

edition 63 • JAN 2025

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## Editor's Word Claudia Butjerevic

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Welcome to Fanuary!

xciting and daunting: it's 2025! Januarys are notorious for feeling that universal itch to start fresh, set new goals, and upgrade ourselves to better, more refined versions.

So, to scratch our own itch, we here at The Post decided to kick off the new year by changing up our look. A facelift, if you will. Let me know how you feel about our new layout!

I hope everyone had a restful and joyous holiday break. My favourite part is always midnight Christmas mass, and the food my grandmothers always lovingly prepare (and I ravenously eat).

For this edition, we take a look at what our North Shore schools achieved in 2024, how Australia Day is being celebrated, and our publisher Tina Brown has a column talking about the cost of living.

Inside, the Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Community College course guide is included, which you can find in the centre of the publication.

Flipping through, a review of the Imperial Ice Stars' "Swan Lake On Ice" performance can be found, and an exclusive giveaway of Kintsugi Heroes new book, "Connecting Seniors". Email us for a chance to grab a copy!

News on affordable housing in Hornsby, rate increases in North Sydney, and a rundown of the situation with Devonshire Childcare Centre in Willoughby are filtered throughout this edition.

We spoke to Scott Harris from Afterlife Funerals to discuss the funeral industry, and the exorbitant cost of dying.

Australia Day is upon us - a last hurrah before school starts up again. I hope the day is filled with fun for everyone!

Until the next edition,

Clandia

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## Hornsby Calls For Stronger **NSW Government Cooperation**

IN the NSW Government's Hornsby Transport Orientated Development masterplan, over 6,200 new dwellings will be established in the area.

This number exceeds the number of dwellings that Hornsby Shire Council had planned as the target for the Hornsby Town Centre.

In Hornsby's Masterplan, just over 1,000 dwellings were allocated. This figure was developed following a comprehensive study and consultation with stakeholders, landowners and the wider community.

Hornsby Shire Council have announced they support the NSW Government's masterplan, though are calling for cooperation in delivering essential infrastructure.

This desired infrastructure includes employment zones, road improvement, parking, pedestrian and cycle networks, and open space.

'We have not seen testing of the impacts of these changes on our roads, parking provision, bus circulation or amenity of adjacent areas,' says Hornsby Shire Mayor, Warren Waddell. 'The commitment by the Government to the purchase of additional open space within the Hornsby Town Centre is however welcomed, and we look forward to further commitments by the Government to deliver all necessary infrastructure required to support growth.'

## St Leonards Telstra Exchange **To Tranform Into Housing**

MORE than 280 new homes have been approved at the Telstra Exchange site in St Leonards.

The State Significant Development proposal will include 272 build-to-rent homes, 10 affordable housing units, 84 serviced apartments, and retail stores within the 43-storey mixed-use tower. The proposal is valued at \$209 million. The Telstra Exchange will retain operations, with the building being integrated with the new development.

The site was rezoned under the Crows Nest Transport Orientated Development Accelerated Precinct.

The Minns Labor Government is speeding up new home delivery by streamlining planning assessments, allowing sites to be concurrently rezoned and assessed.

Development at the St Leonards site will create 250 construction jobs and 40 ongoing jobs. From the project, Lane Cove Council will receive up to \$9.8 million in development contributions for local infrastructure such as parks, community facilities, and local roads. Further, \$3 million will be providing by the NSW Housing and Productivity fund for infrastructure projects such as roads, parks, hospitals, and schools.

'This project is a great example of an innovative infill development proposal which will provide nearly 290 new homes plus new short-term accommodation within six kilometres of the Sydney CBD,' says Paul Scully, Minister for Planning and Public Spaces. 'This rezoning and assessment pathway is similar to what proponents will have access to when working with the Housing Delivery Authority, this will speed up the delivery of good projects.'

## No Local Liberal **Columnists** in The Post

he Post regrets to inform readers that Member for Willoughby Tim James, Member for Davidson Matt Cross, and Member for Berowra Julian Leeser have ceased advertising in The Post newsmagazine. All the Liberals who previously enjoyed the publication.

The decision to withdraw their support for the publication comes soon after The Post's Publisher, Tina Brown, launched a campaign to run in the 2025 federal election for the seat of Berowra as a Community Independent.

### You can now read Tina's Column as an Independent candidate on page 2 of The Post's December edition.

The Post would like to take the opportunity to state that Publisher Tina Brown has stepped away from involvement with content published in our hyperlocal newsmagazine. All content is curated and produced by The Post's Editor, Claudia Butjerevic.

Coverage of the 2025 federal election will be impartial as the outcome of Tina Brown's campaign does not affect the publication of The Post. All federal seats will be covered for the North Shore, regardless of party or candidate.

The Post will continue to bring relevant news to the community, for the community.

he Post is looking for advertisers and stories for special features in February, March and April 2025 from across our community.

International Women's Day : 8th

March

Seniors Week: 3-16 March

Anzac Day: 25 April

Please reach out for our media kit and deadlines to sales@hkpost.com. au

# **Latest News**

from the

**Mayor's Desk** 

filled with optimism for the

As we welcome a new year, we're

opportunities 2025 will bring to our

community. Our dedicated staff are

already hard at work delivering the

projects and initiatives outlined in

Council's 2023-26 Delivery Program.

Coming together as a community is

always uplifting, and Australia Day

holds special significance for me. It's a

time to reflect on our nation's history,

First Peoples, and to honour the rich

cultural diversity that shapes our

identity. This year's theme, *Reflect*.

Respect. Celebrate., invites us all to

other's stories, and celebrate

our achievements and shared

We're thrilled to offer a variety of

events across Hornsby Shire to mark

the occasion. Start the day at Hornsby

Park with a free BBQ breakfast and

free pool entry, don't forget to pack your picnic rug and stay for the

Concert in the Park. For those who'd

love to cuddle a koala, tickets will be

available for a visit to the wonderful

Koala Park in West Pennant Hills. If

staying cool indoors is more your style,

don't miss the screening of the latest

Paddington in Peru movie at Hornsby

Bookings are essential for ticketed

hornsby.nsw.gov.au/australiaday

We look forward to celebrating with you!

community spirit.

Event Cinemas.

events so head to

to find out more.

Warren Waddell

Mayor of Hornsby Shire

acknowledge our history, respect each

including the legacy of its

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#### What's on



## **NEW YEAR...NEW YOU!**

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## **CALL FOR ENTRIES**

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hornsby.nsw.gov.au/remagine

Artwork by Fleur Brett, Yellow Torso (The Muse), 2024





hornsby.nsw.gov.au/halc

## Mount Kuring-gai Household Recycling Drop Off

Have you got excess household recycling after the holidays? The Household Recycling Drop Off centre is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at 5 Beaumont Road, Mount Kuring-gai. Mixed recycling, flattened cardboard and eligible Return and Earn containers.

hornsby.nsw.gov.au/waste





# Australia Day

SUNDAY 26 JANUARY

GET READY FOR SOME FREE FAMILY FUN THROUGHOUT THE SHIRE BBQ Breakfast (Hornsby Park) - Free sausage

sizzle, coffee and pool entry: 8am - 10am

Concert in the Park (Hornsby Park): 11.30am - 2.30pm

Free tickets to Koala Park: 10am – 12pm arrival Free tickets to 'Paddington in Peru' at Event Cinemas

Booking essential for ticketed events. Places limited.



Scan the QR code or visit hornsby.nsw.gov.au/AustraliaDay

📉 Australia Day

hornsby.nsw.gov.au

## Hornsby Australia Day **Events**

FOR this Australia Day, Hornsby Shire Council is presenting a range of free, family-friendly activities for the community to enjoy.

To mark and celebrate the 26th of January, multicultural music, inflatable pool activities, food, and movie fun will grace the Shire.

'We're very proud of the great diversity of cultures and backgrounds that call Hornsby Shire home and Australia Day is the perfect day to celebrate our unique community,' says Mayor Warren Waddell. 'I'm very much looking forward to getting out and about 2.30pm, featuring performances from across the Shire.'

The Australia Day program includes:

BBQ Breakfast from 8am to 10am at Hornsby Park on Peats Ferry Road, with a free sausage sizzle and coffee.

Free entry into the Hornsby Aquatic and Leisure Centre from 8am to 2.30pm, with giant inflatables to play on.

An Australia Day Concert at Hornsby Park from 11.30am to First Nations dance company Gawura

Cultural Immersions, local band The Funky Monkeys, and Latin music from Lily Guerrero & Band.

Free entry tickets are up for grabs for Koala Park Sydney, Thornleigh. Free tickets for the 2pm showing of Paddington in Peru at Hornsby Event Cinemas.

Availability for Koala Park Sydney and Hornsby Event Cinemas is subject to capacity numbers.

Bookings are essential. www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/ Visit australiaday

## Ku-ring-gai **Australia Day Events**

ACROSS Ku-ring-gai, Australia Day events are lined up.

In a morning ceremony, the winners of the 2025 Ku-ring-gai Local Citizen of the Year Awards will be announced at Knox Grammar School.

At the Ku-ring-gai Fitness & Aquatic Centre in West Pymble, Council is hosting a pool party, with a BBQ, face painting, a poolside DJ, and free entertainment. Entry is a gold coin donation.

A summer fair will be held at St Ives Showground on both the 25th and 26th of January, featuring food trucks, an animal nursery, and rides. Mayor Christine Kay says this year's Australia Day will be a chance for families to get together and celebrate before the start of a new school year.

gov.au/whatson





New Year celebrations are under-

Willoughby City Council is hosting a month-long Year of the Snake Festival in the Chatswood CBD. From January 23rd to February 16th, the CBD will be a hive of activity, welcoming the lunisolar holiday.

The festival program will include a Snake Trail for participants to follow through the CBD, artistic snake sculptures, lion dancers, illuminated lanterns, and all-day street food stalls offering local cooking and traditional Asian cuisine. A special art exhibition, "Infrangible Matter: Tracing the Elements", will be on display, exploring the five elements fire, water, wood, metal, and earth from the perspectives of Chinese, Vietnamese and Korean

cultures. The Golden Market will be open on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, offering entertainment.

For Celebration Day on February 1st, a lantern parade and market stalls will line Victoria Avenue.

'The Chatswood Year of the Snake Festival is a wonderful opportunity for our community to come together and celebrate cultural diversity, prosperity, and good health for the year ahead,' says Mayor Tanya Taylor.



For more information, visit krg.nsw.

Lunar New Year in Chatswood













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## Adults 65+ Needed for **Intergenerational Program in Preschools**

n intergenerational research program in preschools is being rolled out across Greater Sydney.

The George Institute for Global Health, in conjunction with the University of NSW, are hosting a program where older adults and preschool children are placed together. Throughout the course of the program, the cognitive benefits of the pairing will be measured. Data being collected will be

presented to the government.

In search of participants, the George Institute are looking for adults aged 65 and over to take part in the program. There are currently spaces for adults in Galston, Terrey Hills, Dee Why, Manly, Narrabeen, and East Lindfield preschools.

Activities the adults and preschoolers will engage with in their visits will be games, arts and craft, cooking, dancing, singing, yoga, and playful physical activity, among others.

'It's believed that bringing older adults ages 65+ and preschoolers together in an enjoyable, structured playgroup has the potential to target risk factors... and shows promise in reducing the risk of frailty and dementia,' reads a press release from the George Institute.

For more information, visit www.georgeinstitute.org.au/ projects/intergenerational-intervention-to-reduce-frailty-trial-integrity

# Tips for



tarting a new job can be daunting. Meeting new people can be overwhelming. The good thing, though, is that with time and practise these tasks become easier. You're better at stomaching your nerves and have an idea of what to expect.

Another school year means our littlest members are entering the academic world for the first time, exposed to all their big feelings without any bedrock of experience.

Maybe even more nervous are their mums and dads.

To make the transition as seamless as possible, the NSW Government published a helpful list of tips:

#### PREPARATION

Any medical condition, allergy, disability, or required medication needs to be communicated with the school.

School drop-off and pick up-need to be organised.

If needed, after-hours care should be organised. Write the child's name on

their school items. Do not have their name visible on the outside of anything the child may be wearing to and from school.

# New Leadership at St Ives Public and St Ives High



Claudia Butjerevic



ew principals are arriving at St Ives Public and St Ives High

For St Ives Public, Kelly McGowan will become principal following her role as Deputy Principal at St Ives North Public School.

For St Ives High School, Tracey Casey, former Principal at Sydney Sec-

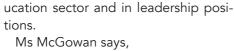
Separated by a fence, St Ives High

and St Ives Public often see crossover between students and families. Together, the schools are focused on a seamless transition from Kindergarten through to Year 12.

