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Maroota and Districts News

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VOLUME 26, ISSUE 8

CIRCULATION 2000

AUGUST 2023

What's On

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

30th July-20th Sept
Hawkesbury City Eisteddfod
Function Centre Windsor
Info:
hawkesburyeisteddfod@gmail.com

2nd Aug - Wed
Free Garden Party
Branch Library Richmond
Info: 4568 4444

6th Aug - Sun
Hawkesbury Fest
Gov Phillip Park Windsor see pg 6
Info: 4560 4444

12th Aug - Sat
Mozart and More Free Concert
Sandstone church St Albans see pg 3
Info: 0438 682 135

20th Aug - Sun
Maroota Muster
School grounds Maroota
Info: 0435 642 504

26th Aug - Sat
Gem and Crystal Expo
Function Centre Windsor
Info: 0412 333 150



Put these in your diary!



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The Varroa Mite Is Here

By.....
Pat
Schwartz

For the past 50 years the varroa mite has spread around the world wreaking havoc amongst western honey bee populations.

Originally varroa mites were found in the eastern honey bee population of Asia. However, western honey bees which are used predominantly for bee keeping were introduced to Asia in the late nineteenth or early twentieth centuries. The eastern and western honey bees are closely related, thus the mite was able to transfer to the western honey bee at that time.

The varroa mites carry viruses deadly to honey bees and this is what has caused the collapse of honey bee populations around the world.

Sadly, the varroa mite has now come to Australia which was one of the few places in the world to be mite free and, unfortunately it is in our region.

It was first discovered in hives at Newcastle on 22 June 2022.

Since then it has been found in an increasing number of honey bee populations in NSW and the department of Primary Industries is trying to isolate and eradicate the outbreak.

Eradication will only happen with everyone co-operating but sadly this is devastating for bee keepers who suffer the loss of their hives in affected areas. Also eradication is made difficult because there is a large feral western honey bee population in Australia which is uncontrolled.

In the past it was considered that the varroa mite fed on bee's blood however new research from America indicates that the mites, in feeding themselves, release large amounts of saliva into the bee's liver, which liquifies it and destroys parts of it. Apparently they can survive falls into shallow fluid by using snorkel like appendages which allow them to breath and they also can go long periods without breathing, so have an advantage in surviving fumigation. The State's biggest biosecurity reaction has been instigated by The Department of Primary Industries, this involves locking down beekeepers, stopping interstate trade and burning thousands of hives.

In NSW there are 3 emergency zones in place. These are the red zone which mandates a 10km eradication, the purple zone which is a surveillance zone and a blue zone which is a general emergency zone covering the rest of NSW.

For the latest information on the spread and control measures for the varroa mite call NSW Department of Primary Industries hotline on **1800 084 881**.

According to the Australian National University there is little concern that the varroa mite will move to native bees. However there is concern that the viruses they carry could infect native bees and insects because in other places in the world bee viruses have been found in insect populations.

At this stage eradication of the mite is the goal, only the future will reveal if this is possible.



Varroa destructor in dorsal (top) and ventral (lower view)



INSIDE...Eco News/Editors Notes/Quote pg 2, Hawkesbury Eisteddfod/Mozart Concerts/Ben's Poem pg 3, Men's Shed/Big win for farms pg 4, Vella Iverson pg 5, Hawkesbury Fest/Julian Leaser pg 6, Noticeboard/Tasmania Part 3 pg 7, Hornsby Council News/Pastors Desk pg 8, What Changed on July 1/Rainfall/RFS pg 9, Hills Shire News/St Albans Markets/ pg10, North Ward News/Recipe Corner pg11, Firewise pg 12, Galston CWA/Galston Guides pg13, Windsor Family Dental pg14, Church Services/Old Australian Photos pg 15 School Snippets pg16, School Snippets/Have your say on new Pump Tracks pg 17, Village Directory pg 18, Birthdays/Kids/Robyn Preston MP pg 19,Vella/Iverson pg 20.

ECO-NEWS



With Liz Wilkinson



When I go outside at the moment I have to take great care that I don't stand on the tiny fungi that are popping up everywhere in my grass.

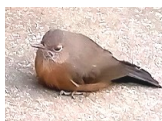
As I drove to Windsor via Pit Town I spotted several piles of very large golden fungi not far from the bush fire brigade, so I just had to stop to get a photo.

Unfortunately I have not been able to identify them but they were very interesting.



The other day I was surprised to see the Black Pacific Duck who used to visit (with a mate) wandering into my courtyard as if he'd never been away - I haven't seen him at all this year. I went out to feed him and now he comes each morning. I always put water out as well as the ducks like to drink and eat together.

We've had two lots of bird visitors inside the house lately. A little Rock Warbler came in as my husband opened the door, thinking he'd shooed it outside, he closed the door again only to find the bird on the inside of the flyscreen which was easily solved by sliding it down. About a week later, my husband left the door opened when he went back inside for something he'd forgotten - he was startled to see both the Rock Warbler and Jackie Winter flying in our hallway. He yelled for me to come and help. Jackie was no problem, I simply opened the balcony door and he flew towards me and off outside. The Rock Warbler was tricky and couldn't be caught or shooed out, so we dropped a tea towel over him and gently picked him up and took him out to the front porch where he came in. Alas when we put him down he was in shock, so I sat down nearby and spoke quietly to him and after about 15 minutes he moved further away, then flew off. He



still hangs around on the front porch and the veranda when we are out there, so his fright hasn't had any lasting effects.

My son bought a Vanda coerulea orchid some thirty or so years ago, and it has been languishing in my shade house ever since without blooming then hey presto, a few weeks ago out comes a bud that took weeks to fully open. What a thrill to see it at last!!! It is native to China, Burma and Thailand. It was purple with blue around the edges and a deep purple labellum.



This year the whales going north have been swimming much closer to the shore than past years. I wonder what makes them change their regular pattern? For the first time, my daughter has been enthralled with the whales swimming by from onshore (she usually has one trip per season on a whale watching boat) and spends her spare time viewing them from a cliff top at Copacabana where they come in very close. We planned to go up with her to watch but our plans went awry.

