Chapel is now home to the Lower Hawkesbury Historical Society (DLHHS) formed in 1983. The major aim of the Society is the research, collection, presentation and preservation of the history of Wiseman's Ferry and surrounding areas following initial settlement and the on-going involvement and support of the local community in such tasks. The DLHHS holds meetings on the last Saturday of every second month (March, May, July, September,

#### Rainfall for OCT 19th To NOV 22nd

Week 1. nil

Week 2. 6mm Week 3. 22mm

Week 4. nil Week 5. nil

Taken at South Maroota

### Bush Philosophy

Live a good and honourable life, then when you get older and think back, you'll enjoy it a second time.

### **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



November) and excursions are arranged on alternate months including the now world heritage-listed Convict Trail, Finch's Line, the original crossing location of Wisemans Ferry, Half Moon Farm, and visits to the sites of local aboriginal rock art and engravings.





### Hills Shire News



I would like to thank the families who were part of The Hills Shire Council's School Holiday Program at the beginning of October. The program was held over three days at South Maroota Hall and Reserve and included a range of activities for children between the ages of 5-15 years to participate in. Between 50-60 children attended the program each day, which is a fantastic result.

I attended the first day of the program and it was wonderful to see how much the children enjoyed the day's activities. The program included a cricket workshop from Cricket NSW, a skate workshop from Concrete Riders, as well as a magic show, arts and crafts and multisport games. Parents and carers were also treated to free hot drinks on the first day of the program courtesy of the Community Foundation of North

Western Sydney.

I would like to thank the NSW Government's Department of Communities and Justice for making the activities possible and the Hawkesbury Police Citizens Youth Club (PCYC) for implementing the program in conjunction with The Hills Shire Council's Community Development team.

We received some wonderful feedback from the participants' parents about the opportunities the program creates for the children, and we are looking forward to the program continuing again next year.

I would also like to congratulate the organising committee of the Hawkesbury 120 Ski Race held on 14 - 15 October. The event covers a 120km return distance from Windsor to Wisemans Ferry and is the longest ski race in the country. The event was held for the first time since 2019, and it was a wonderful occasion that brought our community together alongside the river.

I watched the upstream leg from Lower Portland on the Sunday and I was seriously impressed by the speed of the boats and the skill of the teams. There was also a big crowd and a fantastic atmosphere at Governor Phillip Park where we were entertained by river activities, boat displays, music and food offerings.

Congratulations to everyone associated with the Hawkesbury 120 and well done to the winners, the crew of the TR, who covered the 120km in 40 minutes and 37 seconds.

Mayor of The Hills Shire Council, Dr Peter Gangemi



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email: tonysimpson@ozemail.com.au

### North Ward News



It was great to watch the Price and Speed Hawkesbury 120 Ski Race on 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>Th</sup> October. The race started in Windsor, went to Wisemans Ferry and then back again. I was amazed at the speed and skill of the competitors. This event attracted participants from right across the country. It is fantastic to see events such as these return to The Hills/Hawkesbury after a long break caused by the bushfires, Covid and floods. When this river isn't flooding, it truly is beautiful.

Works continue on River Rd post flood. There is still work to be done, and I appreciate the patience of the residents as council navigates its way through this huge project. It will take some time. Approximately \$8.5M is to be spent on River Rd alone, which includes pavement stabilisation and embankment works. As always, I will continue to seek updates on these works and report back.

In October, Council moved to put its draft Community Engagement Policy, Community Engagement Strategy Framework and Community Engagement Toolkit on public exhibition. The draft community engagement documents have been developed to move The Hills Shire Council forward into a more engaging culture that will strengthen our relationship with our residents and stakeholders, creating a more inclusive and vibrant community. They will exist to make the community engagement process across Council more consistent, streamlined, and easier to carry out. These drafted documents are the next step needed to steadily move forward towards an engagementfocused culture. A more effective and streamlined engagement process will allow Council to make decisions that take into consideration the needs, values, and preferences of the community. Community engagement improves the process of making sustainable decisions by drawing on the knowledge and experiences of the public. Issues can be identified and addressed earlier, minimising wasted resources and time required to address them later. The community in return will also have a

better understanding of Council's decision-making process, keeping them in the loop and improving their confidence and trust in Council. Community engagement is something I am passionate about. It is the reason I wanted to become a Councillor and the reason I moved that Council investigated an update of our Community Engagement Strategy and activities in February last year.

2023

As we are now in the Bush Fire Danger Period, I am encouraging all residents to download the 'Hazards Near Me' App to keep up to date with current incidents and be aware of what is going on. We have already seen a number of Extreme Fire Danger Ratings and Total Fire Bans. I'm ready, and id like you to be too.

