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G HERIT

Maroota and Districts News

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Volume 25, Issue 12

CIRCULATION 2000

DECEMBER 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

Sat/Sun (when dry)

St Albans Village Market Wharf Street St Albans Info: 0419 977 535

24th Dec - Sat **Christmas Eve Carols** & Sausage Sizzle Midway Church 6pm

Put these in your diary!

Wishing all of our readers and supporters a very happy and joyous Christmas Season.

May 2023 bring a peaceful earth and prosperity to all.







lebrations in the Hawkes

Pat Schwartz

S t Mathews Anglican Church in Windsor is one of the finest works of early colonial architecture remaining in Australia.

This year 2022 is a very special year for St Mathews being the two hundredth year since it was consecrated on 8th December 1822.

Windsor is proud to be the home of St Mathews and it's Rectory, Stables and Cemetery which all form a beautiful complex of buildings that is State Heritage Listed.

The convict built Church is sited in a prominent position in Windsor and surrounded by open space which allows an uninterrupted view of this magnificent building from surrounding directions.



Breath-taking in its beauty St Mathews itself is a destination in the Hawkesbury.

Approached either from along the Hawkesbury River or across parkland it is a rare and splendid sight adjoining the historic township of Windsor.

In the lead up to Christmas the Historic Town of Windsor is again hosting the popular Light up Windsor Street Fair. It will be on Saturday 3rd December from 5pm to 9pm.

The Pioneer Village will also be getting Christmas celebrations underway with its annual HAPPY CHRISTMAS Christmas Twilight Market on 2nd December starting at 5pm.

Photography by Paul Caleo



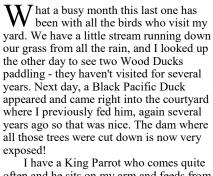


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ECO-NEWS



With Liz Wilkinson



I have a King Parrot who comes quite often and he sits on my arm and feeds from a tray. Imagine my surprise whilst sitting down on my seat feeding this parrot, when another one came and did the same thing. One is a lot tamer than the other.

With all the rain we had been having, we now have a bumper crop of weeds, and among them is a dandelion with not a yellow flower, but a pure white one with lots of flower heads and smaller pointier leaves. Many of the weeds I have not laid eyes on before. I wonder how long they have laid dormant in the soil.

Jackie Winter is very busy feeding his babies, so he comes back and forth to the house to collect seeds and fly off again, only to return quickly. Watching him take off, I realised I am feeding two different families, as the Winter adults fly off in different directions. I usually have to stand guard when they are feeding, as the larger birds attack and try to chase him away. He was sporting a peck on the head for a while.

I left some seeds on top of my BBQ for the Fruit Dove, and as I glanced out of my window, a Magpie was tasting it. She then began to sing (or call) and a young bird appeared - more singing, then dad appeared and ate all the seed. They have such a delightful carolling song - I love to listen to them. I have since found another family in my far paddock with two young ones just out of the nest.

There are some interesting natives that are flowering at the moment at our place















and around the district. Flannel Flowers have been a special favourite of mine starting way back in my childhood. There are so many patches of Flannel Flowers around our district. I have been noticing a plant with bunches of white flowers at the top and leaves pointing downwards. They are prolific coming up the road from Wiseman's Ferry (also Berowra Waters ferry). They grow in sandstone areas and the common name is Flannel Leaf, because the back of the leaf is covered with lots of tiny, soft hairs and feel just like flannel. Another shrub in full flower is Kunzea ambigua - the Tick Bush. There is such a lot of it along Cliftonville Road. The Mountain Devil is flowering well after all the rain, as well as the Hairy Fan Flower.

We spotted our first snake of the season up near our car shed. Have to keep a watch out from now on!

Quote!

"We delight in the beauty of the butterfly, but rarely admit the changes it has gone through to achieve that beauty."

Maya Angelou

Living Heritage News Published by:

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

Copy Deadline: 15th month

Editor's Notes

y goodness I'm short on space this month! I could easily have filled another four pages and had to leave out many media releases that were very good. However, I need to use the space wisely, and advertisers get first priority of course. And while on the subject of advertisers, I must say a huge thank you to all of you who have stuck by us throughout these troubling times.

As you know, this magazine is completely run by volunteers, from the editing to the distribution. The printing and postage costs, are paid for by you our advertisers, and we could not publish without your backing. I know that many of you do not need to publicise your businesses in this manner, and do so just to show support

for local news produced by local people.

The "Silly Season" is upon us again, and I have decided that I won't get caught up in the commercialisation of what should be a gathering of family and friends, enjoying the reason for what Christmas is really about. If there's one thing that the last few years experience has taught me, it's that we need to get back to real values and unite as a community.

The local Rural Fire Brigades are most likely able to do their 'santa runs' again this year, as there are no likely restrictions being put in place.

Don't forget the Christmas Carols on December 3rd @ 7pm next to Maroota School, and also Christmas Eve Carols at Midway @ 6pm.

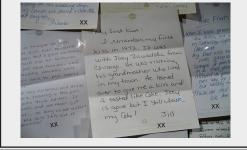
....Enjoy this issue...Carole

Why do X's at the end of a letter mean kisses?

In the Middle Ages, when many

people couldn't read or write, documents were often signed using an X.

Kissing the X represented an oath to fulfil the obligation listed in the document. The X and the kiss eventually came to mean the same.



By Mary

Eastbend Rural Communications Inc. Results of the AGM

E astbend held its Annual General Meeting on Monday 14th November, and Office Bearers were elected as follows:

President - Peter Goldstien
Vice President - Carole Sweeny
Treasurer - Sheila Trotman
Secretary - Liz Wilkinson
Assist. Secretary - Vicki Brownless
Public Officer - Jenny Carey
Publicity Officer - Bev Tollman

Ordinary Members: Pat Schwartz Marianne Sheumack

Members:
Jessie Goldstien
Helen Coy
Lily Schwartz
Gail Sweeny
Deborah Quinn
Diana Paton
Tess Lazoryzak
Adrian Acheson
Sandra Cain

There was much to be discussed, including how we can maintain the use of the Community Resource Centre at Maroota. We also talked about the sightings of koalas and yellow bellied gliders in Maroota Forest. This area has so much to offer.

