

the Bush Tele

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The Hawkesbury River Railway Bridge viewed from Kangaroo Point

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PROPERTY

"A PARK FOR THE PEOPLE" *Bruce Fagan 1979*

FAGAN PARK CHILDREN'S FOREST FOSTERS 'CONNECTION AND RESPONSIBLE STEWARDSHIP OF NATURE'



Hornsby Shire Council in association with the NSW Government have unveiled a new CHILDREN'S FOREST IN GALSTON on Thursday 11 April 2024. The Park is only the *second of its kind in Australia*, and an innovative new feature of the Shire's already treasured **Fagan Park**.

Minister for Planning and Public Spaces **Paul Scully** said the NSW Government's \$450,000 funding contribution will help connect young minds with their established surroundings. THE CHILDREN'S FOREST FEATURES: • educational discovery pods • timber animal play features • an outdoor learning space • Yarning Circle and a pond with stepping stones • grassed picnic areas and accessible pathways • designed in close consultation with schools in the surrounding area

Students from five schools, including children with physical or sensory needs, took part in interactive sessions submitting their ideas before an official exhibition period of the proposed design.

"This unique addition will provide a new and exciting learning space for children to experience for decades to come, and I thank Council and the local schools for bringing this innovative space to life," Mr Scully said. The Children's Forest will also claim the title of the first park in NSW designed specifically to nurture children's relationship with the natural world.

"Growing up in Hornsby Shire myself, I still often cast my mind back to my childhood connection to trees, nature and Hornsby's unique Blue Gum and Turpentine Ironbark forests," said the Hon **Philip Ruddock** AO Mayor of Hornsby. "So I'm very proud to bring to life this space that is reflective of our Shire's strong connection with nature."

Attending the opening, Parliamentary Secretary for Planning and Public Spaces **Stephen Bali** MP, said, "The new children's forest will be an educational model showcasing the value of trees for local kids."

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CHILDREN'S FOREST visit: <https://www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/faganpark-childrensforest>

Photo above: Children from Galston Public School play on the stepping stones.

Photo right: Hornsby Shire Mayor the Hon Philip Ruddock AO, Stephen Bali MP and Matt Kean MP cut the ribbon with Hornsby Shire Councillors.

A UNIQUE "CHILDREN'S FOREST" IN FAGAN PARK

Matt Kean MP said, "It's so pleasing to see instead of trees being cleared to deliver a new recreation facility, that the trees actually have been included in this new playground."

It was an easy decision for me to throw my wholehearted support behind the *Everyone Can Play* grant and *Metropolitan Green Space* grant applications that helped deliver this unique playground."

"Through various discussions with local resident **Fiona Robbe**, I also know that a "Children's Forest" playground has also been her vision for this previously underutilized section of Fagan Park."

"This is stage one and there is already a design to deliver more adventurous nature-based facilities for this Children Forest in the future, as further funding becomes available."

Fagan Park was created when Bruce Fagan and his sister, Ida, generously donated their family's former farmland property to the community on the 4th December 1979.

The details of Fagan's 55-hectare donation were finalized by December 1979 and in the "Deed of Gift" Bruce Fagan insisted that it states, the land must be preserved indefinitely for the benefit and use of the public.

I know that the Fagan family would be extremely pleased to see the development of this Children's Forest facility here in Fagan Park.

As Bruce Fagan described his vision for Fagan Park, when he donated the land back in 1979, it is "A Park for the People".



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The Bush Tele acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and their continuing connections to land, culture and community, and pays its respects to Elders past and present and emerging.



2024 Hornsby-Ku-ring-gai Local Business Awards

LOCAL BUSINESS AWARDS

NOMINATIONS CLOSE SOON



Time is running out to nominate outstanding businesses in the 2024 Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Local Business Awards with voting closing on Tuesday, 28 May 2024.

Nominating a business that offers exceptional service or products is a great way for customers or clients to show their appreciation for the efforts of owners and their staff.

