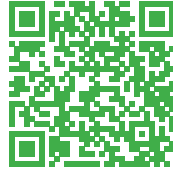


THE POST

Edition 62 - December 2024

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In this edition...

- Special Announcement for Berowra Electorate
- Interview with Ku-ring-gai's New Mayor
- Brief Summary of New Line Road
- Marian Street Theatre Update
- Ku-ring-gai Council Promotes TOD Alternatives
- Special Christmas Puzzles!



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02/01/24 - 03/01/25

Special Announcement

Brown for Berowra

By Tina Brown
 Publisher - The Post



Community Independent for Berowra
 Tina Brown at Lisgar Gardens
 Kate Mitchell Photography

It is my absolute pleasure to announce to readers of The Post that I will be running for the seat of Berowra in the 2025 federal election.

I never thought that life would take me down the political path (surely there must be better candidates), but after several community members expressed their trust and potential support it got me thinking. I was reminded of veteran Community Independent politician Cathy McGowan's often repeated mantra, 'if not me, who, and if not now, when'. With that thought playing on my mind, I applied to and have been endorsed by community democracy group Voices of Berowra as their Community Independent Candidate for the forthcoming election.

As Publisher of The Post, over the last four years I have deeply immersed myself in our community and have felt the sting that so many Berowra residents are feeling. Representation for Berowra has been lacklustre, our local concerns being minimised, ignored, and forgotten. Since the electorate's inception in late 1969, the good people of Berowra have re-elected Liberal members into our seat time and again, leading to us being taken for granted as a 'safe blue-ribbon seat'. To see real change, to have our voices matter, we must be brave enough to look for true representation across the issues that really concern us. That is why I believe that we need a dedicated community focused Independent in Canberra.

Growing up in Lane Cove and Naremburn, I moved to the Berowra electorate where I have been living for nearly 10 years. I have raised two stepsons, now in their thirties and living interstate with their own families. Here in Berowra, I raise my two teenage children, I run my small businesses in Thornleigh, and I enjoy our unique community, surrounded by our stunning bushland environment. I want to protect what our electorate values and ensure that we are not exploited to meet

external party interests.

Having been both a homeowner and a renter, I fear for the upcoming generation and how they will afford to buy a home where they have grown up and lived their lives. There is a balancing act between protecting our natural environment and allowing growth and opportunity, and the only way to have the desires of Berowra residents heard is for an Independent to be their voice.

Through my time as Publisher of The Post, I have been deeply moved by the grassroots efforts of many not-for-profits and charities. I am an active supporter of the Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Women's Shelter, and advocate for better domestic violence

funding and changes to our justice system. I have personally accompanied victims to court, witnessing the challenges they face, which underscores the urgent need for action in our Berowra electorate.

Mental health advocacy is another passion of mine, and I have openly supported the incredible work of Lifeline Harbour to Hawkesbury Sydney.

Our electorate's aging population raises concerns about elderly residents' access to support workers who can't continue to afford to live where they work. Cost-of-living and lack of affordable housing is not just a widespread issue, it has the potential to ruin the fabric of our great community. Prices are extraordinary and unacceptable at the check-outs, and it is the responsibility of your representatives to fight to relieve the financial vice tightening around each of our families.

Beneath all of these critical issues is the looming threat posed by the ongoing lack of serious climate action by either of the major parties. My viewpoint has been reinforced by early returns from Voices of Berowra's extensive community survey activities across recent months.

I accept the consensus from the vast majority of credible scientists that we require urgent market and non-market actions to limit our emissions and move quickly to a sustainable non-carbon future, in line with our international obligations and, importantly, common sense.

Moving forward, I will work to ensure a fair and balanced reporting of the forthcoming federal campaign in The Post. To that end, I have handed over my editorial responsibilities for the paper to a bright young woman, and for full transparency will highlight my position as a candidate in any articles that I might contribute.

Finally, I look forward to being of service to the people of Berowra, meeting and listening to even more of you out on the campaign trail ahead.



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Editor's Word Claudia Butjerevic

Welcome to December!
As I am sure you noticed, some exciting news for the people of Berowra.

The Post's Publisher, Tina Brown, has officially announced her campaign to run in the 2025 federal election as Berowra's Community Independent. You can read about her decision and what core values Tina will hold dear during her campaign above.

As a hyperlocal, independent newsmagazine, The Post and Tina Brown's candidacy will remain separate.

I look forward to reporting on the federal election and wish Tina the best of luck with her run!

But, back to December.

News includes an exclusive profile article on Ku-ring-gai Mayor Christine Kay, an update on Marian Street Theatre and the TODS, and a brief summary of the dramas of New Line Road.

In Community, we interviewed Hornsby's Westfield Hero, Sian Gordon, and have an article about MoWaNa, the Northern Beaches Safe Space.

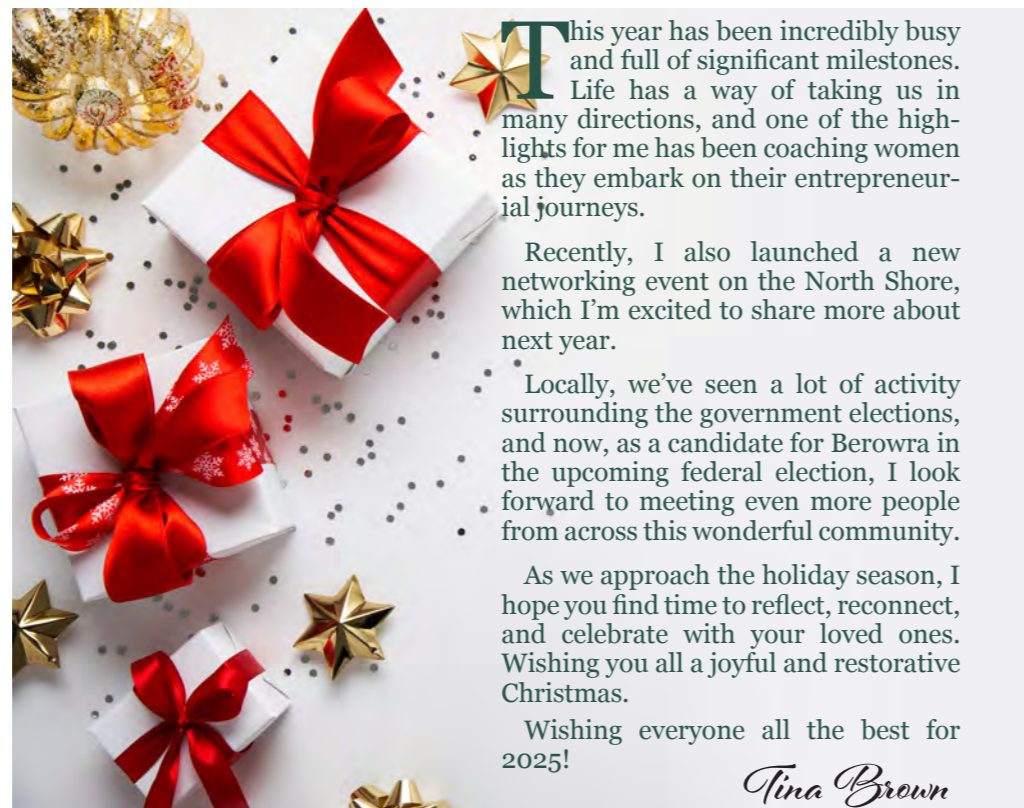
We are giving away tickets to the Camerata Academica of the Antipodes Christmas performance. See our "CHRISTMAS" page for more.

Thank you for reading The Post this year. We appreciate your interest and commitment to the news we deliver for our local communities in the North Shore.

Have a Merry Christmas, and a lovely New Year. You'll hear from me (or rather, read from me) in 2025!

Until the next edition,

Claudia



This year has been incredibly busy and full of significant milestones. Life has a way of taking us in many directions, and one of the highlights for me has been coaching women as they embark on their entrepreneurial journeys.

Recently, I also launched a new networking event on the North Shore, which I'm excited to share more about next year.

Locally, we've seen a lot of activity surrounding the government elections, and now, as a candidate for Berowra in the upcoming federal election, I look forward to meeting even more people from across this wonderful community.

As we approach the holiday season, I hope you find time to reflect, reconnect, and celebrate with your loved ones. Wishing you all a joyful and restorative Christmas.

Wishing everyone all the best for 2025!

Tina Brown



From Volunteer to Visionary: Christine Kay Becomes Ku-ring-gai's Mayor with a Focus on Community and Collaboration

By Claudia Butjerevic

Hailing originally from the Inner West, Christine Kay made her steady way over to Ku-ring-gai for the leafy green, as many do.

In the 2017 Local Government Elections, Christine first ran for Ku-ring-gai Council. Though unsuccessful, she persisted and put her hand up again in 2021, where the community elected her to represent the St Ives Ward.

Since, under the previous mayoralty of Councillor Sam Ngai, Christine served as Deputy Mayor. Now, after the 2024 elections and following an Extraordinary Meeting that swore the councillors in, Christine Kay was named Mayor of Ku-ring-gai Council.

Though the mayoralty was not a "northern star" for Mayor Kay, she finds the trust her fellow councillors have placed in her a privilege.

'Local government is not a stepping stone for me to go to state or federal [government]. I'm here to do the best that I can,' says



Pictured: Mayor Christine Kay at Ku-ring-gai Council Chambers

Mayor Kay. 'My emphasis this term is everyone being respectful of people's opinions. That's the beauty of Council as a whole, if we can bring out the skillsets that everybody has, we can do some amazing things.'

To Mayor Kay, the local community is her family.

She has entrenched herself in volunteer efforts, and

advocated for services to support mental health, youth suicide, domestic violence prevention, and disability. Mayor Kay sits as a committee member for the PCYC Hornsby Ku-ring-gai, has volunteered with the Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Women's Shelter, worked closely with Girl Guides and WildThings NSW, and is a Rotarian for the St Ives Rotary. At the same time, Mayor Kay is an elected board member on the Local Government NSW committee, and is a member of the Northern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (NSROC).

Making volunteering attractive to young people is a quiet goal for her time as Mayor.

'Volunteers are gold, we're got to treat them like royalty,' says Mayor Kay. 'If you find something that is an interest area for you, then you volunteer into that area. That's how I picked some of the volunteer groups I've picked something I am passionate about.'

Mayor Kay is hoping to aid in the fight against domestic and family violence. After three years, she was able to get the Status Women's Advisory Committee up and running, and would like to host more forums about advocacy and safety.

A key issue over the next term is housing. Ku-ring-gai Council under Sam Ngai controversially engaged the Minns' Government in legal action over the TOD policies. Council recently resolved to allow the community to give feedback on a list of scenarios for housing, and Mayor Kay finds this the best solution to tackling new housing policy.

'Council voted to oppose the blanket approach to new housing near the railway stations,' explains Mayor Kay. 'Let the community decide the outcomes. You'll have different views from people that live in apartments, people that live in houses... we need to get the balance right.'

Councillor Christine Kay will serve as mayor for a period of two years.

Protect Our Community: Dispose of Batteries Safely



Image courtesy Cleanaway and Blacktown City Council

By Hornsby Shire Council

Household batteries are some of the most useful and common items in our homes, but they have serious and harmful impacts if we dispose of them incorrectly, according to Hornsby Shire Council. This includes AA or AAA batteries, button batteries, and lithium batteries, which are particularly dangerous.