Helen our Wildlife Carer, has an Eastern Grey Kangaroo in her care at the moment. He came along to a working bee on Monday. What a dear little fellow and how sad to lose his mother at such a young



age. What a blessing the carers are for these poor creatures. Thank you Helen, the animal world needs lots more people with big hearts like you.

Quote!

Diplomacy is the art of telling people to go to hell in such a way that they ask for directions

Winston Churchill

Living Heritage News

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

Copy Deadline: 15th month

Editor's Notes

Is there a new road rule now that says you can cross double lines at any time? Coming home yesterday, I had a bike with a pillion passenger, roar past me over double lines, nearly having a "head on". To make matters worse, it was coming up to a blind corner. I had just got over that shock, when another one in the same circumstances did the exact same thing. To top it off, just as I was turning left into my street, two more bikes travelling at high speed, overtook me and two other cars, onto the wrong side of the road. Talk about nerve wracking !!

While I'm on a roll, what has happened to allow FB to flood your page with dozens of adverts for things you would never ask for? I spent a good hour or more deleting these annoying ads, and when I came back after a break, there

were dozens more to delete. I am also getting many emails and phone calls, with scams. It seems to have ramped up recently and it's really annoying. Hurts my head....

Make sure you try Liz's Honey Nut Crunch recipe, it's very delicious. We were lucky to have tried option 3 at our recent meeting, and there was none left.

The mornings and evenings are still icy but the days have been lovely. We do need rain now because I see paddocks of dead grass everywhere, and that's dangerous for next season. A sprinkling of rain today, but not nearly enough.

Check out the local RFS's warnings about our coming fire season on page 12.

While we have this lovely weather, get out and about to the events described in this issue and top up your vitamin D.

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

The origin of the expression, **Piss Poor...**

Did you know?
With John

They used to use urine to tan animal skins, so families used to all pee in a pot and then once a day it was taken and sold to the tannery.....if you had to do this to survive you were "Piss Poor"

But worse than that were the really poor folk who couldn't even afford to buy a potthey "didn't have a pot to piss in" and were the lowest of the flow.

HAVEN'T GOT A POT TO PISS IN?

A Rare George II Chamber pot made for the Earl of Warrington \$125,000



WIFE KNOWS OTHERWISE?

Hawkesbury City Eisteddfod



The Hawkesbury City Eisteddfod was founded 68 years ago and has grown in mass proportions as approximately 7000 performers aged from five to ninety nine years participate.

From July to September the Hawkesbury City Eisteddfod conducts an eisteddfod with 2023 being the 71st Annual festival. Each year across the stage gaining confidence and experience in a friendly atmosphere and taking home a written critique from an expert in the field.

The categories include Vocal, Pianoforte, Instrumental, Speech, Dance, Dance Troupes, and School events. School events are well supported by Bands/Ensembles, Dance groups, Choral, and Verse Speaking choirs.

The venue is the Windsor Function Centre

We are grateful to the many sponsors, in particular the Hawkesbury City Council who generously support the eisteddfod by providing the venue.

The 2023 program commences on 30th July with Dance Solos, and draws to a close on Sept 20th with Speech Solos.



Mozart and More ...2023

This activity is supported by Nepean Blue Mountains Primary Health Network (NBMPHN), as part of the Australian Government's response to the 2022 floods. Wentworth Healthcare is the provider of NBMPHN

Mozart and More is part of **Music at St Albans** - a series of free concerts for the community to be held at the historic sandstone church of St Alban the Martyr, Wharf Street, St Albans, NSW—join the musicians for nibbles and drinks after ...

Saturday August 12, 4pm : Interesting Lives

Music by classical composers who were extraordinary or unusual people.

Saturday September 9, 4 pm : History of the Organ

John Vallance takes us on a history of this remarkable instrument.

Saturday October 14, 4 pm: Women composers at last!

From the Baroque period to the Present

Join the musicians in the Church Hall after each concert in the Church for nibbles and a drink — kindly donated by the Settlers Arms Inn.

Artistic Director: Justin White

Organiser: Kaye Remington

facilitated by...



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Silent Secrets

By...Ben Anderson

Tall and spindly trees that lean,
Enveloped in clouds of yellow-green.
Twisting branches and pale bark,
Friends in the day, foes in the dark.

Their shadows dance upon the ground,
Whispering secrets without a sound.
In daylight's embrace, a tranquil scene,
But as twilight descends, a different scheme.

The gentle rustle becomes a sigh,
As night unveils its starry sky.
Eerie whispers brush against the ear,
As darkness whispers secrets we fear.

Once friends in the light's warm glow,
Now twisted figures, a hidden tableau.
Their branches writhe, like ghostly hands,
And the pale bark hides enchanted lands.



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Yoga with a View

**Monday Classes - Wiseman's Ferry
Community Centre**

General class 10.00 -11.30 am \$20

Chair yoga 12.30 - \$12

5

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Wisemans Ferry Mens Shed

Another community member has come to our attention needing assistance and we call upon a sponsor to help in supplying the necessary funds or material to rectify the situation.

A man, 81 years of age, living on his own in Gunderman, with a metal rod in his leg, has to negotiate a steep climb from the roadway to his front door. A distance of approximately 30 meters. We need a quantity of steel pipe, including posts, which we can weld to shape and bend with our pipe-bender. A few bags of quick-set cement should complete the job.

We have carried out similar projects in the last 3 years and we are always on the look-out for people who are doing it tough and need our assistance.

We also have still a large quantity of tools and equipment damaged by the recent floods which we are selling off at large discounts, at the Men's Shed or at the Maroota Muster in August 2023. A lot of machine tools are included in our clearout.

Call in on a Tuesday or Saturday if you are interested.

We are currently ordering the exercise portals for the walking track, and we are very excited about this addition to the other health aids being installed by Hills Council. Frisby Golf is also on our agenda as an area has been set aside for this pastime.

For any information call our President Adrian Acheson
0448 833 781



A Big Win For Pick-Your-Own Farms

The NSW Premier, Chris Minns, has announced his intention to scrap proposed restrictions on the number of people allowed to visit NSW farms at any one time. This announcement comes after a community campaign opposing the changes.

