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ECO-NEWS



am woken up twice each night with the raucous noise of the Channelbilled Cuckoo (Walking-stick Cuckoo). It also makes a racket during the day especially in my mulberry tree. Their favourite food is native fig. I first heard it on the 18th September and it will disappear again in April. They parasite Crows, Magpies and Currawongs and their young is raised with the host's chicks. I can hear the Common Koel with its coo-ee call in the distance and around our district but not here. The Koel parasites large Honey eaters Orioles and Peewees- not the nicest of birds- it kicks out the hosts eggs when they lay their own.

Pamela rang me to let me know she had a different bird nesting on her Veranda - it turned out to be a Jacky Winter and it has laid three blue speckled eggs. My Jacky Winter has just brought a baby up to the house to be fed.

I heard a new bird call and after trying to find it for a few days I finally succeeded and saw it feeding on my Silky Oak which is in striking bloom. It was a female Blackbird - not black but





With Liz Wilkinson

dark brown with a paler streaked throat and yellow/brown beak. It has a very pleasant song.

I heard a tapping on my window and thinking it was the King Parrot who comes regularly, imagine my surprise when I looked up to see a lizard looking in at me. It was a young Lace Monitor and moved to the next window, then scurried off into the Lavender patch.

I was inspecting the regrowth of a Wisteria (mower attack!) and put my hand on top of a log- another surprise my hand landed on top of a young Bearded Dragon- it puffed up but didn't run away. I haven't seen him since doesn't he know he has nothing to fear from me!

When visiting my son ( at long last!) he showed me a nest in the huge gum tree at the edge of his yard- it has baby Tawny Frogmouths in it- don't know how many yet - mum and dad guard them closely.

A pair of Fairy Wrens have built a nest in a lavender bush in my courtyard a beautifully fluffy construction with the entrance on the side so it has a roof over the babies. Unfortunately they have not been near it for days. I will keep watching it from a distance. The two birds are still flittering around, just not close to the nest.

Oh no! - even the bird world are waring just like the humans. Ravens attacked the nest where the Tawny Frogmouths had their babies yesterday morning (5th) That afternoon when we had our play date with the grandkids, one of the baby Tawnys was perched on the bottom rung of the fence drenched in the rain. Later Wires was called and the baby was placed back on a branch in the tree. Next morning dad was sitting with the baby on the branch and mum was still on the nest with the second baby- so a happy ending to that little drama!!



#### 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.









### Editor's Notes .....

I t is with sadness that we see one of our original staunch supporters, Jeff Howard, is retiring and therefore will no longer be advertising with us. His ad, right next to my column here, has been part of this page for as long as I can remember. He was the original printer for our magazine until machinery problems crept in, and we had to find another printer. We here at Living Heritage, wish you all the best Jeff in your retirement, a Merry Christmas and a Happy and healthy New Year to you and Louise.

Weird things happen in the world of journalism. Last month, the numbers 7278 appeared in the Pastors Desk article. Peter asked me what they were, "I have no idea?" I said. They were not in the original script sent to me, I just cut and paste, I didn't do any typing so

#### the mystery deepens. I didn't notice it before it went to print and it wasn't picked up by our proof reader, so how did they get there, and what did they mean?

How about that hailstorm? I have never seen anything like it in the more than 40 years I have lived in this district. Oh we have had many hailstorms, as our fruit and vegetable growers will tell you about the many crops that have been ruined, but this one was a doozie. I have hundreds of holes in my back patio roof, which will all have to be replaced. The coping around my pool has been riddled with holes, all my plants and fruit trees have been stripped of leaves and fruit, and my driveway is rutted. Happy days!

Anyway, I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas time with your friends and families and I will see you again in 2022. ....Enjoy your read...Carole

### New Water Safety Devices at Macquarie Park

N ew water safety devices have been installed on the shore of the Hawkesbury River at Macquarie Park just in time for the swimming season.

Macquarie Park's Windsor Beach is a popular destination for locals and visitors looking to enjoy the water during warmer months.

Council has partnered with Royal Life Saving NSW to install two water safety devices for the public to use in the event of a member of the public finding themselves in distress in the water. One has been installed near the canoe launching area and one further upstream at the beach.

Hawkesbury City Council is only the second Council in NSW to install the devices along its river.

According to Royal Life Saving NSW, 99 people lost their lives to drowning in Australia in the past year - 40 of those were in rivers, lakes and dams.

Hawkesbury City Mayor Patrick Conolly said it was important to enjoy the Hawkesbury River safely.

"The community asked for safety devices to be installed near Windsor Beach, and Council has listened. I'd like to thank everyone who approached me personally to raise this important issue," Mayor Conolly said.

"Council is pleased to do what we can to help support people enjoying our river safely, and we are proud to be able to partner with Royal Life Saving NSW on this project.

Royal Life Saving NSW CEO Michael Ilinsky thanked Hawkesbury City Council for its commitment to water safety.

"As we re-engage with our waterways, Royal Life Saving understands the importance of working with our key partners and networks to ensure our communities are aware of aquatic risks and adhering to responsible behaviours," Mr Ilinsky said.

"Hawkesbury City Council has been a strong advocate for water safety and worked alongside Royal Life Saving to support critical initiatives. Royal Life Saving congratulates the Council for this commitment and dedication to community safety.

