

LIVING HERITAGE

Maroota and District News

“ COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION ”

VOLUME 25, ISSUE 3

CIRCULATION 2200

MARCH 2022

What's On

Dural Growers Market

2nd Sunday each month

Country Club Dural
Info: 0417 227 748

Glenorie Growers Market

4th Sunday each month
Les Shore Oval
Glenorie.

Info: 0417 227 748

12-13th Mar Sat/Sun Village Markets every month

Wharf Street
St Albans

Info: info@stalbanvillagemarket.com.au

5-6th Mar - Sat/Sun Discovery Walkthrough

What's that Sound?
Museum Applied Arts
Castle Hill

Info: 9217 0111

11th Mar - Fri Tech Savvy Seniors Smartphones & Tablets for Beginners

Central Library
Windsor

Info: 4560 4460

23rd Mar - Wed

Top 10 Hints for Researching your Female Ancestors
Central Library
Windsor

Info: 4560 4460

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The Pitt Town Progress Association - A Story Of Community

..by
Pat
Schwartz

The Pitt Town Progress Association was formed in late 1800s and has been working for the Pitt Town community for the past 125 years.

The Association has approximately 300 members and monthly meetings usually have an attendance of between 40 to 60 people. All members are kept informed through weekly Facebook page updates, the publication of monthly minutes and time permitting, weekly 3-minute video clips of the week's achievements.

According to Peter Ryan the Association's President "we just do business". Peter's family have lived in Pitt Town since the 1840's and he understands the importance of community. The Association continually strives to build a strong and vibrant community spirit. Recently Pitt Town has had an influx in new residents, who have taken on the community spirit, this was abundantly evident in the recent flood event, when everyone pitched in to help our residents who were affected. That is true community spirit and something everyone in Pitt Town should be proud of.

With the help of a grant through federal MP Susan Templeman and the generosity of the Lynwood Country Club, the Association has purchased a ride on lawn mower which the Good Samaritans of the Pitt Town Progress Association use to help keep Pitt Town neat and tidy all the time. These same Samaritans have been known to turn up to help people with their gardens in times of hardship. Can you imagine the joy and relief of someone to find their garden weeded and mowed in a time of need? According to Peter this is what community is all about.

The Pitt Town Sports Club runs a monthly raffle to support the Association. However, now with a mower the Progress Association needs Public Liability Insurance and at \$800 a year, this money can be hard to find. Any donations from businesses or corporations to help the Association keep up its good works would be gratefully received. If you are able to contribute towards the insurance, you can contact the Association at info@pitttownprogress.com.au

A Team effort is the key to the Progress Association's success. We are the voice of the community to all levels of government. Pitt Town has many issues regarding infrastructure that has not been delivered and the Progress Association is perusing this relentlessly with the State and local Government.

If there is something the town needs the Progress Association just does it. Examples of this are the building the War Memorial with all the materials donated through local suppliers or having toilets built in Bona Vista Park through grants from The State Government and Hawkesbury Council.

The Association will continue to be the Voice of the Pitt Town people to all levels of Government.

Thank you to the Pitt Town Progress Association for your untiring efforts to create a sense of belonging, good-will



On Anzac Day, this is where the children sit, on a small grassed area in front of the honour rolls in the centre of our town.

This is the spot where many of the residents from WW1 and WW2 would have left Pitt Town. Some did not return. This may have been the last place their feet touched the soil in their home town.

We believe that those who made that sacrifice, would be proud that the children now sit there in peace.

INSIDE...Eco News/Editors Notes/Quote pg 2, St Albans Village Market/Poem Imagination pg 3, Clean Up Aust Day/DLHHS Updates pg 4, Beyond The Fence pg 5, Women of Maroota/Julian Leeser pg 6, Noticeboard/W/F Seniors/Sunshine Group/Reminiscing about Tasmania pg 7, Hornsby Shire Council/Pastors Desk pg 8, When will Interest Rates Rise?/Bush Philosophy/Rainfall/RFS pg 9, Del Rio Staff Wanted pg 10, RFS FireWise pg 11, W/F Realty pg 12, Your Health is Your Wealth/A New Event in the Hawkesbury pg13, Church Services/CWA pg14, School Snippets pgs 15 & 16, Pica Internet pg 17, Village Directory pg 18, Birthdays/Kids/SMARTsteppers pg 19, VellaIverson RealEstate pg 20.

ECO-NEWS



With Liz Wilkinson



Jan. 9th -That Lace Monitor has made his appearance at our place once more, (December issue) moving his way around our courtyard via the house walls and peering through our windows . He is now about a metre long but still a juvenile -adults would be too heavy to climb the walls. A young Friar bird was sounding a warning and getting up quite close and squawking at him The Bronzed wing pigeons enjoying the shade under the Peppercorn trees just looked at him and stepped a few paces back but were not worried by him.

Jan 10th - As I was sitting reading I heard a loud scratching sound in an area where no-one was. Not again, I thought, and sure enough there was the Lace Monitor climbing my brick walls and peering in my windows. He wandered off in the direction of my compost bin- I wonder if I will see him again.

25th Jan - My husband called me down to the computer room to have a look at Mr Lace Monitor looking in the window at him. He could probably smell his lunch wafting out the window.

I think I am living in a jungle the way the plants and especially the weeds have taken off with all this rain.

All one day last week I kept hearing an unusual bird call, then I saw it up close - all black, smaller in size than a Currawong and more slenderly built, with quite a long tail which he kept flicking. I wasn't able to photograph him, but, on the computer, I matched him to his song. It was a juvenile Spangled Drongo- not yet with his blue spangles on his chest. In the afternoon, we had an extremely heavy downpour and he was enjoying it immensely - stretching his wings to catch the rain and singing his head off. He only stayed a few days then disappeared again mores the pity - he was interesting to watch.



Lots of spiders have been coming inside recently. As I got up the other morning I found a tiny one that had been sleeping under the sheet with me, then my husband found a White Tail on his bed as he was about to retire for the night. We are more observant going to bed now!