Under the proposed changes, the number of visitors to farm gate shops would have been capped to 100 at any one time. The number of visitors who could attend a farm experience - such as a wedding - would have been capped at 50. Farms would need special development approval to exceed those limits.

The local area is home to several long-running and highly popular pick-your-own fruit farms. Those farms include Watkins Family Farm and Fords Farm in Loughtondale, Canoelands Orchard in Canoelands, and Anderson Farm in Sackville North.

Nicky Alexander has been opening Ford's Farm to visitors for 21 years. "We're grateful that the State government is listening to the concerns that farm owners have raised, so that our businesses can remain viable and visitors can continue to enjoy the experience," Alexander said.

Just a few kilometres further along the Hawkesbury River, the Watkins family have operated Watkins Family Farm since 1867. Mark Watkins is the 7th generation of his family to farm their land.

Mr Watkins said "We're still waiting for a further meeting to discuss how these restrictions will be wound back. It's crucial that these restrictions are lifted."

The overwhelming feedback from these pick-your-own farmers was that this policy would have made their family businesses financially unviable, and left the fruit to rot on trees rather than being picked by visitors.

Julian Leaser MP, Federal Member for Berowra, strongly opposed the proposed changes.

"I will always fight for my constituents against unfair regulations," Mr Leaser said.

"I want our kids in Sydney to know that fruit and vegies come from farms and not the supermarket. We should be encouraging these farms rather than weighing them down with unwanted and unneeded red-tape."

"If you haven't already done so recently, I would encourage you to visit Watkins Family Farm, Fords Farm, Canoelands Orchard, or any other local pick-your-own farms."



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Beyond The Fence

Home Ownership through the Generations

Interest rates over the past 12 months have been a hot topic for Beyond the Fence and they still continue to find its way into this month's commentary. I was recently talking with a group of multi-generational friends about their view of home ownership particularly in such a rapidly changing real estate and economic environment. As a Gen Xer raised in the burbs it was not uncommon for my generation to follow in the footsteps of our Baby Boomer parents of aspiring to purchase our own home.

Interestingly, what was clear was that the great dream to own a home was no longer a priority amongst social millennials, instead seeking out experiences such as travel and choosing to rent in locations close to work and social venues. I dug a little deeper and jumped on to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) to see if this was the pattern.

According to the ABS Census 2021, 55 per cent of Millennials, 25-39 year old's, are

homeowners compared with 62 per cent of Generation X and two thirds (66 per cent) of Baby Boomers when they were the same age. Analysis of Census data from 1991, 2006 and 2021 showed that home ownership, including homes owned outright or with a mortgage, for those aged between 25-39 years has decreased in each successive generation.

I quizzed my social Millennials a little further as to why this was the case and most cited the cost of entry and ongoing repayments was too significant to warrant the benefits of long term home ownership particularly in the urban centres close to Sydney. The ability to save a significant deposit and the repayments on the level of debt now required for a modest home was making ownership unappealing.

Many of us Gen Xers and Baby Boomers will remember interest rates hitting a peak of 17% in the late 80's so why are mortgage holders feeling the impacts of interest

rates of 5%-6%? In 1990 income to median house price was around 3.3 meaning that the average home was roughly 3.3 times the average household income. In 2023 the Demographic International Housing Affordability Report placed the Sydney's median house price at 13.1 times the average income in the third quarter of 2022. You add to this the percentage of income required to service the debt and the average time to save a 20% deposit it does seem rather daunting.

Home ownership is still one of the most rewarding experiences. Affordable homes close to Sydney are still available. We have sold many affordable homes to young buyers not only to call home but also as great investment properties. Let's hope the great Australian dream continues for generations to come.

Article By Trent Iverson

VELLA IVERSON



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Hawkesbury Fest is back for 2023 –

Save the Date!

The countdown is on to Hawkesbury Fest when we celebrate Local Government week! It is a free and fun-filled annual community event at Governor Phillip Park, Windsor on Sunday, 6 August from 10am to 3pm.

Bring your family and friends to the Hawkesbury riverside to see the exciting demonstration by RUFF TRACK sponsored by AJ Bush and Sons. Enjoy free amusement rides, community group and market stalls, kids' activities, and free face painting.

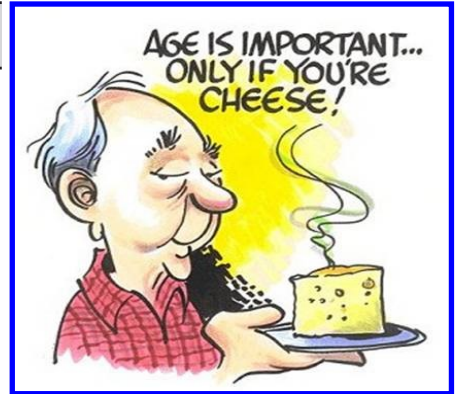
The event is all about showcasing local community groups, businesses and what Council does for the Hawkesbury community.

Stallholders, apply now to be a part of this fantastic event. Please note, this event will only accept applications from local businesses, local community groups and local performers. Forms for Market Stalls, Community Stalls, BBQ Stalls, Food and Beverage Vendors, and Live Entertainment are available at www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/resources/events/hcc/council/hawkesbury-fest-2023

Submitting an application as a vendor or performer does not guarantee your attendance at the event. Successful applicants will



hear from Council's Events Team after the closing date. Hawkesbury City Council has small business sponsor packages available for \$500 for Hawkesbury Fest. Email events@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au for details.





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-  **Attend your local community event**
-  **Arrange congratulatory messages**

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



Advertise your event, notice or sale on our Noticeboard

The Sunshine Group

Feel like a sweet treat! Wednesdays between 10am & 1pm we will be selling slices & cakes from the Sunshine Club. We will have assorted slices such as Biscoff Cheese cake slice, Peppermint slice, Fruit & nut slice & Caramel slice.

These can also be made to order, with prices starting from \$10.

On Friday the 16th of July the Wisemans Ferry Sunshine Group visited the Carden Valley Inn. We would like to thank the Seniors at the Wisemans Ferry Bowling Club for a great day, we had a wonderful time.



from Judy Davis and Tracey Davis-Thorne
Judy 4566 4677

Wisemans Ferry Seniors

We have moved our starting time for Monday Bingo back to 10 o'clock which suits our members better. There is a lot of fun and laughter on these Monday mornings and all visitors and new members are most welcome to join us.