"Rivers and lakes continue to be a leading location for drowning. Rapidly changing conditions and hidden dangers, such as strong currents, submerged objects, slippery or crumbling banks and cold water, can lead to people getting into difficulty. "The provision of public rescue equipment is an



elevated commitment to support safe aquatic participation. Royal Life Saving seeks to support safe aquatic participation along our major rivers." said Mr Ilinsky.



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### **Everything Opportune**

Lounging in pyjamas In front of our PC screens. Working from home, chatting on Microsoft teams.

Covid has stolen from us outdoors and our freedom, but we can and will always make our own eden.

An opportunity at worst. An advantage at best. We can learn from it all, locked down in the west.

Less time spent socialising. Hard for the extroverts in here, but more time for the family when our loved ones are near.

Board games and baking bread, long walks in a mask. Grocery shopping online. Toilet paper won't last!

Oh no, I need to go!

... by Ben Anderson, 13



There's a fun, free and easy way to feel happy and healthy. It's walking – and everyone is welcome to take part. Come along to our regular walks to meet new friends and boost your health.

What: Let's Walk

When: Monday's 9:30a.m.

Where: Les Shore Reserve, Old Northern Road, Glenorie

Visit walking.heartfoundation.org.au for more information







### **News From Wisemans Ferry Mens Shed**

The concept of our own walking/ exercise track was first suggested in 2017 at a Christmas Party held at the Shed. It was pointed out that there was nowhere to physically work-out or to perform increased heart-rate exercise in a safe and controlled area, especially for the elderly.

Yes, we perform our household chores and garden maintenance, but nothing replaces organised exercise rituals to maintain good health.

The dream of a walking track is nearing reality and our Board is in discussion with Hornsby Shire and Hills Shire Councillors and engineers to discuss designing and funding this much-needed asset.

Our Shed now looks more clean and organised, after many weeks of clean-up from the devastating flood in March this year. Many tools have been purchased or donated, and the space better utilised with re-designed work-stations. As such, we have a surplus of tools and machinery, which we are going to sell at a market stall in Feb/March 2022. All tools will be discounted for a quick sale to give us more space. All funds raised will allow us to continue our Community work and pay our bills, as we are self-funded. You can call Adrian Acheson on 0448833781 to get an early preview of tools available.

Things are slowly going back to normal, but we require more members. Come on down and meet the gang, have a cuppa tea/coffee. We are located behind the Bowling Club and we operate on Tuesdays and Saturdays.



### Your Thoughts on this Matter!

In fear of upsetting the survival balance that has been in place for millions of years, your assistance in this delicate matter would be appreciated. Please refer to the images attached. Two, possibly more 'Lace Monitor' hatchlings were recently seen foraging at the Ant Nest entrance. The escape hatch entrance has been exposed for about one week where they retreat to if disturbed, the youngster in the image was slow to retreat, hence the photo then placed in the nest passage where several others can be observed. I recently read that about 1 in 12 hatchlings in the wild survive this stage in life.

Goannas are free to roam freely on this property as they assist in controlling the 'Bush Rat' and 'Snake' population during the warmer months, as the attached images show, the water troughs throughout the garden are frequented during this period, the only other water is to cross the busy St. Albans Rd. to the Macdonald River, this crossing alone proves to be perilous as I have spotted vehicles crossing the centre line simply to end the life of these creatures whilst making the journey to water.

Unfortunately their greatest danger comes from their own species. Some years ago I did suffer a 'sting' from the DPI in the form of a warning for posting a pic. of myself hand feeding one of the wild locals, 'This is not allowed' for obvious reasons explained.



Thank you. Kind Regards, Wayne Moore. MACDONALD VALLEY

#### ....Reply from Australian Reptile Park

Wow that is amazing.

Such a beautiful sight to see.

In terms of their future, yes they are vulnerable to predation, but in saying that is a trait shared with most hatchling or neonate reptiles. Observing is fine, but no further interaction needed, they will fend for themselves as best they can.

Lace monitors are incredible, I have not been fortunate enough to see emergence from a nest, so kudos to you.

Again amazing to see. Dan

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MATE TAXALLE AND THE ACCURENCE AND THE ACCURENCE

May your Christmas be filled with family & friends, love & laughter. Enjoy the holiday season and have a safe and happy New Year! We look forward to continuing to offer exceptional service and achieving oustanding results for our Clients and the Community in 2022. Merry Christmas from the team at Vella Iverson

### Nan's Christmas Cake

With Christmas upon us we thought we'd share a very special family recipe that it fast, delicious a little bit boozy and a staple at out Christmas table!

#### Ingredients:

- 375g Sultanas
- · 250 grams Raisins Chopped
- 250 grams Currants
- 125 grams Mixed Peel
- 125 grams Glace Cherries, Halved
- 60 grams Pineapple, Chopped
- 60 grams Glace Apricot, Chopped
- 250 grams butter
- 1 cup of Brown Sugar
- 1/2 cup of OP Rum (and a sneaky nip for the cook)
- 1/2 cup of water
- 1 tsp grated Lemon Rind
- 2 tsp grated Orange Rind
- 1 Tbs Golden Syrup
- 5 Eggs, Lightly beaten
- 1 3/4 cups Plain Flour
- 1/3 cup Self Raising Flour
- 1/2 tsp Bi-carb Soda
- \* Note you can cheat and replace the fruit with 1 1/2kg of Mixed Fruit

#### Method:

Line a 20cm square cake tin with 3 layers of baking paper, taking the paper 5cm up the sides of the tin.