If you have any local issues that you would like to discuss or have help with, please contact us.

① 0407 94 98 99

Something New

Rebeka Rose Zorba.

There is a new organisation called Forgotten Valley Family Services Inc. (FVFS) President is Sarah Dobson, Vice President is Carina Lauter, Secretary is Kim Schumacher, treasurer is Mary Howard and Pre school coordinator is

It is planned to have a parents and carers morning on the 30th November at Maroota School this is the first this year. FVFS has contacted the Education Dept. and we are currently in the 60-90 day waiting process for the Pre-School advancement.

We are communicating with Hornsby, Baulkham Hills and Hawkesbury councils. Its been a disappointing journey as Peppercorn services decided to abandon the running of the Pre School for a variety of reasons that simply just do not make sense. Starting with the Governments changes to regulations for employment of staff then COVID 19 and so it goes.

Council decisions is disappointing given the Mobile Pre-school was started in

1978 by Forgotten Valley Mobile Resources Unit.



Christmas Day -

By..Ben Anderson

Early morning, wake at dawn, a light breakfast on the lawn. Coffee, while we sit and wait, someone's always running late.

A decorated tree on display, all dressed up for this day. Gifts wrapped with great care, stacked in piles under there.

The wine is served, the food is spiced, toasts are made and turkey sliced. The cat sleeps blissfully unaware, there's something magic in the air.

Family and friends from far away, will join us for this special day. A day of love and good cheer, and we'll do it all again next year!



A Christmas Awesome Mailbox





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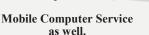
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Wisemans Ferry Men's Shed

Owing to our successful campaign to distribute free Dulux paint within our community, we are now being asked to distribute free tiles for those properties severely damaged in recent floods. This is a program being organized through the guidance of the Australian Mens Shed Association (AMSA).

These tiles will be delivered shortly and we ask you to contact us on **0448 833 781** to register your interest in acquiring some of these tiles.

The clean-up of our shed is nearly complete and starting into the new year we should get back to our full capacity with new machinery and fresh paint.

This could not have happened without the support and generous support of our community, together with the teamwork support of Hornsby Council and their staff, who undertook the heavy lifting, washing, shoveling and disposal of mud and debris in and around our Shed.

We are currently planning for the year ahead with a membership drive and the plans are exciting. Among the long list is a visit to Hawkesbury Community gardens, with an idea to start designing our own Community garden for Wisemans Ferry. The final approval for our walking/exercise track in and around the new parklands adjoining our Shed will soon be a reality, where we will organize fitness classes for all ages.

We have just announced a vintage machine and Classic car show for 12th March, 2023. This will also include vintage bikes, tractors and vintage cars. This will allow us to also sell much of our flood damaged tools and equipment.

We are open Tuesdays and Saturdays and we are located behind Wisemans Ferry Bowling Club









GOLF + DINNER EVENT

Thousands of families and businesses along the Hawkesbury River have been impacted by the major flood events in March and July this year.

Riverside Oaks is making their venue and staff available on Friday, February 17th, for a FLOOD RELIEF FUNDRAISING EVENT which will take the form of a golf tournament and a dinner.

All funds Raised will be allocated for distribution to local families and businesses via:

The Hills-Kellyville

Rotary

Club

Hills Community Aid

trepowering Communities to Thirtee

Date: Friday 17th of February 2023

Venue: Riverside Oaks Golf Course

Event: Charity Ambrose Golf Day and Dinner

4-person Ambroso

Handicaps provided on the booking site along with dietary's

Non-golfers welcome:

Time: 12:00pm Shot Gun Start 6:00 pm Dinner

Cost: \$195 Golf and dinner \$85 Dinner only

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Beyond The Fence

A Bumpy Ride in 2022... What's the Prediction for 2023?

As we continue to battle to balance the household budget, we are challenged by record inflation driven by high energy, food and consumables prices. Couple this with the ferocious pace of interest rate rises the shiny hero of real estate post Covid has had an abrupt fall from grace. 2022 was both hero and villain; a Jeckyll and Hyde of sorts.

As a result, we are still experiencing a correction across broader Sydney and most regional markets. So, as we rapidly approach the end of 2022, what will 2023 bring for the property market? Let's face it, we all knew that sub 2% interest rates were not sustainable long term and for those of you who locked in rates at this level, kudos to you! But for the most of us the pain is already real and a doubling of repayments in some instances has become the new normal. Although rates have moved up 2-3%, they are still relatively low. It is the fact that interest rates have more or less doubled on a dollar value that is problematic and challenging to mortgage holders.

In a recent article in the Australian Financial Review by Larry Schlesinger, he interviews Tim Lawless - Research Director for Core Logic (8 Oct 2022) and he shares his thoughts on 2023. Mr Lawless indicates that we are seeing a slowing in the monthly decline of property with Sydney prices easing to 1.8% in September compared to 2.3% in August. In the article he also tips the correction to bottom in the first quarter of 2023 in line with easing of rate hikes followed by a swift "V-shaped" recovery.

Larry Schlesinger's article quotes: "Looking at the housing market more broadly, Mr Lawless said other indicators such as "subtly" rising auction clearance rates, improving consumer sentiment and a lower listings' environment in Spring correlated with the possibility that the correction may be easing."

Mr Lawless also says "However, the initial shock factor, of rates going up in May has started to wash through, every buyer or

seller has it in the back of their mind that rates will go up, but buying conditions are pretty good for now. It's quite the turnaround from six months ago when the market was skewed towards sellers".

The idea of a buyer's markets versus a seller's market is an interesting concept. In a stabilising market it can be both. As an agency we are seeing encouraging buyer volume and realistic vendor pricing in a lower listings' environment. Well priced, well presented homes are selling in a reasonable number of days on market.

The shock of the pace and financial impact of rate rises, although a bitter pill, has been broadly accepted by the market. Let's hope that 2023 returns some stability to the roller coaster ride of the post pandemic era.