For more information on the happenings here in The Hills and North Ward, follow me on Facebook.

Until next month......Councillor Mitchell Blue THSC

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### Recipe Corner With Liz

Recipe Corner

#### ROCKY ROAD

#### **INGREDIENTS:**

1pkt plain chocolate biscuits (Ripple or Golliwog)

- 1 tin condensed milk
- 1 heaped tbs cocoa
- 1 pkt glace cherries, cut in 1/2
- 1 pkt marshmallows, cut in 1/4s
- 1/2 cup walnuts

Desiccated coconut

#### **METHOD:**

Crush biscuits into crumbs and place in large bowl. Place all ingredients except coconut in bowl and mix well. Take a piece of foil (you will need 3 or 4) and place mix onto it in a long sausage (about 25cms long) after sprinkling foil with coconut. Roll up and repeat until all mix is used. When firm it can be cut into 10cm slices I cut mine frozen.

It can be kept in refrigerator but I always make mine early for Christmas and put in the freezer where it will keep for months (if you can resist it!)





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# Community Fire Wise

The Hills District Rural Fire Service

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#### MAROOTA SOUTH RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

#### Fire Dangers and our community's readiness

The fire danger is gradually escalating, and I think that, in general, our residents are not ready.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> December 2002, we had one of the biggest fires to ever impact the area. It burnt from Cattai to Glenorie in less than 30 minutes. Another two fires started at a similar time, one at Lower Portland and another at Box Hill. All three fire joined on day two, and eventually jumped the Hawkesbury River at Patonga, on day three. During the week that the fires raged, The Hills shire northern brigades all filled all the trucks they had 24 hours a day. Eventually crew numbers declined due to exhaustion. We had two heavy tankers and a smaller strike vehicle then. There was generally enough crew to deal with all requests, including feeding crews and supporting the community.

#### So what has changed?

I would suggest that the number of properties we have to protect has more than doubled, and many of these properties are not able to be protected without numerous crews. Many of the residents that experienced the 2002 fires are now 22 years older. The biggest percentage of the residents around South Maroota/Cattai have not seen a fire that affects their property.

How do we protect the extra development? We usually only have 4-6 older members available on a weekday and at night. Weekday crews are not possible if there is a requirement for multiple crews, and we still have the same number of trucks which have all been upgraded to newer vehicles. We actually have more members now, but less that can do day time calls. We have now rarely got a crew to go away to other areas.

As well as the better trucks, there is generally more access to aircraft in the Sydney basin, but, as occurred in 2002, there is a limited number that can only do one water drop at a time. They cannot work in adverse weather, such as high winds, which usually accompany a higher fire risk.

#### What can residents do?

Listen to the messaging and act accordingly

Be ready to defend your property or know what your trigger is in order to leave early

Ensure your property is prepared as best as you can (clean and tidy) Join your closest brigade and get trained

(this takes time and experience)

Ensure all family members know what they are going to do if a fire occurs (have a plan that everyone understands their role in) Help your neighbours

If you live in a cluster subdivision, alert your strata to the real dangers they can assist you to alleviate or manage For now, stay safe! .... Garry Chatman

#### MAROOTA RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

The Hills brigades, including Maroota, have already been busy with many call-outs to bushfires, grass fires and sadly, illegal pile burns that have got out of control or have been reported to triple zero. We have already had 4 days of Extreme Fire Danger Rating and it is only early spring. This is just a slight indication of how challenging this fire season could be. The NSW RFS is very concerned about the longrange forecast of above average temperatures, below average rain-fall and the already very dry vegetation. Brigades across our district are heavily engaged in planning and preparing for what we may be facing. In the Hills district alone, we have approximately 63,000 people and 17,049 houses (not including schools, commercial buildings, retirement homes etc). The Hills RFS has approximately 1,200 members and only 10 of these are full-time paid staff. There are 17 brigade stations, 39 fire-fighting vehicles, 2 boats and 2 bulk water

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#### WISEMANS FERRY RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

During the last month the team have attended fires in Gunderman and Leets Vale, had two fire calls to the Mill Creek Campground, and a tree down at Lower Macdonald. We also attended a fire at Little Wobby where the fire boat was put into action, and the team were also deployed to a fire in the Cessnock area. We attended a motor vehicle accident in Spencer and a search and rescue at Simpsons Hill.