Mrs Casey says,

#### I'm keen to make sure students and staff have a strong connection to St Ives High School so the students can do their best learning.

Mrs Casey says,



ondary College, Leichhardt Campus, is

the new principal.

tions.

As the new principal, I'm aiming to keep that excitement for learning and make sure our students are accepting of everybody and can work in harmony.

8

While I'm getting to know the school and community, I know that our proximity to each other gives a great opportunity to work closely with Kelly and her teachers.

Ready to Sell or Lease in 2025

Combined, both women have more than 50 years of experience in the ed-

Develop independence using the bathroom and teach handwashing.

Practise the child recognising their property and name.

Encourage the child to open and eat their food by themselves.

Practise putting on school shoes and walking in them.

Practise dressing in the school uniform.

Practise packing and unpacking the school bag.

Practise drinking from bubblers.

Practise the routine of travelling to and from school - either by car, walking, or public transport.

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# **State Government and** Ku-ring-gai Council Reach **Mediation Agreement on TODS**

#### Claudia Butjerevic

he NSW Government and Kuring-gai Council have come to some agreement regarding the Transport Oriented Development (TOD).

Earlier in 2024, Ku-ring-gai Council pushed back against the Minns Government's new housing policy, which would see mass development erupt 400-metres around the Roseville, Lindfield, Gordon, and Killara train stations. Resolving to begin legal proceedings against the state government, Ku-ringgai has been digging its heels in to stop, what they believe to be, development that would damage tree canopy and heritage conservation areas.

The mediation agreement involves Council continuing public consultation on alternative planning scenarios and putting forth proposals for approval in the February and April 2025 Ordinary Meetinas.

The legal case is still pending and will remain unless the parties can come to a final settlement by way of the me-

diation agreement.

The Minns' Government released a statement in early December supporting Council's local planning controls for the TODS, to which Mayor Christine Kay expressed the Council's support.

'Today's statement confirms the importance of this work and simply gives this council the same status as other Sydney councils who've prepared locally-responsive plans in the TOD precincts,' says Mayor Kay. 'Ku-ring-gai Council is willing to do its bit to support housing supply, but in a way which is responsive to our unique local area.'

In the event that an alternative proposal is finalised, implementation will occur in or before May 2025. In case this does not occur, a hearing date for the legal proceedings is slated for June 2025, and both parties are to continue preparation for the hearing.

Four alternative scenarios were put forward by Council in November, including the states' initial controls.

Each scenario is subject to deliver over 23,200 homes in over 15 years to the Ku-ring-gai area.

Community group Friends of Kuring-gai (FOKE) have been notably against the TOD implementation. Online, FOKE publicly released their submission to Council regarding the alternative scenarios, stating that "all alternative scenarios abandon robust planning assessment" and that "all scenarios will negatively impact on neighbourhood character, tree canopy and green spaces, biodiversity, privacy, traffic and parking, heritage, infrastructure as well as setting precedents for increased heights"

As with every update concerning Ku-ring-gai and the TODS, residents have been sounding off on social media. Some ridicule Council for the succumbing to the demands of NIMBYs (Not In My Back Yard) who refuse development. Others point out that is it shameful that while the rest of the state is taking the new controls in stride, Kuring-gai is using ratepayers' dollars to dig in its heels.

# **SBS Stays in Artarmon**

recent Federal Government decision to retain SBS in Artarmon while simultaneously expanding into Western Sydney was announced in early December.

In April of 2023, the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts led a feasibility study to determine a possible relocation of the SBS studios from Artarmon to Western Sydney.

Following the feasibility study, the Federal Government have decided not to pursue the move due to significant relocation costs.

The Albanese Government have announced a \$5.9 million funding boost to expanded SBS into Western Sydney.

With the new facility, SBS is slated to deliver 360 hours annually of Australian screen content, and 1,440 hours annually of audio and podcasting content. The SBS studio will feature a TV studio, radio/podcasting booths, collaboration spaces, and a modest workspace for production output.

Member for Willoughby, Tim James, expressed his relief at the news.

'The decision to retain the SBS facility in Artarmon is a fantastic outcome for our community. SBS has long been a valued part of the area, contributing to our rich cultural and media landscape,' said Tim James MP. 'This decision ensures that Artarmon continues to be home to this iconic broadcaster and I welcome the positive impact it will have on local jobs and the broader community.

SBS will explore options for the Western Sydney site in early 2025.

## Ku.ring.gai Council

## From the Mayor



at Gordon.

Happy New Year to all our residents! I hope everyone has enjoyed their Christmas celebrations.

As we ease our way into 2025, there are lots of events and activities taking place in Ku-ring-gai

during the summer holidays. We have just launched a new 30-minute walking trail allowing residents to explore and learn about 18 significant trees

The Killior'ra Tree Trail helps showcase the wide variety of tree species in our area and the hidden benefits provided by these trees.

It reveals, for instance, that a 41m tall Sydney Blue Gum has the same annual cooling effect as running an air conditioner for six years, along with delivering the same level of shade as 175 beach umbrellas.

Find out more at www.krg.nsw.gov.au/treetrail

Next month we'll be celebrating the Year of the Snake during our Lunar New Year Festival.

We'll be holding a Lunar New Year food market at St Ives Village Green on 7 February, along with traditional Chinese calligraphy and folk dancing workshops at Gordon Library on 1 February.

To keep the kids entertained, there's plenty happening at the Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden, including survival skills workshops on 29 January and 4 February, along with the pool party on 26 January at the Ku-ring-gai Fitness and Aquatic Centre near Bicentennial Park in West Pymble. And don't forget that you can beat the heat by watching Midweek Movies in air-conditioned comfort at Gordon Library.

Find out more at www.krg.nsw.gov.au/Things-to-do

Council will be holding its first meeting for 2025 on 18 February. You can watch the meeting live online or attend in person as an observer; visit krg.nsw.gov.au to find out more.

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

Mayor Christine Kay



Art classes for adults and children at **KU-RING-GAI ART CENTRE** 

krg.nsw.gov.au/artcentre





Discover some simple exercises to improve balance and strength. Physio Sally Castell will talk about the benefits and demonstrate exercises for you to try on the day. Wear something light for exercising and enjoy morning tea afterwards.

A free exercise booklet will also be available to take home.

Thursday 30 January 11am - 12.30pm FREE Light refreshments available

Gordon Library Meeting Room 1 799 Pacific Highway, Gordon

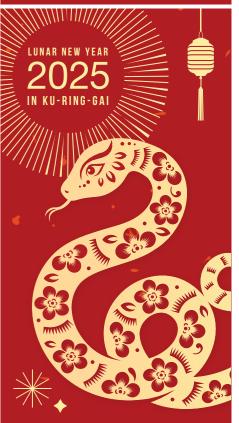
krg.nsw.gov.au/seniorsevents

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## Exercise benefits for older people



Join in celebrations for the Year of the Snake with a number of events in Ku-ring-gai!

#### **Events**



- Popular Lunar New Year food market at St Ives Village Green
- Mythical scrolls exploring snake legends
- Snake inspired ceramics
- Family workshops: Calligraphy and floating fans
- Bilingual storytime events
- Chinese folk dance performance
- Family animal walk in Mandarin

For more information visit krg.nsw.gov.au/lunarnewyear

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Sign up for our monthly e-news at krg.nsw.gov.au/subscribe





**IMAGE COURTESY:** 

Michael Mannington OAM

Honourable Margaret Beazley, Governor of New South Wales, has presented the Youth Community

Services Awards to two local students.

Anju Dhanushkodi from Hornsby Girls High and Chenuli Jayasekara from Loreto Normanhurst have been awarded for their service and engagement in the com-

munity.



## New Kintsugi Heroes Book **Highlights Lives of** focal Seniors

#### Claudia Butjerevic

intsugi Heroes have retheir third book. leased titled "Connecting Seniors: Silver Linings – Inspiring Stories of Courage and Resilience".

Launched on December 4th at Thornleigh Community Baptist Church, the book is an anthology of seniors' stories, where ordinary people around the community share their tales of overcoming adversity.

"Connecting Seniors" is a project sponsored by the NSW Department of Communities and Justice. Along with the published book, Kintsugi Heroes released a special podcast series highlighting the diverse lives and experiences of local seniors. Another part of the project was establishing a community choir for seniors with Parkinson's disease, dementia, or those who are experiencing isolation.

Project partners included Hornsby Village Hub sponsored by Sydney North PHN, and The Social Local Collective.

'There is a huge power behind storytelling, it builds empathy and reduces prejudice,' said lan Westmoreland, Founder of Kintsugi Heroes. 'We've captured some incredibly powerful stories around courage and resilience.'

Inside the book, authors include Glenys Reid, Gregory Smith OAM, Graciela Espinoza Valenzuela, Don Mathewson, Margaret-Anne Hayes OAM, Terry James, Alex Brandt, Bradley Bowling, Narelle Gatti, Ian Westmoreland OAM, Jann McCall, Walter Frankel, Jeni Vercoe, and Bill Kable.

At the book launch, Kintsugi Heroes invited speakers involved with the book onto a panel to discuss aging,

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CONNECTING

SENIORS SILVER

what it means to be a senior, and the importance of connection.

Panellists included Jeni Vercoe, Margaret-Anne Hayes OAM, Bill Kable, and Don Mathewson, with John Milham as the host.

For more information, visit www.kintsugiheroes.com.au

#### **GIVEAWAY DETAILS:**

The Post is giving away copies of the new book, "Connecting Seniors: Silver Linings- Inspiring Stories of Courage and Resilience".

Thankyou to Kintsugi Heroes for the copies.

Email us editor@hkpost.com.au for your chance to win a copy!



Claudia Butjerevic

Taking place on the 25th of October, Anju and Chenuli were 2 of 26 students honoured by the

Governor at the Award ceremony. They received a trophy and certificate of commendation.

The Youth Community Service Awards are conducted by the Order of Australia Association (NSW) Branch. Each student is nominated for being community role models, and engaging with services such as local initiatives in areas like education, and health and welfare for disadvantaged communities, or for international initiatives in areas such as sanitation and infrastructure

Convenor of the Awards, Dr Frank Kelleher OAM, said,



Anju and Chenuli have contributed beyond the norm and their actions have inspired their fellow students. They are beacons of inspiration for others to follow.



## New Laws Allow Change of Children's Names

By Cecilia Castle, **Castle Lawyers at Asquith**  Family Law Section

Mendments to the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act commenced on 1 December 2024 enabling sole parents to change their child's name in certain circumstances.

Parents seeking to unilaterally change their child's name require court orders granting them sole parental responsibility under the Family Law Act allowing them to make decisions about major long term issues relating to the child, or a specific court order enabling the parent to change the child's name.

Importantly, the legislation is retrospective. That means that parents with relevant orders granting them sole parental responsibility before the legislation was enacted also qualify.

Sole parental responsibility orders are made when the court is satisfied that the parent seeking sole parental responsibility has, for a substantial period of time, been the main parent exercising parental responsibility to the exclusion of the other parent.

Orders can also be made for one parent to have sole parental responsibility about specific aspects of a child's welfare, such as education or medical issues. Such orders enable the parent with sole parental responsibility to make decisions about the child's welfare without consulting the other parent.

The Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia as well as the NSW District Court have jurisdiction to decide disputes about a child's name and approve applications seeking a child's change of name.

The criteria for such decision will depend on whether it is in the best interests of the child to make such an order, including if the child's name is different from the parent they live with, how the child's name impacts their identity, and the relationship the child has with the other parent.

## Asquith Girls High 2024 Mock Trial Champions

squith Girls High School have been winners of the Law Society of NSW's Mock Trial Competition.

After twelve years, Asquith Girls are the first NSW Public school to take home the title, defeating St Paul's Catholic College in the finals.

'They must understand and predict the opposition's arguments, plan a case theory, prepare witnesses for cross examination, as well as plan how to cross examine the other team,' said Head Teacher at Asquith Girls, Phillipa Somerville.

In the mock trials, team members assume the roles of witness, solicitors, barristers, and court officers, and, unlike real trials, are not given a brief of the opposing sides' evidence or witness statements.

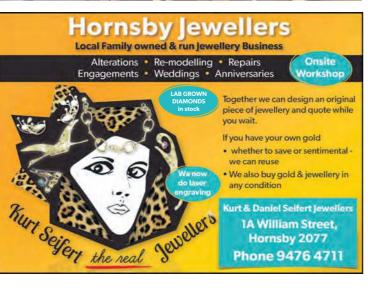
In the Asquith Girls team were 10 students from Year 10, and 1 student from Year 11.