Fires caused by batteries placed in household bins are unfortunately becoming more common with the increase of rechargeable devices, placing people and the environment at risk. Last year, discarded batteries sparked over 10,000 fires in Australia.

Batteries should never be placed in any of your household bins, as they can overheat and catch fire inside collection trucks or at

waste facilities. When they are exposed to the mechanical compaction in the back of collection trucks, combined with friction, heat, and other flammable material such as cardboard, this creates the perfect environment for fires.

Thankfully, it's easy to store and recycle batteries safely. When your battery is used up, place some clear tape over the terminals and store them in a cardboard box or container with air flow until you can drop them off at your nearest battery recycling point. Most household batteries can be recycled at the Thornleigh Community Recycling Centre and other accredited B-cycle drop off points, which include major supermarkets and retailers.

To find your nearest B-cycle drop off point, visit bcycle.com.au



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From the Mayor



We are currently talking to our community about a new long-term plan that reflects what residents would like to see happen in Ku-ring-gai over the next decade.

The Community Strategic Plan is developed in consultation with the community and guides the Council's priorities, budgeting and planning.

The first stage of community consultation is taking place now until 11 December. Go to krg.nsw.gov.au/haveyoursay to make a comment or fill out a survey.

There will be other opportunities for residents to have their say on the new Plan next year and I will keep you updated.

The Council has also launched an extensive community consultation program on one of the most pressing issues the Ku-ring-gai community has faced for many years.

Under the NSW Government's housing policy, Ku-ring-gai must provide 23,200 new homes in the next 15 years within 400-800 metres of Gordon, Killara, Lindfield and Roseville train stations.

To provide that number of homes, building heights will need to increase. The question for our community is by how much?

Please go to krg.nsw.gov.au/housingfeedback to find out more and have your say before Tuesday 17 December.

I'm happy to be supporting Lifeline through the Mayor's Christmas Appeal.

We're inviting you to donate packaged food and gifts by Friday 6 December to make the upcoming festive season a happier time for local families in need.

Your donations will be made up into hampers to be delivered by Lifeline Hawkesbury to Harbour Sydney. You can donate gifts and food at any Ku-ring-gai library branch or by visiting the Council's customer service centre at 818 Pacific Highway Gordon.

Finally, on behalf of the Councillors and staff I wish you and your family a very merry Christmas and all the best for 2025. Have an enjoyable summer and don't forget to check our what's on calendar at krg.nsw.gov.au to find out all the ways you can have fun in Ku-ring-gai during the holiday season.

You can contact me at mayor@krg.nsw.gov.au

Mayor Christine Kay



International Day of People with Disability

International Day of People with Disability is on Tuesday 3 December.

Ku-ring-gai Council has a number of events and programs on to celebrate the day.

See what's on at krg.nsw.gov.au/peoplewithdisability



Seniors Love the Life program Coming up

Join us on an outing, in a webinar or in one of the weekly exercise classes.

January

Join us for an educational and interactive seminar on maintaining strength and balance. We will also provide suggested exercises that you can easily do at home.

February

We have a number of fun and social outings planned, including excursions to the Eastern Suburbs and the Central Coast.

Keep an eye on our website to see what we have planned for you.

krg.nsw.gov.au/seniorsevents



Have you ever wanted to share your cultural heritage?

Be part of Ku-ring-gai's Multicultural Festival and showcase your culture as a stallholder or performer.

Participation in the festival is a great way to engage and celebrate your culture. Applications will close Sunday 15 December.

krg.nsw.gov.au/multicultural

Ku-ring-gai says NO to gender-based violence

Support 16 Days of Activism from 25 November

krg.nsw.gov.au/16days

Council meetings and public forums

The next Council meeting will be on 17 Dec
The next Public Forum will be on 10 Dec

Continued Funding Fight to Widen New Line Road

By Claudia Butjerevic

New Line Road is, in fact, old.

Spanning 6.2 kilometres, bridging the way between Castle Hill Road and Old Northern Road. It is a vital arterial road for the Northern end of Sydney, close to Pennant Hills Road and a path to Castle Hill Road for the motorway.

Originally constructed to reduce the route time from Dural to Sydney, the road has been around since the 1800s.

However, it has not always been known as New Line Road. Previous monikers include "New North Road" and "The New Public Northern Road".

Being seated in history for some time, it has fashioned a notorious name for itself in no small part because of the daily congestion that occurs. For the better part of 20 years, New Line Road has incited concern and rage in residents and frequent drivers alike.

Most of the length of New Line Road is

one lane each way, with pockets that open to two-lanes for short bursts. As a result of constant merging and high traffic at peak times, New Line Road turns into a cumbersome standstill.

During the Coalition's reign under Scott Morrison, the Federal Government secured \$10 million to commence a planning study and public consultation. As a State road, former members Matt Kean for Hornsby and Dominic Perrottet for Epping secured \$70million to widen New Line Road.

Consultation has been completed, and areas of concern were identified for congestion. These included the flow over Pyes Creek, the Shepherds Drive and County Drive roundabout, the Old Northern Road roundabout, and the intersection at Hastings.

Planning is to be completed in mid 2025. To make matters worse for drivers, the Minns Government have not openly committed to the project. Local politicians banded together to demand the upgrades.

'People throughout the Berowra electorate have been calling for the upgrade of New

Line Road since before I was elected. By delaying this crucial project indefinitely, the Minns-Labor Government is letting down everyone who has fought for this project for almost 2 decades,' said Member for Berowra, Julian Leeser.

'Despite the desperate need, the new NSW Labor Government have yet to commit to upgrading New Line Road to make it fit for purpose for the existing population. They cannot only consider new developments in the area without also considering the required infrastructure,' said Hornsby Shire Councillor, Nathan Tilbury.

'I hate sitting in traffic on New Line Road. I will fight to ensure funding for New Line Road upgrades is finally delivered to ease local congestion. Labor has delayed this funding at a time when traffic and congestion is worse than ever before,' said Member for Hornsby, James Wallace during his run in the state by-election.

Whether the widening of New Line Road will ever occur is perpetually uncertain. If history is to indicate anything, with the constant request for upgrade, a wider New Line Road appears a bleak hope.

Reflecting On 2024 - Merry Christmas



By Tim James, Member for Willoughby

As 2024 draws to a close, it is a fitting time to reflect on the achievements of the past year and to express my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has contributed to our community's progress. It has been a year of hard work and collaboration marked by achievements that would not have been possible without the dedication and spirit of our community.

First, I want to extend my sincere thanks to the residents of our community. This year your engagement has been outstanding.

Whether through attending events, sharing feedback or reaching out with ideas, your participation is invaluable. It ensures that our priorities remain focused on what matters most to you. Your voices guide our work and remind us of the real impact of our decisions on individuals and families.

I also want to thank my staff. Their professionalism, commitment and tireless efforts behind the scenes have been instrumental in ensuring we meet the needs of our community. From managing daily operations to supporting key initiatives, their work is vital in driving positive outcomes. To every member of my team thank you—your efforts make a real difference, and I am immensely proud of all we have achieved together.

As we approach the Christmas season,

I hope everyone finds time to relax, reconnect with loved ones and enjoy the festive spirit. This season offers a chance to reflect, recharge and appreciate the support and friendships that enrich our lives. It is also a time to look ahead with optimism for the opportunities the new year will bring.

Looking toward 2025 there is much to be excited about. With several important projects and initiatives in the pipeline I am confident that with your continued support we will achieve even greater progress on the issues that matter most to our community. Together we can continue to build a stronger future.

On behalf of myself and my team I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year. Here is to a successful and fulfilling 2025 for us all.



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More Council Chatter On Untouched Marian Street Theatre

By Claudia Butjerevic

During their Ordinary Meeting on the 22nd of October, Ku-ring-gai Council's final item on the agenda was Marian Street Theatre. A motion was moved to receive and note the update report on the likely costs and timetable to develop the unused site.

Councillor Indu Balachandran proposed an amendment during the lengthy discussion to approve \$300,000 for the 2025/26 financial year budget for the construction of limited works on MST in order to preserve the development consent.

'Cultural infrastructure is critical to healthy socially connected communities, and we know Ku-ring-gai is adapting to younger users, changing demographics, and a growing population,' said Cr Balachandran.

She went on to say, 'I read every facility

and cultural infrastructure paper and plan, 2018 CSP, our community strategic plan, identified that many of Ku-ring-gai's current facilities are not designed for the diverse need of the contemporary performance arts and interest.'

Ku-ring-gai Council have applied for a \$15 million Federal Government Infrastructure Grant under the Thriving Suburbs Program.

'To secure funds from external stakeholders, we have to be clear about our intent to actually make progress,' said Cr Balachandran, speaking to the pending grant approval.

Cr Balachandran's amendment was carried using Mayor Kay's casting vote.

Another amendment was put forth by Councillor Smith to err on the side of caution, saying that instead of investing \$300,000, that Council would instead give consideration to funding for works during budget deliberations for the 2025/26 budget at a later date.

'I trust the staff to do the right thing... it's not the staff, it's the councillors,' said Cr Smith. 'It's the councillors who are the problem because we get a change of heart, a change of position on Marian Street Theatre. We need time to think, there is no reason to make this decision now.'

Cr Smith's amendment was made into the original motion, which was carried unanimously.

'We have a brand-new Council who want to be seen to be taking the necessary steps to ensure that the innovative redevelopment application is preserved and progressed,' says Marian Street Action Chair, Tony Bates. 'There has been a long and thorough period of community consultation. The DA has been approved. Let's all now work together and build it.'

Further update on Marian Street Theatre is pending until Council reconvene on the subject for the financial budget deliberations.



Let's Support Small Business this Christmas

By Matt Cross,
Member for Davidson

presents, foods and drinks, or going out for a good time. They need and deserve our support.

Thankfully, we have a wide selection of small businesses to locally choose from, with almost 15,000 in Ku-ring-gai and over 32,000 in the Northern Beaches.

Each month the Small Business Commissioner releases a Momentum Survey.

The latest found the following from small businesses in NSW:

- 34% have plans to grow, alter or expand operations;
- 16% expect revenue to increase;
- 45% plan to expand and are looking to hire additional staff.

This gives us great hope – but there is still so much more work to do. 82% of small businesses indicated they were concerned about the cost of business inputs.

I have a few ideas worth considering.

For starters, we need to cut red tape that costs the Australian economy \$176 billion annually, according to the Institute of Public Affairs. Red tape reduction should include that for every new regulation, two regulations are repealed. Governments at all levels, persuasions and locations should also try to streamline processes and regulations to make it more simple to do business.

Secondly, workers compensation premiums need to be reduced. In the last year, premiums increased 8%. icare needs to guarantee that every dollar raised from premiums is put towards supporting injured workers – not towards executive bonuses or travelling to Bermuda (yes, this actually happened in May 2023).

Finally, we need a dedicated champion as Minister for Small Business. They should hold portfolios that complement small business, such as Treasury, Finance or Fair Trading. Government has an important role to play, and it begins by listening and understanding small businesses.

We all have a part to play in supporting small businesses. Let's get behind them this Christmas.



Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development, Communications and the Arts

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 Environmental Impact Statement FINALISATION

Western Sydney International Airport airspace and flight path design (EPBC 2022/9413)

The following notice is published pursuant to Section 104(4) of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

The Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government proposes to adopt a plan for aviation airspace management for the Western Sydney International (Nancy-Bird Walton) Airport (WSI) within the meaning of section 160(2)(b) of the EPBC Act, located approximately 46 km west of Sydney's Centre in Badgerys Creek, New South Wales.

The proposed action has been assessed by Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The EIS has been finalised and is now published.

Where the final EIS may be viewed or obtained

The final EIS, the Submissions Report and associated documents can be viewed at the following locations up until the 28 March 2025:

- Penrith City Library at 601 High Street, Penrith NSW 2750
- State Library of New South Wales, 1 Shakespeare Place, Sydney NSW 2000

The final EIS, Submissions Report and associated documents will also be viewable at additional locations in greater Western Sydney.

For further information, visit www.wsiflightpaths.gov.au.

Persons with special needs may contact the flight paths team by email at WSIflightpaths@infrastructure.gov.au for assistance accessing the material.

www.infrastructure.gov.au

North Shore Councils Ranked Slowest for Development Application Approvals

By Claudia Butjerevic

Willoughby City Council and North Sydney Council are in the bottom 10 for Development Application Approvals.

In a recent report by Sydney renovation firm Nouvelle, all Great Sydney Councils were averaged and ranked for their approval wait times for the 2023-2024 financial year.

Willoughby City Council ranked 30 out of 33 Councils, averaging 238 total days for approval. North Sydney Council fell shorter, ranking 32 out of 33 Councils with an average wait time of 266 days until approval.

These numbers appear even more troublesome compared to the number of applications lodged.

Crowned first for fastest approval time, Wollondilly Council's average wait time for approval was 61 days, with 517 applications lodged.

Willoughby City had far less applications lodged, at only 161, and North Sydney received only 115 applications, though their speed in assessing applications was slower.

Lane Cove Council ranked 4th, averaging 88 total days. Hornsby Shire Council was 5th, averaging 95 days. Northern Beaches Council was 8th, averaging 113 days. Ku-ring-gai Council was 21st, averaging 165 days.

'Councils that streamline their approval processes not only help homeowners achieve their dreams faster, but help them keep costs down by avoiding ever-rising material and trade costs,' says Mike Turner, Managing Director at Nouvelle. 'If DA approval is required for a project that includes an addition, demolition or a major change to the floor plan, they should allow longer – up to nine and half months' more if they live in an area like North Sydney or Georges River.'

2862SD_52011

I am happy to help you and your family with:

- access to NSW Government Services
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- attending local events and supporting local groups
- Justice of the Peace applications
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Please contact my office and I will be pleased to assist you.



Scan for the Willoughby Community Survey

TIM JAMES MP

MEMBER FOR WILLOUGHBY

Shadow Minister for Fair Trading, Work Health and Safety and Building

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✉ willoughby@parliament.nsw.gov.au

🌐 www.timjamesmp.com.au

📮 PO Box 428 Northbridge NSW 1560

📍 Shop 26, 145-151 Sailors Bay Road, Northbridge NSW 2063



Berowra Residents Seek Ways to Reduce Their Bushfire Risk and Insurance Costs

By Claudia Butjerevic



Pictured: (Left to right) Greg Mullens, Tina Brown, and Sharanjit Paddam at Magpies Waitara, Voices of Berowra event

Voices of Berowra held their first official live event on the 11th of November at Magpies Waitara.

For the free event, VoB invited industry leaders Greg Mullen and Sharanjit Paddam to sit on a panel and discuss Bushfire Risk, Climate Inaction and Rising Insurance Premiums.

Well attended by the public, attendees asked questions about how they can move forward to lower their insurance, what can be done to reduce their fire risk around Berowra, and how the government should act.

Greg Mullens has more than 50 years' experience as a firefighter. Retiring as the Commissioner of Fire & Rescue NSW in January, Greg joined the rural fire brigade and fought fires during NSW's notorious Black Summer. He formed Emergency Leaders for Climate Action in 2019, a group of fire and emergency chiefs from every state that are concerned about extreme weather driven by climate change.

Sharanjit Paddam is an actuary, working in the UK and Australia. He has been awarded Insurance Leader of the Year 2022 by ANZIIF, Actuary of the Year

2023 by the Actuaries Institute, and Risk Manager of the Year by the Climate Alliance in 2020. Now, he co-leads professional service firm Finity's perils and climate practice pricing models, and has co-authored reports for the Actuaries Institute on Home Insurance Affordability and Home Loans at Risk.

The panel was moderated by The Post's Publisher, Tina Brown.

Greg Mullens touched on how there is a noticeable increase in weather conditions that lead to disasters.

'The big weather years are more frequent,' explains Greg Mullens. 'That's when you get fires ... it is all weather driven, draught driven, temperature, humidity, wind speed. The fire seasons are also getting longer.'

With increased likelihood of disaster comes rising insurance rates. As risk of damage becomes certainty of damage, insurers will raise their premiums to account for loss. Previously, insurers had estimated premiums by postcode and pooled risk

among the community, though insurers have since altered their approach to risk by specific address. As such, homeowners in the local region are finding it impossible to afford insurance.

'There are people with unaffordable insurance all over Australia, but it is concentrated in ... the Hawkesbury Nepean valley around Sydney,' explains Sharanjit.

Greg and Sharanjit touched on how the government can act, how they have failed to act in relation to Black Summer, and the hope moving forward with insurers. Allowing the purchase of properties which for decades had been identified as high risk has exacerbated the heartache when disaster strikes. Policies such as buy-backs by the government are a slow-moving process, so the panel implored attendees to actively mitigate their own risk, installing sprinklers and having a private certification done for insurers to consider when calculating premiums.

For more information about Voices of Berowra, visit www.voicesofberowra.org

The livestream of the event can be viewed at www.youtube.com/watch?v=BsJbFjgAgsc

Ku-ring-gai Council Alternative TOD Housing Scenarios

By Claudia Butjerevic

Ku-ring-gai Council have released four alternative housing scenarios for Roseville, Lindfield, Killara, and Gordon stations. These scenarios are slated to deliver the same level of housing as the NSW Government's Transport Oriented Development (TOD) policy.

In an Extraordinary Meeting on the 30th of October, Council came together to vote to publicly exhibit the scenarios. Earlier in May, Council resolved to prepare these alternative scenarios and reconvene once completed.

Ku-ring-gai Council are seeking community consultation on the scenarios, which are available for feedback until the 17th of December 2024.

The first scenario is the existing NSW Government TODs, which allows for six storey apartment buildings within 400 metres of the aforementioned stations.

The first alternate scenario is Scenario 2a "Safeguard and Intensify". Under this scenario, 78% of Heritage Conversation Areas will be protected from apartment zonings. In some areas, the NSW Government TOD policies will be adhered to, though apartment buildings will be subject to new planning controls that ensure buildings are less dense than the NSW controls.

In Scenario 2b "Minor Amendment to Existing NSW Government Controls",

31% of heritage conservation areas will be protected, including areas like the block around Killara Lawn Tennis Club. NSW Government controls will be retained, though the outer boundary of the 400-metre radius will be protected.

Scenario 3a "Preserve and Intensify" is the third option. All heritage areas within the 400-metre radius will be protected from high-rise development, and apartment building will be permitted in non-heritage zones.

Scenario 3b "Preserve, Intensify and Expand" is largely similar to 3a. It differs, however, by limiting heights in town centres, and protecting Gordon east of the station, as it is a possible heritage conservation area.

All scenarios cater for around 23,200 new homes in Ku-ring-gai over the next 15 years.

'The release of the scenarios is a sign that Ku-ring-gai is willing to do its bit to support housing supply, but in a way which is responsive to our unique local area,' says Ku-ring-gai Mayor Kay. 'It is also an opportunity for the local community and key stakeholders to be actively involved in planning decisions that directly affect them. This is how planning should take place.'

The scenarios, and Council's overall concern, are in keeping with Ku-ring-gai natural tree canopy.

To provide feedback to Ku-ring-gai Council on the scenarios, visit www.krg.nsw.gov.au/housingfeedback

Replica of Stolen War Memorial Installed

By Claudia Butjerevic

The stolen war honour roll at Turramurra Memorial Park has been replaced.

In July, thieves removed a 2.1-metre-tall bronze honour roll plaque attached to the entrance gate. First installed in 1928 by former NSW Governor Sir Dudley de Chair, the act left the community feeling outraged.

'The theft of the original roll was an appalling and disgraceful act,' says Ku-ring-gai Mayor Christine Kay. 'Unfortunately, the original honour roll and the criminals who took it have not been found.'

As the right honour roll was not stolen, manufacturing a replica of the left involved a labour-intensive fabrication process to give the new roll an aged appearance.



Pictured:

(Left to right) Cunneen Signs representative Ben Wilmshurst, Ian Vallentine (honour roll relative), Ku-ring-gai Mayor Christine Kay, Dorothy Vallentine (honour roll relative), and war veterans Mike Askey and John Halford

Ku-ring-gai Council enlisted sign fabricator Cunneen Signs to reinstall the replica.

Anyone with information about the theft is encouraged to contact Crime Stoppers or Hornsby Police.

WHERE TO FIND THE POST SYDNEY

- Hornsby**
Berowra
Shopping Village, Coles
- Brooklyn**
Riverboat Postman, Anglers Rest, Post Office
- Waitara**
Magpies
- Mt Colah**
Petstock, Coles, Wooden Mill, Bite Me Bakehouse, Jim & Harry's, Shops
- Asquith**
Coles, Doctors
- Hornsby**
Aquatic Centre, Police Station, Library, Westfield Concierge, Woolworths, Comfort Discovered, Withams Coffee, Brewhaha Cafe, Hornsby Council Chambers
- Hornsby Heights**
Chemist, Supermarket
- Thornleigh**
Market Place
- Pennant Hills**
Library, Bowling Club, Market Place, Harris Farm, Normanhurst Post Office
- Beecroft**
Village, Woolworths
- Cherrybrook**
Woolworths
- Westleigh**
Village, Aldi
- Dural**
Swanes, Aldi, Sugar Salt Cafe
- Galston**
Steamyard Cafe, The Galston Club, The Local Collective
- North Sydney**
North Sydney
The Union Hotel, Woolworths, Coles, Nth Syd Leagues Club, The Foliage Cafe
- Kirribilli**
Terry White Chemist, Morgan's Coffee, LGA, Lou Lou Bistro, Stanton Library, Nth Syd Council Chambers
- Ku-ring-gai**
Turramurra
Arcade, Pierre's Bakery, Coles, IGA
- Gordon**
Shopping Village, Audio Health, The Emporium, Woolworths, Ken Wolfe Real Estate, Council Chambers, Library
- St Ives**
Shopping Village, St Ives Neighbourhood Centre, Coles, Woolworths
- West Pymble**
Stand
- Nth Turramurra**
IGA, Shops
- Killara**
East Killara Shops, Marian St Cafe
- East Wahroonga**
Cafe Karoo & Co, Lindfield Community Bank, Roseville Cinema, Shops
- Wahroonga**
Novella Books, Cafes
- Pymble**
Hotel, Post Office, Shops
- Roseville**
Shops, Cinema
- Willoughby**
Chatswood
Library, Council Chambers, Police Station, Cafes
- Crows Nest**
Xeros, Guide Dogs, Oliver Brown Cafe, Lifeline
- St Leonards**
Lifeline RNS Hospital, Private Hospital
- Artarmon**
Zucchero Cafe, Nick Logan Chemist, Fruitworld
- Lane Cove**
Coles, Library, Council Chambers
- Naremburn**
Cafes
- Northbridge**
Woolworths, Butcher, Cafes, Post Office

STANDS ARE LOCATED

St Ives Shopping Village, West Pymble, Lane Cove, North Shore Hospital, Gordon Village (near lifts), Berowra

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Ku-ring-gai Mayor's Christmas Appeal

Ku-ring-gai Mayor Christine Kay is urging the public to consider donating food this Christmas to people in need across Ku-ring-gai and Hornsby.