The last couple of weeks have been very busy for us, we had our trip to the Riverside Cafe at Colo, the weather was perfect for the drive and the hospitality and the meal at the cafe were excellent. Not forgetting our stop at Wilberforce for coffee and cake on the way home.

This outing was followed by our Christmas in July outing at the Camden Valley Inn which was another huge success and a good time was had by all who. The Inn has been put on our list for a return visit as all were impressed with the venue.

We have not settled as yet what our August trip will be but I am sure it will be the usual success. There are plans for a trip to Bowral for the Tulip festival in September but as yet the plans are not finalised.

New members and visitors are always welcome to join us on our bus trips and for our Monday morning meetings.



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



Your local registered
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Helen Coy

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Free Legal Advice

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

45 664 911



Richmond/Windsor View Club

Meets every second Wednesday of the month at The Richmond Club.

VIEW (voice, interest and education of woman) supports the Smith Family and Learning for Life.

Contact:

Trish Carter **0417 010 619**

Travelling Around Tasmania....Part Three

By Liz Wilkinson

After our train trip in Queenstown we backtrack our journey to Cradle Mountains where our cabins were set in rainforest, with trees outside every window. (a comment on Tasmanian catering, they must think we are starving, in NSW - all meals so far have been double what you can eat!!)

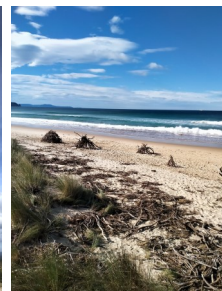
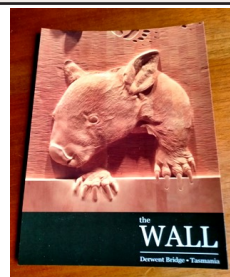
Next morning we set off for the service centre to get our park passes, to allow us to visit Cradle Mountains. You are no longer allowed to drive right in, but must take the shuttle buses to the beginning of any walk. When we visited last time, you could drive right in, BUT that was 25 years ago when we walked around Dove Lake - now with old bones and poor weather, we only managed a few short walks but we still managed to see a wombat and a paddy melon.

And so next day we travel to the civilized but more historic part of Tasmania - I have loved the wilderness area - it's my comfort and wonder zone! We set off for Hobart, but with more to see along the way - through Queenstown following the Lyell Highway, then on to Derwent Bridge. Just passed here, we came to the most stunning sight of the whole trip - The Wall in the Wilderness. It is made up of a large number of carved, hand sculpted timber panels, one metre wide and three metres high, that capture the history and natural beauty of the Southern Highlands. We spent quite a long time gazing in awe at this spectacular work, and only reluctantly continued on our way. Unfortunately photography is banned.

Food to buy between Queenstown and Hobart outskirts was very scarce, as many places were closed down. The countryside was quite dry, with lots of rolling grassy hills with sheep and cattle. We passed through Hamilton and New Norfolk and on to Rosetta, where we were to stay for three nights - it's a suburb of Hobart just up the road from the Mona Museum - not my cup of tea!!!

Friday was a ferry trip to Bruny Island, full of amazing natural scenery and lots of places to buy specialty food - of course we had to visit the chocolate and cheese shops! as well as the quarantine centre. Bruny is really two islands joined at Isthmus Bay, which had an interesting beach. Neck beach! Right down the bottom of Bruny Island is a light house at Cape Bruny.

After an interesting drive through Cygnet, along the Huon River and through Huonville, one of the main apple areas, we visited craft shops on the way. Back to our motel and a visit to the local club for dinner, then back to the motel to recharge our batteries ready for more sight-seeing the next day.



Latest News



As we continue to move through the cooler months, I wanted to highlight some of the wonderful winter experiences we have on offer here in the Shire. Despite the chill still in the air, there are plenty of reasons to get out and about in the community.

I encourage you to get outside and enjoy our beautiful and unique environment. Discover the beauty of the Bushland Shire, with its diverse range of flora and fauna, by heading out on one of the many bushwalks available. Or take the family to one of Council's upgraded parks, playgrounds or ovals, with a range of equipment and facilities for people of all ages to enjoy.

You could take your beloved four-legged friend to an off-leash dog park to enjoy the winter sunshine or organise a coffee catch-up with friends at a local café. Or learn to swim in the heated pool at Hornsby Aquatic and Leisure Centre.

If you are looking for a more relaxing option, why not catch up on some reading? Winter is always a great time to get cosy with a new read, so head to one of our Council libraries to borrow a book. Berowra Library has just unveiled a new 24/7 book locker, with the click and collect system now open for members to collect items at any time, day or night.

Meanwhile, we celebrate Local Government Week 2023 from Monday 31 July to Sunday 6 August across NSW. This is a time when we recognise the invaluable role that local government plays in our community.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the many committed Council staff who serve the area, working tirelessly to improve the life of our residents and make Hornsby Shire the special place that it is.

Philip Ruddock AO,
Mayor, Hornsby Shire Council

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING WEDNESDAY 9 AUGUST, 6.30 PM

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

**EASTBEND MEETINGS
2023**

**AUGUST
Monday 14th**

**NOVEMBER (AGM)
Monday 13th**



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FROM THE PASTORS DESK

*Your Vision.....You Must
Follow It*



"Write the Vision and Make it Plain" (Hab: 2.2)

Five times in **Genesis Chapter 39**, we read that the Lord *'was with'* Joseph.

Be encouraged: God is at work in what you're going through right now. Where did Joseph get the wisdom to lead a nation? By dealing with his own family problems, by handling Potiphar's household staff, and by running a prison system.

Like rungs on a ladder, each one took him closer to the top. Notice how it worked: his brothers sold him to Ishmaelite slave traders, who sold him to Potiphar, who put him in prison where he met the butler, who introduced him to Pharaoh, who made him Prime Minister of Egypt, fulfilling his dream. Was it easy? No, until the time came,..... *"the word of the Lord tested him"* (Ps:105:19).