Precedent Productions Managing Director (and Local Business Awards founder) **Steve Loe** said one of the best ways customers could show their gratitude for exceptional service and products was to nominate their favourite businesses for a **Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Local Business Award**.

"We all say thank you after we've been served in a shop or other business," he said. "However, nominating a business that offers outstanding service is a way of thanking those people

in a tangible way that can make a very big difference to their lives."

"Numerous times over the years, we've been told by Local Business Awards nominees how much it has meant to them that customers or clients have made the effort to reward their efforts by nominating them."

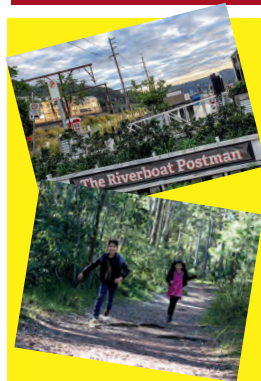
"Being a finalist or winner in the awards also brings the benefits of publicity and even additional business, as people have told us that they view a Local Business Award finalist certificate or winner's trophy as a sign that they will receive exceptional goods or services there."



Photo above: Rachel Abood (L) of Saliba Estate Agents receives the Youth Award in the 2023 Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Business Awards, presented by Mayor of Ku-ring-gai Sam Ngai.

HOW TO NOMINATE

VISIT: www.thebusinessawards.com.au



SEEKING YOUR PHOTOS OF THE HORNSBY & KU RING GAI AREA

Do you have some favourite high res jpg photos of the local area that you would like to see published in the upcoming edition of the Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Visitors Guide?

THERE ARE STILL A FEW SPOTS TO FILL IN THE HKVG, so email your photo, including its

location and your name, to:

editor@thebushtele.com.au



DON'T MISS OUT

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A FOND FAREWELL FOR ASQUITH PS PRINCIPAL



On the final day of Term 1, a special school assembly was held at **Asquith Public School**. Students and their teachers were joined by **Matt Kean** MP and P & C President **David Lowe**, to farewell the school's much-loved Principal, Ms **Karan McDonnell**.

After five years at Asquith, Ms McDonnell is moving to become the Principal at **Crestwood Public School at Baulkham Hills**. She will be greatly missed at Asquith. Her strong leadership, that guided the school community through the pandemic's lockdown, was very important to minimize the impact on teachers, students and their families. Matt Kean presented the departing Principal with a special medal and spoon, organized by the school, and the children presented Ms McDonnell with a commemorative booklet they prepared. *The departing Principal was then invited to pass through a special guard of honour made up the school's 420 students.*

The Asquith Public School community and **Matt Kean** MP wish Ms McDonnell all the best at her new school. She will be greatly missed by all. **Photo above:** Asquith PS outgoing principal Ms Karan McDonnell walking through the 'Guard of Honour'.

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Latest News



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from the Mayor's Desk

As we service our community, engaging with and listening to our residents is of great significance. This month, we have a number of important projects and strategies on which we invite you to have your say.

The draft 2024-2027 Delivery Program and 2024/25 Operational Plan (DPOP) details the many steps we will take to ensure Hornsby Shire becomes more resilient and maintain our natural environment. It also reveals how we will spend just over \$65 million on capital projects. Key initiatives for 2023/24 include local road and traffic improvements (\$5.6 million), footpaths and shared paths (\$4.7 million), improvements to parks, playground and sporting facilities (\$12.5 million) and open space recreation including Hornsby Park and Westleigh Park (\$26.9 million). Read more and provide your feedback by 13 May at yoursay.hornsby.nsw.gov.au.

The Hornsby Shire Social Plan aims to identify and address social needs and issues in the Shire, while the draft Arts and Cultural Plan recognises the importance of creative pursuits in the health and wellbeing of our community. Both important documents will be available for comment from 9 May, also at yoursay.hornsby.nsw.gov.au.

On the subject of creative pursuits, our annual sustainability and environmental art prize, Remagine, returns this month from 10-26 May at the Wallarobba Arts and Cultural Centre in Hornsby. The Remagine Art Prize challenges artists to create works in response to the waste and overconsumption crises.