'We are so excited to be representing a public school in this competition, and now to win,' said Year 10 student Lottie.

Since the beginning of 2024, the students have participated in 7 rounds of the competition. In the quarter final, the team up against St Frances Catholic College, and in the semifinals, went were victorious against Ravenswood School for Girls.

IMAGE COURTESY:





# **Devonshire Childcare Centre Costs Council Half A Million**

#### Claudia Butjerevic

hroughout 2024, the viability of Devonshire Childcare Centre was called into question.

Operated and owned by Willoughby City Council, Devonshire remains the only long day care centre in the LGA run by the local government. Established over 20 years ago, the centre was created to meet the needs of families unable to find meaningful daycare options.

However, Devonshire has been operating at a loss for the past few years, and in March 2024, Willoughby City Council opened submissions from interested providers to lease the site.

After an arduous application process, Heritage House Childcare, which operates centres in Auburn, Baulkham Hills, Hornsby, Cherrybrook, Castle Hill, Pennant Hills, Turramurra, and Wahroonga, were granted approval on the proposed lease. The term of the lease was a period of 10 years.

In a surprising turn, Willoughby City Council reversed their decision in the December 2024 General Meeting, ceasing the lease approval and returning operations to Council staff.

During the meeting, a petition with over 600 signatures was acknowledged. The petition read:

'The Devonshire Street Child Care loses Council approximately \$10,000 per week... Please support the lease as it will continue to keep our rates low for all residents of the LGA.'

Xerxes Karai, Managing Director of Heritage House Childcare, expressed his disappointment with Council's



CPA, Tax Agent, JP M: 0425 282 622 Suite 10, Level 1, 32 Florence St Hornsby



## Services:

- Taxation & Accounting
- Self-Managed Super Fund (SMSF)
- Bookkeeping, GST & BAS Returns
- Business Advisory
- ASIC Secretary Service
- New Company Setup
- Payroll & HR Services
- Financial Modelling & Analysis

www.sbataxaccountants.com.au julia@sbataxaccountants.com.au

backtracking, highlighting the time and resources invested by the private business to complete their application.

'We were assured that under the tendering guidelines for NSW local government, council must not invite or submit tenders without a firm intention and capacity to proceed with contract,' said Mr Karai.

Councillor Anna Greco argued against the lease, wishing to not outsource operations of Devonshire. 'Devonshire's low ocupancy rate of 72% is likely to recover... This community land is designed for long childcare. Council management of Devonshire matters because it provides a unique, high-quality option.'

Councillor Robert Samuel defended the lease. 'We don't have enough libraries, we don't have enough youth centres, we've got no money for sports facilities, no money for change rooms for women and girls... As for appropriate use of community land, there are 55 long daycare centres in Willoughby, do you know how many women's shelters there are? There isn't a single one in the whole of Willoughby.'

The motion for the General Manager to finalise the lease agreement was lost, with six voting in favour (Councillors Taylor, Campbell, Roussac, Royds, Samuel, and Wright), and seven against (Councillors Chuang, Dodds, Greco, McCullagh, Moratelli, Nelson, and Rozos).

As the outsourcing of Devonshire was a cost-saving measure included in Council's Special Rate Variation (SRV) application to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART), Council is now reallocating \$500,000 to cover the running costs of Devonshire.

Where, exactly, this money will materialise from to be used for Devonshire Childcare Centre is subject to further debate in upcoming meetings.

Willoughby City Council provided a response on the issue of Devonshire Childcare Centre to The Post:

At its Council meeting on 16 December a motion to grant the proposed lease for the management and operation of Devonshire Street Childcare Centre was lost. As a result Council is unable to implement the proposed lease agreement. Council will continue to manage the operation of the Devonshire Childcare Centre.



By Tina Brown, Community Independent for Berowra Publisher, The Post

n the lead-up to Christmas, many of us found ourselves rushing to secure last-minute gifts, wrap up end of year events and attend community gatherings, perhaps finalise travel plans, and lock in dates with family members we may only see once or twice a year. I was no exception.

#### Amidst the festive preparations, I also accepted a few last-minute invitations within the community and one left a lasting impression.

It was a gathering of a local LinkedIn group, with the discussion cantered around mental health—an issue close to my heart as it affects so many within our community.

One of the panelists shared a deeply personal story about his wife's battle with postpartum depression. He described how she silently carried the weight of her struggles as a new mum,



#### Tina Brown is a candidate in the upcoming 2025 Federal Election for the seat of Berowra

trying to keep everything together until, one day, it became too much. He returned home from work to find her sitting alone in the dark, overwhelmed by despair.

During the session, it became evident that the situation he suddenly found himself facing was a consequence of the rising cost of living.

The family had relocated from Sydney to the Central Coast in pursuit of affordable housing and homeownership. However, this move came at a cost-they left behind their support network of family, including in-laws, aunts, and uncles who once lived just down the street.

Without that nearby support, there was no one to drop in and help with the little things new mums often rely on - like cooking a meal, putting on a load of washing, or simply taking the baby for an hour to give mum a chance to rest.

The challenges we face in Berowra, particularly around housing affordability and its ripple effects on mental health, are very real. With a significant number of senior residents in our community, it raises an important question-will support workers and healthcare providers be able to afford to live here and continue delivering the essential services our aging population relies on?

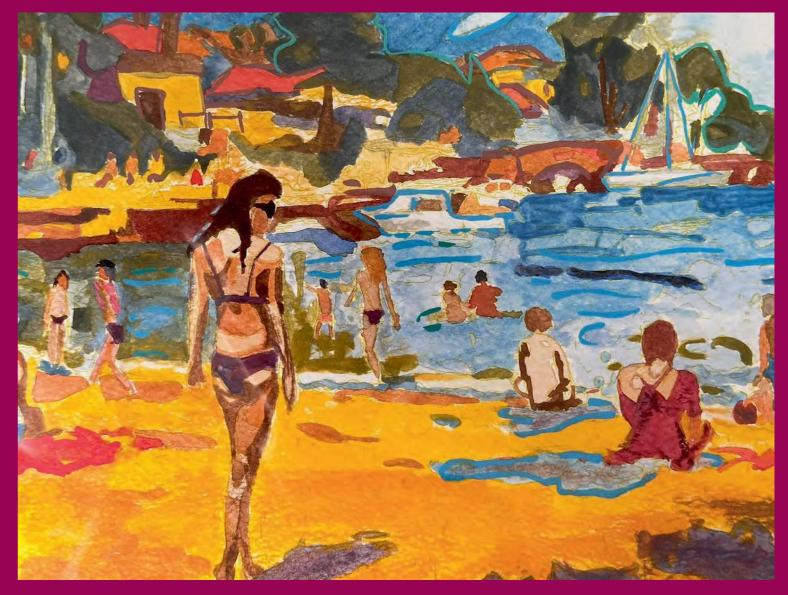
Over the past 25 years, house prices have increased fourfold, while typical incomes have only doubled.

This represents a terrible imbalance that has made it almost impossible for many people to get a foot in the property market, leaving aspiring homeowners watching prices continue to rise beyond their reach. Tax reform is urgently needed to address this crisis and help level the playing field for firsthome buyers.

Authorised by Tina Brown for Tina Brown for Berowra, 1/149 Peats Ferry Road, Hornsby NSW 2077







# **HORNSBY KU-RING-GAI COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

## HKCC ART + MUSIC

Music and Art have the power to transform, illuminate, educate and inspire. Allow your inner artist to flourish in one of HKCC's Art and Music classes.

COURSE NAME	COURSE CODE	DAY	TIME HRS	SESSIONS	DURATION	SITE	TUTOR	COST
Acrylic Painting	APS-25162H	Sat	13:30 - 16:30	9	8 Feb - 5 Apr	Hornsby HQ	CC	\$290*
Art of Watercolour	AOW-25151H	Fri	10:00 - 13:00	9	14 Feb - 11 Apr	Hornsby HQ	CC	\$290*
Art of Watercolour for Beginne	rs AOWB-25131H	Wed	10:00 - 13:00	9	12 Feb - 9 Apr	Hornsby HQ	CC	\$290*
Ceramics	CC-25143H	Thu	18:00 - 20:30	9	13 Feb - 10 Apr	Hornsby HQ	JS	\$390
Creative Crafts	CCTA-25161H	Fri	10:00 - 12:00	8	14 Feb - 4 Apr	Hornsby HQ	SB	\$275*
Drawing and Sketching 🍾	AF-251110	Mon	09:30 - 12:00	8	10 Feb - 31 Mar		JY	\$255*
Painting	AZ-25142H	Thu	12:00 - 15:00	9	13 Feb - 10 Apr	Hornsby HQ	CC	\$290*
Painting your Favourite Style	PFS-25152H	Fri	14:00 - 16:30	8	14 Feb - 4 Apr	Hornsby HQ	JW	\$265*
Papertole 🤶	AT-25141H	Thu	09:30 - 11:30	8	20 Feb - 10 Apr	Hornsby HQ	MD	\$220*
Therapeutic Art and Craft	TA-25122H	Tue	13:00 - 15:00	8	11 Feb - 1 Apr	Hornsby HQ	SB	\$275*

### MUSIC

COURSE NAME	COURSE CODE	DAY	TIME HRS	SESSIONS	DURATION	SITE	TUTOR	соѕт
Guitar Beginner	PF1-25113M	Mon	19:00 - 20:00	10	3 Feb - 7 Apr	MMA	MMA	\$290
Guitar Beginner	PF1-25143M	Thu	18:00 - 19:00	10	30 Jan-3 Apr	MMA	MMA	\$290
Guitar Intermediate	G21-25113M	Mon	18:00 - 19:00	10	3 Feb-7Apr	MMA	MMA	\$290
Keyboard Beginner	KB1-25123M	Tues	18:30 - 19:30	10	28 Jan - 1 Apr	MMA	MMA	\$290
Keyboard Beginner	KB1-25143M	Thu	19:00 - 20:00	10	30 Jan- 3 Apr	MMA	MMA	\$290
Singing	PS2-25133M	Wed	19:00 - 20:00	10	29 Jan- 2 Apr	MMA	MMA	\$290

\* Concession = \$10 discount | Tutors: JW - Mr Jan Windus, JY - Jenny Young, CC - Cheree Connolly, SB - Sayo Burton,

MD - Marlies Davey (Linssen), JS - Julianne Smallwood, MMA - Morgan Music Academy

👰 Students/Tutors have received recognition award recently 🌟 Denotes Online Course

## **HKCC LIFESTYLE**

COURSE NAME	COURSE CODE	DAY	TIME HRS	SESSIONS	DURATION	SITE	TUTOR	соѕт
Bridge Club	RBC-25112H	Mon	13:30 - 15:30		Feb - Apr	Hornsby HQ	SW	\$12p/s^
Bridge for Beginners	BB-25152H	Fri	13:30 - 15:30	6	14 Feb - 21 Mar	Hornsby HQ	SW	\$170
Cake Hacks Workshop 🉀	CHW-251	TBC		1		Hornsby HQ	PT	TBC
Chakras with Oracle Cards 🎎	JCO - 25143H	Thu	17:30 - 19:30	8	20 Feb - 10 Apr	Hornsby HQ	MN	\$255
Healthy Eating Made Easy 🉀	HEE-25132H	Wed	12:30 - 14:30	9	12 Feb - 9 Feb	Hornsby HQ	LS	\$265
Learn to Sew Workshop	LTS -25171H	Sun	10:00 - 16:00	1	16 Mar	Hornsby HQ	RD	\$175
Mahjong for Beginners	MJ-25142H	Thu	13:00 - 15:00	8	13 Feb - 3 Apr	Hornsby HQ	FC	\$230*
Mahjong Social Club	MJS-25142H	Thu	13:00 - 15:00		Jan - Apr	Hornsby HQ		\$5p/s^
Navigating Menopause 🉀	NMP-25161H	Sat	10:00 - 13:00	1	15 Feb	Hornsby HQ	AR	\$125
Oracle Card Reading Level 1	OAR-25123H	Tue	17:30 - 19:30	8	18 Feb - 8 Apr	Hornsby HQ	MN	\$255
Sewcial Sewing Day	SSD-25171H	Sun	10:00 - 15:00	1	30 Apr	Hornsby HQ	RD	\$30
Sewing for Beginners	SB2-25123H	Tue	18:15 - 20:15	8	18 Feb - 8 Apr	Hornsby HQ	RD	\$255
Sewing Lounge Pants Workshop	SLW-25171H	Sun	10:00 - 16:00	1	6 Apr	Hornsby HQ	RD	\$175
Canine First Aid 🙀	DFA-25161H	Sat	09:00 - 12:30	1	22 Mar	Hornsby HQ	DM	\$90
Canine Loss and Grief 🎎	CLG-25161H	Sat	13:30 - 15:00	1	22 Mar	Hornsby HQ	DM	\$90
New Puppy? What to Know	NPW-25161H	Sat	09:00 - 12:00	1	8 Feb	Hornsby HQ	DM	\$90
Understanding your Dog 🉀	DSA-25161H	Sat	09:00 - 12:00	1	29 Mar	Hornsby HQ	DM	\$90

\* Concession rate available | ^Cost per session | Tutors: SW - Susan Wade, FC - Flora Chan, RD - Romi Dupont-Louis, MN - Megan North, DG - Dogs Matter (Narelle Brown and Julie Quinn), PT - Pearl Toh (Pearl's Creations), AR - Alison Rex, LS - Libby Salmon

Denotes new course

## HKCC LEISURE AND WELLBEING

Optimise your health and wellbeing by participating in HKCC's spiritual, social, and physical activities. Good health and happiness increase when we are moving and breathing in positive ways. Experience lasting benefits when you join one of our amazing health classes, with our talented and passionate HKCC Tutors!