Combine fruit, butter, brown sugar, rum and water in a pan. Stir over heat until the butter is melted and sugar has dissolved. Bring to the boil, reduce heat, simmer covered for 10 minutes. Remove from heat and cool to room temperate.

Stir in orange and lemon rinds, golden syrup and eggs.

Stir in sifted dry ingredients and spread the mixture evenly into the tin.

Bake in a slow oven, 140 degrees celsius for 2 - 2 .5 hours. Cover the hot cake with foil and allow to cool in the tin. Decorate with sliced almonds & cherries

ENJOY! with another nip of rum ...

### BEYOND THE FENCE - by Trent Iverson

#### Inflation, Interest rates and Property Prices.

With property prices climbing to eye watering levels over the past 18 months, many people ask when will this start to ease? We have previously written about the basic economics of supply and demand where property prices are being driven up due to a lack of supply in the market. Supply (in this instance a lack there of), has played a significant role in growth. But what about other factors such as inflation and interest rates? It's clear that low interest rates and to a degree the lack of opportunity to travel overseas has fuelled property prices and investment in our existing homes through renovations and redevelopment. Money has been relatively affordable and we haven't been able to spend it on other discretionary purchases due the pandemic and pro-longed lockdowns. As a result our demand for not only property but also other consumer goods has increased. Couple this with disruptions in global supply chains due to the pandemic and the risk of inflation becomes a concern for central banks. Why could inflation impact property prices? Central banks will use interest rates as a tool to either stimulate the economy or to curb spending in an attempt to cool the economy and limit inflation. An

increase in interest rates in the short term could potentially impact property prices as serviceability and borrowing power would be reduced. Patrick Cummins: Economics Reporter for The Australian, recently interviewed Reserve Bank Governor Dr Philip Lowe. Dr Lowe says Australia will not be sucked into global inflationary pressures and minutes from the last RBA board meeting revealed that a 2024 rate rise remained the central scenario. In the article, Dr Lowe also makes reference to the consistent view that the current increase in inflation is only transitory and that a period of contractionary money policy will not be required to return inflation to target. Not all economist share this optimistic view and believe that a number of inflationary pressures could see a rise in rates much earlier. That said many economists predicted double digit declines during the pandemic and the past 18 months tells us that was certainly not the case! The global pandemic has been unprecedented, not only from a health perspective but also economic. At this stage the Reserve Bank maintains it is "still plausible" that rates will remain where they are for the next couple of years. Time will tell... Even with an increase in supply, auction clearance rates in Sydney were in excess of 75% (13/11/21) indicating demand for property isn't over yet.

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# The Women of Maroota

We are pleased to continue a series of memoirs selected from a booklet titled The Women of Maroota'. This is a compilation of recollections from Ruby E Ramm, published in 2001. Ruby's stories are a mixture of personal memories and those of family and friends, and convey the admiration and respect in which these forebears were held.

We hope you enjoy reading about these amazing pioneering women, and we look forward to hearing your own stories of the old days in our district.

#### \*\*\*\* Amy Agnes Parkinson (nee Weaver)

Born: at Forrester on 27th April, 1913 Married: Thomas Parkinson on 1/10/1943 Children: Olwyn

Amy attended school at the hall at North Maroota. To my knowledge, it was the first hall erected, being built by the local people of the district. She used to walk the distance with her brothers until a second teacher, Sidney Jones, came to live in South Maroota.

He drove a horse and sulky to school, and as he wasa passing our place, he transported them there.

As well as being a harvest worker for local growers, Amy travelled to various

positions via the mail car. I guess her job could be termed a "house assistant."

She worked as a housemaid for Doctor Arnold's wife, at Thompson Square in Windsor N.S.W.

(the building now termed as the Doctors' House, because its residents were doctors), in turn doing the same job for the Vaughn family at McGraths Hill and the May family at Pitt Town Bottoms.

She also assisted in the Post Office for Miss Moore, Pitt Town bottoms post mistress.

Amy had one daughter, Olwyn, who married John Williams. They have a family of three, Rachael. Bryant and Vaughn.



Since Amy's husband's death, she lives with Olwyn, John and grandchildren at Woronora, N.S.W.

olwyn

#### Agnes Woods (Nee Weaver)

Born: 9th June 1871 at Pitt Town. Agnes Woods was sister to my (Ruby) father, lived with her husband Thomas



.compiled by

Ruby Ramm

Woods on the property now known as Tobruk

As they had no family of their own, I believe they raised 4 or 5 adopted children, one having the surname McGrath. I was told, when he grew up in later years, he became the proprietor of McGrath's Motors.

Agnes stayed on at Pitt Town in her family's home and cared for her elderly parents, Richard and Mary-Ann Weaver (nee Smallwood), until she married Thomas Woods and moved to Maroota in 1912.

This lamp drawing is signed by C J Ramm so I'm assuming that is Ruby's daughter Christine.