I encourage you all to take some time to enjoy the wonderful collection of Digital Art Stills, Sculpture, Mixed Media, Ceramics, Painting, Drawing, Printmaking and Photography responding to this year's theme, Crossroads of Consumption. Congratulations to all the finalists and I hope everyone enjoys the exhibition.

Philip Ruddock AO
Mayor, Hornsby Shire Council

What's on

THE WESTSIDE VIBE **FRIDAY 3 MAY** 4PM-9PM

DURAL LANE, HORNSBY | LIVE MUSIC | FOOD TRUCKS | LICENSED BAR | LOTS MORE!

hornsby.nsw.gov.au/westsidevibe

REMAGINE ART PRIZE

Theme: 'Crossroads of Consumption'

EXHIBITION

10 May – 26 May, 2024

Wallarobba Arts and Cultural Centre

Ross Tamlin,
Scrap Metal
(detail), 2023

YOUR SAY HORNSBY

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Expression of interest – Pennant Hills Park Ovals 1 and 2 summer season
Submissions close: Monday 6 May

Draft 2024-2027 Delivery Program and Operational Plan 2024/25
Submissions close: Monday 13 May

Draft Planning Agreement Policy
Submissions close: Monday 27 May

Hornsby Development Control Plan amendments – All electric buildings
Submissions close: Monday 27 May

Galston Village public domain upgrades
Submissions close: Sunday 2 June

Draft Hornsby Shire Social Plan
Submissions open from 9 May to 9 June

Draft Arts and Cultural Plan 2024-2029
Submissions open from 9 May to 9 June

Greenway Park Cherrybrook small dog park trial
Comments close: Tuesday 29 October

yoursay.hornsby.nsw.gov.au



Workshops for International Composting Awareness Week

Compost and Worm Farming
Tuesday 7 May, 1pm-3pm
Neal Park, Cnr of Sherbrook and Northcote Road, Hornsby

Your Recycled Kitchen Garden
Thursday 9 May, 10am-12.30pm
Thornleigh Community Recycling Centre

hornsby.nsw.gov.au/waste

Knowledge is (solar) power

Free solar webinar. Tue 7 May, 7pm. hornsby.nsw.gov.au/solar

Next Council meeting Wednesday 8 May, 6.30pm

hornsby.nsw.gov.au

LOCAL GIRL COMPETES IN CHEERLEADING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Local girl, **Sarah Wing** of Mount Colah, is off to Orlando, USA to compete with Team Australia, representing **Australian Cheer Union**, in the **2024 International Cheer Union World Cheerleading Championships** at the end of April.

Sarah will be competing in the **All Girl Premier team** along with girls from 4 states. **This is the highest level of competition in the world!**

The All Girl Premier team is up against the big guns including the USA, Canada and Finland. This is their first year at Premier after being world champions at the Elite level last year.

Sarah started cheerleading 7 years ago at Hornsby gym **Icon Gymsports**, where she currently coaches. At Icon, Sarah and her teams were successful in winning several national and state championships.

We wish Sarah and the Team Australia teams all the best in the World competitions.



KYE INSPIRES OTHERS IN COME-AND-TRY

One incredibly determined north shore student took part in the COME-AND-TRY ATHLETICS DAY in April. Year 3 student at **Hornsby South Public School, Kye** (photo right) participated in the unique event that encourages kids with disability to try their hand at sport.

Kye competed in track, javelin and discus. Hornsby South Public School Deputy Principal **Carolyn Smith** said, "Thank you to our dedicated staff, who have enabled Kye's participation in this worthwhile event."



As your Federal Member, I am here to:

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

Please contact my office if I can be of assistance.