Stay Safe. Trent Iverson

ELLAIVERSON



1426 River Rd, Lower Portland | FOR SALE Contact Agent

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Mathematical desired in the control of the contr



To The Editor, **Maroota and District News**

ornsby Council's Proposed Special Rate ■ Variation Request process is TOTALLY misleading and unnecessary.

Fellow ratepayers, have you received Council's presentation? Read and understood its impact on you? Most ratepayers are oblivious to its existence and its impending impact on you?

Like the proverbial canary, I don't like what

Key issue. Council is requesting support for an EXTRA +17.74% for a total of 31% over 4 years.

Why should you object?

The argument for a rate increase is flawed with misleading numbers

The time and process allowed for ratepayers to respond is unreasonable and insufficient Current economic climate makes it unaffordable

The long term implications for rate increases is unreasonable and omits latest Valuer General increases effective June 2023.

THE REAL COST, to ratepayers, is misrepresented and hidden, and known facts are omitted.

They use of the term "Cumulative" in their table to disguise the true cost to you. REALITY, Rate increases impact ratepayers on a "COMPOUND" COST basis, and remain BUILT IN FOREVER.

Example Given of a 20/23 "average" rate of \$1272.79 rising to \$1668.01 is said to be "cumulative" \$395.21 (+31%) by 25/26. REALITY, add up ALL the years COST increases, COST to you "compounds"

\$1023.43 (+80%).

On acreage? COST of +\$1716 (+80%), just for the 4 years. Higher cost is built in for next 5-10-15 years.

Council uses comparative councils. Let's focus on a relevant one for 22/23, Hills Council just across Old Northern Road, same size land, higher valuation. Hornsby shire, just for the Land Value (known as AdValoram) component of your rates invoice, +\$300 extra!

NOW.....THE REAL KICKER.

NEW Valuer General Land Values provided kick in in 23/24 rates notices and kick in May-June 2023! Your Valuer General's valuations, are up +25- 30%. These valuations are the base for calculating your rates.

Council say the "Rate in \$" multiplier factor is recalculated and will not affect your rate payable, but tested on 2019 to 2020 rates notices, VG land value UP +12.0%, "Rate in \$", factor Up +10.0%. Result, rates UP

Fast forward, if 1st year increase requested is +8.5% and VG is up +25%, what can be expected?

At an estimate, 20-25% based on history, +\$460 in year 1, compounding thereafter, potentially extra \$2000 over 4 years. Council presents this as +\$2.00 to +\$4.00 per week they say, a coffee! Coffee anybody!

There is no mention of this Land Value "Golden Egg" in council's presentations. 'Given the above, Council should be well positioned to raise sufficient increase in Rate Revenue without asking for this additional SRV. More than sufficient to replace the loss of Epping rate payers to

Parramatta. The poisoned chalice development grants for the Hornsby quarry and sport facilities that require ratepayer funds support should be differed need, these were clearly political.

Back to basics, Council needs to think about the current and expected difficult economic environment ratepayers are already faced with for next 2-3 years of interest rate increases and continued rising costs. Council should moderate their "requests", for additional services, and live within its current means. To justify its future plan, Council presented results from the wishlist of only 600 ratepayers as presented by council after surveying the desires of only 600 ratepayers and without the question of how much are you prepared to pay +\$\$\$. There 152,000 residents estimated in the Shire. Why is Hornsby Council different, special? I say live within what we can afford. Stick with providing good basic services. Certainly Ward A ratepayers see little from any proposed expenditure.

CÁLL TO ACTION

Council Management still need Elected Councillor approval (Ward A, B, C). Contact your Ward representative. Represent a strong NO position. Lodge your objection to Council. Be heard, don't be intimidated by technology or ineffective communication by council. Despite words by council this has not been a representative democratic process.

Overcome the flawed timetable, this has been rushed.

I urge you to inform yourself of and attend the next round of Council meetings and be prepared to speak out.

Or like the proverbial frog, we will all get boiled, just more quickly!

Bruno Turcato Glenorie.



As your Federal Member, I am here to:

Assist with accessing Federal **Government services**

Attend your local community event

Arrange congratulatory messages

Please contact my office if I can be of assistance.

JULIAN LEESER MP FEDERAL MEMBER FOR BEROWRA

🚳 Level 11, 423 Pennant Hills Road, Pennant Hills NSW 2120 🕒 9980 1822

julian.leeser.mp@aph.gov.au julianleeser.com.au julianleesermp

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





Wisemans Ferry Seniors

While we have been enjoying our Monday mornings we will be closing down over Christmas.

Our last Monday morning meeting will be the 12th December with a Christmas outing on the 19th, and will be returning in the new year on the 9th January 2023.

We had our trip to the south coast this month, going over the Sea Cliff Bridge, which was enjoyed by all who went once again

We were joined by some members from the Sunshine Club and others. We ended up at Austimer and enjoyed a lovely meal, while taking in the ocean view at the Headland Hotel, then coming home up Bulli pass.

It was a long day but a lot of fun thanks to Peter, our driver.



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



Maroota Children's **Medical Research** Institute - CMRI

Will be holding a Charity Stall at Windsor **Bowling Club**



2nd December 10am to 3pm

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

Note! Copy deadline is 15th month

/arramalong

By Liz Wilkinson

he Daimler SP250'S club had an outing through the Yarramalong Valley early in November. It was so good to be out and about with our cars and especially our friends after such a long time without this fun.

Our meeting place was a fairly new spot heading up the M1- turn off the M1 at Ourimbah then into the Old Pacific Highway heading towards Palmdale - it was the new Heatherbrae Pies outlet. Very clean, quiet and great coffee.

We then headed north through Tuggerah, Wyong, Charmhaven, Doyalson and on to Wyee, going south until we moved into Yarramalong road (you could get onto Yarramalong Rd from Wyong but we went the scenic route to stretch our cars) This is a great drive and it has changed quite a bit over the years (we would regularly drive this way to visit my Mum in Lake Macquarie).