The Grandchildren were visiting and as I leaned against a log I was surprised to see Mr Bearded Dragon pretending to be a statue. The kids were delighted to get up so close to him and even managed to stroke him. The poor thing was being annoyed with many tiny ants crawling over him and seemed to be trying to get fluid out of his eyes. When too many tried he just closed his eye . They also went into his nostril. Ants annoy more than just humans!!



Quote!

Have enough courage to trust love one more time and always one more time!

Maya Angelou

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 think it has rained every day for the past month. Our climate is more sub-tropical at the moment, and everything has grown and is green! My vegetable garden that usually supplies me with lovely fresh produce all summer long, is a hive of 'farmers friends'. One plus is that the grasses have overtaken the bindies, and we haven't seen any for quite a while. The downside is that the grass and weeds grow while you watch them...lol

As we begin another year, it's always unknown as to whether our advertisers will continue to support us. This makes us nervous until we receive their positive responses. Our advertising exec has been working overtime, to replace a full page of advertising that was pulled due to a relocation of their

business. Her commitment to seeing that we can cover our monthly expenses is highly appreciated. Well done!

We really thank the local businesses that keep backing us; some do not need to advertise, but do so to provide the funds so that we can present this magazine each month for you. At the moment, we are just about covering costs, needing to dip into reserves at times, but always hopeful that a new advertiser steps in and fills the deficit.

Community input is vitally important to us, for making Living Heritage News an informative and interesting magazine. The print media these days, seems to thrive on headlines that sensationalise events and stories. We don't do that, we just want you to have a darn good read.

...Enjoy this issue...Carole



This is an interesting fact from the past that we probably do not know about today.

Well-made men's shirts have the button hole for a the lowest button, sewn horizontally, rather than vertically.

This originates from the days when there was only candlelight to dress by.

So by feel alone, you know when you have reached the last button.



Sent in by John

The Village Market



There's a buzz going around in the Macdonald Valley. A new monthly 2 day market is starting up which has a strong focus on promoting the local community, whilst also welcoming visitors to this established Hawkesbury region day tripper destination.

St Albans Village Market aims to offer something special, where all market stalls have been carefully curated to deliver a different market experience for all – customers and stallholders alike – with a focus on true craftsmanship across a wide range of food, art, homewares, clothing, jewellery and more.

Here are the highlights....

The market aims to feature the talented producers and craftspeople living and working in the Macdonald Valley and surrounding areas, plus carefully selected visiting stallholders.

Each market day 5 different bona fide local stallholders (from the 2775 post-code area) are exempt from paying a booking fee. That's 10 every weekend. T&Cs apply.

A gold coin donation will be requested of all adult visitors to be collected by a recognised local community organisation on each market day. Please email info@stalbansvillagemarket.com.au to participate. T&Cs apply.

The market website includes a Community Board offering fee free notices for the 2775 postcode area.

See the categories at www.stalbansvillagemarket.com/communityboard and then email info@stalbansvillagemarket.com.au if you'd like to be included.

The Macdonald Valley is a close knit community that welcomes hundreds of visitors each weekend, and then reverts to a quiet rural hamlet during the week.

It offers a glimpse into a quieter time where quality hand made goods and good manners were the norm.

The market opens on the second full weekend in every month, both Saturday and Sunday, from 9am.

Imagination

I woke up in the middle of the night
And looked for a notepad and pen.
There'd been in my mind
a very bright light,
My imagination had done it again.

I'd travelled in dreams
across the Earth.
I flew on an alien saucer so high.
I was there for the dinosaurs birth
And when the meteor fell from the sky.

I went to school on a rainy Sunday,
solved a crime with Sherlock Holmes.
I discovered the existence
of magical fae
And they all looked like
garden gnomes.

Now I'm here in my home at a desk,
Remembering the dreams that I had.
They were beautiful and grotesque.
Imagination isn't so bad.



Explore - Discover - Sell



- Sat 12 - Sun 13 March
- Sat 9 - Sun 10 April
- Sat 14 - Sun 15 May
- Sat 11 - Sun 12 June
- Sat 9 - Sun 10 July
- Sat 13 - Sun 14 August
- Sat 10 - Sun 11 September
- Sat 8 - Sun 9 October
- Sat 12 - Sun 13 November
- Sat 10 - Sun 11 December



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Clean Up Australia Day 2022

Clean Up Australia Day is fast approaching with the date set for **Sunday, 6 March 2022**. It will be great to see the Hawkesbury community's continued support with registrations now open at www.cleanup.org.au



Each year, Hawkesbury residents have continued to show they are committed to Clean Up Australia Day, and a litter free Environment.

"Over 35,000 kilograms of litter has been collected from various sites across the

Hawkesbury in the last five years of running Clean Up Australia Day events," Mayor Conolly said.

"There's never been a better time to tackle the surge in single use disposable items during COVID-19, such as takeaway coffee cups, food packaging, face masks and sanitised wipes, all of which have unfortunately polluted local parks, bushland, streets, waterways and beaches."

"Schools can participate with Schools Clean Up Day on Friday, 4 March," he said. "It's a great way to inspire students to learn about the impact of rubbish on their local environment while playing an active role in their community."

Students and teachers work together to clean up an area which is special to them, such as the school playground, a local park, or bushland near a school. Clean Up Australia provides free lesson plans for both primary and high school students see www.cleanup.org.au/schools for more information.



Businesses can also get involved by registering for a Business Clean Up Day on **Tuesday, 1 March** and by taking action to recycle items commonly found in offices and work sites, including disposable face masks and gloves.

Clean Up Australia Ltd. will provide COVID-safe Clean Up kits that include gloves, bags and hand sanitiser, and site supervisors will have the QR Code so that volunteers can scan to sign-in to the site on the day to help with contact tracing.

Volunteers will also be split into groups to adhere with social distancing protocols. The Clean Up Australia Day organisers will be able to postpone your activity if COVID-Safe requirements change. The health and safety of all volunteers, and the wider community, is of paramount importance.