Your vision will be *"tried"* by situations that either make or break you. The birth of the vision must be followed by its death and then its resurrection. When you've no funds, no friends, and no fight left in you (*the death stage*), remember the words of Jesus.... *"unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies (to self), it produces much grain"* (John 12:24).

When your vision dies God resurrects it, you begin to talk and act differently. With ego subtracted and grace added, you start saying with the Psalmist. *"I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living"* (Ps 27:13). At that point God smiles and says, *"You're finally getting it right!"*

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

LIVING HERITAGE FOLDING DAYS

Sept.....Aug.....Mon.....28th
Oct.....Sept.....Mon.....25th
Nov.....Oct.....Mon.....23rd
Dec.....Mon.....Nov.....27th
Jan/Feb.....Mon.....Jan.. 8th

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email:

petergoldstien12@gmail.com



Mob: 0428 234 228

What changed on 1 July 2023

Employers & business

- Superannuation guarantee increases to 11% from 10.5% National and Award minimum wage increases take effect.
 - The minimum salary that must be paid to a sponsored employee - the Temporary Skilled Migration Income Threshold - increased to \$70,000 from \$53,900.
 - Work restrictions for student visa holders reintroduced to 48 hours per fortnight.
 - The cap on claims via the small claims court procedures for workers to recover unpaid work entitlements increases from \$20,000 to \$100,000.
 - Energy Bill Relief Fund for small business kicks in – it will apply to your energy bills if you meet the criteria.
 - Sharing economy reporting to the ATO commences for electronic distribution platforms.
- ### Superannuation
- Superannuation guarantee increases to 11%
 - Indexation increases the general transfer balance cap to \$1.9 million.
 - Minimum pension amounts for super income streams return to default rates.

- SMSF transfer balance event reporting moves from annual to quarterly for all funds.

For you and your family

- The new 67 cent fixed rate method for working from home deductions – make sure you have a record of when you work from home. The ATO won't accept a simple "I work from home every Wednesday" x 8 hours calculation.
- Access to the first home loan guarantee expands to "friends, siblings, and other family members."
- The Medicare low income threshold has increased for 2022-23.
- New parents able to claim up to 20 weeks paid parental leave. Access the age pension increased to 67 years of age.

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

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

Rainfall for

JUN 22nd To JUL19th

- Week 1. nil
- Week 2. 7mm
- Week 3. 2.5mm
- Week 4. 4mm
- Week 5. 2mm

Taken at South Maroota

Bush Philosophy

*In the end, it's
not the years
in your life
that count!*

CHECK YOUR SMOKE ALARMS

ST ALBANS RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

St Albans Station:
4568 2013



Captain: Sherri McMahon
sherrimcmahon4@gmail.com

Senior Deputy Captain:
Ian Sawyer
SAWYERIAN23@gmail.com

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



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4778 Wisemans Ferry Rd,
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welcome.

Captain Alison Wade
T: 1415 668 953

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

Spencer Rural Fire Brigade

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

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Hills Shire News



THE HILLS
Sydney's Garden Shire

Hawkins Lookout is one of the best lookouts in The Hills, and the location has just become even better for Hills families with the construction of a new picnic shelter. The shelter is an excellent addition to the stunning lookout, allowing more people to be able to enjoy this wonderful spot which offers a breathtaking Hawkesbury River view.

Native shrubs and trees surround the shelter, perfect for enjoying a picnic with family and friends. It is also an ideal spot for admiring the beauty of Wisemans Ferry and the river.

The project was made possible by a partnership between the The Hills Shire Council and the Australian Government. Council designed and constructed the shelter, which received \$29,442 of funding under the Australian Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program.

Recently, the Federal Member for Berowra, Julian Leeser MP, and I visited the site, and we purchased food and coffee from local businesses to enjoy at the lookout. This is

one of the most beautiful places to visit in The Hills Shire, and I encourage everyone to pack a picnic and visit this picturesque rest stop. You can also support local businesses by purchasing food from them along the way.

In addition to the lookout, I am happy to announce that Orange Blossom Festival (OBF) is returning this September, with one of our largest programs in years.

The 2023 Orange Blossom Festival is headlined by two events, the OBF Night Markets and the iconic OBF Parade.

The OBF Night Markets will be held at Castle Hill Showground on Saturday 2 September. It's the perfect place to shop up a storm and enjoy some of the best food trucks in town. The kids can also look forward to a special Dorothy the Dinosaur and Friends Kids Show performance.

The famous OBF parade is also returning and will happen at Rouse Hill Town Centre on Saturday 9 September at 11am. Local community groups, sporting clubs,

emergency services and much more will march down Main Street alongside some fantastic floats. Performances from local entertainers, dance schools and Paw Patrol will follow this, along with sustainable garden workshops.

Council has also approved supporting several associated OBF events driven by the community. I highly encourage residents in the rural parts of The Hills to attend the much-loved Kenthurst Fair held at John Benyon Park in Kenthurst from 10am to 3pm on Sunday 10 September. The day will feature a parade, rides, staged entertainment, stalls and more.

I also encourage Living Heritage readers with amazing gardens to enter the Sydney Hills Garden Competition, which will open for entry very soon.

Full details of the Orange Blossom Festival Program can be found on our website: www.orangeblossomfestival.com.au

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

Ride A Mechanical Snowboard!

**How long can you stand?
How well do you bounce?**

Come and find out at our **Sunday August 13 Market**. All rides are FREE! 8years + up to 120kg. Operator Controlled. Inflated side fence and flooring. **One Day Only at St Albans Village Market**

Breakfast and lunch all sorted....

The first 20 coffees are always free to market visitors from 10am.

The local historical society will be manning the gate and St Albans RFS will be cooking up a firestorm on the bbq – **so bring your gold coins with you!**

Make it a family day out!

St Albans is a beautiful family daytrip and weekend destination in the Northern Hawkesbury that attracts visitors from North West Sydney, the lower Blue Mountains and the Central Coast. They come to experience the 4 minute car ferry ride on the Webbs Creek Ferry, a meandering country drive to St Albans alongside the Macdonald River, a fabulous kids park by the river, and of course – the iconic convict built Settlers Arms Inn.



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North Ward News

THE HILLS
 Sydney's Garden Shire

Well, what a difference in weather a year makes!