Our lunch destination was Angel Sussurri Yarramalong Manor House, at 1 Linga Longa Rd (I love the name) They have dining, a bar and accommodation, and you can have weddings here. We enjoyed our lunch under a marquee. They have two menus - a cafe one and the more substantial main menu and you can sit in the cafe area too.

I asked the owner what the history of the place was, and he said it started as a shack where locals could buy grog, and it was frequently in trouble with the constabulary. Finally a hotel was built on the spot and after a few different owners, the present family bought and developed it.

Food was good, company great, then it was time to head back to the big smoke, so we went up Bumble Hill, (Many of the members live on the Central Coast so they retraced their steps to Wyong) and along to Peat's Ridge, then home via the expressway, after a relaxing catch up with friends and a drive through beautiful country.







Latest News





As we approach the end of the year, we look forward to a time when we can gather with family and friends to celebrate, reflect on the year gone by and look forward to a fresh 12 months ahead. This year's holiday period will have even more significance, being the first for several years when we can meet without the weight of restrictions on our minds. I will cherish the opportunity to spend time with my family and hope you enjoy your time with those dear to you.

It has been wonderful to see the sun return over the past few weeks; Hornsby Shire is certainly a wonderful place to be in the summer! Over the holiday period,

I encourage you to get out and about and enjoy our beautiful and unique environment. Discover the diverse range of flora and fauna of the bush by heading out on one of the many bushwalks available. Upgrades to a range of our paths and boardwalks this year make these experiences more accessible and pleasant than ever. Or take the family to one of the many new or upgraded parks, playgrounds and ovals with a range of equipment and facilities for people of all ages and capabilities to enjoy.

With more time for relaxation, why not catch up on some reading? The Hornsby Shire Library Service has two summer reading programs for people of all ages. Sign up to receive reading recommendations and the chance to win some great prizes.

In closing, I would like to extend a very special thanks to you all for your support of Council over the past twelve months. While they have certainly brought a range of challenges for our community, we look forward with hope and wish you all a joyful, restful and peaceful holiday season and a happy new year.

Philip Ruddock AO, Mayor, Hornsby Shire Council

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING WEDNESDAY 14 DECEMBER, 6.30PM

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

EASTBEND MEETINGS 2023 FEBRUARY Mon 13th MAY Mon 8th AUGUST Mon 14th NOVEMBER (AGM)



Monday 13th

BEAUTY & MASSAGE

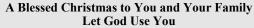
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FROM THE PASTORS DESK



"Mary said....."let it be to me according to Your Word" (Luke1:37-38)

hen God told Mary she was going to give birth to the Christ-child, she asked how it could be possible.

Perhaps God's been telling you things He wants to do through you, but you're looking at your own limitations and asking, "How will this be?" (Luke1:34) Your telling God, "I don't have the training, the experience, the skill or the connections. And I certainly don't have the strength to accomplish it alone".

Like Mary, you're thinking only in the natural, that you must have mans' help to do it. If you've been wondering how God will make things come to pass in your life, remember, He will accomplish the task. No man will get the credit for your deliverance. He told Mary, "Thy Holy Spirit will come upon you" (Luke1:35). The Holy Spirit can impregnate you with a vision, inspire you with creative ideas, introduce you to the right people, and empower you to do the job. God had a special plan for Mary; and He has one for you too. You aren't privileged to see the future. You don't know all that He has in store for you....But He has a plan.

After the angel spoke to Mary, do you know what she said? "Let it be to me according to Your Word" (Luke 1: 38). Not according to my marital status, or my job, or my finances, or what I deserve...No, "Let it be to me according to Your Word!" Was that easy to do? No, she was taking an extreme risk; to be pregnant and unmarried brought dire consequences in those days. Yet she gave herself willingly to God – and the results were truly miraculous!

A special Christmas Greeting to you from all of us here at Midway Christian Centre - We pray you have a blessed time with your loved ones and a safe holiday.

Midway have Carols on Christmas Eve with a sausage sizzle – Christmas Day Service 9.30am.

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



LIVING HERITAGE FOLDING DAYS

Jan/Feb....Mon...Jan...16th Mar....Mon....Feb....27th Apr....Mon....Mar....27th May....Mon....Apr....23rd Jun....Mon...May....23rd

We fold from 11am and usually it takes about 2-3 hours depending on the number of helpers. If you have any spare time, we can always use some help.

Ph: 0407 949 899 or 0423 727 826



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Do You Plan For Profit?

The following aumionation tough one for an accountant. he following admission is a But it has to be done. The way we measure profits in business is wrong.

Profit is traditionally measured as

Sales minus Expenses = Profit

Profit is treated as what is left over. An afterthought, and for a lot of businesses, it becomes a nice to have when it should be a must have. The traditional measure also focuses us purely on sales as the sole path to profit. Yet ironically, most businesses have more in sales this year than they had last year, and the year before that. But they are not more profitable. It is not about the sales.

If we change the measure around, using some simple maths (it won't hurt, I promise), we get

Sales minus Profit = Expenses.

Expenses are now what is left over, and profit is no longer the afterthought. As a business owner, it makes us focus on being profitable, regardless of our sales. We can no longer use the excuse of "if I just had \$X more in sales, I would make a profit".



As business owners we need to start first by setting our profit expectations FIRST, and then making our revenue and expenses work around our profit, not the other way

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.



Rainfall for

OCT 19th To NOV 23rd

Week 1. 10mm

Week 2. 20mm

Week 3. nil

Week 4. nil Week 5. 9 mm

> Taken at South Maroota

Bush Philosophy

When I was young. I was Poor. But following many years of hard work. I am no longer young!

STALBANS RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

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/



FIRE BRIGADE

4778 Wisemans Ferry Rd, **SPENCER** NSW 2775



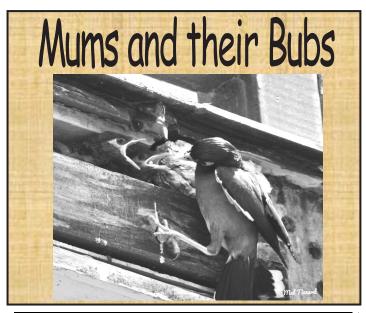
New members always welcome.