COURSE NAME	COURSE CODE	DAY	TIME HRS	SESSIONS	DURATION	SITE	TUTOR	соѕт
Aqua Aerobics	AA-25123MW	Tues	18:30 - 17:15	10	4 Feb - 8 Apr	Mt Wilga	CE	\$190
Ballroom Dancing	DBW-25143P	Thu	18:30 - 19:30	8	13 Feb - 3 Apr	HG	JM	\$130
Hatha with Yin Yoga	YY-25123SP	Tue	18:30 - 20:00	10	4 Feb - 9 Apr	Storey Park	MK	\$270
Line Dancing Beginner	LDB-25111P	Mon	09:30 - 10:30	8	10 Feb - 31 Mar	WPCH	CE	\$125*
Line Dancing Improver	LDI1-25112P	Mon	10:45 - 12:15	8	10 Feb - 31 Mar	WPCH	CE	\$180*
Line Dancing Beginner	LDB-25144H	Thu	18:00 - 19:00	8	13 Feb - 3 Apr	HWMH	RS	\$125*
Meditation	MED-25133H	Wed	18:00 - 19:00	8	19 Feb - 9 Apr	Hornsby HQ	DL	\$150
Pickleball Social	SPBS-25111H	Mon	09:30 - 11:30	10	3 Feb - 7 Apr	KWTAH	KW	\$100
Pickleball Stage 1 Intro Clinics	Various sessions	Mon Wed Thu	18:00 - 19:00	10	Feb - April	Check website for location	KW	\$220
Pickleball Stage 2 Fundamentals	PBB- 25113H	Mon	18:00 - 19:00	10	3 Feb - 7 Apr	KWTAW	KW	\$220
Pilates	HP-25141T	Thu	09:45 - 10:45	10	13 Feb - 10 Apr	TUC	JW	\$185*
Rock n Roll	RNR-25143M	Thurs	18:00 - 18:45		6 Feb - 27 Feb	MCCC	RM	\$85
Rock n Roll	RNR-25143M2	Thu	18:00 - 18:45	4	6 Mar - 27 Mar	MCCC	RM	\$85
Silver Treads s	ST-25141A	Thu	10:00 - 10:45	10	6 Feb - 10 Apr	SAC	CC	\$200
Tai Chi/Qigong Intermediate	H2I-25113H	Mon	19:30 - 21:00	9	10 Feb - 7 Apr	HWMH	LK	\$170*
Tai Chi/Qigong Intermediate	H2I-25131H	Wed	10:00 - 11:30	9	12 Feb - 9 Apr	HWMH	LK	\$170*
Tai Chi/Qigong Beginners	H2B-25161H	Sat	11:00 - 12:00	9	8 Feb - 5 Apr	HWMH	LK	\$115*
Tennis Beginner	TT-25132BW	Wed	19:00 - 20:00	10	5 Feb - 9 Apr	KWTAW	KW	\$220
Tennis Beginner	TT-25133BW	Wed	20:00 - 21:00	10	5 Feb - 9 Apr	KWTAW	KW	\$220
Tennis Beginner	TT-25143BH	Thu	20:00 - 21:00	10	6 Feb - 10 Apr	KWTAH	KW	\$220
Tennis Beginner/Intermediate	Various sessions	Tue Wed Thu	09:30 - 11:00	10	Feb - Apr	KWTAW	KW	\$330
Tennis Beginner/Intermediate	TT-25133W	Wed	20:00 - 21:00	10	5 Feb - 9 Apr	KWTAW	KW	\$220

\* Concession rate available | Tutors: JW - Jo Wolfgarten, KWTA - Kim Warrick Tennis Academy, CC - Chris Curran, LK - Dr Larissa Koroleva, RS - Ros Straw, RM - Rina Masia, MK - Mira Kozik, JM - Janette McKenzie, DA - Deepika Jinda, CGE - Cigdem Ereren
 Seniors exercise class



VISIT WWW.HKCC.NSW.EDU.AU FOR FULL COURSE DETAILS, OR CALL HKCC ON 9482 1189 HKCC: CHANGING LIVES SINCE 1925



## Fully Funded Art Therapy Classes!

With thanks to 'The Council of the Shire of Hornsby' Club Grants

 Teens (14-18yrs) - 24 Feb to 7 Apr 5pm-7pm

Ukrainian Community Members
 12 Feb to 2 Apr 1:30pm to 3:30pm

Please call 9482 1189 for enquires and bookings

# HKCC PATHWAYS

## **FOUNDATION SKILLS**

#### FSK10119 CERTIFICATE I 🗵 🕥 IN ACCESS TO VOCATIONAL PATHWAYS

- Prepare to participate in a learning environment FSKLRG001
- Engage in short and simple spoken exchanges at work FSKOCM002 • Read and respond to short and simple workplace information
- FSKRDG004 • Write short and simple workplace formatted texts FSKWTG002
- Participate in familiar spoken interactions at work FSKOCM003
- Use whole numbers and halves for work FSKNUM003
- Use short and simple strategies for work-related learning FSKLRG004
- Use basic and familiar metric measurements for work FSKNUM004
- Use simple data for work FSKNUM007
- Use digital technology for short and basic workplace tasks FSKDIG001
- Use digital technology for routine and simple workplace tasks FSKDIG002

#### FSK10219 CERTIFICATE I 🗵 🕅 **IN SKILLS FOR VOCATIONAL PATHWAYS**

- Participate in work placement FSKLRG006
- Use oral communication skills for effective workplace presentations FSKOCM005
- Read and respond to simple workplace information FSKRDG007
- Read and respond to routine workplace information FSKRDG010
- Write simple workplace information FSKWTG006
- Use simple strategies for work-related learning FSKLRG008
- Use short and simple strategies for career planning FSKLRG003
- Contribute to health and safety of self and others BSBWHS211
- Use whole numbers and simple fractions, decimals and percentages for work FSKNUM008
- Use digital technology for non-routine workplace tasks FSKDIG003 • Use business resources BSBOPS101

### FSK20119 CERTIFICATE II 🗵 🕥 **IN SKILLS FOR WORK** AND VOCATIONAL PATHWAYS

- Use strategies to respond to routine workplace problems FSKLRG009
- Use oral communication skills to participate in workplace teams FSKOCM006
- Write routine workplace texts FSKWTG009
- Use routine strategies for work-related learning FSKLRG011
- Calculate with whole numbers and familiar fractions, decimals and percentages for work FSKNUM014
- Estimate, measure and calculate with routine metric measurements for work FSKNUM015
- Interact effectively with others at work FSKOCM007
- Interpret, draw and construct routine 2D and 3D shapes for work FSKNUM016
- Use familiar and routine maps and plans for work FSKNUM017
- Use routine strategies for career planning FSKLRG010
- Write complex workplace texts FSKWTG010
- Use business software applications BSBTEC201
- Plan and prepare for work readiness BSBPEF101
- Support personal wellbeing in the workplace BSBPEF201

#### **Course Guide Design and Graphics** Craig Sutton, The Design Group www.thedesigngroup.com.au

## **JOB READY SKILLS**

### BSB20120 CERTIFICATE II 🗵 🕅 **IN WORKPLACE SKILLS**

- Apply communication skills BSBCMM211
- Work effectively in business environments BSBOPS201
- Plan and apply time management BSBPEF202
- Participate in sustainable work practices BSBSUS211
- Contribute to the health and safety of self and others BSBWHS211
- Develop and apply thinking and problem solving skills BSBCRT201
- Use business software applications BSBTEC201
- Use digital technologies to communicate in a work environment BSBTEC202
- Work effectively with others BSBTWK201
- Deliver a service to customers BSBOPS203

### BSB30120 CERTIFICATE III 🗵 🕥 **IN BUSINESS**

- Apply critical thinking skills in a team environment BSBCRT311
- Support personal wellbeing in the workplace BSBPEF201
- Participate in sustainable work practices BSBSUS211
- Use inclusive work practices BSBTWK301
- Assist with maintaining workplace safety BSBWHS311
- Engage in workplace communication BSBXCM301
- Use business software applications BSBTEC201
- Design and produce business documents BSBTEC301 • Use digital technologies to collaborate in a work environment
- BSBTEC404 • Write simple documents BSBWRT311
- Contribute to continuous improvement BSBSTR301
- Design and produce spreadsheets BSBTEC302
- Create electronic presentations BSBTEC303

#### SHORT COURSES

#### **Barista Basics - Operations** Fri, 09:30 - 14:30, 4 sessions, 07 Feb - 28 Feb HKCC and WC \$0.00\*~

This short course includes technical barista skills training (3.5 hours, non-accredited) and learning to work to organisational standards, managing workload and working as part of a team.

The training will be delivered as part of the accredited unit BSBOPS201 Work effectively in business environments.

#### **Barista Basics - Communication Essentials** Fri, 09:30 - 14:30, 4 sessions, 07 Mar - 28 Mar HKCC and WC \$0.00\*~

This short course includes coffee art (2 hours, non-accredited) and learning to use effective communication, listen actively and follow workplace communication protocols. The training will be delivered as part of the accredited unit BSBCMM211 Apply communication skills.

#### \* Fee Free Training: Targeted Skills for Small Business (TSB) Program ~ Adult Community Education (ACE) Program



# JOB READY ACCREDITED AND SUBSIDISED

## **JOB READY SKILLS**

### CHC33021 CERTIFICATE III 🗵 🕅 **IN INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT**

- Provide individualised support CHCCCS031
- · Facilitate the empowerment of people receiving support CHCCCS038
- Support independence and wellbeing CHCCCS040
- Recognise healthy body systems CHCCCS041
- Communicate and work in health or community services CHCCOM005
- Work with diverse people CHCDIV001
- Work legally and ethically CHCLEG001
- Apply basic principles and practices of infection prevention and control HLTINF006
- Follow safe work practices for direct client care HLTWHS002

#### PLUS 6 electives from the list below and

#### 120 hours of mandatory work placement

- Recognise and report risk of falls CHCAGE007
- Promote Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander cultural safety CHCDIV002
- Assist clients with medication HLTHPS006

#### **GROUP A - AGEING**

- Provide support to people living with dementia CHCAGE011
- Work effectively in aged care CHCAGE013
- Deliver care services using a palliative approach CHCPAL003

#### **GROUP B - DISABILITY**

information BSBXCS303

Work in a team BSBXTW301

· Contribute to ongoing skills development using a strengths-based approach CHCDIS011

Develop and extend critical and creative thinking skills BSBCRT301

• Securely manage personally identifiable information and workplace

• Identify IP, ethics and privacy policies in ICT environments ICTICT313

• Apply introductory programming techniques ICTPRG302

Apply introductory object-oriented language skills ICTPRG430

Maintain and repair ICT equipment and software ICTSAS309

The Nationally Recognised Training NRT logo

standards that lead to a nationally recognised

indicates accreditation meeting national training

- Support community participation and social inclusion CHCDIS012
  Work effectively in disability support CHCDIS020

### ICT30120 CERTIFICATE III 🗵 🔇 IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Create ICT user documentation ICTICT309

Run standard diagnostic tests ICTSAS308

Maintain interactive content CUADIG211

• Provide ICT advice to clients ICTSAS305

Talk to us about Traineeships - 02 9482 1189

qualification.