This Christmas Appeal is on behalf of Lifeline Harbour to Hawkesbury Sydney, who are taking donations until Friday the 6th of December.

Donations of packaged food are being sought, with special interest in any festive food such as Christmas cake, tinned hams, plum pudding, bon bons, and chocolates. The food will be made up into hampers and distributed to disadvantaged residents in the community.

'We hear that vulnerable residents and families are struggling with cost-of-living increases and this is a great way of brightening up their Christmas,' says Mayor Kay. 'At this time of year, I encourage everyone in our community to reach out and help those who are doing it tough.'

Packages of donatable food can be left at the libraries at St Ives, Turramurra, Lindfield, and Gordon, or given to Ku-ring-gai Council's customer service centre at Level 4 818 Pacific Highway, Gordon.

For more information about the Mayor's Christmas Appeal, visit www.krg.nsw.gov.au/Community/Mayors-Christmas-Appeal

Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Ecumenical Choir To Perform Handel's Messiah

The Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Ecumenical Choir are holding their annual performance of Handel's "Messiah".

On the 12th of December at Hornsby Cathedral, the volunteer choristers will put on a show, singing the iconic baroque songs of George Frideric Handel.

"Messiah" is a telling of the story of Jesus Christ. Proceeds made from the performance will be donated to the Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Women's Shelter.

For ticketing information, visit hcmessiah.wixsite.com/hkgec or contact hcmessiah@gmail.com



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Warrah Disability Services



By Julian Leeser, MHR, Member for Berowra

shop which I had the chance to learn more about on my visit. More recently, Warrah has assisted with the creation of microenterprises, including candles made by Rohan, who is a regular participant at the Dural Men's Shed. Ben and Jim have also started mowing lawns with the assistance of the team at Warrah.

I recently visited a fantastic organisation in our area and I'd like to share a bit about them – it's an organisation I've visited before but there's been a lot happening with a lot more to come.

Warrah Society is located in Dural and it is a fantastic not-for-profit service which is dedicated to performing particular services for people with disability. Importantly, Warrah is providing opportunities for people where they may not previously have had the chance to participate fully as a member of our community.

Their work began back in the sixties, with Warrah operating as a special school by day and a group home by night, but times have changed.

Nowadays, Warrah offers supported independent living for adults across 13 homes with 24/7 care, community support services and in-home support. Along with that, Warrah is the only Steiner specialist school operating in Australia, providing K to 12 education with 31 students currently enrolled. Warrah also operates a biodynamic farm and operates an organic farm

When I visited Warrah recently, I caught up with the CEO Delia Gray, school principal Anna Wetzel, farm manager Steve Tennikoff and property manager David Sharkie and I really learned a lot so I'm grateful for the time they spent talking with me.

We talked about the organisation's history, the fantastic work that Warrah is doing right now and about their plans for the future which will provide even more opportunities for people living with a disability, but also involve more members of our community. One of those plans is around enhancing broader community involvement by developing a farm animal management practice which would be open to the public while teaching participants about animal husbandry.

I'm excited about Warrah's plans to expand, open new learning opportunities and bring our community along the journey. Right now, I'm working on a plan to support them as they grow and continue to support people in our community to lead an engaging and fulfilling life.

KSFL Community Bank Celebrate 21st Birthday

Ku-ring-gai Financial Services Limited (KFSL), the company behind Lindfield and District Community Bank, celebrated its 21st anniversary on November 12th at Pymble Golf Club.

Located on the Pacific Highway in Lindfield, the Community Bank has been serving Ku-ring-gai residents by returning 80% of its profits to the community through grants, donations, and sponsorships of local community organisations. All together, KFSL's community contributions amount to over \$4 million.

For their birthday, the Community Bank accepted applications for their largest giveaway to date – the 21st Birthday Community Grant Program, awarding up to \$210,000 to local organisations.

Success recipients will be announced in early 2025.

For more information and to get into contact with the Lindfield & District

Community Bank, contact Branch Manager Michele Ferris at **0434 730 976**



Christmas Memorial Service

Saturday 2nd December commencing at 10am

Hillside Chapel, Palmdale Lawn Cemetery and Memorial Park, 57 Palmdale Road, Palmdale

We invite you to attend a beautiful memorial service with our community to offer comfort and to show that we do not grieve alone.

Our service includes: Music, song, a candle-lighting ceremony, a Christmas ornament with your loved one's name for you to take home and light refreshments to share. We invite you to bring a photo of your loved one for display during the service

For further details, please phone **4362 1203**



Baroque Romantics Concert GIVEAWAY

Camerata Academica of the Antipodes are hosting their December concert "Baroque Romantics" at St Alban's Anglican Church Hall on the 7th of December.

The concert features selections from the Vivaldi Double Concertos, alongside the Corelli Christmas Concerto Op 6/8.

Profits from the concert are going to the support the Australian Children's Music Foundation to help in their mission to bring music to disadvantaged children.

The Post are giving away **2 double passes** for the concert. Please contact editor@hkpost.com.au to enter the giveaway.

Giveaway closes the 5th of December.



Image courtesy M. Chapman

Council Christmas Events

Northern Beaches Council are gearing up to celebrate Christmas with a line-up of free, family-friendly events.

The Christmas Choral Concert is on the 5th of December at Manly Oval. Performing will be the Northern Beaches Orchestra and the Community Christmas Choir, along with Cameron Daddo and Ashleigh Rubenach.

Christmas by the Beach will be on the 13th of December at James Meehan Reserve at Dee Why. There will be a children's show with live entertainment, carols, facepainting, and photos with Santa Claus.

For more information about the Northern Beaches Christmas events, visit www.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au



To lodge, view and track the latest Development Applications in your area please visit: hornsby.nsw.gov.au/property



from the Mayor's Desk

As a longtime resident of the area, I am incredibly proud of Hornsby Shire's unique mixture of urban towns and rural villages. While serving as a Councillor I maintained a commitment to ensuring our public spaces are safe, functional and attractive. So, I'm incredibly disappointed when I see our public spaces defaced by graffiti, a sentiment that I know is shared by much of our community.

I am keen to tackle this growing problem, so I have asked Council to prepare a report outlining options for a Shire wide strategy, with a strong focus on community involvement in preventing unwanted graffiti and its removal from private property.

I have been impressed at just how efficient Council's own team are at dealing with graffiti on Council owned assets. The problem however is much greater than this and will require collaboration with the community, private property owners, and the NSW Government. I look forward to sharing more information about this important issue in the coming months.

The revitalisation project at Galston Village is another example of how Council is upgrading our village centres to make them places people want to meet and gather. Following the exhibition of the Galston Village Public Domain Plan, refinements have been made based on community feedback. The next steps are to develop a detailed design and tender for construction. The proposed improvements are expected to commence in mid-2025, subject to final design approval by TfNSW, (former RMS).

As the year draws to a close, we look forward to some down time in order to celebrate and enjoy time spent in our beautiful Bushland Shire. From paddling in our waterways, to enjoying our parks and playgrounds, there is so much to experience right here on our doorstep.

I hope you, like me, will enjoy spending time with family and friends. I wish you all a cheerful and joyful holiday season and a prosperous new year.

Warren Waddell
Mayor of Hornsby Shire

What's on

SEASON'S GREETINGS

Council opening hours
Christmas and New Year 2024-2025

Visit hornsby.nsw.gov.au/christmasopeninghours





SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

READ AND WIN! 5 December 2024 – 23 January 2025

READING ROCKS – Kids category
SUMMER READS – Adults and teens category

Join the challenge to win prizes this summer. Enter online or pick up a form from the library.
hornsby.nsw.gov.au/SummerReadingChallenge



Community Recycling Centre – Opening Hours

Closed from 25 December 2024, reopening 2 January 2025
Expect changed traffic conditions and possible delays
Remember to prepare for your visit:
hornsby.nsw.gov.au/crc



WASTE EVENTS



Rural E-Waste Drop Off Day
Saturday 7 December, 8am-3pm.
Rural Sports Facility, Galston,
entry via Mansfield Road

Chipping for Mulch – Westleigh
Sunday 8 December, 7.30am-12.30pm
The Old Dog Pound, next to 8 Warrigal Drive, Westleigh

hornsby.nsw.gov.au/waste

YOUR SAY HORNBSBY

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

ROFE PARK OFF-LEASH DOG PARK EXTENSION
Submissions close: 4 December

PROPOSED TOILET UPGRADES – UPPER MCKELL PARK
Submissions close: 11 December

yoursay.hornsby.nsw.gov.au

2024 Hornsby Westfield Hero Sian Gordon of The Burdekin Association

By Claudia Butjerevic

Taking home the title of Hornsby's 2024 Westfield Hero is Sian Gordon.

Winning the Westfield Hero Award allowed Sian to secure a grant of \$20,000 for the youth homelessness organisation she works for, The Burdekin Association.

Having lived and worked with young people in the United Kingdom, with foundations that housed youth with mental health and behavioural issues, Sian has directed her career to the betterment of young people.

After completing a counselling diploma on the back of her social work diploma from the UK, Sian secured a placement with Burdekin five years ago, and has been with the organisation since.

'I always wanted to work with young people and I know I've got that ability to connect with young people,' says Sian. 'I've got the ability to connect with them and I really enjoy seeing young people work hard

at Burdekin, use all the support they can get and then go on into independence.'

Sian is a Team Leader, overseeing case managers who work face-to-face with young people. Her work involves applying for social housing, finding employment, supporting young people through study and apprenticeships, and keeping the team motivated.

'I supervise the team individually, making sure everyone is okay, because a lot of the time the work is exhausting, it can be quite challenging,' says Sian.

The Burdekin Association receive about 240 referrals a year, and have housed 50 young people this year with their 33 beds. Many of the people coming to Burdekin are sleeping rough, and almost all have had total relationship breakdowns within their families.

'It doesn't matter where you are from, who you are,' says Sian. 'It is down to mental health, but I think 99% of our young people are all from broken families.'

The Burdekin Association receive



Pictured: Sian Gordon, The Burdekin Association Specialist Homelessness Services funding, but the Westfield Hero grant is a welcome hand.

'I won and it was a shock to be honest,' explains Sian appreciatively. 'We are doing driving lessons, money going towards formals. We've got one young lady going into hospital soon with severe endometriosis... we can pay her rent for a month. I was so pleased, it was such a huge boost for us.'

Managing Your Mood Group for Adolescents Now in Hornsby!

Lifeline Harbour to Hawkesbury Sydney (Lifeline H2HS) is now offering supportive groups for young people in Hornsby.