Captain Alison Wade T: 1415 668 953

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

Spencer Rural Fire Brigade

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



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email: tonysimpson@ozemail.com.au



Celebrate the wonderful

However you celebrate, whoever you're with, may your Christmas be merry, always.

From the Community Bank Galston team.

During the festive season our branch will close on Monday 26 December, and reopen Wednesday 28 December.

Galston 9653 2227



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North Ward News



It's great to see that the weather has improved, and things are slowly starting to dry out.

Pages Wharf Rd suffered significant damage during the last two floods. The road has been rebuilt and now opened to the public. I am glad to see this repair complete and thank council staff and contractors for their efforts and the residents for their patience and understanding. Council contractors are either rectifying or preparing to rectify other damaged areas, including River Rd in many sections and Chapel Hill Rd.

In late October, Council approved our biggest road maintenance and renewals budget. The road asset budget has been increased by \$2.4m to assist in rectifying potholes and patching on the Shire's road network. \$750,000 of this is allocated to the reconstruction of Halcrows Rd in Glenorie on top of the existing budget and \$464,000 for Pitt Town Rd in Kenthurst. The NSW Government recently announced a regional road repair fund for regional councils to access to assist with pothole repairs. Council recently unanimously supported a Mayoral Minute calling on the NSW Government to establish a metropolitan fund to assist with pothole repairs. Council was recently successful in obtaining \$15.5 Million dollars in grant funding through the West Invest program. \$15M for a new multi purpose indoor sports centre and recreational complex at the former Horseworld site in Maraylya, and \$500,000 for flood warning systems.

In October I had the pleasure of attending the official opening of the renewed playground equipment at John Benyon Rotary Park in Kenthurst. Well done to Kenthurst Rotary for this great community project.

If there is anything I can be of assistance with, please send me an email or give me a call. I am here to advocate on your behalf and am more than happy to assist where I can. email clr.blue@thehills.nsw.gov.au

0400 449 324

Until next time. Kind Regards,

Councillor Mitchell Blue

On 14th November I had the pleasure of meeting with Eastbend community group who look after the Maroota Resource Centre. This centre houses many historical documents including the Dharag story of the Maroota area, as well as a large amount of other historical literature and artefacts which are available to the community whenever there is a need. The work being done by the members is admirable and they deserve a huge thanks to the passion and dedication they have to their work.

The highlight of the meeting was finding out that several koala habitats have been identified through work being done by the Eastbend community group in the area and the surrounds. It is great to see that the koalas are still around, particularly as they are so close to extinction. Yellow belly gliders have also been spotted which is incredible for the area. To me this just accentuates the need toprotect our environment, especially in our Northern parts of the Hills Shire. We need to allow this region to remain as it has always been, a semi-rural/rural area so that we and future generations canenjoy.

As an aside for the diary... On Friday, February 17th, 2023, the owners of Riverside Oaks have graciously offered up their venue and staff for a flood relief fundraising event which will take the form of a golf tournament and dinner. If you are not a golfer, no problems, you can just attend the dinner. As we all know there are many families and businesses along the entire length of the Hawkesbury River including many of our own in North Ward that have been impacted by the 2 major flood events this year. All funds raised will be allocated for distribution to local families and businesses via the Hills/Kellyville Rotary, Hills Community Aid and Wiseman's Ferry Men's Shed. This will be a wonderful event so I encourage you to book so that we can all give a little back to those that have suffered losses during these trying times. To book, there will be a link put up on Hills Shire website under 'what's on' which will take you to a booking page.

Please feel free to contact me if there is anything I can help you with via email at clr.ellis@thehills.nsw.gov.au. or on

0400 552 041

Keep safe over the Xmas period. Councillor Virginia Ellis (North Ward)



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Community Fire Wise

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MAROOTA RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

Our brigade was called to three incidents this month; a structure fire at Central MacDonald, a vehicle fire at South Maroota and a tree down Old Northern Rd, Canoelands. Meanwhile we continue to do training to sharpen our skills in various scenarios including first aid, MVA's and house fires.

It has been a turbulent year this year, dominated mainly by floods. However, many of our neighbouring brigades have had call-outs to fast moving grass fires over the last couple of weeks. There is still a real risk of bushfires being a threat to our community. Especially as our end of the shires have not seen significant bushfire for more than 20 years. We are a tinder box just waiting to explode, especially with the increased grasses and forest fuels that have grown as a result of the extremely wet weather. It only takes a couple of warm sunny days to see grasses dry enough to be a threat from bushfire.

It is so important to stay on top of your property maintenance and to have your bushfire survival plans in place and practised. For more information on how to prepare you property, visit our website:

www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare.

Residents and land managers across all of NSW now need to obtain a fire permit for the purpose of hazard reduction and pile burning and notify fire authorities and neighbours 24 hours before lighting up. Remember, safe burning is your responsibility. (www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/safeburning).

Do you know the new Fire Danger Ratings?

On days when it's raining, you'll see the white 'No Rating' message displayed on signs, websites and apps. When the risk increases, you'll see Moderate, High, Extreme or Catastrophic used. The new FDR system is more accurate than ever and is the same throughout Australia, so no matter where you are travelling, you can understand it's messaging. Fire conditions will return, so know the changes. They could save your life.

www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/newfdr.

On behalf of the members and our families of Maroota Brigade, we would like to wish our community a very Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.Robin Hitchcock



SACKVILLE NORTH RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

T he most wonderful time of year is almost upon us, the decorations are being dusted off and the Christmas lights are being unravelled, the tinsel is being put up and inflatable Santas are being blown up all over the town.

We want everyone to rock around their Christmas trees with families and friends, but most importantly the Brigade wants everyone to have a safe Christmas without the RFS showing up and spoiling the Christmas dinner

Over Christmas there are lots of extra fire hazards in the home, summer will be in full swing and lots of jolly celebrating a wonderful time of ear. With the hazards and heat, all Brigades want you to hear only silver bells over the festive period not sirens.

As this is our last post for 2022, our wish for you is to celebrate Christmas, make wonderful memories that will linger in your home, make great friendships that will last a lifetime and may this season filled with peace and joy.