To get all the details on Clean Up Australia Day, visit www.cleanup.org.au

The Dharug and Lower Hawkesbury River Historical Society



The weather was very kind to us at the Chapel last Saturday, 22nd January 2022 for the Dharug & Lower Hawkesbury Historical Society. This was our first activity in 10 months and so we had planned a low key event along with lots of fall back positions given the times in which we are living. We welcomed back our current members, 17 and 2 returnees.

We were very fortunate to also have Robyn Downham along and to congratulate her on her recent award as Central Coast Citizen of the Year 2022. Robyn has been a member of the Society for many years and has also held committee positions such as Publicity Officer as well as past President. During her time as President Robyn worked tirelessly to ensure we got much needed equipment and a new shed for storage.

Robyn has been working tirelessly in the Lower Hawkesbury River District to improve the access of Spencer and surrounding communities and environs to services that other places take for granted. Her latest endeavours with the new community group River Cares as President has also been recognized. We used this activity to help Robyn celebrate her Award. Robyn spoke about the work completed at Spencer including the Telstra/Optus mobile tower and the upgraded Spencer Public Wharf which was completed just before the December 2019 bushfires. Since River Cares was formed in 2020 Robyn has been involved in fundraising for the automated defibrillators installed in Spencer and in Marlow, community information days, holding workshops in conjunction with the Central Coast Council and is currently working with Jane McCallum the River Cares Secretary/Treasurer on the Community Led Emergency Response Plan for the Lower Hawkesbury River District.

The Society had on display articles collected by John and Jocelyn Powell ex-Spencerites during their more than 20 years involved in the area researching books and being active members of the Society.

Articles on now departed characters of St Albans and Spencer which featured in local papers were also on display.

The Society congratulated Robyn on her well deserved success and wish her well for the coming year. She will keep us informed on upcoming activities throughout the year.



Jan Kofron Secretary Dharug and Lower Hawkesbury Historical Society



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A rare investment and development opportunity awaits. DA approved for 2 x 10 ha lots and 1 x 9.06ha lot. A private and serene location at the end of Gallaghers Road with no through traffic. The blocks are high set with stunning rural views, the land then undulates to natural bushland surrounds. Substantial start has been received from council and the bulk excavation for the building envelopes has been carried out. RU2 Zoning

FOR SALE - \$2,750,000



4722 Wisemans Ferry Rd, Spencer

THE CROWN OF SPENCER - 17 UNSPOILT ACRES - MULTIPLE TITLES

Don't miss this once in a lifetime opportunity to purchase one of the largest land holdings so close to Spencer Village on the Hawkesbury River. This unspoilt piece of paradise is bursting with flora and fauna and only awaits your imagination and footprint. Located right in the heart of Spencer Village, the property is only minutes walk to the General Store, Spencer Thai, the new public wharf and boat ramp.

FOR SALE - EOI Guide \$1,250,000



626 Singleton Road, Laughtondale

A GRAND HAWKESBURY RIVER WATERFRONT ESTATE

This magnificent, 20 acre holding is the perfect weekend getaway or comfortable family home. Offering a fully serviced waterfront with jetty, pontoon and concrete boat ramp to enjoy everything the Hawkesbury has to offer. There is approx. 15 fenced arable acres for small scale agriculture or hobby farming. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to secure a rare parcel of Hawkesbury River waterfront.

FOR SALE - Expressions of Interest

BEYOND THE FENCE

Will Sydney's love affair for city fringe and regional properties continue in 2022?

I often get asked the question as to whether the recent trend to escape the city will continue in a post pandemic world. Not a simple question as there are a number of factors that may impact the permanency of this phenomenon. In Core Logic's latest Regional Quarterly Market Update, Head of Research Eliza Owen makes an interesting point in relation to lead-lag, the correlation of growth between capital cities and regional growth. As capital city growth began to slow we actually continued to see growth in regional areas in January 2022 albeit at a slower pace than the previous month. As lockdowns eased we were then clobbered with the Omicron variant and the surge for a lifestyle out of capital cities continued. It appears that as we continue to see high vaccination rates and an increase in herd immunity, living with COVID-19 in some form will become the new normal. Many of our buyers over the past 12 months have taken the opportunity to embrace the "work from home" movement. A desk, a computer, internet and it's business as usual... But what happens if employers call their employees back to the office? Louis Christopher

from SQM Research recently commented in the AFR that "If employers mandated a return to work in the cities, the regions could see an immediate and dramatic slowdown in prices, however he added "At the moment I'm not seeing any signs of this happening". I have my opinion on the phenomenon which is based around the uniqueness of our location. Most of our region is within 60-90 minutes of Sydney's CBD or even less to satellite CBD's such as Parramatta or the Hills. Should there be a mass mandate by employers to return to the office even on a casual basis the commute is manageable compared with other growth regions such as the Mid-North or South Coasts. The Covid-19 pandemic has been the catalyst to shine the light on a very special region literally on Sydney's doorstep. Our buyers are discovering a lifestyle not previously experienced yet still have the benefits of being a commutable distance to some of the countries best facilities such as Hospitals, Universities and International Airports. I see a sense of permanency in a shift to our region. While we may not experience the significant growth of the past 12 months, we should experience a more stable, normalised market. Perhaps we are now "Regional Sydney".

Stay Safe, Trent Iverson

The Women of Maroota

...compiled by
Ruby Ramm

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.

Clare Duffy (nee Disalvia)

It was in the depression days of the late 1920's that Clare's family first came to Maroota, and they lived in a bush cave 'till her family moved to another area, around 1931-32. There were five children in the Disalvia family. Clare had two sisters and two brothers. When she was in her teens, Clare had piano lessons for several months and became an accomplished player.

While Clare's family lived in the district, the girls became good friends with the Weaver girls at "Landsdale" in Wisemans Ferry Road, as their place backed onto the Weaver's property.

Later on, when Clare was 22, she married Ron Duffy from Kurrajong. For

a short while, they lived in Ebenezer, then moved to Maroota, Making their home down Cliftonville Road, South Maroota, where there was an orchard.



Ron later purchased another 50 acres with lemon and grapefruit trees.