The team presented a school session at Wisemans Ferry Primary School and had a great time with the children while talking about what happens with ember attack, how to prepare for a bushfire and how to protect themselves. The children had fun dialling a pretend 000 and learning about what to ask for and what information is required. We were grateful to have assistance from the Wisemans Ferry team as well as others from Sackville North, Maroota and Hillside Brigades.

Planning for pets and animals is an important part of your household's bush fire preparations. Being prepared is essential to you and your animal's survival. A bushfire will be traumatic and stressful for them too. Wherever you can, take your pets with you if you need to evacuate, and make sure they're microchipped, and any identification tags are up to date. There is a factsheet on "Fire Safety for Your Pets" at <a href="https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/resources/factsheets">https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/resources/factsheets</a> and one titled "Information For Rural Landholders and Farmers: Livestock and Large Animals" which includes a range of information on how to prepare for bushfire for livestock.

Large and domestic animal owners impacted by bush fires can take their animals to a number of locations in the Sydney Basin.

For addresses of these sites, or for other assistance, contact the Animal and Agriculture Services hotline on 1800 814 647 Animal owners are reminded that care of their animals, including adequate feed remains their responsibility during their time at these sites.

Margaret Cavanagh



carriers. You can see from these stats that there are definitely not enough fire trucks or volunteer personnel to protect every house-hold in a full-blown bushfire event. The last serious bush fire in our district was in 2002 and we have much more housing in this district now with the many new cluster developments.

Just as our brigades are planning and preparing for the worst-case scenario, we need you to be able to protect yourselves if we can't get there when needed. We urge you to prepare your properties, know your fire risks and plan accordingly. If you need any advice about your property preparation or assistance with your bush fire survival plans, please get in touch with us and we can arrange a time to visit you. We can also arrange a resident's meeting to discuss any concerns you or your neighbours may have about this fire season. Simply drop us an email: <a href="mailto:ribmaroota@gmail.com">ribmaroota@gmail.com</a> or phone our captain Peter Kazzi 0417 216 306. Take action now to protect your life and your property.....Live Bush Fire Ready! <a href="www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare">www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare</a>.

...Robin Hitchcock

Hawk Fire Cont: \$\frac{1}{2}4575 1601 Hornsby/Ku-ring-gai Fire Control: \$\frac{1}{2}9883 2000 The Hills

**2**9658 9000

Fire Control:

### Heritage Properties to Benefit

I arious heritage property owners in the Hawkesbury will share \$54,829 in grants from the Local Heritage Assistance Program administered by Hawkesbury City Council.

Council has approved financial assistance to a record number of 30 successful applicants for heritage properties in Windsor, Central Macdonald, Pitt Town, Wilberforce, Richmond, McGraths Hill, Kurrajong, and St Albans.

The 2023/2024 Hawkesbury Local Heritage Assistance Program is funded primarily by Hawkesbury City Council, and also NSW Environment and Heritage. A requirement of the funding is that property owners match or exceed the funding. The funding available for any one property was set at \$2,000 or less.

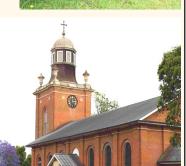
Thanks to this funding, the well-known heritage listed St Matthews Anglican Church at Windsor, will benefit from \$2000 towards repairs to stone wall fencing fronting St Matthews Anglican Church Graveyard, with support also expected from the NSW Government towards this significant project.

Applications for the next round of funding for the Local Heritage Assistance Program will open in late July 2024.

For more information about Council's Heritage Advisory Service, and the Request for Heritage Consultation and Advice Form. visit

www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-build/heritage/ heritage-in-the-hawkesbury





### Galston Girl Guides

alston Guides enjoy being outdoors, especially Just bush walking, having fun at Treetops Adventure park, camping and cooking on a campfire.



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#### Wisemans Ferry Anglican Church



River Road, Wisemans Ferry Church Service and Sunday School Every Sunday at 9am Morning tea afterwards - All Welcome For more information call Phone 4572 3262

#### **Uniting Church at Leetsvale**

Off River Rd, Leetsvale Caravan Park turn-off 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



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



#### **Holy Trinity Catholic Church Spencer**

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

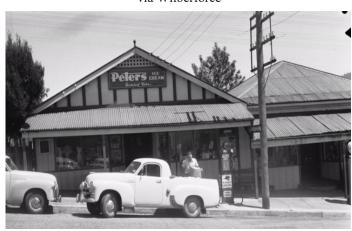
Phone 0428 234 228

### Old Australian Photos

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.