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



# Diary of a Trip to the Gulf Of Carpentaria.

The next day we only had a short drive with a morning tea stop in Surat. We passed much farming land where they grow grains, garlic, carrots, pumpkins onions and zucchini. We arrived at St George, a very neat pretty town situated on the Balonne River. The foreshores had to be reconstructed after years of floods and now are a great area to relax. We visited a winery for lunch and a tasting. I purchased some liquor Muscat and port with a cheeky label for my son. We went to a gallery that displayed the most exquisite carved Emu eggs—I could have spent the rest of the afternoon there.

Next day we start heading back to NSW along the Carnarvon Hwy. There was such a lot of dieback between St George and Thallon. We stopped at Thallon to see the painted silos in glorious colour and a giant statue of a Hairy Nosed Wombat named William- the wombats were once found at Thallon but no longer- they are on the endangered list. At Mungindi- a town that straddles the QLD/NSW border (the River Barwon is in the middle) there was a surveyors peg dating back over 100 years. It w is a one ton post erected by surveyor J B Cameron to mark the end of a three year task surveyors peg) to the Barwon River.

Next stop was Moree for the night. We managed to get a sandwich for lunch but every thing else was closed including the information centre and the art galleries. Some of our group went for a relaxing dip at the Artesian aquatic Centre to soak up all the minerals found in the waters.

On Mothers day we headed out of town towards Narrabri and it started to rain Up until now we had sunshine all the way. All the creeks that we passed were full. At the Narrabri I nformation Centre was a lovely range of local products along with lots of information on the. areas agricultural pursuits. We saw a cotton picker that you could sit in . As you drove along all the road verges were covered with cotton fluff. and cotton rolls were lined up everywhere.

At the Pilliga Pottery we had a German lunch and browsed among the beautiful earthy pottery that was very expensive. They used native bird and plant designs in their pottery especially the Blue Fairy Wren.



By Liz Wilkinson

### Tax and the Normalisation of Cryptocurrency

n early November, the Commonwealth Bank announced that it is now Australia's first bank to offer customers the ability to buy, sell and hold crypto assets, directly through the CommBank app. You know when the banks come on board, cryptocurrency has become normal.

But cryptocurrency is only one part of the blockchain universe. Non-fungible tokens or NFTs (fungible means interchangeable) are one-of-a-kind digital assets which are part of the Ethereum blockchain. An example is the CryptoKitties game that allows players to purchase, collect, breed and sell unique virtual cats - and, before you laugh, the game transacted over \$1 million in virtual cats in its first few days of launching.

NFTs are also rapidly rising in popularity in the artworld because ownership of the asset is on the blockchain and in some cases, the artist can take a percentage of every transaction of that artwork – so, no more starving artists because they can generate an income from the asset over time not just on the first sale. A stellar example is the sale of a NFT artwork by the digital artist Beeple, which was sold at auction by Christies in March 2021 for \$69 million (USD).

Let's look at what the Australian Taxation Office has to say about some of the commonly asked questions about the implications of investing in blockchain.

#### Is mining cryptocurrency income or an asset?

If you receive crypto from providing services to others, this can represent income. If you create crypto, you acquire a capital gains tax (CGT) asset. A taxing event will arise when you exchange crypto for Australian



Dollars or another crypto asset. Does the ATO really know about my crypto transactions? The ATO is using various sources for data collection including digital service providers (DSPs) and analysis software to track taxpayer compliance. There are several data-mining projects (no pun intended) underway looking specifically at cryptocurrency and cryptocurrency platforms. I mine cryptocurrency as a hobby so I should not have to

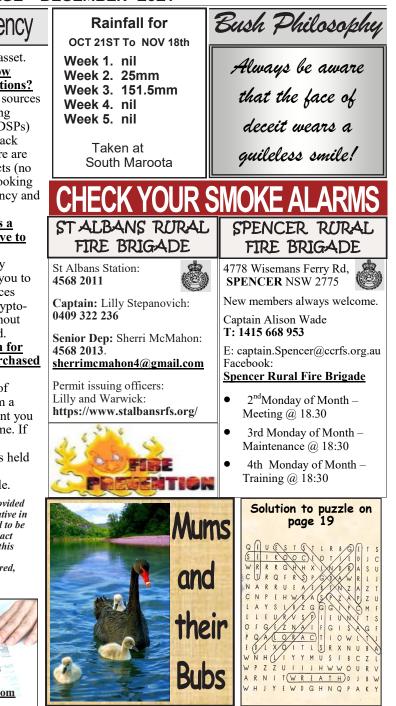
### pay tax on it?

Unfortunately, it's unlikely mining for fun will allow you to avoid tax. The circumstances where you can generate cryptocurrency or transact it without paying tax are very limited. Can I get a tax deduction for computer equipment purchased for mining?

If you are in the business of mining, then you can claim a deduction for the equipment you purchase to generate income. If you are not carrying on a business, then the crypto is held as an investment and the equipment is not deductible.

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 should be obtained.

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



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AHEAD

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# Latest News





#### An exciting year ahead...

It is again approaching that joyful time when we set aside the normal business of life – and look forward with confidence and purpose to the New Year.

Indeed, 2022 will be an exciting time in Hornsby Shire as Council embarks on some of the most ambitious projects in our history.