This time last year the Hawkesbury was experiencing a significant flood. Whilst things have begun to return to some normality, we need to ask those impacted 'R U OK?' Mental health is very important, and it is our responsibility as a community to look after one another. I am pleased that works to River Rd have commenced. River Rd was significantly damaged in the multiple floods over the past few years, with parts of the road collapsing into the river. There is plenty of work to do here and council staff, engineers, consultants and now roadwork teams have been working hard to get these issues fixed. Please be patient whilst these works are undertaken.

The Hills is a special place, some would say the best place in Sydney to live. The Hawkesbury River, the bushland, our topography and of course our sense of community make it the place it is. Enjoying our natural wonders is important. Council has recently installed a picnic shelter at Hawkins Lookout! A great place to have a picnic at what is the best view in The Hills! I would encourage you to have a look at this. The Community Defib Project has also installed a defibrillator at this lookout.

The Rural Fire Service recently undertook the Aloha Hazard Reduction at Sackville North. As we move toward the upcoming bush fire season later this year, we must be prepared. Now is the time to start thinking about bushfire preparedness for your property. Have you got a Bushfire Survival Plan? A well prepared home is more likely to survive a bush fire. Even if your plan is to leave early, the more you prepare your home, the more likely it will survive a bush fire or ember attack. A well prepared home can also be easier for you or firefighters to defend, and is less likely to put your

neighbours' homes at risk. A well prepared home will also give you more protection if a fire threatens suddenly and you cannot leave. For more information visit rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare

I am pleased that Council's Community Grants Program has now opened. Not-for-profit community groups in The Hills Shire can receive a much-needed funding boost through the 2023/24 program. The program is open for applications and provides funding between \$2,501 and \$25,000 for community services. Council is seeking applications for projects that can be delivered for local residents by not-for-profit organisations. Council is particularly interested in projects in the following key priority areas:

- Events, concerts, theatre, and arts programs designed to engage key community members that entertain the broader community;
- Domestic violence prevention and recovery;
- Mental health and suicide prevention; and Disability, youth, seniors, and cultural projects that support community participation opportunities.

I look forward to seeing you around North Ward.

Until next time! *Clr Mitchell Blue*

Would you like the Living Heritage delivered?

A 12 months subscription is only \$25

Contact Sheila for details.

livingheritageads@gmail.com or

0410 504 132

Recipe Corner With Liz

Honey Nut Crunch

This is a three way recipe from my kids childhood - (I am now a great grandma) that was a great favourite.

Method:

Melt and boil together for 3 to 5 minutes :
125 gms butter, 1/2 cup sugar, and 2 tbs honey.



Recipe 1 - pour over freshly made popcorn, spread on tray to cool and set.

Recipe 2 - pour over 1/2 cup desiccated coconut, 1/2 cup walnuts, chopped and 4 cups rice bubbles. Press into a paper lined tray and allow to set.

Recipe 3 - pour over 1/2 cup desiccated coconut, 1/2 cup toasted almond slivers and 2 1/2 cups cornflakes and spoon into patty cases. This recipe is very chewy and needs to be nibbled.

ENJOY!



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Community Fire Wise

The Hills District Rural Fire Service

PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE!

MAROOKA RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

Another busy month for our brigade with call-outs to four separate MVA's in our district and a fire call to Old Northern Rd, Glenorie. Our captain also attended an out of area training course at Bathurst which will be beneficial for our crew leaders going forward.

At the time of writing this month's article, we have crews providing a Sector Leader, being part of a RAFT team and manning Cat 9 vehicles, helping out with a large hazard reduction at Sackville North. The Hills district hopes to conduct many more HR's over the coming months in preparation of what looks like being a very concerning bushfire season ahead.

This is due to low rainfall over the last months, higher than average daytime temperatures, combined with frequent frost this winter burning and drying out the already thick vegetation. This is the perfect situation for a fire to spread very quickly should one start.

We need our community to get on board and help with our preparation for this coming bushfire season. We need you to: **Make a bush fire survival plan** so you know what you will do if there's a fire near you.

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

Prepare Your Property. The more you prepare your home, the more likely it will survive a bush fire or ember attack. A well-prepared home can also be easier for you or firefighters to defend, and is less likely to put your neighbours' homes at risk. A well-prepared home will also give you more protection if a fire threatens suddenly and you cannot leave.

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

Know The Bush Fire Alert Levels

www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/fire-danger-ratings

And remember, in a bush fire, it's important that you **stay up to date** on conditions in your area with emergency information on the NSW RFS website, your radio and the Hazards Near Me App on your mobile devices.

We will be at Maroota Muster on Sunday 20 August, so please come and say good-day and feel free to ask us for advice on any of your preparations.

...Robin Hitchcock

MAROOKA SOUTH RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

Hills Fire Control centre at Kenthurst changed their phone number some time ago, but a reminder the new number is **02 9658 9000**. Please add this number to your contacts

Another very busy month for the brigade - we have attended several serious car accidents. There have been a number of calls to pile burns that have escaped (due to inattention by the residents) burning the material they want to get rid of. If this continues, it is only a matter of time before rules are changed and residents (like in other council shires) are NOT allowed to conduct their own pile burns. Please continue to burn, but do it safely, stay in attendance, have a clear line around the pile and have pressured water at the site.

Hazard reduction season has started, and all of the Northern brigades struggled to get sufficient crews. This is something we are constantly seeing. What makes the burns harder is the amount of new houses adjoining the bush, and every house has its own problem to overcome. The vast majority of the residents have NO ability to manage a fire should it occur. All residents need to be resilient not reliant. All brigades need members, younger daytime members are needed urgently.

We are being warned of a hotter drier summer, and this could increase dangerous fire behaviour. Residents need to act now, as I feel we have already seen the start of increased fire intensity and activity. In my experience, I always think our fire season starts most years about mid August.

For now, stay safe!