They had three daughters, Beverly, Gladys and Helen.

They eventually sold out and moved to Parkes N.S.W.

During the war years, Ron sold lemons for overseas export.

In later years, they had two other children, Glenda and Norman.



Zilpha Pearl (Peggy) Brims (nee Douglass)

Peggy Brims was the daughter of Sid and Zelne Douglass (nee Mitchell) of Wisemans Ferry Road, South Maroota.

She is the sister of Max Douglass whom lives on their parents place with his wife Bev.

Peggy married Alfred William Brims and they had a son, Peter Douglass Brims.

A bunch of pink boronia
A bush wife's luxury
A vase upon the table
Displayed for all to see
Gathered on a rambling bushwalk
Dew-fresh and fragrant blooms.





As your Federal Member, I am here to:

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

Please contact my office if I can be of assistance.

JULIAN LEESER MP

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

6



Advertise your event, notice or sale on our Noticeboard

The Sunshine Group

Come along and meet our group for some fun Bingo, morning tea, and just lively general chats.

Call Judy if you would like to join the Sunshine Group, we follow all Covid safe rules.

0429 042775



Free Legal Advice

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

45 664 911



Wisemans Ferry Seniors

Finally we are back to our regular Monday Meetings playing Bingo, socialising and generally having fun. Arriving about 9:00 for a cuppa and a chat with Bingo commencing at 9:30.

We have our AGM on Monday 14th March commencing at 9:30. New members are most welcome.

Our first bus trip for the year is a trip to Featherdale Wildlife Park on Friday March 11th where we understand we can use our Dine and Discover Vouchers for our entry, Members of the Sunshine Club will be joining us, but there will still be some spare seats.

We have several other trips planned but no definite dates set as yet, but we will have them settled by next issue. Hopefully there will be no interruptions and we will have plenty of trips this year.



Don't forget our Facebook page **Wisemans Ferry Bingo Group** and for any queries contact **Jo 0419 413 523** or **Noelene 45 668 226**



Something For You

The Windsor Probus Club offers a wide range of activities and connections for retirees in the Hawkesbury area.

If you are looking to make friends and connections while enjoying outings and activities please phone our Secretary **Ann Jones** on

0414 298945

so we can welcome you along to a meeting.



St Albans Village Market...

- Sat 12 – Sun 13 March
- Sat 9 – Sun 10 April
- Sat 14 – Sun 15 May
- Sat 11 – Sun 12 June
- Sat 9 – Sun 10 July
- Sat 13 – Sun 14 August
- Sat 10 – Sun 11 September
- Sat 8 – Sun 9 October
- Sat 12 – Sun 13 November
- Sat 10 – Sun 11 December

Gates open at 9am

Come and join in the fun

Reminiscing About Tasmania

By Liz Wilkinson

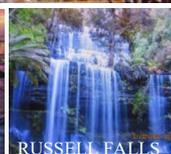
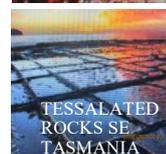
I was wondering what to write about in my column now that the gulf trip is finished when watching Back Roads on TV (Mond. 8 o'clock ABC) I had an 'ah ha' moment. It was the show about Cradle Mountain in Tasmania where I had been on a trip with car club friends Chris and Warren. We visited Cradle Mountain and walked around the Dove Lake Circuit (as shown on the show) with its towering mountains and tundra-like land, a never to be forgotten experience! It was a January trip and it was sleeting. Our friends were in an open topped sports car and were freezing. I loved the scenery so much that I painted a picture of the area we saw years later when I took up painting.

Back Roads also showed a town full of murals depicting the town's history. Sheffield has over 140 murals. It was a fascinating town to visit.

We flew to Launceston and rented a car while our friends came over on the Spirit of Tasmania with their own car. If I was to do the trip again I would like a four wheel drive of my own (not rented) so you could go on the rougher roads - hire cars are too restrictive. The weather on our trip covered a heat wave right down to sleet -what a contrast! From Launceston we visited wonderful historic homes (Tassy is full of them!) such as Franklin House, Entally House and Clarendon. We went down the East coast on the Tasman Highway all the way to Port Arthur down to the tessellated pavement and the Tasman Peninsula. Retracing our steps we stayed in a delightful B&B at Hobart.

Gordon Power station and Russell Falls (also painted) were on the agenda next, then along the Lyell Highway to Queenstown- what a desolate place- shows how making money overrides the environment and totally destroys it. The only good thing about Queenstown was its pub with the magnificent wooden staircase. On now to Strahan and the Gordon River Cruise,... up to Dove Lake and our invigorating walk then on to the top of Tasmania which was a different world again with its fields of flowers -very English. The west coast was something again with magnificent sunsets on the beach and viewing the Fairy Penguins. We visited Stanley where I was fascinated with the patterns made by the waves as they rolled onto the beach. Down past Wynyard, Burnie, Ulverston-all beautiful, beautiful countryside, then over east to Georgetown, Bridport and Scottsdale where we visited a Lavender farm.

So much contrast, rugged beauty and cultivated land. Would I do this trip again? YES! at the drop of a hat! It was a marvellous experience all the better for sharing with friends that I will never forget.



Latest News



A new Council gets down to work...

Council held its first meeting of the 2021 to 2024 Council Term in February, welcoming not only five new Councillors but also electing our new Deputy Mayor, Councillor Nathan Tilbury. Councillor Tilbury was elected to a 12-month term in the role.

The new Council team got immediately to work, not least by unanimously endorsing a detailed submission to the NSW Government concerning proposed changes to legislation covering 'developer contributions'.

Council welcomes the Government's proposals to simplify the contributions system and make it more transparent. However, in their current form, Hornsby Shire stands to lose \$51.3 million over the next 17 years.

That carries significant implications for the delivery of much-needed facilities for our community and may

stop future projects like the public domain improvements to Peats Ferry Road at Asquith and the recent refurbishment of Hornsby Library

Speaking of which, it was my great privilege to officiate at the reopening of Hornsby Library on Tuesday 8 February. The Library's newly completed internal layout greatly improves its amenity and accessibility.