This picture shows the Lower Portland ferry crossing over the Hawkesbury River in the 1930's. Going out for a Sunday drive, was very popular with Sydneysiders at this time, and one route that was often recommended in the newspapers of the day, was a trip from McGraths Hill, Pitt Town to Wisemans Ferry and then back over the Lower Portland ferry to Sackville, returning via Wilberforce



Wisemans Ferry Store 29th November 1955

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### SCHOOL SNIPPETS

CATTAI PUBLIC SCHOOL



he MMWaC Academic L Challenge was a wonderful event. Selected from our in-school challenge were 3 students from each stage for Spelling and 3 students from each stage for Mathematics. Our students did themselves proud as both hosts and competitors. All the children did their very best and should be very pleased with their efforts. One Cattai student took out Stage 1 Spelling Bee and Mathematics Challenge!! Well done. Several others were runners up in their categories. Congratulations to all our competitors. Since this event was not held for the last few years due to COVID, it was wonderful

to see all the children from the various schools come together once again.

Kindy Transition has begun. The new faces all seemed eager to get started. Several of the children have older siblings at the school and so have already attended Parent Assemblies and various other events. This, however, was the beginning of their own adventure into the world of education at Cattai. The Year 5 Buddies did a fabulous job of making the new cohort feel comfortable.

The rest of this term is full of fun and heaps of educational extension activities.

Looks like it will be a great term.

#### MACDONALD VALLEY PUBLIC SCHOOL



cademic Excellence! Students recently competed in the MMWaC academic challenge at Cattai Public School, which is a maths and spelling competition between the 4 local schools. As expected, we held our heads up high in the competition, taking out the winning position in Stage 3 for both spelling and maths well done to the incredibly calm, cool and focused Annabel; runner up in spelling Stage 3 - excellent work clever Adelaide; runner up in maths Stage 2 - maths whizz Harvey and the runner up position for both spelling and maths in Stage 1 congratulations to the deep

We were incredibly proud not only of the fact that every child participated by choice, but of the way they maintained their grace and good humour when knocked out by their small mistakes. Each child was supportive of the other and showed kindness and celebrated their friends' success. A beautiful school spirit as well as academic excellence.

#### Police Visit

thinking Max!

We were treated to a special visitor from Hawkesbury Police (Karlie Nye) recently. Karlie spoke to us about cyber safety and how to protect ourselves online from harmful content or unsolicited contact.

All students were active listeners and participants during Karlie's session and took home some great tips on cyber safety, particularly around online gaming. Karlie gave the opportunity to ask any general police

questions and was overwhelmed with all the curious Mac Valley minds who wanted to know more about many different aspects of policing. She even showed us her handcuffs!

Karlie was an amazing guest speaker and we extend our thanks to her for visiting. **Healthy Harold** 

Last week we had a visit from Samantha from Life Education to deliver two child health and safety programs: "Safety Rules: for our Year 2 students and "bCyerwise" for Years 4-6.

These programs are driven by the popular Life Education mascot, "Healthy Harold" and students were so excited that they were able to complete the programs this time in Healthy Harold's pop up classroom - this was a real treat!"











## WISEMANS FERRY PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

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## Mums and their Bubs



Solution to puzzle on page 19 ... TRAIN

### SCHOOL SNIPPETS

#### WISEMANS FERRY PUBLIC SCHOOL



Term 3 was packed with lots of valuable learning experiences for our students and our community. Our students have consolidated their classroom learning with visits to the Oakville Harvest farm and the Hawkesbury Regional gallery and we are looking forward to our MMWaC Connecting on Country excursion next week. We have had stage 2 and 3 students compete in the Multicultural public speaking competition and the NSW Premier's spelling bee. We continue to look forward to our visits with Mrs Duncan who runs our Kitchen Garden program and to complement this program Hornsby council visited to deliver a program on 'Garbage to Garden'. We enjoyed a visit from Life Education and Healthy Harold and entertained during our book week incursion. And of course who could forget our book week parade when we invite many colourful characters to school. One of the highlights of the term was our education week celebration, where we were able to celebrate 175 years of public education in NSW and 100 days of learning. It was fantastic to showcase the history of our school with students, parents and the community and it was great to see and listen to the schooling experience of our families. We were able to showcase the wonderful artwork on our tank by local artist Luke Kelly and officially unveil it's beauty. And after a scrumptious morning tea we were able to share the experience

our families.