NOTE: The units of competency listed within the qualifications on this brochure have been edited for

specific information on each unit of competency.

promotional purpose. Please call or visit HKCC's website for

• Build simple web pages ICTWEB304

## **SUPERVISORY QUALIFICATIONS**

### CHC43015 CERTIFICATE IV 🗵 🕅 **IN AGEING SUPPORT**

#### PRE-REQUISITE CHC33015 OR CHC33021 CERTIFICATE III IN **INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT**

- Facilitate the interests and rights of clients CHCADV001
- Coordinate services for older people CHCAGE003
- Manage legal and ethical compliance CHCLEG003
- Implement interventions with older people at risk CHCAGE004
- Facilitate individual service planning and delivery CHCCCS006 • Develop and maintain networks and collaborative partnerships CHCPRP001
- Deliver care services using a palliative approach CHCPAL001
- Assist clients with medication HLTHPS006
- Support independence and wellbeing CHCCCS023 Work with diverse people CHCDIV001
- Recognise healthy body systems HLTAAP001
- Follow safe work practices for direct client care HLTWHS002
- Facilitate the empowerment of older people CHCAGE001
- Provide support to people living with dementia CHCAGE005
- Meet personal support needs CHCCCS011
- Support relationships with carers and families CHCCCS025
- Provide loss and grief support CHCCCS017
- Promote Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander cultural safety CHCDIV002

#### PLUS 120 hours of mandatory work placement

### SEEKING TRAINER AND ASSESSOR

We are seeking a casual, qualified Trainer and Assessor to deliver and/or assess the unit HLTHPS006 Assist Clients with Medication, with potential opportunities to train in other CHC courses. Applicants must be a **Registered** or **Enrolled Nurse** or a **Registered Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioner** and hold the TAE40116 or TAE40122 Certificate IV in Training and Assessment (or equivalent).



This icon denotes courses which attract NSW Government funding under Smart and Skilled. You may be eligible if you are: 15 years or older,

have left school, live or work in NSW and are an AUS or NZ citizen, AUS permanent resident or humanitarian visa holder.

#### ADULT COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROGRAM (ACE)

Smart and Skilled eligible students with barriers to study can access this funding to build capacity. It allows learners to enrol in individual units up to a Certificate III, meeting their specific training needs.

#### **TARGETED SKILLS FOR SMALL BUSINESS (TSB)**

Small business owners and their employees who meet the Smart and Skilled eligibility criteria can access fully funded training in targeted courses in information technology, business services and foundation skills.

#### **RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING (RPL)**

If you already have the required skills and knowledge against a relevant nationally recognised unit of competency, please contact HKCC for further information.

Find out more about the pre-enrolment process via our website. RTO 90232



#### **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SHORT COURSES**

COURSE NAME	COURSE CODE	DAY	TIME HRS	SESSIONS	DURATION	SITE	TUTOR	СОЅТ
Everyday Digital Skills: Computer and Internet Essentials 1	EDS1-25121H	Tue	09:30 - 12:30	3	11 Feb - 25 Feb	Hornsby HQ	CW	\$225/\$0*
Everyday Digital Skills: Computer and Internet Essentials 2	EDS2-25121H	Tue	09:30 - 12:30	3	11 Mar - 25 Mar	Hornsby HQ	CW	\$225/\$0*
Barista Basics Operations	BB1-25151HW	Fri	09:30 - 14:30	8	7 Feb - 28 Feb	Hornsby HQ Withams	СН	\$400/\$0*
Barista Basics Communication Essentials	BB2-25152HW	Fri	09:30 - 14:30	8	7 Mar - 28 Mar	Hornsby HQ Withams	СН	\$400/\$0*
Office Applications	OAN-25131H	Wed	09:30 - 14:30	6	12 Feb - 19 Feb	Hornsby	СН	\$350/\$0*
Xero	X-25151H	Fri	10:00 - 16:00	1	21 Mar	Hornsby HQ	SC	\$180/\$0*
Social Media Marketing and Content Creation	SB2-25135H	Wed	18:00 - 21:00	1	12 Feb	Hornsby HQ	SA	\$150/\$0*

#### **ENGLISH SECOND LANGUAGE**

COURSE NAME	COURSE CODE	DAY	TIME HRS	SESSIONS	DURATION	SITE	TUTOR	COST
English Beginners/Intermediate	EC1-25111KO	Mon	09:30 - 11:30	10	3 Feb - 7 Apr	Hornsby HQ	КО	\$220/\$0*
English Advanced	EC2-25151KO	Fri	09:30 - 11:30	10	7 Feb - 11 Apr	Hornsby HQ	KO	\$220/\$0*
English Intermediate 中级英语	FSK-25111FC	Mon	09:30 - 13:00	10	3 Feb - 7 Apr	Hornsby HQ HKCC校址	FC	\$220/\$0*
English Intermediate 中级英语网上授课	FSK-25121FC	Tue	09:30 - 13:00	10	4 Feb - 8 Apr	→ 网上授课	FC	\$220/\$0*
English Foundation 初级英语	FSK-25131FC	Wed	09:30 - 12:00	10	5 Feb - 9 Apr	Hornsby HQ HKCC校址	FC	\$220/\$0*
English Beginners 初级英语网上授课	FSK-25141FC	Thu	09:30 - 12:00	10	6 Feb - 10 Apr	→ 	FC	\$220/\$0*

\* Funding available (See below) | Tutors: CH - Craig Hamilton, FC - Flora Chan, KO - Kaylie O'Hare, CW - Colin Wong, SC - Sylvia Codd, **SA** - Stephanie Aceglav (Media for Millennials)

🔭 Denotes Online Course

#### **FEE FREE TRAINING:** \* ADULT COMMUNITY EDUCATION

## (ACE) PROGRAM

- Meets one of the following Australian citizen, Australian permanent resident, New Zealand citizen,

Humanitarian visa holdei

#### • and one of the following:

- → Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
- → Receiving government benefits or are a dependent of someone who does
- $\rightarrow$  Living with a disability
- → Dependent of someone with a disability
- → Low language, literacy, numeracy or digital skills
- → Culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD)
   → Unemployed, working part-time, or returning to work
- → Experiencing financial hardship
- → Facing personal challenges
- → Aged 15 24 and at risk of not continuing education or finding a job
- → Did not complete year 12 or equivalent
- → TSB funding stream (for small business owners or employees)

#### VISIT

WWW.HKCC.NSW.EDU.AU FOR FULL COURSE DETAILS, OR CALL HKCC ON 9482 1189

**HKCC: CHANGING LIVES SINCE 1925** 

## SENIORS DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY TRAINING

#### **TECH SAVVY SENIORS**

Tech Savvy Seniors is a NSW Government initiative in partnership with Telstra, offering subsidised training to seniors aged 60+. Photo ID is required.

COURSE NAME	COURSE CODE	DAY	TIME HRS	DURATION	SITE
Introduction to NSW Seniors' Card	TSSSC-25151HQ	Fri	10:00 - 12:00	14 Feb	Hornsby HQ
Introduction to Smart Phones	TSSSP-25151HQ	Fri	10:00 - 11:30	28 Feb	HornsbyHQ
Sharing Photos and Attachments	TSSSPA-25151HQ	Fri	10:00 - 11:30	14 Mar	Hornsby HQ
Introduction to Cyber Safety	TSSCS-25151HQ	Fri	10:00 - 11:30	28 Mar	HornsbyHQ

#### **BE CONNECTED**

Be Connected is an Australian Government funded program for learners over the age of 50, funding one-on-one mentoring and small classes.

COURSENAME	COURSE CODE	DAY	TIME HRS	DURATION	SITE
Digital Group Mentoring Sessions	BECGS-25121H	Tue	10:00 - 11:30	4 Feb - 8 Apr	Hornsby HQ
Digital Group Mentoring Sessions	BECGS-25122H	Thu	15:00 - 16:30	6 Feb - 10 Apr	Hornsby HQ
Digital Mentoring One-on-One	DM50-25122H		By Appointment		Hornsby HQ
Digital Mentoring One-on-One	DM50-25131G	Wed	By Appointment (09:30 - 12:00)	5 Feb - 9 Apr	Gordon Library

#### **VOLUNTEER WITH US: DIGITAL VOLUNTEER MENTORING!**

YOU CAN HELP TOO, BY BECOMING A DIGITAL MENTOR! We're looking for volunteers to assist and support the Be Connected digital literacy program by mentoring others. You don't have to be over 50, just interested in using your skills and knowledge to help others. Email volunteers@hkcc.nsw.edu.au or phone 9482 1189 for more information.

COURSE NAME	COURSE CODE	TIME HRS	DURATION	SITE
Mentor Training	BECMTS-25142H	13:30 - 15:30	13 Feb, 13 Mar, 10 Apr	Hornsby HQ 🔾

#### 🔆 Denotes Online Course



24/7 Gym HG Studio 2, 100 George St, Hornsby

Mount Colah Community Centre MCCC 6X Pierre Cl, Mount Colah

Mt Wilga Pool 66 Rosamond St, Hornsby

and Park Ave, Waitara

St Andrews Church SAC 2 Water St, Wahroonga

12A Edgeworth David Ave, Hornsby

St Ives CGC Community Groups Centre Rm 6, Cnr Mona Vale Rd/Rosedale Rd, St Ives



# VENUES

Gordon Library GLM

799 Pacific Hwy, Gordon Hornsby Headquarters HQ Level 1, 45 Hunter St, Hornsby

Hornsby War Memorial Hall HWMH 2 High St, Hornsby

**KWTAH Tennis Courts Hornsby** 

#### In 2025, we are proud to celebrate 100 years of Hornsby Ku-Ring-Gai **Community College (HKCC)!**

Since 1925, HKCC has been a cornerstone of adult education in our community, providing opportunities for lifelong learning and personal growth.

Our journey began as the Hornsby Evening Continuation School, a key resource for returned servicemen after WWI, offering training to support their reintegration into civilian life. Over the years, we have grown and evolved, always staying true to our mission of empowering individuals with the skills and confidence to thrive in their personal and professional lives.

Join us in May 2025 for our Centennial Celebration! Details will be released in early 2025 Stay tuned as we prepare to celebrate 100 years of learning community, and achievement!

SAVE THE DATE:



**KWTAW Tennis Courts Waitara** Cnr Edgeworth David Ave

Morgan Music Academy MMA 104/2 Burdett St, Hornsby

St John's Church Hall 6 Royston Pde Asquith

St Peter's Anglican Church C/O 207 Peats Ferry Rd, Hornsby Storey Park, Fowler Hall 12 Old Berowra Rd, Hornsby **Turramurra Uniting Church TUC** Colonnade Room, 10 Turramurra Ave, Turramurra West Pymble Community Hall WPCH Loftberg Rd, West Pymble

Witham's Coffee WC 5 Salisbury Road, Hornsby

## **HKCC LANGUAGES**

Bonjour, Ciao, Hola, Nǐ hǎo, Kon'nichiwa! Get ready for your next overseas trip with us! Our Language Tutors are second to none, always aiming to tailor classes to the needs of their students. Call us to discuss a level suited to you.

#### **FRENCH LANGUAGE**

COURSE NAME	COURSE CODE	DAY	TIME HRS	SESSIONS	DURATION	SITE	TUTOR	COST
Absolute Beginners	FAB-25122H	Tue	14:00 - 16:00	8	11 Feb - 8 Apr	Hornsby HQ	JR	\$255*
Continuers	FB2-25121H	Tue	11:00 - 13:00	8	11 Feb - 8 Apr	Hornsby HQ	JR	\$255*
Intermediate	FFI-25133H	Wed	13:30 - 15:30	8	12 Feb - 9 Apr	Hornsby HQ	JR	\$255*
Extension	FE-25123S	Tue	17:30 - 19:30	8	11 Feb - 8 Apr	S Ives (CGC)	JR	\$255*
Extension	FE-25112S	Mon	12:30 - 14:30	8	10 Feb - 31 Mar	St Ives (CGC)	RW	\$250*

#### **ITALIAN LANGUAGE**

COURSE NAME	COURSE CODE	DAY	TIME HRS	SESSIONS	DURATION	SITE	TUTOR	COST
Beginners	BI- 25133H	Wed	15:00 - 17:00	8	19 Feb - 9 Apr	Hornsby HQ	AS	\$250*
Continuers	IBC-25132H	Wed	12:30 - 14:30	8	19 Feb - 9 Apr	Hornsby HQ	AS	\$250*
Extension	IE-25131H	Wed	10:00 - 12:00	8	19 Feb - 9 Apr	Hornsby HQ	AS	\$250*

#### **MANDARIN LANGUAGE**

COURSE NAME	COURSE CODE	DAY	TIME HRS	SESSIONS	DURATION	SITE	TUTOR	COST
Absolute Beginner	MAB-25123H	Tue	18:00 - 20:00	8	11 Feb - 1 Apr	Hornsby HQ	BC	\$250*
Beginner Continuers	MBC-25123H	Thu	18:00 - 20:00	8	13 Feb - 3 Apr	Hornsby HQ	BC	\$250*

### JAPANESE LANGUAGE

COURSE NAME	COURSE CODE	DAY	TIME HRS	SESSIONS	DURATION	SITE	TUTOR	COST
Absolute Beginners	JB-25111H	Mon	10:00 - 12:00	8	10 Feb - 31 Mar	Hornsby HQ	KT	\$250*
Beginners	JB-25162H	Sat	12:30 - 14:30	8	8 Feb - 29 Mar	Hornsby HQ	KT	\$250*
Beginner Continuers	JBC-25112H	Mon	12:30 - 14:30	8	10 Feb - 31 Mar	Hornsby HQ	KT	\$250*
Extension	JE-25161H	Sat	10:00 - 12:00	8	8 Feb - 29 Mar	Hornsby HQ	ΚT	\$250*

\* Concession = \$10 discount | Tutors: JR - Jocelyn Read-Clive, RW - Robyn Williams, AS - Alessandra Stefanutti, BC - Bill Conq, KT - Kimiko Tsukada

## CELEBRATE 100 YEARS OF HKCC: **CELEBRATION STORIES**

2025 marks a remarkable milestone – 100 years of HKCC! We invite all current and past students, trainers, and community members to share their stories and memories with us.