JULIAN LEESER MP
LIBERAL FEDERAL MEMBER FOR BEROWRA

🏠 Level 11, 423 Pennant Hills Road, Pennant Hills NSW 2120 📞 02 9980 1822

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



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Berowra Lions Club
berowralions.org.au



U3A AFFAIRS OF INTEREST IN THE CURRENT WORLD 2nd & 4th Monday monthly. (Tues if Mon public holiday) 10 – 12 Balcony Room. U3A 13th May Presenter: Garry Lowder: Survival of humanity depends on our knowledge of special geological features of our rocky planet. 27th May, Presenter: Graham Spindler: Cuba – a Musical Journey. Sites, sounds, impressions from a journey through Cuba. Bookings: Joan Scott djscott@tpg.com.au (Email Pref) Tel 0405 453 396.

ASQUITH COMMUNITY MARKET Cnr Baldwin Ave & Royston Pde every 4th Sat, Feb-Nov 9am to 2pm. Stall bookings: Barbara, 0468 390 292.

ASQUITH MIXED PROBUS CLUB meets 1st Thurs monthly at Magpies, Waitara – 10am. New members welcome. Enq: Barry: 0419 985 458.

ASQUITH SENIOR CITIZENS meet Mt Colah Community Centre, Tuesdays 9.15am-12.15pm morning tea, carpet bowls & outings. Enq: Yvonne on 0438 195 377 or Jennie on 9477 1855 or 0422 474 669.

ASQUITH VIEW CLUB luncheon meeting 3rd Wednesday Monthly 11am for 11.30am at Magpies Waitara. Bookings Essential. Enq: Kerry 9476 5910

BEROWRA & DISTRICTS ORCHID SOCIETY meets Berowra Community Centre, The Gully Road, Berowra 3rd Thurs monthly 7-10pm except Jan & Dec. Enq: jenalsar @ozemail.com.au

BEROWRA COMMUNITY MARKETS 1st Saturday monthly, 9am-2pm. Berowra Uniting Church 4-6 Alan Rd, Berowra Hts. Enq: www.berowraunitingchurch.org.au/markets and https://www.facebook.com/BerowraCommunityMarkets

BEROWRA DISTRICT MIXED PROBUS CLUB meets 10am first Tuesday each month at Berowra RSL Club. Enq. Keith Carson 9456 2948.

BEROWRA GARDEN CLUB meets 2nd Thursday monthly Warrina Street Oval Clubhouse at 7.30pm. Enq: President Paul White 0426 109 149.

BEROWRA LIONS CLUB meets 7pm on 3rd Wednesday monthly at Club Berowra. Book: 0414 553 240. More info at www.berowralions.org.au

BEROWRA PROBUS CLUB INC. meets 1st Friday monthly at St Mark's Church hall, Berowra Waters Rd, 10am. Enq: Phillip Boyle 9456 2280.

BEROWRA ROTARY meets 2nd & 4th Wed, 6.30 for 7pm, Berowra RSL Club, order meal from bistro. Visitors welcome. Enq: Peggy 0413 481 854 www.berowra.net/rotary

BEROWRA ROTARY PLANT SALE Saturday 11th May, Hunt Reserve Cnr Pacific Highway & Beryl Ave, around the corner on Beryl Avenue from 8.30am. Enq: phone Peggy 0413 481 854 or check www.berowra.net/

BEROWRA RSL SOCIAL GOLF CLUB Sunday mornings monthly. New members welcome. Enq: berowrarslsgolf@gmail.com Geoff 0412 597 707.

BEROWRA RSL SUB-BRANCH Meets 1pm last Sunday monthly at Club Berowra. For enquiries please email: berowrasb@rslnsw.org.au

BEROWRA SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB meets every Wed, 9am, Berowra Community Centre. Enq Cheryl 9456 2139 Tom 9456 0407.

BEROWRA TOASTMASTERS meet 2nd & 4th Thurs 7.15pm for 7.30pm Berowra Community Centre. Enq: Kate 0439 604 369.

BEROWRA UNITING CHURCH Drop in for a cuppa, biscuit & a chat 10 to noon. New to the area? Like to meet more people or just want some company? 4-6 Alan Rd, Berowra Hts, Enq: 9456 6041.