Council has begun implementing our Hornsby Park project to create a new 60-hectare parkland, the largest single project ever undertaken by this Council. And we continue discussions with key stakeholders in the development of Westleigh Park.

We also continue the rollout of our new Public Domain Guidelines and Signage Plan guiding the design of streets, lanes, squares and parks across the Shire, ensuring our town centres are attractive, sustainable and resilient into the future.

Council's new Play Plan, too, will guide us through the planning and design for play spaces, and the management and maintenance of all playgrounds and other play areas across the Shire for the next 10 years.

More immediately, we can look forward to the holiday season. A time to celebrate and relax with family and friends, reflecting on a challenging year, but one we have travelled together and supported each other though. Thank you to our community for looking after each other and Council looks forward to more exciting times to come in 2022.

LIVING HERITAGE

FOLDING DAYS

Jan/Feb.....Mon....Jan....17th

Mar....Mon....Feb.....28th Apr....Mon....Mar....29th

May....Tue.....Apr.....26th Jun....Mon....May....23rd

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#### NEXT COUNCIL MEETING WEDNESDAY 9 FEBRUARY, 6.30PM

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

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# FROM THE PASTORS DESK

of "Jesus and Jesus'brothers". Acts 1: 12-14

In the children's story Brer Rabbit, Wiley Fox creates a doll out of tar ....and when he can't communicate with it, he gets ticked off and starts hitting it. And do you remember what happened next? They end up glued together!

Are some of your relationships like that? You're stuck to somebody you can't communicate with but can't escape either: an abusive father, an overbearing mother, a jealous, controlling mate; everybody has a "Tar Baby" somewhere. They're stuck in a relationship that's more pain than pleasure.

Maybe you've dreamed about the perfect family.... Not Jesus! He said, "My true brother and sister ..... are those who do what God wants" (Mk 3:35). When His earthly family made problems, He didn't try to control them, demand they agree with Him, sulk because they insulted Him, or dedicate His life to trying to please them. Jesus didn't try to control His family at all – so why are you trying to control yours?

Give it up! You could be the world's greatest son or daughter, mother or father, husband or wife and it still wouldn't change things. Don't you know that those who anger you control you?.... that by trying to change others you remain a prisoner to their opinions?

But what became of Jesus' family? The Bible says *that in the upper room the disciples continued praying with "Mary, the mother of Jesus, and Jesus' brothers"*. Those who rejected Him yesterday revere Him today! Jesus gave them time and space to change and they did. So, take heart, your "Tar Baby" could one day become your biggest fan!

Friends as we come to the Christmas time of the year, may we encourage you to be the example in your family. A happy Heart is good medicine, but a broken Spirit dries up the bones.

As we celebrate the birth of our Lord & Saviour, Midway Christian Centre wish you a Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year 2022....

God Bless!.....PS Peter Goldstien JP, Community Chaplain.



#### MAROOTA RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

The brigade has had a variety of incident call-outs this month and it is a reminder of how quickly a fire starts and how easily a fire <u>YOU</u> start <u>CAN</u> get out of control.

On 5/10 we were called to a fire on River Rd, Wisemans Ferry, 14/10 Bush alight Old Northern Rd, Maroota, Hayshed fire River Rd, Wisemans Ferry, 27/10 Truck fire Wisemans Ferry Rd, South Maroota, 29/10 Bush alight, South Maroota. Thank you to our neighbouring brigades who assisted or who we were assisting at these incidents. Without us all working together, as we do, these incidents could often be far more serious.

This time two short years ago we were in the thick of the Black Summer Bushfires, where our community was under a huge and real threat of being destroyed. The memory of this is still etched strongly in our minds and lives. Fire is a part of our life and so is living with the risk of bushfire. We have been through it before and we will get through it again. However, we all need to do our part to be able to live safely and limit the risk of bushfire destroying us.

It is important to have a written plan that is shared, discussed and practised with the whole family. It is important to physically prepare your property, ridding it of debris, overhanging branches on buildings and adding and maintaining a good water supply, fire-fighting hoses and pumps. It is important to know how you will protect or remove your animals in the threat of fire, especially any large animals as this task is very time-consuming.... and there may not be much time. It is important that you know when to leave and where you will go and that emergency vehicles will be able to get onto your property to defend it if possible.

We live in a bush fire area.....we love where we live.....but we need to be bush fire ready.

On behalf of Maroota Fire Brigade, we wish our community a safe and happy Christmas and thank you for your support throughout this challenging year. May we all be able to get together to share love and festivities with our families and friends and we look forward to working together with you again in the New Year.

....Robin Hitchcock

### SACKVILLE NORTH RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

This month Sackville North Brigade had higher activity levels than previous months. As a brigade we attended a tree down which was blocking a road, investigated smoke sightings and two call outs for bush alight. Along with these call outs we were able to hold our first monthly general meeting since lockdown and also undertook training.



For our training this month we went 'back to basics', refreshing our skills and techniques, and taking the opportunity to check equipment, ready for the season ahead.

We also wish one of our members all the best for his upcoming bush fire fighting assessment. We are sure you will do well and look forward to working alongside you on the fireground.

It is good to be back in the uniform after such a long break.