The Managing Your Mood Adolescent Groups are Dialectical Behavioural Therapy (DBT) informed skills groups for adolescents aged 14 to 18. These groups provide a safe space for young people to develop skills in managing difficult emotions. Participants will learn valuable techniques in mindfulness, emotional regulation, distress tolerance, and interpersonal effectiveness.

Held at two locations, sessions commence in February on Tuesdays 5-7pm in Brookvale and on Wednesdays 5-7pm in Hornsby. Each group module runs for 8 weeks.

Participants should live, work, or study in the Northern Sydney region. Before a place in the group can be confirmed, participants must have a PHN Mental Health Triage referral form plus a Mental Health Treatment Plan submitted by their GP to the PHN for processing.

Lifeline H2HS also runs Managing Your Mood groups for adults at Gordon and Seaford, as well as for 18 to 25-year-olds at Chatswood.

Managing Your Mood is funded by Sydney North Primary Health Network.

For more information, visit www.lifelineh2hsyd-ney.org.au/get-support/support-and-treatment-groups



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

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MoWaNa and the Northern Beaches Safe Space

By Claudia Butjerevic

After hours at The Mind Café in Narrabeen, the MoWaNa Safe Space welcomes the community with open arms.

MoWaNa, which stands for Mona Vale, Warriewood, Narrabeen, is a place to “drop-in” at night, talk about your mental health problems, and find an attentive listening ear.

In November 2021, Mel Kypri created the MoWaNa Facebook page as a way to deal with the mental health gap in the public system. Driven by her own suicide attempt in July of 2021, Mel noticed that there was nowhere to go in the local neighbourhood when people were struggling with mental health issues.

‘You talk to your parents, your family members, and they are quite judgemental only because they care so much,’ explains Mel. ‘I just wanted someone that I could just talk to and get it all out of my head. That’s the problem, people can’t get it out of their head and it festers.’

Since February of 2023, MoWaNa has been operating out of the Mind Cafe on Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights. Inside, MoWaNa volunteers have tea, coffee and biscuits available, board games and quiet activity, and present a safe space to chat. All volunteers have lived experience, either attempting



Image courtesy of Mel Kypri, MoWaNa Founder

services to contact, about their specific challenges.

Community members who visit MoWaNa vary in age, from young teens to the elderly. Often, Mel outlines, people come in between their formal mental health psychology, psychiatry, or counselling sessions to fill the gap.

On top of their drop in safe space, MoWaNa has “Coffee With Kindness” out of the Mind Café on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday mornings. Every Wednesday night during the school term, MoWaNa do “Wellness Wednesday” from the Tram Shed, where they host activities like Taichi, yoga, sound healing, breath work, and practical philosophy, among others.

suicide themselves, having mental health problems, living in a domestic violence situation, or have close family and friends having experienced these issues. Volunteers are all trained in suicide prevention, mental health first aid, and take the Domestic Violence Active Bystander course.

‘When someone walks in the door, one of us will greet them and ask them why they are there, take them aside, sit down with them, find out more about their story, and listen,’ says Mel. ‘To listen is the most important part.’

MoWaNa will often direct those who wander in on who to speak to, and what

In January, MoWaNa received a \$50,000 grant from the State Government to train another 55 volunteers.

‘That tells me the state government sees value in what we are doing,’ says Mel. ‘We want everyone to know on the Northern Beaches there is a safe space they can go. Doesn’t matter if it’s a kid running away from someone that wants to hurt them, or a woman running from a domestic violence situation, we can lock the door and keep them safe. Every neighbourhood needs something that people can go to at night if they are in trouble.’

For more information, visit mowana.org.au

First ‘Home Grown’ Cohort to Graduate from Lindfield Learning Village

By Claudia Butjerevic

Lindfield Learning Village (LLV) has hit a historic milestone.

Since opening its doors in 2019 to their inaugural group of Year 7s, these students have entered into their final year of secondary study.

Lindfield Learning Village are guiding their first cohort through their HSC.

The Upper North Shore school was the answer to an alternative educational system. LLV concentrates on individualised learning, fluidity for students to learn at their appropriate level not their age, and for teaching to be collaborative and flexible.

This HSC cohort say that being a part of

Pictured: (Left to right) Lindfield Learning Village students Maya, Hannah, Pip, Zy and Kevin



the school’s inception means they were able to shape their educational experience, and development LLV’s unique environment.

‘We participated in the formation of the school. We contributed to school rules, decided on uniform policies, and established technology zones,’ says Maya, a Lindfield Learning Village HSC student.

Teachers would often ask for feedback on their practice, making the students feel they could take ownership of their education.

This milestone reflects an active pursuit for alternate education. The NSW Government in 2019 under the Coalition and Gladys Berejiklian spend over \$40 million renovating the school from the former University of Technology Sydney Ku-ring-gai campus.

In 2021, the other ‘home grown’ cohort, the students who commenced Kindergarten in 2019, will face their HSC and final secondary schooling year.

GIANT BOOK FAIR AT BARKER COLLEGE

By Claudia Butjerevic

Another Giant Book Fair is returning to Hornsby, just in time for Christmas.

Lifeline Harbour to Hawkesbury Sydney are holding their much-loved Book Fair at Barker College in Hornsby from Saturday the 7th to Monday the 9th of December. This will be the final Book Fair of 2024.

Over 90,000 books will be on sale to browse, from more than 50 fiction and non-fiction genres and categories. This includes, but is not limited to, Romance, Memoir & Biography, Literature, Art, Military, History & Politics, Science & Technology, SciFi & Fantasy, Travels & Adventures, Cookery, Gardening, Craft, Study Guides and Textbooks.

Up for grabs are 55 Special Books, featuring rare and collectible titles. Some include Henry Lawson Memories (T.S. Browning,

1931); Captain Cook’s 3RD Voyage, An Authentic Narrative of a Voyage Vol II (W. Ellis, G Robinson, Pater Noster Row, 1784, 3rd Edition); Cosmos (G Sparrow, A Sobel, 2013; and Letters Written By the Late Right Honourable Philip Dormer Stanhope, Earl of Chesterfield, To His Son, Philip Stanhope ESQ. (P Dormer Stanhope, E Stanhope, 1774).

All books available are on a first-come, first-served basis.

‘By recycling unwanted books, the Book Fair saves them from ending up as landfill as well as providing new owners with a wealth of fiction and non-fiction to keep them busy for months to come,’ says veteran volunteer, Ian Stuart. ‘A small army of helpers work the whole year round to gather, sort, clean, categorise and price the donations. Thousands of volunteer hours

go into making the Book Fair work. It’s enormously satisfying.’

In addition to books, there will be a variety of comics, CDs, DVDs, vinyl records, stamps, video games, audio books, stationery, sheet music, board games, and jigsaw puzzles for purchase.

All proceeds made from the Giant Book Fair will be funnelled to Lifeline H2HS for the charity to continue their support services. Lifeline H2HS offer 24/7 phone, text, and chat services, counselling and psychological services, support groups and treatment programs, and emergency relief, among other resources for suicide prevention.

For more information, visit www.lifelineh2hsydney.org.au/love-books/giant-book-fair/

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Lifeline H2H Sydney Open New Lifeline Shop in Northbridge

By Claudia Butjerevic

Lifeline Harbour to Hawkesbury Sydney have opened a new Lifeline Shop in Northbridge.

On the 7th of November, the new store was unveiled for the Willoughby electorate, on the corner of Sailors Bay Road and Harden Avenue.

Their seventh Lifeline Shop, the suicide prevention charity procured the location six weeks earlier, renovating the 100-year-old building to be fit for the goods to be sold at the store.

In attendance was Member for Willoughby, Tim James, Mayor of Willoughby City Council, Tanya Taylor, and Willoughby Councillors John Moratelli and Sarah Royds. Community leaders Rachel Blazey President of the Northbridge Progress Association, and Glenda Hewitt President of the Artarmon Progress Association were both in attendance.

Lifeline H2HS have stores in Asquith, Gladesville, Lane Cove, Naremburn, Pennant Hills, and Waitara. Inside, customers can find vintage one-off pieces, high quality preloved goods, and a range of retro donated items. All proceeds help raise funds to support Lifeline's work in the suicide-prevention space, and fuel their mission of an Australia free of suicide.

From clothing, homeware, décor and furniture, donating items to Lifeline Shops is a two-pronged approach. It saves both the lives of people in our communities, as well as safeguards against unnecessary waste ending up in landfills.



Images courtesy AKR Photography

'We really appreciate all that Lifeline does in our community, supporting people on the edge... this shop isn't just a place to find quality items, it is a place of connection and a safe haven,' says Mayor Tanya.

'It feels like home. It has that sense of warmth and welcomeness, it is an interesting place. It is a special place for retail,' says Tim James.

For more information about Lifeline Harbour to Hawkesbury Sydney and their Lifeline Shops, visit www.lifelineh2hsydney.org.au

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Go Drivin: Your Trusted and Customisable Road Trip Companion

By Mia Hubber

Local start-up, Go Drivin, are excited to announce the launch of their innovative new app offering cost-free, curated self-drive and self-guided road trips including several trips around our Northern suburbs. The app will act as your own personal tour guide and create unforgettable journeys as travellers embark on their next adventure.

Go Drivin is proud to partner with leading institutions in innovation and technology, Western Sydney University's Launch Pad (Technology Business Incubator) and the CSIRO Lindfield Collaboration Hub. These collaborations have helped bring the innovative start-up to life by providing invaluable insights, resources and support systems.

'We believe in showcasing a destination by bringing it to life through storytelling,' says Winston Reinboth, Founder of Go Drivin.

Each road trip on Go Drivin begins with an immersive introduction to the area being visited to set the stage for every exciting adventure. Each trip is carefully curated in collaboration with local communities to ensure an authentic experience.

'Our engagement with local communities allows us to offer trusted and authentic road trip experiences that resonate with travellers seeking genuine connections. Exploring hidden gems on paths less travelled,' says Winston.

Key features that set Go Drivin apart

from other navigation platforms include curated self-drive road trip experiences, personalised introductions to each destination, trusted and authentic experiences through engagement with local communities, flexible exploration of Points of Interest (POI), inspiring imagery and rich narratives, audio commentary for a fully immersive experience, turn-by-turn navigation for hassle-free travel, and customisation options to tailor each trip to individual preferences.

Go Drivin offers travellers the ability to customise their road trip adventures. Travellers can tailor the itinerary to their own personal preferences with the freedom to create their own unique journey.

'Go Drivin is where each journey is an opportunity to explore, engage, and immerse yourself in a region,' says Winston. 'It's more than just a drive, it's an invitation to discover and connect in each destination.'

Whether your next trip is a scenic coastal drive, an exploration of historic local landmarks, or an adventure off the beaten track, Go Drivin will offer a unique road trip experience for your next adventure.

'It's a hands-free experience that inspires, delights, informs, and entertains, as you traverse landscapes and histories. After all, it's about embracing the adventure and learning something new at every stop,' says Winston.

To take your adventures to the next level with Go Drivin, visit:

www.godrivin.com.au



Will Kits No Substitute For A Good Yarn

By Cecilia Castle, Castle Lawyers at Asquith



Cookie-cutter will templates are gaining traction for testators looking for economical will solutions. Will kits and online will platforms provide templates to be filled in, signed, and as the proverbial saying goes, "Bob's your uncle". But not so fast, says Bob.