Your experiences are an essential part of our history, and we would love to include them

in our special Centennial Celebration Book. Whether it's a memorable moment in a class,

a success story, or a reflection on your journey with HKCC, every contribution matters.

Join us in celebrating a century of learning, connection, and community!

1925 2025



**Brochure cover:** "Girl at The Bay" by Shane Jones. Art of Watercolour **Tutor Cheree Connolly** 



Hornsby Ku-Ring-Gai Community College Inc ABN 20 410 295 360 | RTO 90232 Level 1, 45-47 Hunter Street, Hornsby NSW 2077 enquiries@hkcc.nsw.edu.au | 02 9482 1189 www.hkcc.nsw.edu.au



# A Special Thank You To Our Intern Ruka

n early December, The Post hosted a young Japanese intern, Ruka.

For two weeks, Ruka diligently set to work cataloguing, sorting, and uploading all of The Post's backlog onto our new website, thepost.syd-

ney. An arduous task, Ruka worked through all our past 60 editions, fil-

tion, Food and Dining, and Arts pages University. of before, to make them once again accessible to the public.

and wishes her every success in wherout her career.

tering content from the News, Community, Health and Lifestyle, Educa-

Australia Day Citizenship Ceremonies

## across the North Shore

#### **Hornsby Shire Council**

Sunday 26 January Hornsby Shire Council Community Halls, 296 Peats Ferry Road, Hornsby.

## Sunday 26 January Lane Cove.

Ku-ring-gai Council Sunday 26 January St Ives Showground, 450 Mona Vale Road, St Ives.



Servicing Sydney's North Shore, we are local licensed builders specialising in home improvements, extensions, additions, kitchens, bathrooms and outdoor spaces. If you are thinking of renovating we have you covered.

EDITION 63 - JANUARY 2025

It is, as always, a pleasure to host in- ashore. terns, both international and domestic from our relationship with Macquarie

Having joined The Post as an intern myself, I know how invaluable it is to have willing and receptive organisa-The Post appreciates Ruka's hard tions offering opportunities to learn work and effort completing the task, and grow in the media space.

We all begin our journeys lost and ever the winds may take her through- wide-eyed, and having a guide is like finding a lighthouse we are drifting



#### Lane Cove Council

The Canopy, 2 Rosenthal Avenue,

#### Willoughby City Council

Sunday 26 January The Concourse, 409 Victoria Avenue, Chatswood.

#### Thinking of renovating? Think Smith & Sons Hornsby and Turramurra!



Contact our team today on 1300 787 577 or head to www.smithandsons.com.au



# CONGRATULATIONS **CLASS OF 2024**

Knox Grammar School students have achieved exceptional results in the 2024 Higher School Certificate, with an unprecedented seven Knox students scoring the top ATAR of 99.95, 42 students achieving an ATAR of 99+, 146 students achieving 95+ and 215 students attaining an ATAR of 90+. The median ATAR was an outstanding 92.3.

"From academic competitions and impressive awards to success in regional, national and international sports and co-curricular competitions, the Class of 2024 has showcased an extraordinary commitment to excellence. They have demonstrated the very essence of what it means to be a Knox student – showing compassion and fostering a spirit of teamwork and respect," said Knox Headmaster Scott James.



# 99.95

Seven students achieved the top ATAR



## 18th

Knox rank in the Sydney Morning Herald **Top Schools Report** 



The Median ATAR (ATAR of middle student)

(ズ))



KNOX

GRAMMAR

SCHOOL

Students placed First in Course



an ATAR of 90+

## WWW.KNOX.NSW.EDU.AU

## **Exceptional Results for Knox Students in the 2024 HSC**

nox Grammar School students have achieved exceptional results in the 2024 Higher School Certificate, with an unprecedented seven Knox students scoring the top ATAR of 99.95, 42 students achieving an ATAR of 99+, 146 students achieving 95+ and 215 students attaining an ATAR of 90+. The median ATAR was an outstanding 92.3.

The top performing Knox students who each scored an ATAR of 99.95 are Xiao Fan (Jonathan) Chen, William Firth, Jack Humphries, Francis Kwon, Zachary Ni, Michael Shen and Jinyao (Daniel) Zhang.

'With the release of the 2024 HSC re- Studies sults, it is with immense pride that we congratulate the Class of 2024 on their exceptional achievements. The path to the HSC is never easy. It demands far more than just academic excellence; it requires commitment, adaptability, and an unwavering focus. The Class of 2024 has demonstrated all these qualities in abundance, showing a level of Studies determination that has resulted in exceptional results,' said Knox Headmaster, Scott James.

'From academic competitions and ics Extension 1 impressive awards to success in regional, national and international sports and co-curricular competitions, the Class of 2024 has showcased an extraordinary commitment to excellence. They have demonstrated the ma very essence of what it means to be a Knox student – showing compassion and fostering a spirit of teamwork and respect,' said Mr James.

'Of all schools in NSW, Knox achieved the highest number of Band 6 results (subject results of 90+). As a percentage of papers sat, Knox ranked 18th in NSW (Sydney Morning Herald Top Schools Report) and is the top performing fully comprehensive boys' school in NSW and the eighth best performing independent school,' Mr James said.

In the Top Achievers List for placing in the top 20 in NSW, 30 places were achieved by 23 students (including three accelerated students). This includes five students who have achieved the remarkable feat of first in state in their courses - Jonathan Chen (Economics), William Firth (Legal Studies), Francis Kwon (Music 2), Alex Qin (Investigating Science) and Michael Shen (Music Extension).

Oliver Begg (Year 11) - 13th in Mathematics Advanced Toby Caspari - 5th in Legal Studies and 11th in Mathematics Ad-

vanced

Xiao Fan (Jonathan) Chen - 1st in Economics and 3rd in Legal Studies William Firth - 1st in Legal

and 19th in Chemistry nomics and 11th in Modern History gal Studies

Harry McKerihan - 17th in Biology

Zachary Ni - 2nd in Mathemat-

Kyan Nikkhah - 4th in Legal Studies and 16th in Business Studies Alex Qin - 1st in Investigating Science Kailoh Ramcharan - 9th in Dra-

Lachlan Richards - 16th in Mathematics Standard 2

Harrison Robb - 8th in Visual Arts

Michael Shen - 1st in Music Extension and 3rd in Music 2 Benjamin Simes - 17th in Math-

ematics Standard 2 Kevin Wang - 10th in Mathe-

matics Extension 1 Oliver Webber - 5th in Personal Development, Health and Physical Education

Stanley Wu (Year 11) - 13th in Mathematics Advanced

Dean Xue (Year 11) - 16th in Mathematics Advanced

Kevin Hao - 7th in Economics

Jack Humphries - 9th in Eco-Kieumars Jahromi - 10th in Le-

Francis Kwon - 1st in Music 2 Jack Laurie - 2nd in Legal

Jinyao (Daniel) Zhang - 2nd in Physics and 16th in Chemistry

Further, 63 Knox students (including six boarders) were placed on NESA's All-Round Achievers List for achieving 90 or higher in their best ten units.

'This success has been made possible through the collaboration between staff, students, and parents which has not only supported our most recent graduates during their senior years but has also equipped these young men with the skills and resilience they will need to excel in life,' said Mr James.

'We are proud of the Class of 2024. As each student prepares to step into the next chapter of their journey whether through further education, entering the workforce, or pursuing new passions - we have every confidence that each young man will continue to approach life with enthusiasm and determination.'

#### HSC Showcases and Exhibitions

Four students have been selected for the HSC Showcases of exemplary work:

Ptolemy Barlow-Hunt had his HSC Visual Arts Major Work selected for ARTEXPRESS as part of the 2024 HSC Showcase season. His body of work 'Displaced' (Documented Forms) will be displayed in the ARTEXPRESS Virtual Exhibition.

• Two students have been selected for inclusion in ENCORE at the Sydney Opera House, on Monday 24 February 2025 - Alexander Dunn with his Musicology (Viva Voce) project, 'Creating a Successful Modern "James Bond" Adaptation' and Christian Tan with his composition, 'On Love'.

William Archer has had his Design and Technology project 'Monitoring of Hydroponic reservoirs' selected for exhibition at SHAPE which is being held at Pier 2/3 Walsh Bay Arts Precinct from 17 March to 12 April 2025.

A full report on Knox's 2024 HSC Results is available at www.knox.nsw. edu.au/hsc-results

Scholarship applications for boys to start at Knox in Years 5, 7 or 11 in 2026 close at 5pm on 5 February 2025. For information and to apply please visit www.knox.nsw.edu.au/scholarships

Affordable Housing in the Bushland Shire

ornsby Shire Council has endorsed the Hornsby Affordable Housing Strategy at the December Meeting.

The Affordable Housing Strategy will see actions in public and private sectors to deliver more affordable and social housing, emphasising accommodation for key workers.

In tandem with the Affordable Housing Contribution Scheme that sets specific rates for affordable housing, the newly endorsed Affordable Housing Strategy provides a framework for planning, facilitating, and advocathomeownership.

'We are acutely aware that housing is a major concern to our residents,' says Mayor Warren Waddell.

Proposed action for planning involves finalising and implementing affordable

housing contribution requirements in identified precincts. Other actions include promoting diverse housing for greater choice and undertaking regular reviews of the contribution rates.

Action for facilitation involves undertaking an asset review, preparing an Affordable Housing Portfolio Management Policy that outlines the responsibilities of Council, and managing the process of engaging with community housing providers.

For advocacy action, Council will prepare an affordable housing webpage, while promoting affordable housing via the webpage, Council's Facebook, ing for affordable homes for rent and and Council's e-news. Council is to ensure maintenance of affordable social housing by allocating appropriate resources.

> Prior to endorsing the Strategy, Council publicly exhibited the draft Strategy for a month, where the community was able to provide feedback.

## **North Shore Business Networking**

orth Shore Business Networking presents an opportunity for business owners, entrepreneurs, and North Shore locals interested in business to connect and empower each other.

NSBN hosts free monthly events on the North Shore for members, bringing the community together to share and gather valuable insight.

NSBN was founded by Al2Easy's Garima Singh, and The Post's Tina Brown is a co-host.

'Running a small business can be isolating, small businesses are the backbone of our economy,' says Tina Brown. 'I'd love to see more locals come along and foster new business friendships."

The next NSBN event is "Coffee and Conversation", held on the 30th of January at the Greengate Hotel, Killara.

To become a member and find out more, visit www.nsbn.com.au



## Is Your Dating Point of **Attraction Matching Your**

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

n the modern dating landscape, many singles find themselves caught in the paradox of attraction versus their own true relationship needs.

This common misalignment can lead to disappointment and heartbreak. Our desires are often guided by our unconscious unmet needs rather than what genuinely nurtures us.

Consider the example of a socialite—a figure with the charisma and appeal of a celebrity—who captivates singles looking for excitement and glamour. While their charm and vibrant lifestyle are undeniably enticing, this attraction might overlook essential relationship qualities like commitment

and emotional stability. Such individuals, often wrapped in their dynamic lives, may not be ready for a meaningful relationship or ready to give and fulfil a partner's emotional needs.

On another front, imagine someone who excels in business and possesses remarkable intelligence but struggles with emotional awareness. They might attract a partner yearning for intellectual stimulation but ultimately fail to provide the emotional connection and expressions of love that truly matter in nurturing a relationship.