Have a merry Christmas from Sackville North Rural Fire Brigade.

24575 0433

24566 6196

Mob: 20417 216 306

Sth Maroota: 🖀 0414 430 959

Maroota: Capt:

Canoelands:

Karen Karberis

W/Ferry: \$\frac{4}{2}4566 4244 \$\frac{4}{2}45666 4244 \$\frac{4}{2}4566 4244 \$\frac{4}{2}4566 4244 \$\frac{4}{2}4566 4244 \$\frac{4}{2}4566 4244 \$\frac{4}{2}4566 4244 \$\frac{4}{2}

MAROOTA SOUTH RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

Christmas will soon be here again, Santa will be on the truck again (WE HOPE). The last couple of years have been a challenge to organise, but we will try again. Santa comes on the Maroota South truck on Christmas eve. There will be messages on our Facebook page and a letterbox drop.

In the last month a number of our officers did a course to allow them to issue fire safety permits to the residents in the community. There are some changes in the requirements that residents will need to be able to demonstrate they can achieve, or there will be no permit issued. Lighting a fire in the bush fire danger period has significant penalties. Disobeying the permit requirements carry the same penalties. Some (but not all) of the requirements to get a permit are --- Council approval is now required through Hills council area. Piles can only be 2x2x1.5 meters of naturally fallen materials that are generated from your property (cannot be moved to there). A permit can only be booked through district office during office hours -9658 9000, then allow us a week to get to your property. There must be pressurised water to the fire site. The biggy that might be hard for some is to notify all neighbours that the smoke can affect or see. This includes National Parks, council, state forest and the other side of a water course. Our volunteer officers will need about three hours of time to assess and issue, then advise district office of the permit number and details. Then, if the weather changes, the permit will be suspended. We suggest leaving any burning till next April 1st to Sept 30th, then, you have a lot less restrictions.

The brigade is in the process of using the fire mapper app to map fires. This has being funded by monies raised from the community already. We have app licence fees, sim cards and 2 new iPads. There will be ongoing fees of about \$800 a year to keep the ability ongoing. We see the programme as a great tool. Go online and have a look what it can do.

With the ongoing emergencies throughout the state, just a final reminder, please take seriously any emergency warnings received on your phone, and stay safe. If there is extreme weather at night leave your mobile on, so you get any alerts.

....Garry Chatman

WISEMANS FERRY RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

This month has been a relatively quiet one with the team attending a structure fire in Wrights Creek. Some team members have also attended training and information days.

The Christmas season is upon us so 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. Keep an eye on the fire ratings prior to conducting a pile burn because in the event of a "High, Extreme or Catastrophic" rating, all pile permits will be suspended, for example on windy days.

After all the recent rain most people would be surprised to learn that our potential fire risk can be high at this time. This is due to the fact that undergrowth has increased leaving high levels of fuel on the ground. It will only take a few days of high temperatures to dry out providing high risks of fire. Combined with the seasonal storm season it's imperative to ensure you maintain asset protection zones around your homes and sheds, making sure overhanging branches are removed from rooflines, gutters are cleared and after any storm make sure you check your property for any lightning strikes that can start spot fires.

Finally, have a safe and happy Christmas and New Year from the team at Wisemans Ferry RFSMargaret Cavanagh

Hawk Fire Cont: \$\mathbb{A}4575 1601 Hornsby/Ku-ring-gai Fire Control: \$\mathbb{P}9883 2000

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CONTACT

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Galston CWA News



ur Spring Fashion Parade was held at The Galston Club in October. Thanks to Donna Lou Fashions, and the many members and friends who came along. Special thanks to

the staff at the club, the local businesses who donated Raffle Prizes, and our Supermodels - Ann, Patricia and Robin.

Later in October we participated in a wonderful Market Day at Rowland Village where we sold handmade items.

Our Branch Cookery Judging was held. Those who were awarded 1st or 2nd places will be judged in 2023 at Nepean Group, and those winners will enter the State judging in May 2023 at Bathurst.

At our November meeting we were pleased to receive some donated fabrics, and our members who are keen on sewing are planning to make some into aprons.

We meet at the Galston Community and Health Centre, cnr The Glade and 17 Arcadia Rd, Galston. Visitors are very welcome to attend. We usually meet on the 2^{nd} and 4^{th} Wednesdays of each month at 10am for a cuppa, followed by our business meeting, or craft or special activities.

Our December meeting will be a special Christmas lunch to be held at the Vintage Pantry on Wednesday 14th December. We then have a holiday break until Wednesday 8th February.

The Country Women's Association is the largest women's organization in Australia. Funds raised support the welfare of women, children and communities.

We are always happy to receive yarn and fabrics for charity sewing and knitting.

More details from Jann -

0439 222 217 or Patricia -0412 948 787



If we shouldn't eat at night, why do they put a light in the fridge?





Wisemans Ferry Memorial Hall Trust (WFMHT) TRUSTEES REPORT TO COMMUNITY June 2022. The Trustees of the Wisemans' Ferry Hall Trust are: Adrian Jackson, Mary Howard GAICD, Peter Bice and Paul McKinley. **Introduction:** To new and long term residents, this notice is to remind you of what the WFMHT is.

It is an investment of Funds that have accumulated as a result of the acquisition of the original Memorial Hall and land by the NSW Government Education Department. The Wisemans Ferry Hall and land, was located where one of the newer school buildings now stands, the hall was parallel to the original school rooms on the Webb's Creek Ferry side between the original school and the School Residence. The Original Trustees were in 1927 Walter F Tuckerman, John Rose, James Walmsley, James R. Hennessy.

A memorial Hall appeal to build a hall to be used as a club room and hall, was held on the 7th August and 23rd September 1926. To control the expenditure of monies a trust was subsequently created. The land was a gift from James Richard Hennessy and was free from encumbrances. After the payment of fees. The trustees had 370 pounds. The survivors of the trustees were required to hold the funds to build the hall, purchase furniture, billiard tables, books and periodicals, newspapers and other articles for perpetuity in the name of Wisemans Ferry Memorial Hall for the benefit of the residents including the letting of the facility.