Disclaimers, terms and conditions of online wills and will kits direct testators to seek advice. Touted legal reviews of online template wills are procedural rather than substantive in nature, failing to address the testator's personal circumstances and provide corresponding advice.

Absent an opportunity to fully discuss and analyse a testator's personal circumstances with a trusted and experienced legal professional, gaps or omissions may be left in wills that could have been better drafted. There is also the risk of undue influence for the elderly.

Worthy of one on one exploration with a legal advisor are issues such as:

- Suitability of executors
- Provision for blended or estranged families
- Unrepaid family loans
- Overseas property

Valid wills must also be signed correctly, usually done at a lawyer's office with the correct prescribed witnesses. The devil is in the detail, and care must be taken when preparing wills.

Investing in obtaining in person legal advice ensures all angles of a testator's personal circumstances are covered and their wills do not contain unintended adverse consequences for executors to resolve that could easily have been addressed at the time of making the will.

There is no substitute for a good yarn.

Cecilia Castle is an Accredited Specialist in Family Law, and principal of Castle Lawyers at Asquith. CastleLawyers.com.au

Hornsby Relay for Life 2024

The Hornsby Relay for Life (HRFL) committee are celebrating a double achievement this year, one for its 20th anniversary and two for raising above their 2024 target of \$110,000. The current amount raised for the Cancer Council NSW is \$119,116. The committee would like to thank each participant for each lap that was walked, and dollar raised, plus thank all the sponsors involved, which without the event could not go ahead.

Last year, the HRFL committee created an award called the Gemma Crawley Memorial Award to celebrate a cancer survivor who lives beyond the relay and inspires others to live their best life. This year the award winners were Nicola MacGee, and Ruth Swadling.

It takes twelve months for the committee to put on such an event. If you wish to join the 2025 committee, please contact Jack Jackson at jack.jackson@nswcc.org.au

The HRFL committee invite you to join them for a wrap up party, a special exclusive screening of **Moana 2** at Event Cinemas Hornsby on Sunday 8 December at 10am, hosted by Hornsby Relay for Life in collaboration with Hornsby Event Cinema.

To purchase tickets, visit events.humanitix.com/hornsby-relay-for-life-special-event-moana-2



Independent thinking makes better possible.



I'm Nicolette Boele and I'm running as your independent for Bradfield. I'm a North Shore mum who's juggled raising kids with a career as an energy and finance executive. I love living on the North Shore – but as my kids grow up, I just can't stand by and watch them enter a world with challenges we never had to face.

Australia has rich promise and exciting opportunities. Yet our current crop of career politicians just keep breaking promises and missing opportunities. Our community can make a real difference. I'd love to hear what matters to you so we can work together to turn Bradfield independent.

Authorised by Nicolette Boele, Nixs Run Pty Ltd, 1/784 Pacific Hwy, Gordon, NSW 2072



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The Men's Table International Men's Day Event

By Claudia Butjerevic

International Men's Day was on the 19th of November.

For the day, The Men's Table hosted an event at NSW Parliament on Macquarie Street to speak about their work serving men and strengthening the care for men in our communities.

The Men's Table is a registered not-for-profit, beginning in 2011 with 12 men who came together for dinner and to connect. Since, every month the same men have met up to express the highs and lows in their lives. But it has grown from the first group.

Now, 22 Tables across Australia run monthly, with 2,351 regular men coming together.

In 2023, 2,419 men died by suicide, 2.5 times more than road deaths, with 1 out of 4 Australian men reporting



Pictured: Robert Poynting, Chair of The Men's Table

loneliness. The work of the Tables involves creating positive spaces for men to come and share, and break down their isolation and social disconnection to better themselves, and the relationships with others in

their lives.

Recently, the Men's Table 2024 impact and insights report was released. According to their data, the number one reason (43%) that men join the Tables is because they are looking for friendship and connection.

'These issues of loneliness, superficial connection, family breakdown... they are all effecting the health and mental health of all men, and put a burden on those around them, and on the health system and on society,' says David Pointon, Co-Founder and CEO of The Men's Table. 'Under all this is a common thread: they don't have a safe space to share and talk about these challenges. And that's where we come in. The Men's Table goes beyond banter.'

Member for Willoughby Tim James MP and Member for Davidson Matt Cross MP were both in attendance.

For more information about The Men's Table, visit themenstable.org

Simplifying AI for Business Success with AI2Easy

By Claudia Butjerevic

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning are adapting at full throttle. The ability for data processing and automation to attach to every industry is becoming a reality.

Garima Singh and her husband, Nikhil Singh, are aware of this. Living in Wahroonga, the pair co-founded AI company AI2Easy four years ago, wanting to revolutionise the way companies approach AI.

Being in the technology business for almost ten years, Garima and her husband caught wind of a materialising reality: that AI is a fast-approaching future. Even so, AI is complex, sophisticated, and daunting for many.

Garima, who handles marketing for AI2Easy, finds that many people say that AI is scary. To her, this way of thinking will



Pictured: Garima Singh (Left) and Nikhil Singh (Right)
Co-founders of AI2Easy

ultimately result in industry setbacks.

'It is time we need to embrace AI,' explains Garima. 'Those who do not want to may not be in the job... you need to enhance your skills using AI so you can be up in your work. AI is here, we cannot escape from it.'

From day one, AI2Easy's mission was clear: "AI, simplified for you".

AI2Easy specialises in productivity enhancement. Services AI2Easy provide include custom chatbot development, process automation, marketing automation, legal document automation, investor relations tools, AI integration services, and compliance monitoring and security.

Most businesses do many tasks manually, like answering emails. But as with all activities, these tasks can be slowed by human hands. If a company receives 250 emails a day, but can only answer 15, there is a backlog, and clients can be lost.

'We put AI on top of it,' says Garima. 'All 250 emails can be answered in the same day. That's the power of AI, it's about helping people do their job in a fifth of the time. That's the future of AI.'

To Garima, AI is cost-effective, time effective, and will allow people to grow in other directions. It allows people to not be bogged down by menial tasks, leading to improved productivity.

The fear, however, is if jobs will be lost as a result. But Garima disagrees.

'Nobody can replace humans' brains... humans' emotions,' says Garima. 'I can tell the content written by a human or AI. You need to tweak it so it looks good, with some of your own words. We still need new information to be acquired.'

As AI2Easy continues to grow, Nikhil and Garima remain committed to their original vision. Their journey is far from over, and they're excited about the future possibilities in the world of AI.

For more information about AI2Easy, visit www.ai2easy.com.au/main

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Berowra Local Wins Graduate of the Year Award

By Claudia Butjerevic

Local Berowra resident Jasmine Kanyanee Rumsey has been awarded at the Design Institute of Australia's prestigious Graduate of the Year Awards (GOTYA).

As a mature aged student, Jasmine, 47, decided to expand her horizons after being made redundant during COVID, and pursued her dreams of becoming an interior designer.

Recent studies from Jobs and Skills Australia show that the interior design industry needs additional designers to meet demand, and that their needs to be a 5 per cent growth during 2024-2032 to meet this demand.

TAFE Australia believe that this demand can be met by people like Jasmine, mature age students that want to spread their wings and change their career course.

Jasmine migrated from Thailand over

20 years ago, and has been living in Berowra for 13 years. Before, she had worked at Flight Centre, with a background in business administration and management.

'When I changed my focus to study again, I was thinking about finances, I will have to accept whatever income I will earn as a beginner again. That is hard,' says Jasmine. 'Along the way, people told me that mature age is quite good because people admire you and appreciate your experience, even though it is not experience in that industry. It gave me a little bit of confidence.'

The Design Institute of Australia held their GOTYA on the 19th of September, where Jasmine received a High Commendation for her SPACE work she presented. Her nomination was put forth by her teacher, Linda Park, and the Head Design Teacher, Emma Lawes, at Lidcombe TAFE, where Jasmine studies.

'It is an amazing result for me, it has given me more confidence to go into this new career,' says Jasmine, going on to explain



Pictured: Jasmine Kanyanee Rumsey

how the High Commendation award was a new addition to the ceremony, so when her name was not called, she thought she had lost. 'Then they announced my name. My husband screamed, it was so funny.'

In the future, Jasmine hopes to work for a firm, and eventually if all goes to plan, and she gains the experience she wants, she hopes to build her own practice.

'Talent is good,' says Jasmine. 'But you can't just have talent. You have to combine talent and hardwork and good support. I wouldn't be here if Linda and Emma didn't help me.'

International Volunteering Day

Every year on 5 December, the world comes together to celebrate International Volunteering Day. It is a time to salute the priceless contributions of volunteers and the profound impact that selfless service can have on our communities.

This spirit of giving back is a deeply ingrained part of Australian culture, with widespread participation across the country. In 2020, more than 5.025 million people across the nation volunteered through various organisations or groups. Australians of all backgrounds come together to give their time and expertise to support causes, highlighting a collective commitment to making a positive impact in their communities.

Lifeline Harbour to Hawkesbury Sydney (H2HS) is an organisation that harnesses the collective efforts of over 1,000 volunteers to strengthen community resilience and promote suicide safety. "People are our superpower. Every part of our organisation is driven by incredible people, whose passion and commitment are evidenced in our impact." – Elizabeth Lovell, Lifeline H2HS CEO.

Volunteering not only enriches the lives of those receiving support but also fosters

meaningful connections between volunteers and their communities.

"Without a doubt, the people I have met is the best part of volunteering." – Jacki W, Lifeline Community Aid volunteer.

"Volunteering has given me the chance to make a positive impact on people's lives, which is incredibly fulfilling." – Alex S, Lifeline Crew volunteer.

"Volunteering gives me a sense that I am contributing to a cause greater than myself." – Anais K, Lifeline Retail Shop volunteer.

As we celebrate International Volunteering Day, let us recognise and appreciate the dedication of volunteers everywhere, who tirelessly work to support and uplift their communities.

Take the first steps towards volunteering by getting in touch with organisations who support causes that resonate with your values, whether it's mental health, environmental conservation, education, or community service. If you're considering volunteering at Lifeline H2HS, visit their website (www.lifelineh2h.org.au) or email volunteer@lifelineh2h.org.au to find out how you can make a difference.

Human Rights Day

Human Rights Day falls annually on the 10th of December.

This date commemorates the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a landmark document that identifies and distinguishes the inalienable rights of every human being, regardless of race, religion, sex, language, political affiliation, national origin, birth, and other social status.

On the 10th of December 1948, the United Nations General Assembly in Paris proclaimed that fundamental human rights were to be universally protected. The UDHR has been translated into 577 languages, making it the most translated document in the world.

For 2024, the Human Rights Day theme is "Our Rights, Our Future, Right Now". It is an acknowledgment of the importance of human rights as we move through our daily lives. The day serves as a call to remember that by speaking up against disinformation, challenging misinformation, and mobilising against hateful speech, we can ensure that human rights are protected globally, for all people.

Better planning between Roseville, Lindfield, Killara and Gordon stations



Have your say on five scenarios for new housing in these areas.

Ku-ring-gai Council is seeking community feedback on options to deliver new housing around Roseville, Lindfield, Killara and Gordon train stations.

Under the state government's policy, Ku-ring-gai is required to deliver 23,200 new homes in the next 15 years in these areas.

One of these options is based on the NSW Government's existing Transport Oriented Development (TOD) planning policy.

Four other options for new housing have been prepared by the Council, which seek to protect heritage and improve the urban tree canopy.