BEROWRA WATERS VIEW CLUB. Next meeting 22nd May Berowra 10.30am Enq: Geraldine 9456 2680 or visit www.view.org.au

BROOKLYN COTTAGE CRAFT GROUP meets The Cottage, 10 Dangar Rd Tuesdays 2-4pm. Email: thecottage@brooklyncommunity.org.au

BUSH DANCE WORKSHOPS at Pennant Hills Community Centre below Library Mondays. Beecroft Bush Dances/live band. Ph: 0413 673 339.

COMPUTER PALS FOR SENIORS TURRAMURRA General meeting, 3rd Thurs monthly 2pm. Afternoon tea prov. Seniors Centre I Gilroy Lane, Turramurra. All welcome. Enq: 9983 0774.

CWA GALSTON meets 2nd Wed, 10am. Cnr The Glade & 17 Arcadia Rd, Galston. Enq: 9485 7599 galston.cwa@gmail.com

CWA HORNSBY & DISTRICT Branch meets 10am 2nd Fri 10am 4th Friday, St Peters Church Hall Hornsby. Enq: Lyn 0422 580 922.

DURAL & DIST PROSTATE CANCER SUPPORT GROUP Blue Gum Centre, ARV, 599-607 Old Northern Rd Glenhaven, 7pm Enq: Denis 9629 2645

FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF SYDNEY meets Blue Gum Hotel, Waitara Tues 9th April 11am. Travel/hosting for members. Enq: Pam: 0406 306 401.

GALSTON VIEW CLUB monthly lunch meeting 4th Wed 11am at The Galston Club 21-25 Arcadia Rd. Bookings: President Lesley 0413 996 783.

HELPING HANDS (Knitting Crocheting and Craft Group) meets every Wednesday 10am to 1pm Hornsby Heights Community Centre Galston Rd Hornsby. Enq: Carolyne 0403 025 316.

HORNSBY ACHIEVERS Toastmasters Club meet 2nd & 4th Mondays at Hornsby RSL Club. Enq: dkstoastie@gmail.com Diane 0409 605 055.

HORNSBY & DISTRICTS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB meets 2nd Tues 8pm Hornsby-Manly Rifle Club, 66 Rosamond St, Hornsby; 4th Tues Mt Colah Community Centre, Pierre Cl, Enq: info@hadarc.com.au Ph: Matt (VK2BAI) 0401 992 430

HORNSBY ART SOCIETY film night, Monday 13 May: 90 min English Masters Film of William Hogarth & Thomas Gainsborough. 7pm for 7.30 start, Beatrice Taylor Hall, 25 Edgeworth Ave, Hornsby. (Adjacent Willow Park, rear Wallarobba Arts Centre. No cost. Tea/Coffee available.

HORNSBY BEROWRA MEN'S SHED meets Weds & Thurs 8.30-12noon 836 Pacific Hwy Mount Kuring-gai. Enq: Ross 0493 376 984.

HORNSBY HTS CAMERA CLUB meets 3rd & 5th Tuesday monthly Mt Colah Community Centre – 7.30pm. Enq: Bob 0448 257406.

HORNSBY KU-RING-GAI COMMUNITY COLLEGE Free Digital Mentoring for Seniors, Tues during term, 10-11.30am. Book: 9482 1189, enquiries@hkcc.nsw.edu.au

HORNSBY KU-RING-GAI PARKINSON'S ASSOCIATION inc. Choir at Snr. Citz's Centre, Turramurra Thurs 10-11.30am; Exercise Mt Colah Community Centre Fri 11.30-12.30pm., Meet: 1st Fri monthly 10am-12noon. Enq: Dick 0450 542 423

HORNSBY LADIES PROBUS CLUB meets first Tues morning monthly at Magpies Club. Enq: Helen 0417 687 765.

HORNSBY NATIONAL SENIORS meet 1st Wed monthly at Asquith Bowling Club. Newly retired, companionship. Enq: Kaylene on 0413 297 681.