It's crucial to understand that our subconscious attractions can often lead us to situations that might not fulfill our deeper relational needs. This awareness is the first step in transform-

Relationship

ing our love lives.

As a dating coach, I guide my clients in understanding these dy-

By reflecting on their childhood background, values, emotional needs, and long-term desires, I help them realign their dating choices. Through focused self-discovery, my clients learn to differentiate between momentary attraction and meaningful connection, empowering them to pursue relationships that offer true fulfillment and lasting happiness.

Call Cristina 0432 012 164



Don't miss your opportunity to live The Cotswolds way The picturesque Cotswolds Retirement Village is located in the Upper North Shore suburb of North Turramurra. Just minutes away from village shopping centres and Bobbin Head Marina.

### **BOOK A TOUR**

28 Curagul Road, North Turramurra NSW 2074 reception@thecotswolds.com.au 02 9144 7016 02 9440 8565 www.thecotswolds.com.au

## North Sydney Council Faces Financial Hardship and Seek Rate Increase

#### Claudia Butjerevic

orth Sydney Council is struggling financially. To fortify their position, Council financial recently proposed a Special Rate Variation (SRV) and engaged the community for their feedback.

The Cotswolds Village

Every year, the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) releases a rate peg for each council. This rate peg is a maximum percentage amount for increased council income - or, the maximum percentage increase of residents and businesses' rates.

SRVs are a request of council for IP-ART to increase the maximum to allow for higher rates. IPART will assess the claim, making sure criteria is met. Criteria includes whether there is a need for the SRV and if the community are capable of shouldering a higher rate. Residents are able to submit feedback on the SRV application, which is taken into consideration by IPART.

Council sites reasons for their current instability as the North Sydney Olympic Pool redevelopment, declining revenue from non-rate income like onstreet parking fees, asset maintenance, and historically low rates.

'I understand that this is incredibly frustrating – especially at a time when everyone is under pressure from the rising cost of living – and many people will feel angry about having to address these issues at all,' says Mayor Zoe Baker in a release.

North Sydney Council proposes increasing rates for 2025/26 to \$1,300 for residential properties, and \$1,400 for businesses.

Four options were presented to ratepayers.

"Option 1: Financial Repair" involves a 3-year SRV, wherein 2026/27 rates will increase to \$1,365 for residents and \$1,470 for businesses, and

Your choice of Independent Living Units or Serviced **Apartments** 

2027/28 will see rates at \$1,433 for residents, and \$1,544 for businesses.

"Option 2a: Strength and Sustainability" involves a 2-year SRV, where rates will increase in 2026/27 to \$1.625 for residents and \$1.750 for businesses, and the 2027/28 period will increase rates to \$1,674 for residents, and \$1,803 for businesses.

"Option 2b: Strength and Sustainability" is a 1-year SRV, where rates for 2026/27 will be \$1,339 for residents and \$1,442 for businesses, and for 2027/28 residents will pay \$1,379 and businesses will pay \$1,485.

"Option 3: Future Growth" is a 3-year SRV, with the 2026/27 increase being \$1,560 for residents and \$1,680 for businesses, and 2027/28 will see residents paying \$1,716 and businesses paying \$1,848.

Residents were able to offer feedback for the SRV proposal until the10th of January 2025.



## **Ride Smart, Stay Safe: Scooter Tips**

By Rejimon Punchayil Karis Life



emember that exhilarating feeling on regular charging. when you first took your mobility scooter for a spin? The newfound independence, the fresh air on your face - it can be truly liberating. But along with this freedom comes the responsibility to ensure your safety and the safety of others.

Here are some key tips to keep your scooting adventures smooth and worry-free:

• Be Weather Wise: Rain can impact your scooter's electronics and make roads slippery. Always check before heading out.

Routine Checkups are Key: While your scooter is a trusty companion, leave major maintenance to the professionals. Replacing parts like tires and tubes requires expertise to ensure your safety.

Battery Smarts: Just like your phone, your scooter's battery thrives

Shine Bright, Ride Safe: Enhance your visibility. Consider using a safety flag, reflective gear or lights. Nighttime scooting is best avoided.

Planning is your best friend! Discussing accessibility with your local council can help you map out safe and enjoyable routes.

Remember, Courtesy is Key: Pedestrians always have the right of way. Slow down and give them ample space. Sharing the road is about mutual respect and keeping everyone safe.

By following these simple tips, you can ensure your mobility scooter remains your key to independence and exploration.

If you have any questions reach out to your local Karis Life specialist for a friendly chat or visit www.karislife.com



## **North Shore** Schools' HSC **Results**

2024 Higher School Certificate results are out. With them, the NSW secondary education schools have been ranked according to the scores.

Eight North Shore schools landed in the top 20 spots.

1 North Sydney Boys High School, with 564 Band 6 results

4 Normanhurst Boys High School, with 433 Band 6 results

7 Hornsby Girls High School, with 353 Band 6 results

8 North Sydney Girls High School, with 450 Band 6 results

10 Abbotsleigh, with 514 Band 6 results

14 St Aloysius' College, with 438 Band 6 results

18 Knox Grammar School, with 890 Band 6 results

20 Loreto Kirribilli, with 333 Band 6 results



## **Stress Reducing Learning** for School Children with

Claudia Butjerevic



n the wake of forced isolation with COVID-19 and the rise of smartphone access, the social and mental development of children is a pain point among educators and parents alike.

founder of WiseLearn Education, believes that remedying the struggles children are facing involves implementing emotionally conscious learning.

With a Degree in Psychology and Communications and gualifications in Nicole Nolan, educator and Primary Education, Nicole has been teaching children for nearly 30 years. During her teaching career, Nicole became an advocate for the impact that Social and Emotional Learning (SEL)

## **Raise Foundation Youth Mentor Program in Northern Sydney Schools**

Raise Foundation are bringing their youth mentoring program back for 2025.

Founded in 2008, Raise Foundation is a not-for-profit organisation mentoring young people who show signs of disengagement. Since their inception, Raise has matched over 15,000 youth people to mentors in six states and in over 180 high schools.

With accredited training and full supervision from a Program Counsellor,

aise Foundation are bringing their Raise educate their mentors for them to best to serve young people.

For 2025, Raise are running two Youth Mentoring programs in Ku-ringgai. The first program commences on the 25th of February, ending on the 5th of August. The second program commences on the 19th of August, ending on the 4th of November. Ku-ring-gai High School is running

the programs on Tuesday afternoons. Raise are searching for mentors at



strategies have on children's well-being.

After tragically losing her father and husband, Nicole focused on fortifying her mental health, and the health of her children as they navigated the tragedy. This motivated her to begin WiseLearn Education.

'There are a lot of children in chronic stress,' says Nicole Nolan. and what happens is they don't have great friendships, they can't focus at school, they struggle to be able to make good choices, or be effective creators and use their magination. It all comes down to a calm nervous system.'

WiseLearn Education consults with educators, schools, families, and carers to begin the process of implementing SEL into the lives of young students.

Social and Emotional Learning involves fostering emotional intelligence and achieving positive goals. For Nicole, this looks like efforts to have 5-minute mindfulness sessions in morning classrooms, and family time in the evening that involves listening, reacting, and acknowledging.

Offering courses backed by neuroscience that supports problem-solving and relaxation, WiseLearn also has workshops for students to explore stress reduction with puppets, and downloadable resources, activities and tools to help on the SEL journey.

other schools in the area. These programs will commence at the end of April, with applications closing the end of March.

Schools recruiting mentors are Hornsby Girls High School, Pennant Hills High School, Asquith Boys High School, and Asquith Girls High School.

For more information, visit www.raise.org.au



ew in Sydney's northern suburbs is Wyvern Private Hospital.

Operated by Australian Unity Healthcare Property Trust, the world-class hospital in located in Terrey Hills on the Northern Beaches. Costing over \$100 million, the facility is a state of the art surgical and rehabilitation hospital, set to service an ageing catchment in Sydney's north. Though owned by AUHPT, the facility is being leased to Wyvern Health for a period of 30 years.

Construction began in April 2022, with a keen attention to environmental stewardship. This took the form of planting 250 banksia tress,

clearing for local wildlife.

Inside the private hospital is 8 operating theatres, 76 surgical and inpatient beds, 9 ICU beds, and clinical support units such as medical imaging, pathology, rehabilitation, a hydrotherapy pool, and pharmacy.

Member for Mackellar, Dr Sophie Scamps, along with healthcare leaders and community representatives were at Wyvern Private Hospital for a ribbon-cutting ceremony on the 6th of December.

'Wyvern is the result of a decade of planning and the dedication of

installing 39 nestboxes, and litter hundreds of healthcare professionals,' said Dr William Sears, Founder and Chairman of Wyvern Health. 'We're honoured to be entrusted with delivering care without compromise to our patients, doctors, staff and the Northern Beaches

> Wyvern Private Hospital is guided a "by the doctors for the patients" philosophy. This means that the choice of the location, the design of the hospital, the recruitment process was determined for the best "patient outcomes".

community.'

## Westleigh Park Development **Application Approved**

#### Claudia Butjerevic

Il hope may not be lost for Westleigh Park.

In early December, the Sydney North Planning Panel approved a Development Application (DA) for major works at Westleigh.

After lodging the DA in September of 2023, Hornsby Shire Council welcomed the independent panel's approval decision.

Westleigh Park is a 36-hectare site purchased in 2016 for \$21 million from Sydney Water. The former NSW government had awarded months. Council a \$40 million grant as part of the Stronger Communities Fund for the Westleigh Park project.

However, June of last year saw the now Minns' Labor Government withdrawing the grant and ordering Hornsby Shire Council to repay \$36 million. Reasons for the grant rescission involve the limited progress of the site, and how the grant funding is yet to be spent.

The grant was meant to fund the entire Stage 1 works, with Stage 2 requiring additional funding.

Stage 1 features a multipurpose platform with a natural turf sports field that can be adapted to make two fullsize football fields, two full-size Rugby fields, a full-size AFL field, or a fullsize cricket field during the summer

'This is a great win for residents of Hornsby Shire and the northern Sydney region, giving us the opportunity to meet the ever-growing need for open space and recreation facilities for the area,' says Hornsby Shire Council Mayor Warren Waddell.

'These new facilities at Westleigh Park will address the major shortfall in sports fields and become a Mecca for girls, and boys, from the North-West and beyond to develop their skills and enjoy the many benefits to physical and mental health that sport and recreation bring.'

Hornsby Shire Council have called on residents to write to local ministers. send letters, and pledge their support of their "Save Our Sport" initiative to have the state government reverse its decision to rescind funding.

## Nevermind the Cost of Living, How About the

Cost of Dying?

Claudia Butjerevic

n any trade, in any industry, in any part of the market, customers are known to shop around for the best price.

When the coffee at your local is too expensive, you opt to make your brew at home. When you need a bathroom tiled, you contact tradesmen to see who can do it for the most reasonable price.

#### Lining up quotes does not seem to happen, though, in the funeral industry.

More often than sometimes, families are too grief-stricken to think much about the company they are choosing to help say farewell to their loved ones. They don't shop around.

Australian Seniors Insurance claim that funeral costs have increased steadily at a rate of between 6% to 11% since 2011. There are several components to funerals, especially if a burial is chosen — the casket, the plot, the ceremony, the wake, the flowers, the headstone.

Scott Harris, Director and Founder of Afterlife Funerals, says that apart from offering streaming options for services after COVID, not much has changed in the funeral industry. Research that Scott and Afterlife Funer- as possible to reduce stress and als conducted found that a majority of Australians (67%) believe funerals are overpriced.

'There's a growing awareness that the funeral industry in Australia exists in a "regulatory black hole", says Scott. 'This has sparked discussions about the need for better oversight and regulation of the industry to protect consumers and ensure fair practices. In general people need to shop around.'

In November 2023, the largest funeral provider, InvoCare, sold out entirely to an American private equity firm, TPG Capital. InvoCare owns four national funeral brands — White Lady Funerals, Simplicity Funerals, Guardian Funerals and Value Cremations. Invo-Care have over 40 funeral brands and 15 cemeteries and crematoria across Australia.

Smaller companies, like Afterlife Funerals, are competitive with their prices. For Afterlife Funerals, the majority of inclusions are supplied internally, making the products cheaper and quality controlled. Afterlife Funerals offers free aftercare, bereavement and wellbeing support through a mental health application.

organising funeral services:

Shop around: all websites should have transparent pricing. If they don't then expect the unexpected.

2. Start early: Begin planning as soon

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## Here are some of Scott's tips for

all details are covered.