We are very keen to hear your opinion on this important matter. Visit krg.nsw.gov.au/housingfeedback to have your say.

You can give feedback between Friday 15 November and Tuesday 17 December 2024.

Enquiries

email: housing@krg.nsw.gov.au
phone: 9424 0000



Stop Waiting For People Who Are Not Ready For A Relationship

By Cristina Davy
Dating and Relationship Coach
Aim for the Stars Coaching

In a world thriving on immediacy, waiting for anyone, especially in relationships, can feel endless. Many find themselves in this limbo, hoping for someone to become ready to commit or love fully. As a dating coach, I often help clients navigate this emotional terrain. The question is: Why wait for someone who isn't ready?

The emotional toll of waiting is significant, often resulting in a cycle of hope and despair. This emotional rollercoaster can erode your confidence and lead to self-doubt, prompting questions about your worth or the reasons behind their unreadiness.

"Readiness" in relationships means having the emotional maturity, availability,

and commitment necessary for a partnership. If someone isn't ready, it's more about their journey and timing than your own worthiness. Through coaching, I support clients in understanding this, freeing them from undue self-blame.

Life is too precious for indefinite waiting. Consider the opportunities missed while your life stands still. Each moment spent waiting is one less for growth, exploration, or meeting someone ready for a fulfilling relationship. I help clients reframe these thoughts, focusing on the boundless potential the present holds.

My approach involves channelling energy away from waiting and towards personal growth, hobbies, and uplifting connections. This focus isn't mere distraction; it's about

cultivating a life so enriching that a relationship becomes an enhancement, not a necessity.

Recognising your value is crucial. You deserve a partner as ready and eager as you are. This isn't selfishness; it's respecting your time and emotional health. Together, my clients and I work on trusting that the right person will appear when we create opportunities—no waiting required.

Ultimately, waiting rarely justifies the uncertainty. I guide clients in releasing the idea that someone else's readiness defines their happiness. Embrace the present, create opportunities, and remember: you are your greatest asset. Love yourself enough to refuse to wait.

Pymble's Dementia Café

By Claudia Butjerevic

Run by the Ku-ring-gai Rotary, inside the YMCA West Pymble Aquatic Centre, there is a dementia group, known as the D'Café.

Dementia clients and their carers, usually wives, husbands, children, and occasionally professionals, come together once a week on Tuesdays.

Together at the Aquatic Centre, the D'Café use the downstairs room for fun, gentle exercises with 60s, 70s, and 90s music playing, under the supervision of an instructor provided by the Aquatic Centre. The group have weights, exercise straps, and soft balls.

The group began six years ago, when Kerry Midlam and her husband Michael, members of the Rotary, attended lectures and decided to bring the dementia café to fruition. They underwent an induction course with the Ku-ring-gai Neighbourhood Centre, which outlined that the group were required to sit and play boardgames.

But the group evolved, realising they preferred not to simply sit down.

'We are a really happy group. Some of

them have trouble following the exercises, but we are all there to help,' explains Kerry. 'If they get mixed up, it doesn't matter. It's a nice time.'

After the exercise session, the group gather upstairs in the little café, bringing biscuits and buying drinks from the Aquatic Centre. Purchasing their own tea and coffee is the only expense. On birthdays, they share cake and celebrate.

Alongside providing dementia clients with social stimulation and physical activity, the D'Café serves as a reprieve for the carers, allowing them to speak with each other, share tips, and offer an understanding ear.

'The carers have a hard time, it's a terrible disease,' says Kerry. 'They can offload, they can tell stories about home what they don't feel like they can tell others. This is where we have been successful.'

Ages of clients vary from 60 to mid-80s. Currently, KRG Rotary's D'Café has around 12 to 25 regulars.

'We are there to do what Rotary is all about... help people,' says Kerry. 'We love it, we put a lot of work into it, and we love seeing the happy faces.'

For more information about the D'Café, contact **Kerry at 0402 326 332**

Elevate the Stage Celebrate International Day of People with Disability

Every year, on the 3rd of December, it is the International Day of People with Disability.

The day serves as a way to promote awareness and understanding of members in our communities living with both physical and mental disability. Since 1992, the United Nations General Assembly has been observing the day as the International Day of Disabled Persons.

Across Australia, IDPwD encourages the government, organisations, community groups, businesses, and individuals to come together and bolster inclusivity. With over 5.5 million people living with disability in Australia, the Government through the Department of Social

Services funds a national program to promote the day.

The IDPwD theme for 2024 is "amplifying the leadership of persons with disability for an inclusive and sustainable future". Working towards having more people with disability in leadership roles is a policy priority in Australia's Disability Strategy 2021-2031, the national strategy for disability policy framework.

To raise awareness, Nova Employment and the International Day of People with Disability are hosting a free event at the ICC Sydney on the 1st of December. "Elevate the Stage" will see top Australian artists with disability to break down barriers and disassemble negative attitudes towards disability.



Cruise Your Way: Navigating the Deck with Ease

By Rejimon Punchayil, Karis Life

Dreaming of a relaxing cruise holiday? Don't let mobility challenges hold you back. With the right tools and a little planning, you can enjoy a stress-free and memorable experience.

A Walking Companion: For those who need a little extra support, a foldable walking stick or a wheeled walker can be a game-changer. These mobility aids come in various styles and designs, so you can choose one that complements your personal style.

A Portable Solution: A foldable transit wheelchair is a versatile option for longer excursions or days when you want to conserve energy. These lightweight and easy-to-store chairs are perfect for navigating the ship and exploring shore excursions.

The Ultimate Cruise Companion: For maximum mobility and convenience, consider a portable or foldable mobility scooter or a power chair. These compact devices that are ultra-light offer a smooth and effortless way to explore the ship and its surroundings.

Remember, the key to a successful cruise is choosing the right mobility solution to suit your specific needs. Consult with your healthcare provider or a mobility specialist to determine the best option for you.

Ready to embark on your next adventure?

Explore the range of mobility solutions available at Karis Life showroom or visit www.KarisLife.com.au to ensure a comfortable and enjoyable cruise experience.

'Elevate the Stage is a fantastic opportunity for performers with disability to showcase their talents along with fellow professionals,' says Paula Duncan AM, event ambassador. 'It's a chance for all of us to celebrate achievement and hard work through performance and importantly, in front of new audiences.'

For free tickets and more information, visit www.elevatethestage.com.au



By John Zavaglia
Mind Life Counselling



CALL 0426 737 148
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Subscribe to the Mind Life Channel:

www.youtube.com/@mindlifechannel

Christmas has landed upon us again so quickly.

For some Christmas means family, companionship, gratitude and generosity. It has an emotional and spiritual significance, and of course there are the gifts. When we ask the question of what Christmas means to us, it uncovers a word that is the foundation to how we relate to everything and everyone around us, MEANING. We may not think about it but everything our minds determine has an embodiment of meaning to it, where our ability to find meaning is an integral part of prospering our lives and mental health.

According to Neurologist and Holocaust survivor Viktor Frankl, to find meaning is something that is unique and makes us genuinely human. It is our salvation and our frustration, as our inability to find meaning can bring our undoing. Meaning forms a state of rebellion, we will go to great lengths to preserve our values and defend our freedom. It is through meaning we summons our strength; rebuild hope and reminds us of the resilience we thought was lost. Meaning fulfills us in pleasure, aids our suffering and connects us in charity and community.

Sometimes when we look for answers to complex questions, we often become

bewildered for where to look. As when we look for meaning in our lives the answer is in the question itself, it is "MEANING". As everything we do in life comes from our motive, instilling a sense of purpose and energy. It is through meaning we can make not only our Christmas memorable, but also each day of our lives. Meaning instils gratitude for what we have, and who we have lost. It is through meaning we realise a grander vision, that life is too important to be shackled with pettiness. As somewhere between the polarities of order and chaos we determine what comes of existence. Where, what is left.... is how we define it.



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2024 Hornsby Art Prize Winners

By Claudia Butjerevic

Pictured: *David Collins* from Dangar Island, Winner of Local Artist Award



2024 Hornsby Art Prizes winners and award recipients have been announced.

The Hornsby Art Prize is a national competition aimed at celebrating outstanding Australian talent in the world of contemporary art. It is hosted by Hornsby Shire Council in partnership with the Hornsby Art Society.

Over 560 artworks were submitted from artists across Australia. Categories included Painting, Drawing, Printmaking, Digital Art Stills/Digital Photography, and Sculpture. Artists competed to get their hands on a prize pool of \$23,000, with the major prize being worth \$10,000. Judges of the Hornsby Art Prize were Director of Hazelhurst Regional Gallery, Sebastian Goldspink, and printmaker and teacher, Rew Hanks.

Taking home the top prize with his painting *Labour Plein Air* is Dave Snook from St Andrews in Sydney's South-West.

'Congratulations to our winner, award recipients and finalists. Hornsby Shire Council is committed to supporting arts and culture and it is fantastic to come together and celebrate local and Australia-wide talent,' said Mayor of Hornsby Shire Council, Warren Waddell.

The Hornsby Shire Local Artist Award was won by David Collins from Dangar Island for his painting *Barrier Range*.

In his artist statement, David said, 'During a recent Artist's Residency in Broken Hill, I was struck by the juxtaposition of the ancient, timeless land and the temporary, fragile human structures that sit on it.'

Other award recipients included Orlando

Luminere for his fine art print *Wasted View: Brooklyn #0088* who won the Digital Art Stills/Digital Photography Award. Dave Doyle and his cast bronze artwork *Eroded* won the Sculpture Award. Lucy O'Doherty and her soft pastel artwork *80s kitchen with CD rack, carrot magnet and unfinished peas* won the Drawing Award. Carolyn Craig and her work *Becoming Penguin* won the Printmaking Award. Peter Sharp and his piece *Pebble* won the Painting Award.

Held at the Wallarobba Arts and Cultural Centre, the exhibition where the artworks of all finalists, winners, and recipients will be from the 25th October until the 10th November 2024. Entry is free.

For more information, visit www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/lifestyle/arts-and-culture/hornsby-art-prize



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The Local Artists of Wisemans Ferry: The Ferry Artists Gallery

By Claudia Butjerevic

Back in 2000, a group of dedicated people lead by local artist, teacher and art historian, Heather Winch, agreed to run an inaugural Wisemans Ferry Art Prize.

Home to roving waterways, famous national parks, and the state's oldest ferry crossing, Wisemans Ferry is a unique town. Though a fringe community, tucked away in the outskirts of Sydney, the valley is filled with local artists.

After the inaugural Wisemans Ferry Art Prize and its success, Heather and her group of like-minded friends thought it was well overdue for a community art gallery.

The Ferry Artists Gallery is a not-for-profit community-run gallery with a shop front on Old Northern Road, Wisemans Ferry.

Inside, the work of local artists, ranging from painters, resin artists, jewellers, photographers, sculptors to potters, fibre artists, printmakers, calligraphers, and weavers, fills the gallery.

Members support the gallery, one day a month volunteering their time to work in the commercial shopfront. Most of the members are artists themselves, and with their membership, they can display their art for sale.

At first being exclusively for Hawkesbury artists, the Gallery now welcomes members from all regions of Sydney, as long as they can complete a mandatory day's duty manning the shop.