#### Outstanding Attendance

We love celebrating outstanding attendance at Wisemans Ferry Public School and we have had many opportunities this term to acknowledge students whose attendance has been above 90%. At our assembly in week four students whose attendance was above 90% in term two were recognised and we were pleased to hand out 24 attendance awards. Congratulations Kirrilli, Danielle, Ruby B., Dhakota, Khloe, Harry, Austin, Seb, Patrick, Billy, Flynn, Kendall, Katelyn, Charlotte W., Charlotte M., Ruby D., Jackson D., Harrison, Bree-anna, Madelyn, Mackenzie, Benji, Kiera and Phoenix on your outstanding attendance in term two. A big shout out to Austin whose attendance was 100%. The staff had the pleasure of joining these attendance superstars for a pizza and chicken lunch this week. As part of our attendance strategies we are hosting a luncheon every fortnight for students whose attendance has been above 95% during that two week period. At our first fortnightly luncheon our students enjoyed hot dogs and they have requested party pies and sausage rolls for the next luncheon. **NSW** Department of Education Service to Students Medallion. The staff at Wisemans Ferry PS had the pleasure of presenting Mrs

Service to Students Medallion.
The staff at Wisemans Ferry PS had the pleasure of presenting Mrs Longhurst with the NSW Department of Education Service to Students medallion. We congratulate her on an outstanding career and her dedication and service to students in NSW and Wisemans Ferry in particular.

It was Mrs Longhurst's wishes to keep the celebrations of her retirement low key and no fuss and we as a staff have respected her wishes. We are blessed though that Mrs Longhurst continues to visit our school and students on special occasions.

#### **Athletics Carnivals**

We have had students represent our school at two athletics carnivals this term - the Small Schools athletics carnival and the Hawkesbury PSSA Zone athletics carnival.

A team of nineteen students competed at the Small Schools athletics carnival in week 3 in a range of track and field events. Well done Phoenix, Danielle, Ruby D., Madelyn, Katelyn, Matilda, Jaxson, Kendall, Flynn, Charlotte W., Mitchell, Jackson B., Jackson D., Tenayah, Kiera, Madicyn, Bree-anna, Xavier and Khloe on proudly representing our school at this event. Many of our students achieved personal bests on the day with a number placing in the top third and being selected for the zone carnival. Ruby D., Katelyn, Jaxson, Kendall, Charlotte W., Mitchell, Jackson D., Kiera and Khloe competed at the zone carnival. Congratulations to all students for their outstanding participation on the day. Well done to the Nigel Bagley mixed relay team who

came in first position and congratulations to Kendall who placed second overall in the junior girls age group.

















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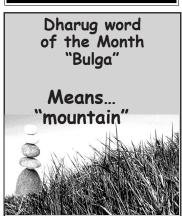
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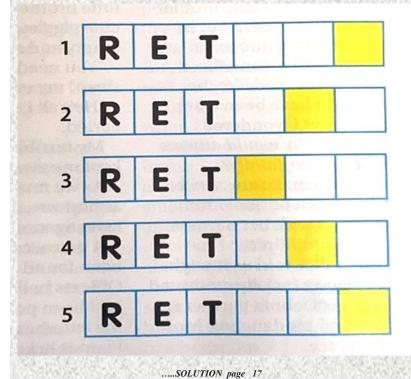
Corner

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

Fill in the words from the clues. The shaded squares will reveal another word

### Clues

- 1. Sharp Reply
- з. Жеер
- 5. Come back to.
- 2. Give up Work
- 4. Sell (goods) to the public



## BIRTHDAY CLUB November 2023..

1st - Tahlia Martinez will be 14

6th - Christian Graham will be 15

7th - Lily James will be 13

7th - Imogen Jones will be 16

9th - Bowen Hinton will be 15

9th - Ava Swift will be 14

9th - Monique Newman will be 16

10th - Parker Edwards will be 15

14th - Cobia Wheatley will be 10

23rd - Maddy Norris will be 15

24th - Madison Pertrett will be 15

26th - Berklee Cross will be 3









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- Great View You won't find much better than this, 180 degree views of the most beautiful river in NSW, the Hawkesbury. The river views are timeless and relaxing, enjoy views throughout the home and from the full length verandah, ideal for outdoor living and entertaining with family and friends.
- Great Location Easy access via tar sealed roads from anywhere in Sydney, no ferry crossing required or fear of
  the access being affected by flooding. It's a private and low maintenance sloping block with driveway access to the
  floor level; no long staircase to get to the house. Ample parking for cars, caravan, boat or trailer.
- Great Floor Plan Yes, the home is dated but take a look at the floor plan, it's perfect, living areas taking in the view, master suite at the opposite end to the kids/guest rooms, two bathrooms plus a third toilet in the laundry. There is a second living area on the lower level, great for kids, parents retreat, rumpus or man cave. The property is a great base for renovation or make a few cosmetic upgrades and enjoy it as is.

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Paul Vella
02 4566 8383
0418 649 294
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