Karen Karberis/Judith Barr

MAROOTA SOUTH RURAL FIRE BRIGADE N EW FIRE CONTROL NUMBER IS – 96589000 save it in your contacts now

The months of October and early November have been busy again. On the subject of calls there have been numerous for all sorts of incidents. A bushfire started on Friday 29/10 at 14.40, this had the potential to destroy houses, the fire was contained about one hour later with the help of numerous brigades including two trucks from Oakville and a helicopter. Had the fire spotted with the wind then that fire would have impacted Wisemans Ferry road between Pauls and Sackville Ferry Rd a short time after. WERE YOU PREPARED as this day was a day of Very High fire danger

We have had Sarah and Joel Telfa complete, their basic training that started late last year. This was stop start due to Covid. Thanks to Ian and Andrew that put about 60 hours of face to face learning to get them so they can assist on the fireground. I also note that Sarah has been assisting with First aid for the district including readiness day.

Training for this last month has been intense with numerous reaccreditations occurring as well as the completion of entire courses started earlier in the year. We still have a couple of major courses to get thru and then get members across the shire accredited in Advanced resuscitation. The general community I think has no idea how much time we give to keeping us ready when required.

We are planning to have Santa visit on the fire truck on Christmas eve



#### WISEMANS FERRY RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

During the past month the Wisemans Ferry team have been busy. The team have assisted with clearing a tree that came down in Leets Vale; assisted with a mop up and at a structure fire in River Road, a pile burn at Carinya Ski Resort and at another structure fire on Settlers Road. The team also ensured we're operations ready and completed maintenance on all equipment. Regular monthly training, maintenance nights and meetings have also re-commenced since COVID19 restrictions have been eased.

With the Christmas season upon us it's a good time to check that your Christmas lights are in good working order with no exposed wires etc. If you intend having a social fire during the fire season, prepare the area where you will be holding the social gathering, ensuring it's not underneath overhanging branches, and the area is clear of any leaf litter and debris. Social fires must be prepared in an allocated area and water must be on hand to immediately extinguish any sparks or embers. Remember that there are NO fires permitted during total fire ban days.

If you would like us to assist you with asset protection information please contact us via our email address at <u>wfyrfs@gmail.com</u> with the title "Community Engagement". We can arrange a time with you to visit your property and offer a range of advice regarding hazards that you may have on your property and what you need to do to provide an asset protection zone around your house and sheds.

...Margaret Cavanagh Assistant Community Engagement Officer

### The Sunshine Group

I have not much to report, just to wish every one a Happy Christmas and New Year

We will be closing on 15th December and reopening on the last Wednesday in January

Call Judy if you would like to join the Sunshine Group on **0** 0429 042775



### Anita Nicholas PHYSIOTHERAPIST

167 Pebbly Hill Road Cattai 2756 Tues & Thurs, other times by appointment Home visits available

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Core stability classes held on Thursdays during the day and Tuesday evenings



### WISEMANS FERRY HAIR DESIGN



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### More Than Delightful Art

**O** ur free 2022 Road Safety Calendar might save a life Hornsby Shire Council has teamed up with six other northern Sydney councils to present the free 2022 Road Safety Calendar, which this year features delightful illustrations by renowned artist Oscar Nimmo.

"Road safety is more than just fatalities and serious injuries," said Hornsby Shire Council General Manager, **Steven Head** 

"It is a part of our daily life as a pedestrian, rider, motorist or user of public transport. Road safety is something that affects us all."

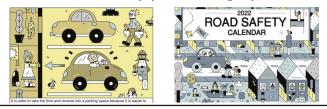
"The choices we make can have a real impact on the safety of ourselves, our loved ones and our community.

"The unique look of the 2022 Road Safety Calendar will appeal to all age groups and has messages that are relevant to all kinds of road users.

"These messages can act as a conversation starter for you and your family, friends and colleagues," said Mr Head.

The 2022 calendar provides tips on visibility for vulnerable road users, getting to school using active travel, safe parking tips, avoiding distraction as a pedestrian and more.

The 2022 Road Safety Calendar is being distributed via Council's customer service points including our Libraries, and by other local community facilities such as leisure centres. Alternatively, Hornsby Shire residents can order a free 2022 Road Safety Calendar via Council's website. Search "Hornsby Shire Council 2022 Road Safety Calendar". 2022 Road Safety Calendar images by Oscar Nimmo.





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### Ho, Ho, Help!

It's normal to feel upset or disappointed when things don't go to plan. As we head into the festive season, acknowledge if this year has been a difficult one for you. It can be helpful to remind yourself of the things that have gone well, particularly when times are difficult. What are some things that you are grateful for this year? Is there anything you have accomplished or learned?

If you are socially distancing or away from loved ones, this doesn't mean you can't connect at Christmas. A phone call or a good old-fashioned Christmas card are good ways to keep in touch with people you care about.

With Christmas just around the corner, have a think about what matters most to you. Although Christmas means different things to different people, for most people it's an opportunity to connect with their family and friends or to take a break. It can be a time to be together, to relax and celebrate what matters to you. It may also be a time to honour your religion and faith.

Have a think about what it means to you and what your intention is this year and keep that in mind during the Christmas festivities. It will also help you to stay centred if things don't go to plan.