The trust recently met to review the situation at the Community Centre. It is intended to watch closely the progress of re opening the pre-school/playgroup services under the newly formed Forgotten Valley Family Services Association

On behalf of the Trustees, Mary Howard GAICD Trustee



LOOKING FOR A WAY TO CONTRIBUTE?

We will be running Raffles and an Auction in

Donations of any goods and services for the event would be greatly appreciated and acknowledged through our database on our website and social media.

FOR SPONSORSHIP ENQUIRIES

Please contact: Cody Harper - Director of Golf verside Oaks Golf Reso directorofgolf@riversideoaks.com.au

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- Business logo & acknowledgment on Riverside Oaks website as well as other
- Opportunity to provide giveaways & promotional materials to guests on the day. Approximately 100 attendees
- Acknowledgment on the Riverside Oaks website & social media platforms including a link to your business website

Wisemans Ferry Anglican Church



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

Uniting Church at Leetsvale

Off River Rd, Leetsvale Caravan Park turn-off Please Contact Alan Prosser for more information Ph 4341 7946



Anglican Parish of St Albans

Next service at St Albans is.... First Sunday of the month -

10am St Albans

Blokes' Coffee: Fridays 10am

Women's Coffee: Tuesdays 10am



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



Holy Trinity Catholic Church Spencer

Vigil

2nd Sunday of each month at 4:00 pm For more information Phone 4377 1374 4377 1168

Pitt Town Anglican

Sunday Church Services

8.30am - Traditional Services 10am - Family Services with Kids Church



Midway Christian Centre

Services commencing every last Sunday

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

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

Phone 0428 234 228

ıstralian Photos

suggestion was made that we do a series of the wonderful old photos that we post on our Living Heritage Facebook

These photos are an historical record of the people, towns and cities of our great country. We hope you like them.



Original Caves House 1880 to 1885 pic Henry King



Caves House Jenolan Caves 1887

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MACDONALD VALLEY PUBLIC SCHOOL



nce again, our Stage 3 children were shining beacons of success as they delivered their speeches at the Hawkesbury Public Speaking Competition at Oakville Public School this term.

We were all so impressed by how well they performed and how calm they sounded (even though we know they weren't feeling it!). What I was most touched to see, was how they supported each other. When there were a couple of small hiccups, they surrounded their friends with compassion, care and encouragement. It is these qualities in our children that make them wonderful human beings and make our school a great place to be.

Year 5/6 Small Schools Camp Matilda and Addy had a wonderful time at the Year 5/6 Small Schools Camp! It was such a great opportunity to connect with students in different schools while they learn all about Australia's history, culture, heritage and democracy in our Nation's Capital.

Swimming & Water Safety Program

Our students had a fabulous time at the first of a two day intensive



Learn to Swim program that our school is participating in this

Personal learning for all



We may be a small school on the outskirts of Sydney, but we are still fully supported by the Department of Education. This week we were able to showcase our beautiful school and all the great things we are doing, during a visit on Tuesday from our Principal School Leadership and on Wednesday during a visit from the Director, Educational Leadership.

It makes me very proud to be able to talk about all the experiences we are able to offer the children and to explain how we personalise the learning to fit the individual needs of each child.





We have just acquired a telerobot to enable Ashton to join us remotely in all our lessons. Everyone in the school is committed to meeting the learning needs of all children in the best possible ways, giving our children a strong start in life.

WISEMANS FERRY PUBLIC SCHOOL



More pics from....







Hornsby Celebrates | Seniors



Hornsby Shire Council marked Social Inclusion



Week with a free event celebrating the success of its isolation-busting Hello Hornsby initiative, which has connected with over 1,500 people at 16 events across the Shire and is set to continue in 2023.

Launched in March, Hello Hornsby promoted social inclusion for seniors. The program of free events and activities made a significant impact across the Shire with highlights including boat trips on the Hawkesbury, a comedy show, art therapy, talks and a grandparents' day out.

The initiative is run thanks to a NSW Government 'Reducing Social Isolation for Seniors' grant. Following its success in 2022,

Council has successfully secured a further \$30,000 to present it in 2023.

Feedback from attendees has been overwhelmingly positive. People cited the opportunity to connect, network, relax, talk and try new things as some of the things they enjoyed most.

For some, the events were a real pick-me-up, with one comedy show attendee saying, "I'd been feeling very low, so had to drag myself there. I met a couple I know and after the comedy...felt so much better".

Helen from Galston thanked Council and spoke of her enriching experience. For more information about Hello Hornsby visit https:// www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/

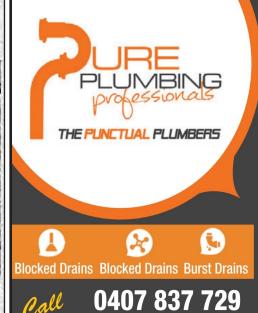
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SCHOOL SNIPPETS

CATTAI PUBLIC SCHOOL



What a solid start to the last term of this year. All the students settled in to their studies and were determined to finish the year the way it started.....lots of learning as well as fun.

The Kindy Transition Program was a great success, allowing our future students the chance to familiarize themselves with the school and many of its procedures. The C1 students were able to be their classroom helpers and the Year 5 students displayed their leadership skills through the Buddy program. It looks like next year will start smoothly with all support systems already in place.

Finally, the senior class was able to go on the yearly Camp! This year the experience was held in Canberra and the students had the chance to explore our political history via the Old Parliament House, Parliament House and Museum of Australian Democracy. Tours of the War Memorial, Mt Ainslie and the Embassies gave the students a vision of the set-out of the city. The National Gallery gave the students a chance to see some excellent pieces of art and sculpture, Questacon was a great way to learn about various Science topics as was the National Dinosaur Museum, and the Australian National Museum gave an overview of all things Australian. So much to learn!! The students had a fabulous time and should be congratulated on their excellent behaviour.

The Parent Assembly again showcased all the wonderful work attained by the students. Hosted by C1, students again received awards for hard work and perseverance. The C1 students displayed their art work, C2 performed the actions to the Duck and the Lemonade Stand song while C3 read out their scary stories based on concepts seen on reality TV. It was wonderful to see the students showing pride in their work and achievements.