'There is a great mix of people back here, a huge mix of economic diversity, and the artists are a part of that,' says Carol Gill, President of Ferry Artists Incorporated and local artist. 'The artists are the ones that find it hard to earn a living... to have a gallery, a community, that sells your art locally is a godsend to local artists.'

Along with servicing the artists, Wisemans residents have the opportunity to buy pieces of artwork without the effort of a trek closer to Sydney.

Open daily, Ferry Artists Galley holds four exhibitions throughout the year. In February, they showcase the local art at a discounted piece, to clear out the studio for a new year. In May and July, there are themed exhibitions for the public to browse.

On the 9th of November, the Gallery opened their newest exhibition in time for Christmas "Ferry Artists Presents!" which will run until January. At the opening, Mayor of Hornsby Shire Council, Warren Waddell, and Mayor of Hawkesbury City Council, Les Sheather, were in attendance.

'Locals want a beautiful gift for somebody... they know they only have to drive into Wisemans. They love it because they are supporting local people. It's a big deal out here, supporting local people,' says Carol.

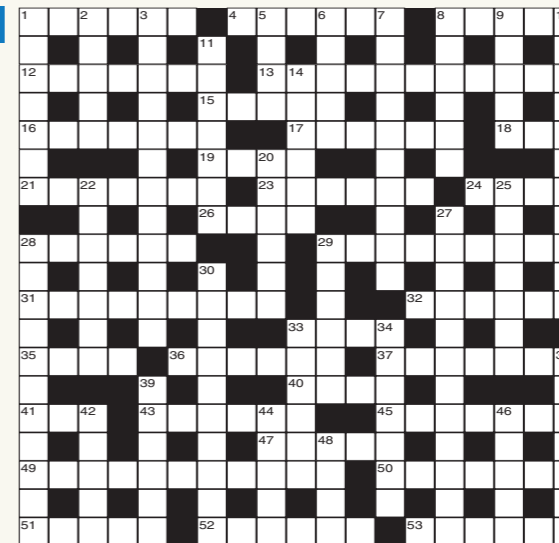
The members of the Gallery have started a new venture, known as "River Sketchers". Open to anyone, the casual get-together is an opportunity for the public to come, bring out their drawing materials, with a drink and sandwich in hand, and draw and paint the landscape. River Sketchers have set up in St Albans, the Canoelands Orchard, and the rock shore overlooking the Hawkesbury.

'We all sat around one day complaining that we don't get outside to draw enough,' explains Carol. 'We are looking forward to that continuing, and looking forward to more people joining us.'

For more information about the Ferry Artists Gallery, visit ferryartists.org.au

BIG CROSSWORD

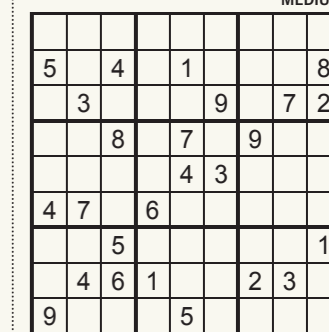
- ACROSS**
- 1 Office worker
 - 4 Brood of chickens
 - 8 Rich cake
 - 12 Affably
 - 13 Desertion
 - 15 Tired
 - 16 Civilian soldiers
 - 17 Designate
 - 18 Marine
 - 19 Sigh
 - 21 Grassland
 - 23 Just claims
 - 24 Rain lightly
 - 26 Considerable
 - 28 Raw recruit (coll)
 - 29 Public decree
 - 31 Invited celebrity (5,4)
 - 32 Inaugurations
 - 33 Dawdles
 - 35 Habitual routine
 - 36 Matched
 - 37 Difficult position (3,4)
 - 40 Category
 - 41 Not on
 - 43 Garland
 - 45 Suffer anxiety
 - 47 Heron, for example
 - 49 Cautiously
 - 50 Part of the UK
 - 51 Hawks
 - 52 Channel
 - 53 Sculpture
 - 1 Wounds
 - 2 Ampoule
 - 3 Prove
 - 5 Cargo
 - 6 Amphibians
 - 7 Was anxious (coll) (3,7)
 - 8 Renter
 - 9 Spools
 - 10 Removal of teeth
 - 11 Nightwear
 - 14 Knitted cap
 - 20 Knight's protection
 - 22 Fierce
 - 25 Stance
 - 27 Postscript
 - 28 Stiffening after death (5,6)
 - 29 Faulty condition
 - 30 Amazing
 - 33 Deadly
 - 34 Removed fleece from
 - 38 Foot lever
 - 39 Curses
 - 42 Conclusive
 - 44 Chirp
 - 46 Unfit
 - 48 Trench



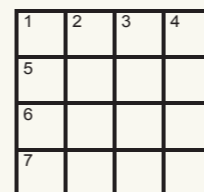
SUDOKU

Sudoku is an 81 square number grid with nine blocks each containing nine cells. To solve the puzzle, all the blank cells must be filled in using numbers from 1 to 9. Each number can only appear once in each row, column and in the nine 3x3 blocks.

MEDIUM



TINY CROSS



- Across**
- 1 Moved towards
 - 5 Employed
 - 6 Echo
 - 7 Move gently
- Down**
- 1 Preserve
 - 2 Continent
 - 3 Belonging to the males
 - 4 Boundary

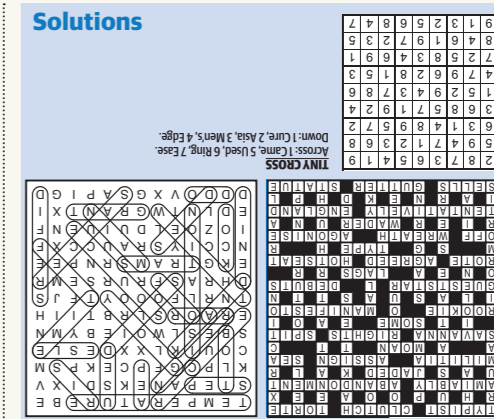
TEMPERATURE BE
STEPANEKSDIXV
KLPCGFPCPKPSM
COUIKLXXDESLE
SBESLWOIEBYMN
ERAORSRLRBTIIH
TNRLF OO OYTFJS
DHRA SFRURSEMR
EKGT RAMSRNPEE
NCC IYSRAUCX F
IOZOE LDU I UEN F
EDLNTWGRANTXI
DDDOV XGSAPIGD

WORD FIND

All the words listed below can be found in the grid.

- And** **Off**
Ask **Pea**
Bolt **Reign**
Car **Roar**
Cube **Saucer**
Denied **Send**
Differs **Sir**
Dock **Smart**
Else **Solid**
Feet **Source**
Glory **Step**
Grant **Temperature**
Isolation **Time**
Main **Used**
Odd **Weight**

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Merry Christmas!

SANTA'S TRICK

Which Christmas decoration from the top picture has Santa dropped in the bottom picture?



MISSING LETTERS

There are three letters that can be used to fill the gaps. Do you know which ones they are? The theme is CHRISTMAS.



CHRISTMAS TREE CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 3 See 50 Ac & 6 Ac (3)
- 5 Loves (6)
- 6 See 50 Ac & 3 Ac (5)
- 9 What a star did (5)
- 11 Drinks (7)
- 13 Children's favourite things (4)
- 14 Twelve Days ... Christmas (2)
- 15 Raise one's glass (5)
- 18 Child's nurse (5)
- 19 No room at it (3)
- 20 Party (2)
- 22 Written on Christmas cards (9)
- 25 Santa's cave (3)
- 27 Used when cooking meat (4)
- 28 Savoury or sweet ones (4)
- 29 Glad (6)
- 30 Night before (3)
- 32 * (9)
- 36 Santa holds onto them (5)
- 39 Pleasingly dainty (4)
- 40 God (Hebrew) (2)
- 42 Santa's call: See 10 Dn + 38 Dn (2,2,2)

DOWN

- 1 Exclamation of surprise (3)
- 2 Thanks (2)
- 3 After Christmas day (6,3)
- 4 You (poetic) (2)
- 6 It can be roasted (8)
- 7 Live high on it? (3)
- 8 Leonard (abb) (3)
- 10 See 42 Ac & 38 Dn (2)
- 12 Tops of Special Orders? (2)
- 16 Miracle ... 34th Street (2)
- 17 Decorated ... of shortbread (4)
- 18 Christmas carol (4)
- 20 Designated one in charge of a car (6)
- 21 'Do you ... what I ...' (3)
- 22 Given the green light (2)
- 23 Type of pole (3)
- 24 Excesses (5)
- 25 'A Christmas Carol' author (7)
- 26 Poles apart? (init) (2)
- 29 The real star (5)
- 31 Victorians (abb) (4)
- 33 For Christmas dinner (3)
- 34 20 Dn should be teetotal (init) (2)
- 35 * (5)
- 37 Prepare the table (3)
- 38 See 42 Ac & 10 Dn (2)
- 41 Behold! (2)
- 45 Small child's toy (5)
- 49 Before noon (init) (1.1.)

© Puzzles supplied by AUSPAC MEDIA

* See 35 Dn & 32 Ac to discover Santa's greeting

SECRET CODE

Santa Claus is lost! Use the key below to help you decipher the frozen letters and find out where Santa is.



A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	1	2	3	4	5
R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z								
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14								

CHRISTMAS JIGSAW

Rearrange the letter-groups to make five things associated with the Christmas tree:



SOLUTIONS

MISSING LETTERS: E, R and T
 ACROSS: Rest, tinsel, tree.
 DOWN: Present, treats.
 SECRET CODE: Antartica
 CHRISTMAS JIGSAW: Bauble, lights, pine cones, ribbon, tinsel.
 SANTA'S TRICK: No. 7
 CHRISTMAS TREE CROSSWORD:
 ACROSS: 3 Boy, 5 Adora, 6 Child, 9 Shore, 11 Egg nog, 13 Toys, 14 Of, 15 Toast, 18 Nanny, 19 In, 20 Do, 22 Greetings, 25 Den, 27 Foll, 28 Pres, 29 Joyful, 30 Eve, 32 Christmas, 36 Reins, 39 Cite, 40 El, 42 Ho, 43 Mass, 44 Red, 45 Mary's, 46 Top, 47 Of, 48 Yule, 50 Mary's.
 DOWN: 1 Car, 2 Ta, 3 Boxing Day, 4 Ye, 6 Chestnut, 7 Hog, 8 Len, 10 Ho, 12 So, 16 On, 17 Tins, 18 Noel, 20 Driver, 21 See, 22 Go, 23 Icy, 24 Gilt, 25 Dickens, 26 MS, 29 Jesus, 31 Vics, 33 Ham, 34 TT, 35 Merry, 37 Set, 38 Ho, 41 Lo, 45 Dolly, 49 a.m.



STONE

As the festive season approaches, we want to extend our warmest wishes to you and your family. It's been a pleasure serving the Hornsby community throughout the year, and we're grateful for the trust and support you've shown us.

Whether you're celebrating at home or heading away, we hope this season is filled with joy, laughter, and quality time with loved ones. Here's to a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year!

From our team to yours—thank you, and we look forward to helping you achieve your property dreams in 2024!

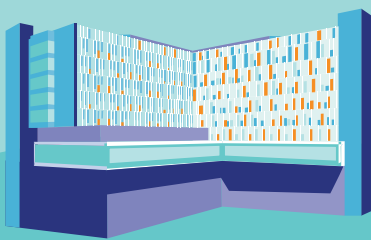
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