If you need to talk to someone, we have a team of friendly and professional counsellors available with a listening ear who can help you cope if you feel overwhelmed or alone. We offer low-cost, quality counselling services.

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**Robyn Preston MP** 

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Hawkesbury

Let's All Hop to it – and Help Count Hornsby Shire's Fascinating Frogs!

With endangered frog populations set to decline sharply over winter, Hornsby Shire Council is working with local experts to undertake Australia's biggest frog 'census' – and you can help, too!

Council and the Berowra-based Frog and Tadpole Study Group (FATS) are calling on nature lovers to help gather frog population data from around Sydney, including our Hawkesbury sandstone bluffs, using special 'frog listening' smartphone technology developed by the Australian Museum.

The Museum's free 'Frog ID' app 'listens' for frog species' unique calls – and then 'counts' the frogs around your home, your holiday location or anywhere else it 'hears' a frog.

"Australia's frogs have been hit particularly hard by a mysterious nationwide die off," explains Hornsby Shire

Council General Manager, **Steven Head**.

"The Australian Museum's 'Frog ID' citizen-science project aims to improve our understanding of Australia's unique frog species by using the 'frog census' data to better understand frog health and how our ecosystems are responding to a changing planet.

"To take part in this fascinating project, simply download the free 'Frog ID' app, create an account, then have fun finding,

recording and helping Museum scientists match your frog calls." To download the free Frog ID app, go to <u>https://</u> www.frogid.net.au/

> 'FATS', the community group dedicated to community awareness and conservation of frogs, have produced two short, informative videos to help Hornsby Shire residents protect two endangered local frog species:

•the tiny Red Crowned Toadlet, and

•the Giant Burrowing Frog. To find out more about these two fascinating frog species from Hornsby Shire and to watch the videos go to <u>https://</u> www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/frogid



Can I help you?

Phone: 02 4578 0300 Email: hawkesbury@parliament.nsw.gov.au Mail: PO Box 505, Richmond NSW 2753 Website: www.robynpreston.com.au

#### **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

Regular monthly service Sunday 5th December. Christmas Carol service 24th at 6pm, but cake and bubbles from 5.

Blokes (Friday) and Women's (Tuesday) coffee mornings are back at 10am.

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 5pm - Young Adults Service

admin@pitttownchurch.com 4572 3262



### Midway Christian Centre

**Reopening November 28th!** 

Services commencing every last Sunday of the month except July and December 9.30am Easter Sunday and Christmas Day will also have a service. All welcome to the gathering starting at 9.30 am Bring A plate for brunch and enjoy the fellowship Cnr Sackville & Wisemans Ferry Road, South Maroota

> Phone 4575 0313 0428 234 228



### Galston CWA News 🔞

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." Winston Churchill

hristmas is certainly a time for giving and sharing with those around us but let it not be limited only to those that we love and care for. Let it also be for the person that we have never met, will never see, and can never replay us; those that are not so fortunate in their lives as we are that could use a helping hand.

And let it also not be limited to the giving of monetary donations. The sharing of knowledge, skills, ideas, and time is priceless. At CWA Galston, we are a friendly, vibrant, and creative bunch who come together to help support our local community. If you would like to get involved with CWA Galston in 2022 please contact us via the channels below, we would love to hear from you.

From the members of the Galston Branch of the Country Women's Association of New South Wales, we extend our very best wishes to you all for Christmas and the New Year. Christmas embodies the spirit of giving and provides that special opportunity to bring joy to those around us. It is our hope that both giving and receiving will bring much joy to you this holiday season.

Happiest of holidays and a wonderous, blissful New Year to

all. Meeting details for 2022 will be posted on our Facebook page, or for more information please contact Jann 0439 222 217 or Pam 02 9653 1036. www.facebook.com/ CWAGalston | galston.cwa@gmail.com



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### **Paradise Lost** New Exhibition remembers the much loved Paradise Gardens



In the 1970s and '80s, numerous amusement parks could be found in and around Sydney.

The Hawkesbury's contribution was Paradise Gardens at Cattai. It was owned by the famous Bullen family who also operated *Bullen's Animal World* at Wallacia and the *African Lion Safari* in Warragamba. Opening in 1976, on the riverside site of *Bungool* and operating until the mid-1980s, Paradise Gardens was best known for its life-size fibreglass dinosaur replicas, its 'Cave Walk' display of archaic humans and the 'Enchanted Forest' filled with model fairy-tale characters. As the decades passed, Sydney's amusement parks closed one by one with only a few, like Luna Park, remaining today.

The new exhibition *Paradise Lost* at Hawkesbury Regional Museum will highlight the long forgotten, once popular Paradise Gardens through historical souvenirs, photographs, film footage, memorabilia and stories. The exhibition transports us to a different time, when families enjoyed modest boat rides, picnics, a giant shoe house, annual events such as the Flying Birdman Rally, waterslides and the exciting dinosaur and reptile replicas!

There will also be an opportunity for visitors to relive their memories of this much-loved amusement park, by recording them at the memory wall, enabling a new generation to enjoy and share recollections of the park. And of course, there will be photo opportunities with dinosaurs, paying homage to Paradise Gardens' key attraction! Visitors will be encouraged to share their dinosaur photographs by tagging the Museum's Facebook and Instagram social media. Soft Opening: December 3, 2021 **Hawkesbury Regional Museum opening hours:** 

#### Tania Salitra - Greens for Hornsby Shire Ward A

Hello, I'm a commercial photographer with a background in manufacturing production management. Energetic and results driven, I believe by working smarter, we can do more to tackle the big issues like waste and water shortages for rural communities.