....Garry Chatman

WISEMANS FERRY RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

Experts are telling us that this coming fire season has a very high risk of fire, particularly grass fires. We have had large amounts of rain over the past few years meaning grass growth will be vigorous in the coming warmer seasons, and because we are heading into another El Nino (dry) cycle, this combination results in drying grass and forest fuel loads. As winter is the usual time for preparing our properties for the summer bushfire season, it's the best time to maintain your asset protection zones by regularly cutting your grass, as well as trimming vegetation growth close to all buildings. By doing this we can all help reduce fuel loads and protect our own properties, as well as assist in the protection of our community.

The team continue to hone their skills by attending our regular training sessions held each month. Recently we combined forces with Kenthurst Rural Fire Service for a joint training session on our fire boats. This was a great day for those who attended and our team were able to provide the theory, and by setting exercise scenarios, show the capabilities of the team and our boats.

During September Wisemans Ferry RFS will be holding our Get Ready Weekend outside the shops in Wisemans Ferry. We will be handing out information leaflets and providing a range of information that is relevant to our residents. We will be available to talk to the community and provide some individual advice so please make sure you come and join us.

Wisemans Ferry RFS will be assisting at the Maroota Muster Sunday 20th August, 2023. This is a great day out with loads of entertainment, stalls and attractions. Please add the date to your diary and join in the fun.

Margaret Cavanagh

Recruiting Now!

Volunteer Firefighters
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Sth Maroota: ☎0414 430 959
" ☎4575 0433
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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: ☎9658 9000
" Mob ☎0419 522 088
Lwr McDonald: ☎4568 2168
St Albans: ☎0409 322 236
Spencer: ☎4566 4640

Galston CWA News



At our July meeting, our guest speaker, Karen Lindley, gave a very interesting talk on how to care for jewellery, and keep it clean. This year our country of study has been Latvia, so members made Latvian dishes for a shared lunch.

We are planning to hold a Fashion Parade on Thursday 28th September at The Galston Club. Once again the Fashion Parade will be presented by Donna Lou Fashions from the Central Coast, and their range has been very popular.

Visitors will be able to enjoy Morning Tea, view the Parade, and then have lunch. All the details will be available next month.

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday 9th AUGUST. We meet at the Galston Community Health Centre, cnr The Glade and 17 Arcadia Rd, Galston. Please arrive at 10am for a cuppa, followed by our business meeting.

We hope to hold another stall later this year, and will be doing more sewing and knitting on our Craft Day 23rd August.

Visitors are very welcome to attend the meeting, and our craft days. The photo shows members watching the demonstration by Karen Lindley.

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. Some members make delicious jams and pickles for fund-raising, and would be happy to collect fruit from your garden if you have a glut.

More details on the CWA, and also our Fashion Parade, from

Jann -
0439 222 217
or Patricia -
0412 948 787.



Galston Girl Guides

Galston Guides enjoyed a fun packed Term 2 which finished with an end of term visit to Flip Out, Castle Hill. Several girls renewed their promise as they move up to Guides.

We currently have vacancies in our Junior Guide unit, aged 6-9 year olds.

If your daughter is interested in making new friends, taking part in fun activities, community service or learning outdoors, then please contact GalstonDM@girlguides-



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CONTACT: 1300 447 548
GalstonDM@girlguides-nswactnt.org.au



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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

Old Australian Photos

A suggestion was made that we do a series of the wonderful old photos that we post on our Living Heritage Facebook page. These photos are an historical record of the people, towns and cities of our great country. We hope you like them.



Sydney Maisey operated a smallgoods and confectioners shop in George Street, Windsor in the 1900's. In 1910 he sold groceries, smallgoods, hot pies, ice-cream and fried fish. During the summer months, he had refreshment rooms. He was the son of George Benjamin and Annie Maisey.



Alfred Charles Stearn arrived in Sydney in 1877 from England, as a seaman and decided to stay. He eventually moved to Windsor and established an oyster bar, then opened a general store. In 1907 he built new premises in Thompson Square, which opened and decorated with a lion above the date. Stearn died in 1925. The building still stands today at 74 George Street and for a number of years, has operated as a seafood restaurant.

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SCHOOL SNIPPETS

CATTAI
PUBLIC SCHOOL



Due to all the hard work from all the students, the marble jar was filled so a Rewards Day was organised. The students were allowed to wear mufti for the day, which still started with the new morning procedures and the usual literacy and numeracy lessons. Later it was all fun! Board games, books, outside games and lots of socialising! The students enjoyed the break from routine and the inter-class activities and were excited about the next Rewards Day.

The Athletics Carnival was held at Maroota School to allow our students the ability to run a full length 100m track as well as compete against other schools. The MMWaC group all turned up and so the students were able to work both within their school group and also part of the small schools group. Our children should be very proud of their efforts. They displayed great sportsmanship, patience and athleticism. Many of them did PBs. Thanks to all who helped out. It was a wonderful day.

Parent Assemblies are always a special event. After a hot lunch prepared in the new kitchen, the students were ready for their assembly. Many awards for progress and attitude were given out,



birthdays recognised, Principal's Awards issued and ribbons from the athletics carnival were distributed. When the students displayed their work the C1 class showed their booklets they had made, C2 showed their posters on how to stay cyber safe and C3 stated their self-expectations for next

term. It was another wonderful assembly celebrating the children and their educational journey.

The end of the first semester came very quickly. Next term will be filled with more amazing lessons and events. Can't wait!

Approvals for Caravan Parks Adopted

A Local Approvals Policy for Caravan Parks has been created to support the resilience and sustainability of caravan parks at risk of future flood impacts.

The purpose of the Local Approvals Policy is to provide guidance to applicants requiring an approval under the *Local Government Act 1993* to operate a caravan park or camping ground and install a manufactured home, moveable dwelling or associated structure on land.

Many of these caravan parks have operated since the 1960s and 1970s under older development consents and may not meet current best practice in relation to flood risk.

The Policy is consistent with making the Hawkesbury a 'Great Place to Live', which is a Long-Term Community Objective in Council's Community Strategic Plan. The objective aims to enable a shared responsibility for community resilience, community safety and disaster management.

The Policy will be available at www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/your-council and click on the Policies tab.



Council offers free first aid training for young people

FIRST AID TRAINING

Register now for free Youth First Aid training coming up in July and October.

The Recovery Team at Hawkesbury City Council has arranged for Embrace First Aid to deliver accredited First Aid training for 12 to 18 year old residents of the Hawkesbury.