Funded from development contributions, the Public Library Infrastructure Grant program, and external grants from the State Library, Hornsby Library has re-emerged as more welcoming, more flexible and with more places to read, relax, connect, create and discover.

Philip Ruddock AO,
Mayor, Hornsby Shire Council

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY 9 MARCH, 6.30PM

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FROM THE PASTORS DESK



“Do All Things Without Complaining”

(Philippians 2:14)

If somebody gave you a dollar every time you complained and collected one every time you showed gratitude, would you be rich or poor?

Maybe you are thinking, “If you had my problems you’d complain too!” Listen, **“Do all things withoutcomplaining”**. That’s not a suggestion, it’s an order! Why? Because the more you complain, the worse things get.

Consider this:

- 1 Complaining is addictive.** The cycle goes like this; A) You’ve got a problem. B) You complain and remain stuck in the problem. C) The enemy pours on the “*poor me’s*” and you complain even more. D) You end up living in constant crisis.
- 2 It’s also destructive.** Would it surprise you to know that God sees your complaining..... as criticism of His provision? In fact, when the Israelites did it He destroyed them. Listen, “Do not grumble, as some of them did - and were killed. These things.....were written down as warnings for us. **(Corinthians 10: 10-11)**
- 3 It can make you sick.** Solomon said, “*A calm and undisturbed mind and heart are the life and health of the body*”. **Proverbs 14:30** How many “calm and undisturbed” complainers do you know?
- 4 It can ruin your future.** People who build their lives around past problems never move forward. Paul writes, “*Forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before us*”. **(Philippians 3:13)** You’ll never connect with your future till you disconnect from your past . So start today, make up your mind to

“Do all things without.....Complaining!”

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

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May....Tue.....Apr.....26th
Jun.....Mon.....May.....23rd
Jul....Mon.....Jun.....27th
Aug.....Mon.....Jul.....25th

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Community Chaplain

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Mob: 0428 234 228

When Will Interest Rates Rise?

During his National Press Club address, Reserve Bank Governor Philip Lowe was asked the question, “those people are now looking very carefully at your words, trying to read the tea leaves and work out what they do with their mortgages? You obviously can’t go to the RBA Governor looking for individual financial advice. But, if it was your mortgage, would you be scrambling for a fixed rate or sticking with a variable?”

His response, “... the advice that I would give to people is, make sure that you have buffers. Interest rates will go up. And the stronger the economy, the better progress on unemployment, the faster and the sooner the increase in interest rates will be. So, interest rates will go up.”

A rate increase by the RBA would be the first since November 2010. Westpac and AMP Capital are both forecasting the first increase to occur in August this year, then a second towards the end of 2022.

While the RBA might be taking a ‘steady as she goes’ approach, many lenders have

already factored in increases as the international cost of funding increases. RateCity data shows that, “a total of 17 lenders have hiked fixed rates so far this year, but that number will rise and quickly” - Westpac increased its fixed rates at the end of January and the CBA and ING (for new customers only) at the start of February.

But with households having accumulated more than \$200 billion in additional savings over the past 2 years, the RBA is hopeful that any increase will dampen inflation pressures but not impinge on growth.

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@bellpartnersnorwest.com

Rainfall for
 JAN 13th To FEB 23rd

Week 1. 30mm
Week 2. 10mm
Week 3. 32mm
Week 4. 29mm
Week 5. 16mm
Week 6. 52mm

Taken at
 South Maroota

Bush Philosophy

*Love is
 the strong shield -
 separation,
 the sharpest sword!*

CHECK YOUR SMOKE ALARMS

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St Albans Station:
 4568 2011

Captain: Lilly Stepanovich:
 0409 322 236

Senior Dep: Sherri McMahon:
 4568 2013.
sherrimcmahon4@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

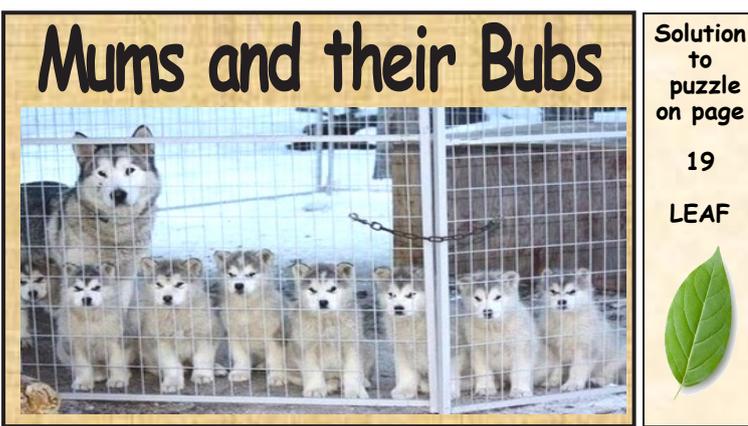


- 2nd Monday of Month – Meeting @ 18.30
- 3rd Monday of Month – Maintenance @ 18:30
- 4th Monday of Month – Training @ 18:30

Anger management:
 When angry with someone,
 it helps to sit down and
 think about the problem...



Mums and their Bubs



Solution to puzzle on page 19

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Administration experience is preferred but not essential. If you are hardworking, reliable and have a friendly disposition and can work mid week, weekends and holidays we would love to have you join our team.

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MAROOKA RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

How green is our district at the moment? A very different summer to the past years with the above average rainfall we have experienced. This has led to a lot less call-outs to bushfires which is good but the brigade has still responded to the following incidents the last month ; an MVA on Wisemans Ferry Rd, South Maroota, assist ambulance at Maroota, assist crews at a structure fire at Spencer, trees down at Wisemans Ferry and an Automatic Fire Alarm at Riverside Oaks.

This is why we continue to keep up training as we never know what skills we will need to draw upon at an incident call anytime day or night. We have two more new members that will be doing their assessment for Basic Fire Fighter later this month and we look forward to them passing this assessment and bolstering the strength of our brigade.