Set a budget: Establish a clear budget early on to guide your decisions and avoid financial strain.

Reflect the deceased's personality: Incorporate elements that truly represent your loved one's life and character. It is about them, not you.

5 Delegate tasks: Set one person as the spokesperson with the funeral director, though don't hesitate to involve family and friends in the planning process.

()Music selection: Choose songs that were significant to the deceased or create the desired atmosphere.



Eulogy and tributes: Carefully consider who will deliver these important speeches and try to maintain a 3-minute rule.

There's no "right" way: Remember that the most important aspect is honouring your loved one's memory in a way that feels appropriate to you and your family. Your funeral director can give guidance, though the final rule of thumb is it is up to you.



## **Tink Annouces Support for Boele in Federal Election**

Claudia Butjerevic

ylea Tink backs Community Independent Nicolette Boele in her run for the seat of Bradfield.

With the abolition of the seat of North Sydney, Kylea Tink's future was up in the air and rife with speculation. In December, Ms Tink announced she will not be running for a seat in the House of Representatives at the upcoming 2025 federal election, and will instead be wholeheartedly supporting the community independent movement.

'When everyday Australians come together, we can drive real change - not just for our electorates, but for the nation. It has been one of the privileges of my life to represent my community of North Sydney and help drive the community-independent movement forward,' says Kylea Tink.

At a community event in Chatswood in December, Member Tink and Inde-

pendent candidate Nicolette Boele announced their future plans. Ms Boele praised the work of Kylea Tink in her time as the North Sydney Member.

> 'Kylea Tink is a formidable representative for the people of North Sydney and a powerful advocate of the community independent movement. She has achieved so much and shown how effective true community representation can be,' says Nicolette Boele.

#### Kylea Tink endorsed Nicolette Boele's campaign:

'l encourage everyone who lives in Bradfield and cares about climate change, our housing and cost of living crises, and in creating a fairer, more prosperous Australia where the parliament truly does represent the people who it is meant to represent, to also vote for Nicolette.'

**King Publications Pty Ltd** T/a The Post ABN 93 636 850 550

#### Edition deadlines:

Ed 64: Deadline 22/01, Print 07/02 Ed 65: Deadline 15/02, Print 01/03 Ed 66: Deadline 15/03, Print 05/04

The Post is printed monthly and the north shore of Sydney.

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# Peter and the Starcatcher at the Capitol Theatre

ony-award winning play Peter and the Starcatcher is coming to the Capitol Theatre.

Making the rounds across some of Australia's major cities, the Broadway sensation kicks off in Sydney on the 31st of January and is in session until the 9th of February.

Peter and the Starcatcher tells the untold story of Neverland. A prequel to the beloved Peter Pan tale, Peter and the Starcatcher is based on the 2005 novel Peter and the Stacatchers by Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson, providing a backstory for Peter Pan, Mrs Darling, Tinker Bell, Captain Hook, and Wendy.

Originally adapted for the stage by Rick Elice, this version has been reimagined for Australian audiences.

Otis Dhanji (Aquaman) is Boy/Peter. Comedian Peter Helliar (The Project, Have You Been Paying Attention?, and I'm A Celebrity Get Me Out Of Here) is Smee. Comedian Colin Lane (Lano & Woodley) is Black Stache. Television



**EDITION 63 – JANUARY 2025** 

star Olivia Deeble (Home and Away, More Than This, and Secret Society of Second Born Royals) is Molly.

Alison Whyte (Death of a Salesman and The Dressmaker) is Lord Aster. Paul Capsis (La Cage aux Folles and The Rocky Horror Show) is Slank and Hawking Clam. Ryan Gonzalez (Moulin Rouge! The Musical and In The Heights) is Fighting Prawn. Hugh Parker (The Office and The Family Law) is Captain Scott. Morgan Francis (Boy and Lost) is Prentiss. John Batchelor (Sea Patrol and Red Dog) is Alf. Lucy Goleby (Harry Potter and the Cursed Child) is Mrs Bumbrake. Benjin Maza (Othello) is Ted.

> Directed by David Morton with music by Wayne Barker. Produced by Dead Puppet Society.



The Imperial Ice Stars present

Swan Lake On Ice

## at the Sydney Coliseum Theatre

conic and beautiful, the masterpiece of Tchaikovsky's 1875 Swan Lake remains a cornerstone in the realm of classical ballet.

With a recognisable score, picture-perfect costuming, and otherworldly grace from the adancers, even ballet novices enjoy the famous tale.

The Imperial Ice Stars, the world's leading premier ice dancing company, have managed to elevate the already engaging production.

In their return to Sydney over January, the Imperial Ice Stars performed at the Sydney Coliseum Theatre for a limited engagement of Swan Lake On Ice.

In the tragic folk tale, Princess Odette is cursed by sorcerer Rothbart to transform into a swan by day, the curse only broken by a man promising his eternal love.

Ice-skating and ballet seem a match made in heaven, with the two arts crossing over on a number of fronts both have an element of elegance and athleticism baked in, not to mention a heavy consideration for the beauty of movement.

Swan Lake On Ice captivated the attention of the Sydney audience, with skilful spins, jumps, and step sequences. The expressive acting of the cast, the refined set design and costuming,

> IMAGE COURTESY: provided ACMN Design

the lighting effects, and the inclusion of Tchaikovsky's famous composition allowed the audience to follow the story as it unfolded.

With 250 competition medals between the 23 Olympic, European, and National Championship skaters, the production showcased the daring skills of the cast by incorporating gasoline and fire into the routine, lifting the performers to "fly" on hoists, and using ropes for aerial dancing.

By the end, the immersive 2-hour show felt perfectly paced. Though often a tragedy, Swan Lake On Ice delivered a satisfying end for Princess Odette and her beloved, Prince Sieafried.

For more information about The Imperial Ice Stars, visit

#### www.imperialicestars.com



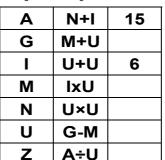
## GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

#### ACROSS 4 Name a particular

- china pattern (6) **7** Which small bits of coloured
- paper are thrown at weddings (8) 8 What is a lack of proper
- seriousness (6) 9 Which term implies that which is peculiar to the whole
- people of a country (8) 11 Name the lines drawn
- on a weather map (7)
- 13 What was the nickname of Harry Morant (7)
- 15 Name a large river in northern S America (7)
- 17 Which electrical device is an accessory connecting plug (7)
- 20 Which male horse is kept for breeding (8)
- 23 What is a medical centre used for such treatments as
- X-rays, vaccinations, etc (6) 24 Name the applied aspects of soil sciences and the several plant sciences (8) 25 Which instrument is
- used for beating metals, driving in nails, etc (6) DOWN
- 1 What was a loose outer garment of the citizens of ancient Rome (4)
- 2 Name the world's secondlargest continent (6) 3 What was the given name of Mr
- Laurel of Laurel and Hardy (4) 4 Name the Australian explorer
- who accompanied Burke on an expedition to explore central Australia (5)
- 5 What is an ecclesiastical ritual washing of a celebrant's hands (6)
- 6 Name an aquatic, furred. carnivorous musteline mammal with webbed feet (5)
- 9 What, in astronomy, is an irregular patch in the sky. consisting of interstellar gases and dust (6)
- 10 Which large airfield is usually equipped with a control ver, hangars, etc (7) toix 12 Name a large cabin for the
- common use of passengers on a passenger vessel (6)

#### E-OUATIONS 031

Letters A to Z have a number value. Some are shown in the right-hand cells. Create remaining values using clues in centre cells.



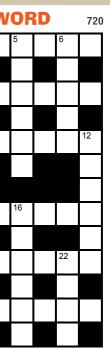
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thepost.sydney

36



14 What is a person, real or imaginary, from whom a tribe, place, institution etc. takes its name (6) 16 What are stockings often called (6) 18 Name the fourth letter of the Greek alphabet (5) 19 What is an Academy Award known as (5) 21 Which expression suggests a distinctive air (4) 22 What are units of electrical resistance (4)





021



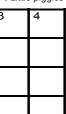














Find the following words in the grid. They may read in any direction, even diagonally. Some letters are used more than once.

#### **CURIO**

An octopus brain consists of around 300,000 neurons; a honeybee brain has 950.000. The human brain has 100 billion neurons. Next time you gaze up at a clear night sky, remember there are as many cells in your brain as there are stars in the Milky Way!

021

#### **BIYWORD**

021

ADLS

ADNU

BENW

CLRY

LT

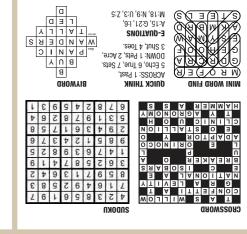
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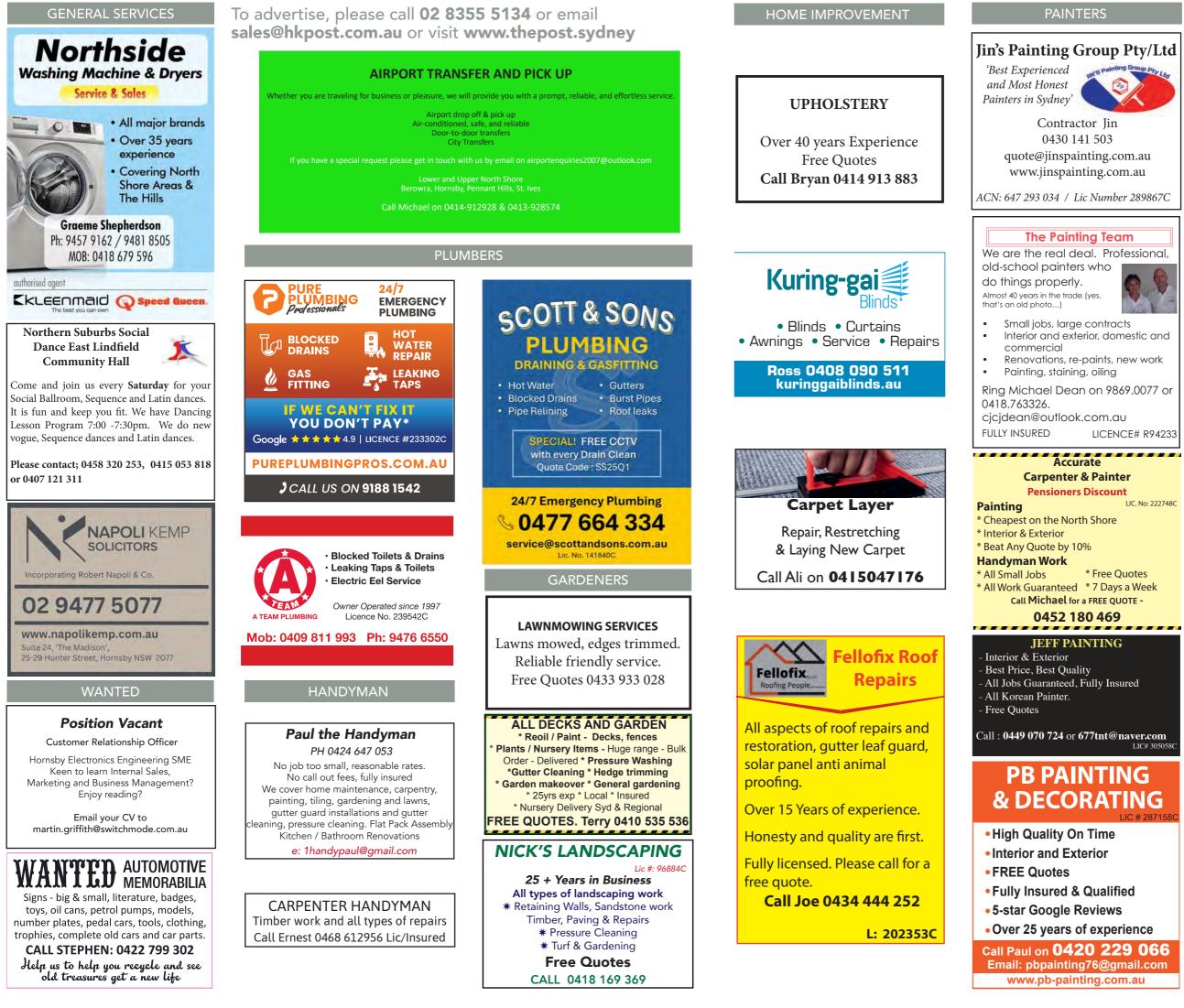
A D

ΒE

Build it yourself using the clues and each of the twenty-four letters once only to form ten words: five across and five down. A key word (bold clue) builds on the letter set in the arid.

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