With synthetic fertiliser costs soaring, I'd like to explore opportunities to convert food waste from residents into a rich compost for local growers and gardeners to access for free. As your councillor I will work hard to ensure Wisemans Ferry and surrounding suburbs are included in infrastructure planning. I believe our agricultural and tourism industries are the jewels in our Shire and deserve more support.

As a mum, I'm passionate about protecting and nurturing our bushland, water ways, and the wildlife they sustain, for future generations. Our older children need more than just another skate park to get them out of the house and off screens. Our parks and playgrounds must be made more inclusive so people of all ages and abilities are able to enjoy them; and we need more footpaths and cycle ways so everyone can move around our suburbs safely and easily. Please Vote 1 Greens Tania Salitra for Ward A and Emma Heyde for Mayor on December 4<sup>th</sup> – principled, hardworking and passionate, we will listen and advocate for your community and the issues that matter to you







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SCF

YAYYYY!!!!! The children are back at school. Everyone was so excited and happy to be back, it was wonderful. Smiles everywhere, from everybody, teachers, students and staff alike. Friendships were rekindled, stories of lockdown told and then it was back to work. What a wonderful start to term 4.

Kindy Orientation took place via Zoom, for their first day. Students seemed to enjoy the Name activity and Eye Spy game. For the second day of orientation, they were allowed on school grounds, and what a wonderful day they had. Being able to visit the classrooms and see the school was exciting. The buddies did a fabulous job helping their new friends with classroom activities and settling-in activities. The new students seemed to have a great day of fun and are now looking forward to their last visit for this vear

The lunchtime extra-curricular activities had to be mainly outside activities so an extra BMX and Cattai Croppers session was installed. The children think it is great to be able to use the BMX track more often, especially as it has been resurfaced and tidied-up. With all the rain and the warm weather, the vegetable plots are in need of extra TLC with many weeds overtaking everything during the Lockdown. The children have everything under control.

Remembrance Day saw the whole school all together for the first time in nearly eighteen months. The School Leaders hosted the ceremony and then all the children put their hand-made poppies under the flag before they



held a minute's silence. The students should be proud of the respect they showed towards our current and fallen heroes.

The final Parent Assembly for the year was held in a full-school situation. The students were quite excited to be able to show their awards and school work to the rest of the school, even if parents were not allowed onsite. As usual, each group did a show of one aspect of their current work, received awards, gathered birthday cards and settled into their old routines. It was a fabulous assembly to finish the year, and was uploaded to Google Classroom for the parents to



watch. The rest of the year will be very busy with end of year

activities to be organized and farewells to be made. There is still time for lots of learning, and heaps of fun.



WISEMANS FERRY PUBLIC SCHOOL

We were very excited to welcome back all students to our school site to continue their learning. It has been a long time coming and it was bliss to have our playground filled with the noise of happy students playing with their friends. I would like to say how pleased the teachers and I are with how well the students have settled back into the routines of the classroom.

I'd like to take the opportunity to thank our parents for their support during the 'learning from home' period and the hard work in ensuring your child continued with their learning.

A huge thank you to our very dedicated staff of Wisemans Ferry Public School for the amazing support they have provided for students and families during these ever-changing times We are looking forward to packing lots of activities into the rest of the term.



**Enrolling now for 2022!** We have extensive grounds featuring vegetable gardens, native gardens designed to improve the biodiversity of our school, and even a chook house and a frog pond!

Nurturing environment Our school has children from Kindergarten to Year 6 working together to create a friendly, warm and nurturing group who are well connected to each other.

They support individual interests and frequently choose to explore activities in mixed aged groups. Feedback about our students from our wider communities reflects on resilience and high self–esteem with a willingness to face challenges.

The nature of a small school like ours means that we have opportunities to be flexible in the way we learn.

We tend to our own vegetable patch and orchard and prepare meals together once a week. This encourages healthy eating, enjoying fresh produce from our beautiful gardens and learning a variety of life skills while having fun.

Our experienced and dedicated staff know our students well and respond to each child as a unique individual. Our small class sizes

allow for personalised learning and high levels of support.

Current research suggests that multiage classroom offer many academic and social benefits.



GREE

d by Sylvia Hale for The Greens NSW Suite D, 263–279 Broadway, Glebe NSW 2037



#### Emma Heyde – Greens Mayoral Candidate

Emma Heyde is well-known across Hornsby Shire for successfully reducing plastic waste. During her four years as councillor, Emma has championed fair rents for

pre-schools, initiated new design standards for future developments and worked with residents to force a backflip from the NSW government on cancelled bus services.

This election, Emma is standing for Mayor. She has won the trust of the community through her a strong record of delivering for local families. Emma tackles complex issues with fairness and integrity, and will make sure residents have a say on the big issues: protecting rural areas, finding smarter waste solutions and better recreation opportunities for older kids.



Voting

starts Monday

22 November

- preserving rural lands
- opposing over-development





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