A lot of planning for mitigation is ongoing throughout our districts for hazard reduction but this superfluous wet season we are experiencing is going to reduce the opportunity to get some of these HR's done. This is why, this coming autumn and winter it is going to be more important than ever for you to reduce the fuel load on your own properties and make sure all of your firefighting tools are in peak condition and your plans for surviving a bushfire are in place.

There is still a huge area of our community that has not seen major bushfire for more than 20 years now and this rain has generated much greater fuel build up in the forest areas. Brigades will continue to work on reducing the fuel loads where and how they can but we all need to work on reducing the fuels loads on our own properties and maintaining access for emergency vehicles to enter our properties and be able to move easily around all our buildings in any emergency any time. It is how we "Live With Bushfire". **Plan and Act now so we can be Bushfire Ready!**

For further information go to www.rfs.nsw.gov.au

...Robin Hitchcock

WISEMANS FERRY RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

The team have had several call outs over the previous month including assisting a police vehicle with brakes on fire, two house fires in Spencer, and a tree down. The crew and fire boat assisted Care Flight on Settlers Road, and also assisted with two requests for assistance on Colo River.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to all new residents in our valley. If you are new to the area and would like assistance on how to create and maintain an asset protection zone on your property or would like information on pile burns, please contact the volunteer team either via Facebook or our email wfvfrfs@gmail.com. No question is too small or too big.

You can also find a wide range of information and resources on the RFS website at: www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/resources including information and a checklist on developing a personalised Bush Fire Survival Plan, Standards on Pile Burning and Standards for Asset Protection Zones.

...Margaret Cavanagh Assistant Community Engagement Officer

MAROOKA SOUTH RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

As we move into another year the brigade is still trying, to the best of our ability, to manage Covid. We had a masked meeting, and are trying to get some training started again. We really are mindful that any risk is not only to the detriment of our members, but also the community.

We attended two motor vehicle accidents where neither driver was injured, but caused traffic delays.

Have you noticed that the grasses and trees have had a significant growth spurt with all the constant rain? Come winter and drier conditions, these fuels will dry and become a fire hazard. Residents must consider this, and act to minimise the fire risk that will come, most likely in spring.

...Garry Chatman

SACKVILLE NORTH RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

Has everyone downloaded the Fires Near Me (nsw.gov.au) App? We recommend downloading this App and staying abreast of any fires in your area (or areas you are travelling to).

You can personalise the settings to show your area, areas of loved ones etc, alerts of when a fire is in your designated area. Stay up to date on bush fires in NSW with the official NSW Rural Fire Service Fires Near Me application, providing warnings and incident information.

Fires Near Me NSW is the official application of the NSW Rural Fire Service, providing information about bush and grass fires across NSW.

Stay up to date on bush fires in NSW with the official NSW Rural Fire Service Fires Near Me application, providing warnings and incident information.

Staying up to date is a key step in your bush fire survival plan – so ask yourself. How fireproof is your plan? Find out at www.myfireplan.com.au

Karen Karberis



Maroota: Capt: ☎4566 6196
 " Mob: ☎0417 216 306
 Sth Maroota: ☎0414 430 959
 " ☎4575 0433
 Canoelands: ☎4566 6196

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

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

Sackville North: ☎9654 1244
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A New Local Event Coming Soon



Be tempted at Savour the Flavour Hawkesbury

Get your taste buds ready! Hawkesbury City Council is launching a brand new event for 2022 called Savour the Flavour Hawkesbury, and it is sure to delight the palate.

The new food and beverage event will be held in Richmond and will celebrate the Hawkesbury's past and present as the original 'food bowl' of Sydney. Visitors and locals alike will have the chance to sample and purchase delicious food, produce and beverages from local farmers and businesses. There will also be cooking demonstrations and live entertainment to enjoy.

See Council's Savour the Flavour launch video on Council's YouTube channel at [youtube.com/c/HawkesburyCityCouncil](https://www.youtube.com/c/HawkesburyCityCouncil)

Savour the Flavour Hawkesbury is being assisted by a \$30,000 Regional Tourism Bushfire grant and a \$6,500 grant from the NSW Government's Destination Sydney Surrounds North. Hawkesbury Harvest is also a partner of the event.

Council is inviting Hawkesbury based primary producers to become stallholders at the event. Call Council's Events Team on 4560 4444 for more information.

Sponsorship opportunities are also available for this event. Please email the Events Team at events@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au to receive a sponsorship proposal.

For visitors looking to spend the day or the weekend in the Hawkesbury, the Hawkesbury Visitor Information Centre has also put together a selection of guides to help you discover the best of our beautiful region. Suitable for day-trippers, couples and families, the itineraries are available on the Discover the Hawkesbury website www.discoverthehawkesbury.com.au

Visit Council's homepage www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au and Hawkesbury Events Facebook www.facebook.com/hawkesburvevents for event updates.



Your Health is Your Wealth -

Happy International Women's Day

International women's Day is celebrated on the 8th of March each year and focuses on the rights of women and girls around the world. This year it's focused on breaking the bias against women by trying to eliminate stereotypes and discrimination and promoting equality and diversity in communities, schools, workplaces, universities and colleges. It encourages everyone to develop a greater understanding about gender bias and be more aware of its existence.

Gender bias such as sexual harassment and gender pay gap can have a huge impact on the mental health of women as we have seen in the media recently in the case of Brittany Higgins. She experienced ongoing sexual harassment in her workplace, in the highest office in Australia, the Parliament House, which finally led to her sexual assault. Gender equality starts in the home, communities and then in the workplace, but it seems like it's our politicians that are way behind in realising change is needed.

Australia has made great strides towards achieving gender equality in society, but much more still needs to be done to bridge the gap between the sexes as only 18 percent of Australians say gender equality in the workplace has definitely been achieved.

At Pathways Community Counselling we provide professional and affordable counselling services to support everyone in need. Sometimes you need to feel supported in order to be able to stand up to such bias and bigotry. We are committed to making affordable mental health and counselling services available to everyone in our local community and beyond.

Speak to one of our counsellors today and contact us on **0493 380 112**.