A Remembrance Day Ceremony was held with the children showing respect and reverence for the event. Poppies made by the children were laid around the flagpole. The actions of the students were heart-warming, making the event that extra bit more special.

Our Stage 2 and 3 students attended a Basketball Gala Day. We managed to form 4 teams and they all played their hearts out, making the attending staff and parents super proud. For many students this was their first basketball game ever!! The children should all be pleased with their

results and super-proud of their efforts.

We now have an on-site OOSH!!! Although there are not many children using the facility at the moment, it is a wonderful addition to our school. Programs have been made specifically for our site, the new kitchen is wonderful and the facilitators are keen and eager to make the children's after-school time fun and safe. They even have a School Holiday Program. It is wonderful to see this new venture as an extension of our school-day.

The rest of the term looks to be very busy. Stay tuned for more adventures of the "Cattai Kids".







WISEMANS FERRY PUBLIC SCHOOL



Term four is well and truly underway and as usual we are extremely busy. There is lots of exciting learning taking place in our classrooms and it was lovely to hear the students in 3/4/5/6 proudly share with us the work that has been taking place inside their classroom at our school assembly.

Kindergarten Transition

This term we are hosting five kindergarten transition days. We are very excited to welcome eight new kindergarten students and one new year one student and their families. The children enjoyed their time in their new classroom where they listened to stories, completed craft activities, science activities, fine motor work, science activities, construction tasks and handwriting. The students met their buddies – our year 4 students – Jackson B., Jackson D., Tenayah, Kane, Jacob

and Mitchell. The buddies were very excited to assist with transition activities and are looking forward to ensuring our 2023 Kindergarten students have a smooth start to the school year.

Paddock to Plate

K/1/2 have quite the green thumb. Last term, they planted seeds in our vegetable gardens and tenderly looked after the gardens by watering and weeding which has led to amazing results. We have an abundant supply of lettuce and herbs, our tomatoes are growing, as well as, kale, corn, pumpkin and beans.

In the beginning, our garden had to contend with the brush turkey who thought the vegetable seeds were delicious. With the help of Mr Dale and family, who constructed a netting structure which helps keep out the brush turkey, our garden is now flourishing. The students in K/1/2 are enjoying picking the produce and tasting vegetables that they have not tasted before. They have also enjoyed using our chicken eggs in their cooking lessons. With the assistance of Mrs Clarke they enjoyed some scrumptious scrambled eggs.

NSW PSSA State Athletics Championships

On the 20th of November, the Nigel Bagley relay team comprising of Jackson D., Tyler, Kamali and Khloe headed off to Homebush to compete at the NSW PSSA State Athletics Championships. There were lots of nerves and excitement as they waited to run on the big track. Our team placed 3rd in their heat which ensured they landed a place in the semi-finals. The students were out fast in their semifinal and placed 6th, narrowly missing out on a spot in the final. Overall, the students finished 11th out of a field of 29 teams, we are extremely proud of their efforts. Well done Jackson D., Tyler, Kamali and Khloe on this amazing achievement.

MMWaC Academic Challenge
It was lovely to be able to catchup with our MMWaC friends at
the end of last term for the academic challenge. Grace, Patrick,
Jackson B., Matilda, Kendall,
Kane, Tori, Jackson D., Leah and
Amber headed off to Cattai to
compete in either a spelling or
maths challenge. The competition
was fierce and friendly and all of
our competitors did a fantastic job.
I would like to congratulate the
following students who were runners-up on the day.

Stage 3 Canberra Camp

Earlier this term, our stage 3 students headed to Canberra and to say we were a tad excited after a three-year COVID camp drought is an understatement. We had an

action packed three days visiting places like Old Parliament House (Museum of Australian Democracy and the National Electoral Commission); National Museum of Australia; Australian Institute of Sport; Australian War Memorial; National Gallery of Australia; Questacon; National Dinosaur Museum and Parliament House. Many of our student braved the free -fall drop experience at Questacon and enjoyed it so much they kept going back for more. On our visit to Parliament House, we were greeted by the member for Macquarie -Susan Templeman who spoke with the students about her role as a Federal member and what she does when in Canberra. The students were very reflective on their experience at camp and the highlights of their time in Canberra were the Australian War Memorial, Questacon and the National Dinosaur Museum.

I was extremely proud to accompany this wonderful group of students to camp and I must say that their behaviour was outstanding and their level of engagement at each of the activities was commendable. Well done, Stage 3.











...more pics on page 15

Solution to puzzle on page 19 uoou...

IN THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY
WITH THE COMMUNITY AT HEART

Community Carols Night.

Enjoy an evening with good óle fashion Carol singing with the Hawkesbury Concert Band led by

Jessica Dickinson and Tom Carter.

Date: Friday 2nd December, 2022

at

Maroota Public School 4540 Old Northern Rd, Maroota 7pm - 9pm

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



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

For further information contact: Pastor Peter Goldstien 0428 234 228

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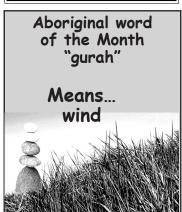
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Kids M Each of the words running Corner downwards in the grid below has lost its first letter. When you write them in, the correct first letters will spell a nine-letter word beginning with A.



91 9gnq NOITU102.....

BIRTHDAY CLUB

BIRTHDAY CLUB December 2022. 1st - Olivia Lawson will be 16 3rd - Korah Montgomery will be 16 6th - Ella Rae will be 10 11th - Charlotte Galea will be 13 14th - Tiffany Mills will be 13 18th - Meikah Bartlett will be 16 20th - Alexandra Nikolic will be 16 21st - Matilda Higson will be 13 24th - Gracey-Leigh Grogan will be 11 28th - Mathew Simpson will be 15 30th - Kiarney Wade will be 13 31st - Eowyn Ransley will be 13 THEPPY BIRTHDAY KIDS! (16 & under) Would you like your birthday listed here? Call 0407 949899 and leave your details......











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