Accidents happen when they are least expected. When they do, it is better to know how to respond. Gaining first aid training means you will have the skills to respond confidently.

Council is proud to coordinate and to provide these valuable First Aid courses to the community free of charge.

Limited places are available for the two sessions which will be held from 9am to 4pm at Windsor on Saturday, 29 July and Saturday, 28 October 2023.

Successful completion of the face to face practical training will provide participants with the following units of competency:

- HLTAID009 Provide cardiopulmonary resuscitation
- HLTAID010 Provides basic emergency life support
- HLTAID011 Provide first aid.

To register your interest, email hubs@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au with your chosen session date, name, age, address, contact number and any dietary restrictions.



Mums and their Bubs



Solution to puzzle on page 19
Thrillseeker

SCHOOL SNIPPETS

WISEMANS FERRY PUBLIC SCHOOL



Kitchen Garden Program

Since 29th May our students have been enjoying the kitchen garden program, with Mrs Deanna Duncan, a teacher with the Penrith Lakes Environmental Education Centre. In the first week of our program we planted out our gardens and we will be excited to use the produce that is grown in our kitchen. Next week the students will have their first cooking lesson and they will be making pumpkin scones, using the pumpkin that was grown in the garden. We look forward to enjoying this program through until the end of the year.

Hawkesbury Cross Country

On Friday May 26th, Phoenix, Charlotte, Elyssa, Katelyn, Jaxson, Kendall, Jackson D, Khloe and Bree-anna competed at the Hawkesbury Zone PSSA Cross Country Carnival. Congratulations to all students who ran extremely well on the day. I was pleased to attend the carnival and watch them run. Congratulations to Kendall who finished in the seventh at the Hawkesbury Zone PSSA carnival and went on to represent our

school at the Sydney West PSSA Cross Country Carnival where she finished in 36th position.

MMWaC Athletics Carnival

At the end of Term 2 we joined with the students and staff at Maroota, MacDonald Valley and Cattai to conduct our school athletics carnival. What a fabulous day we had - the weather was perfect and according to the students in 3/4/5/6 so were the sausage sandwiches.

It was great to watch the students from all schools compete against each other in running races, shot put, discus high jump and long jump. Thank you to our parents who transported students to and from the event and to our friends at Maroota for hosting us.

Each schools results were recorded individually and those students who achieved qualifying times and distances will receive a permission note to compete at the Small Schools Carnival in term three.



Have Your Say On New Pump Tracks

Hawkesbury City Council is designing two new BMX pump tracks for the South Windsor and North Richmond communities, and we want residents to have their say on the draft designs.

The site of the new pump track will be Colonial Reserve, near the intersection of Colonial Drive and Guardian Crescent next to the new playground following community consultation in March and April 2022. Once designs are complete, Council will be able to pursue funding opportunities for its construction.

The new pump track at Peel Park in North Richmond will complement a newly re-developed recreation space that is currently being built at the park by Redbank Communities. It will replace the track that was decommissioned by Council in 2022.

Residents can view the plans and leave their feedback at www.yourhawkesbury-yoursay.com.au/peel-park-bmx-pump-track and



www.yourhawkesbury-yoursay.com.au/colonial-reserve-bmx-pump-track until 11.59pm on Sunday 6 August. Once designs and funding is finalised, Council will update the community on the project.

The plans will also be available to view at Council's tent at Hawkesbury Fest on Sunday 6 August.

Hawkesbury City Mayor Sarah McMahon said it was clear from community feedback "Everywhere I go, residents tell me we need more BMX pump tracks in the Hawkesbury," "These are just some of the ways that we are creating more opportunities for locals to get outdoors to stay fit and healthy and have fun." Mayor McMahon said.

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Aboriginal word of the Month "gurng"

Means... baby



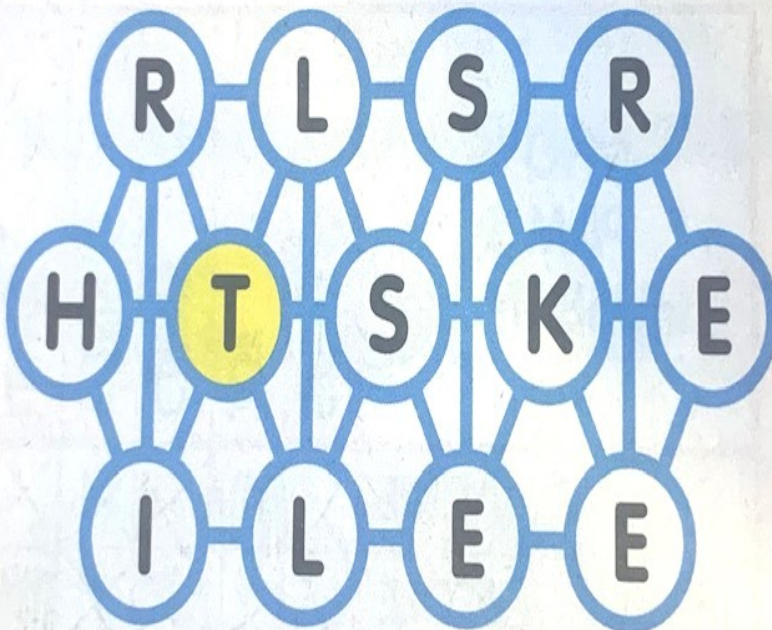
Kids Corner



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

Find-a-Word

Start at the shaded letter, move along the connected lines and only use each letter once to discover the 13 letter mystery word.



.....SOLUTION page 17

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BIRTHDAY CLUB

August 2023....

- 2nd - Alana Farr will be 12
- 3rd - Kaylah King will be 14
- 3rd - Victoria Hazel will be 13
- 6th - Jack Roberts will be 15
- 6th - Anne Bellamy will be 16
- 8th - Dallas Anderson will be 15
- 11th - Matilda Tourish will be 13
- 14th - Bentlee Cross will be 6
- 15th - Amanda Price will be 16
- 17th - Evie Grace will be 8
- 24th - Anaka Mills will be 12
- 27th - Tyler Little will be 12
- 27th - Mackenzie Howden will be 13



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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