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 Please Contact Alan Prosser for more information
 Ph 4341 7946



Anglican Parish of St Albans

Next service at St Albans is.....
Sunday 6th March 10am
 (followed by AGM of the Parish Council)
Sunday 27th March 10am
 St Phillips, Higher Macdonald



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

Blockes' Coffee: Fridays 10am
Women's Coffee: Tuesdays 10am

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 Sunday Services

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



On April 20, 1922, an organising committee for the Country Women's Association of NSW was formed.

"These women were initiators, fighters, and lobbyists, who were passionate about making rural and regional NSW better for those who lived there. For 100 years the members of the CWA of NSW have continued the legacy of those trail-blazing foundation members by improving the social, educational, recreational, and medical realities for their communities," said Stephanie Stanhope, CWA of NSW President.

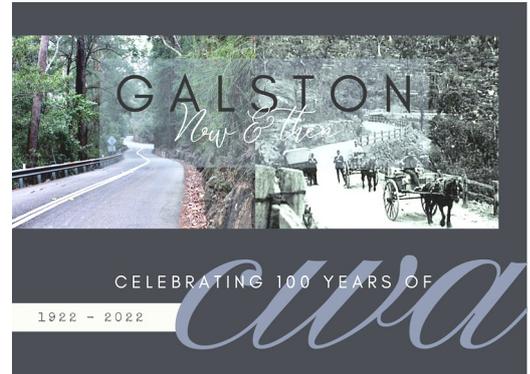
The CWA has evolved in so many different ways in the past 100 years to remain as active and relevant today as it was when Grace Munro, founder and first state president, mobilised members to save women and children dying because of lack of maternity care in rural hospitals.

We are so proud to celebrate Country Women's Association (CWA) of NSW centenary this year and be part of a legacy that continues to positively contribute to local and regional communities in so many different ways.

Take a drive around our beautiful neighbourhood and you will see that many of the roads are named after the earliest farming families whose second and third generations established the CWA branch in Galston. These women were affected by issues such as transport, health access, and isolation. The inauguration of CWA Galston in 1958 was met with great enthusiasm.

Please join us in 2022 as we celebrate a century of service and activism, but more importantly join us to engage with other like-minded women and continue the tradition of improving the lives of women and families locally and right across the state. Come and meet the quiet army behind the tea and scones - second Wednesday of each month.

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**.



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SCHOOL SNIPPETS

MACDONALD VALLEY PUBLIC SCHOOL



Water Tank Mural!

It has been so exciting to see the progress of our mural!
 Our students were delighted to arrive at school on Tuesday to discover how amazing it now looks.
 What a transformation!
 Thank you so much to Luke Kelly for his wonderful artwork.
 We are so grateful for the time he has devoted to our school.





Debbie Millar
Hairdressing
 0414 791 397

Open Tuesday Wednesday Thursday
....by appointment

MAROOKA PUBLIC SCHOOL



We're baaack!

Lovely to see everyone's smiling faces back for another year of learning.
 We welcomed our 1-6 cherubs back on 1st February and our new kindies on 3rd February.

It was sad to farewell front of house manager Irene, after 19 years on the job. She will be sorely missed by the students and community. Her knowledge and understanding of the needs of the children, parents and residents, will not be forgotten. Thank you...editor



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SCHOOL SNIPPETS

CATTAI PUBLIC SCHOOL



Wow!! What a wonderful start to the new school year. The students all returned with huge grins, lots of stories and a positive attitude towards their next year of academic growth. Uniforms were all clean and tidy, shoes were clean and polished and faces were expectant and glowing with eagerness to get things started.

The new co-hort of Kindergarten children started beautifully. They were all tested to determine their starting levels in English and Math. Then it was action stations!! They settled in well due to the orientation programme staged at the end of last year. It was wonderful to watch the year 5 buddies care for their new playground friends and ensure the newcomers found their way around the school and were never left alone. Such great



friendships ensure that all students have a positive start to their Cattai School life.

The rest of the school were keen to learn back in the classroom with their friends. Memories of home-schooling almost gone, the students displayed a diligence and ability to quickly fall back into full school mode. Some classes had a teacher swap in order to maintain the interests of the students and a full range of abilities within the teaching staff. In all, every student should be



proud of their behaviour and attitude towards their education.



The SRC students chose to once again raise funds for The Heart Foundation on Sweethearts Day (February 14). Though donations due to mufti day, as well as the purchase of cakes, a large amount of money was raised for such a small school. The students should be proud of their efforts.

The usual cake days (first Wednesday of the month), ice block days (Monday and Friday in Term 1 and 4), library day, dance group, new play equipment and BMX riding have all allowed the students to settle in to the "old routines" and again feel comfortable with their Cattai Family. The rest of the year looks to be very busy and productive.

Can't wait!



KEITH HAS A NEW TOY!!

A big thank you to Nathan and Simon at Ag Repairs & Sales Pty Ltd at Middle Dural for our new mower.

We have a brand new RedMax CZT 52 Zero Turn. As you can see in the photos below Keith is very happy with the new purchase.



WISEMANS FERRY PUBLIC SCHOOL



The 2022 school year is well underway and students and staff are excited to be learning at school. It was lovely to be greeted last week by lots of happy, laughing students. I am extremely pleased with how focussed and committed all students have been on their return to school.

We would like to welcome our new kindergarten students Austin, Charlotte, Harrison, Chevelle and Dhakota and their families.

We would also like to welcome Danielle and welcome back Khloe, her sister Kaitlyn and their family.

School Sport

School sport runs on a Friday. With the assistance of the Sporting Schools program, we receive funding to engage specialist sporting coaches to visits and deliver sporting skills in a range of sports to our students. This term our students will be participating in volleyball lessons.



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Aboriginal word of the Month "Yarramundi"

Means..... Storyteller



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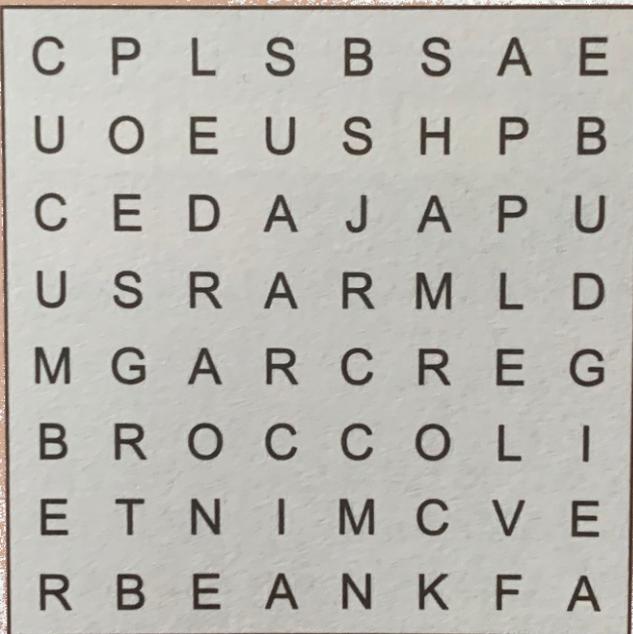
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Kids Corner

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

The grid contains 14 green things hidden vertically, horizontally or Diagonally. The unused letters spell out another green item.



- | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|
| APPLE | BUDS | JADE |
| AVOCADO | CUCUMBER | MINT |
| BEAN | GLASS | PARROT |
| BROCCOLI | GRASS | PEAR |
| BUDGIE | | SHAMROCK |

.....SOLUTION Page 9

BIRTHDAY CLUB
March 2022..

- 4th - Maria Dominello will be 10
- 6th - Lillyamber Berthold will be 11
- 9th - Bella Wheatley will be 12
- 10th - Zsa Zsa Millward will be 13
- 13th - Angus Fletcher will be 15
- 13th - Christian Sherrington will be 13
- 14th - Brooke Harper will be 16
- 15th - Lucy Ramm will be 10
- 18th - Charleigh Brennan will be 16
- 19th - Kaylee Hinton will be 12
- 20th - Oscar Brown will be 13
- 29th - Adriana Dominello will be 16
- 31st - Luke Howard will be 16

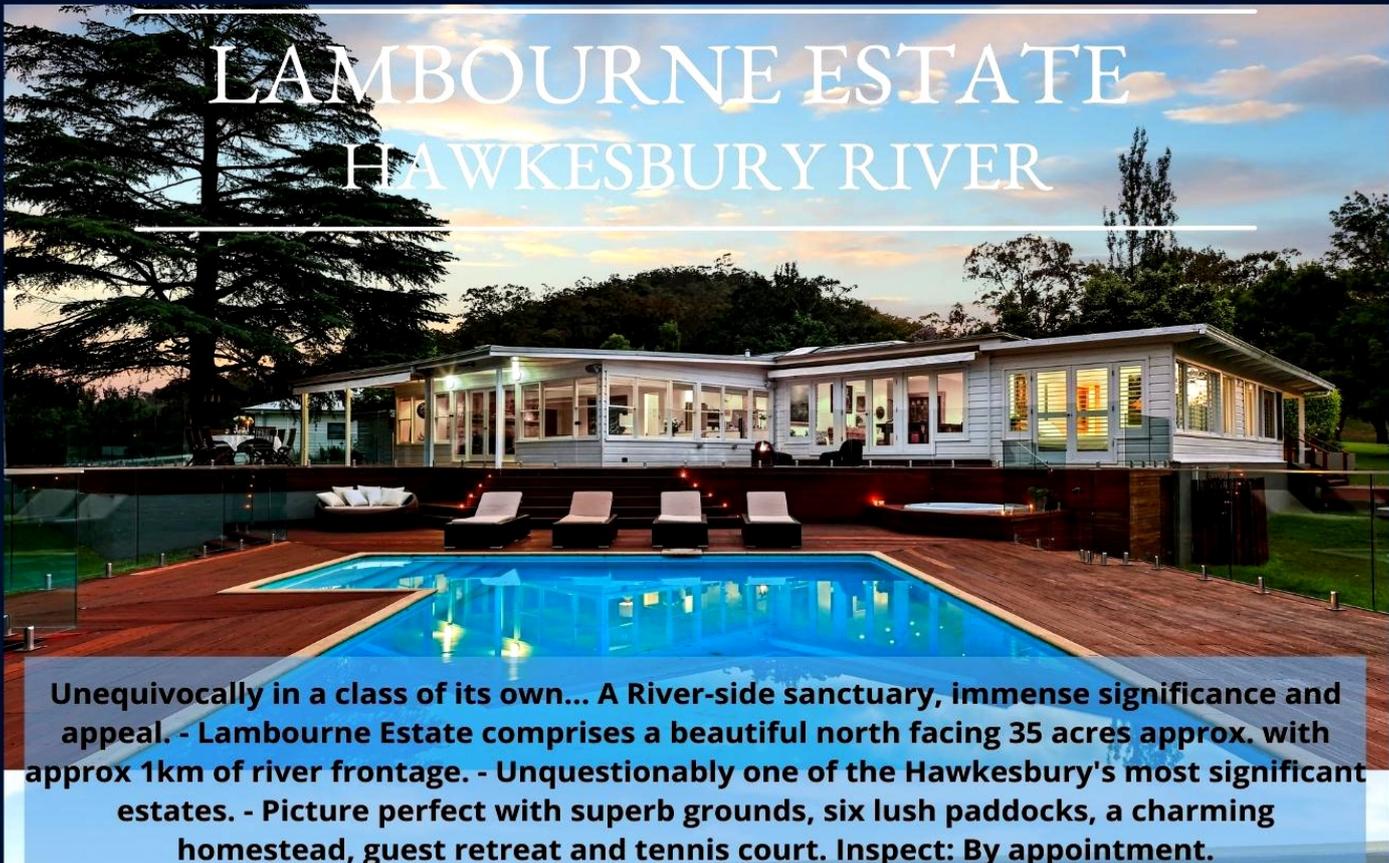


HAPPY BIRTHDAY

KIDS! (16 & under)

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