HORNSBY OLDER MEN'S NETWORK INCORPORATED The Brickpit Golf Range meeting room, 1st & 3rd Wed monthly, 10-12.30pm Enq: Jock 9484 7041.

HORNSBY PRINTMAKING STUDIO meets Fridays school term 9.30 - 2.30pm Wallarobba Arts & Cultural Centre. 25 Edgeworth David Ave. Enq: Michelle Robinson 0435 082 670 thecreativeteacher@yahoo.com

HORNSBY RSL COMPUTER CLUB meets 2nd Sunday monthly 3pm. Hornsby RSL Club. Contact Mark 9482 4294.

HORNSBY RSL SUB BRANCH monthly General Meeting & Veterans lunch 11am Sunday 26 May Hornsby RSL Club. Enq: hornsbyrslsb@gmail.com

HORNSBY SHIRE FAMILY HISTORY GROUP meets 3rd Wednesday each month 2-4pm Hornsby Library. Enq: Coral, cshand21@gmail.com

HORNSBY SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY meeting 3rd Sun monthly at 2pm guest speaker, museum Kenley Park Normanhurst. Enq Julie 0414 686 480.

KU-RING-GAI HISTORICAL SOCIETY meeting 3rd Sat, 2-4pm, Meeting Room 1 & family history 2nd Sat, 10-12m/d Research Room, Old Gordon PS, Pac Hwy. All welcome, www.khs.org.au/events

LAMINGTON SALE at Berowra Uniting Church May Markets Alan Rd Berowra Hts Saturday 4th May. Lamingtons: \$12 for 6, \$22 for 12. Plain & Cream. Pre-order: 0423 779 344 Judy Ringrose (leave a message).

LET'S CHAT IN ENGLISH Fridays (school term) 10am-12am Mt Colah Uniting Church. Morning tea gold coin donation. Enq: Diana 0427 405 416.

LIONS CLUB OF HORNSBY meets Magpies Club Waitara 2nd Tues monthly except Dec & Jan. 6.30 for 7.30. Enq: Ted 0414 806 840.

MEDITATION ON TUESDAYS Free, non-religious. 7.30 – 8.30pm Sundays, 79 Edgeworth David Ave, Enq: Jane Crancher 0404 445 490.

MOONEY WOMEN'S BOWLS Social bowls every Wed @ 4pm, Competition 2nd Sun @ 9.30am. Mooney Club, Enq: Liz 0414 733 714.

MOUNT COLAH MEN'S PROBUS Club meets Asquith Golf Club 10am third Friday monthly. Enq: Geoff 0411 020 050.

MOUNT COLAH MIXED PROBUS CLUB meets last Mon monthly 10am "Magpies", Waitara. web: mountcolahmixedprobusclub.org.au

MOUNT KURING-GAI & DISTRICT PROBUS meets Tuesday 14 May, 2024 Mt Colah Uniting Church, Cnr Pacific Hwy & Amaroo Ave, (2nd Tuesday of the month, 9.45 for 10am). Speaker: Bill Phippen 'building of the first Hawkesbury River Bridge in 1889'. Enq: Barry Mews 0414 887 888 or mkgdprobus.org.au

NSW JUSTICES ASSOCIATION Hornsby Branch meets 2nd Monday monthly, 7pm. Magpies Waitara. Enq: Jane 0427 998 004.

PENNANT HILLS VIEW Club meets for lunch 2nd Tuesday monthly at Oatlands Golf Club at 11am. Bookings: Margaret 9873 2402.

PENNANT HILLS GARDEN CLUB meets 4th Wed 10.15am Pennant Hills Bowls Club. Enq: pennanthillsgardenclub@gmail.com or just come.

PLANTAGENET HISTORY SOCIETY of Australia meets Turramurra Uniting Church Hall Sat 18 May, 2pm. Guest Speaker: Stephen Marriott 'Edward !!' All welcome. Enq: plantagenetaustralia@outlook.com or 0499 031 146.

PRIME TIME FOR OVER 55s meets 3rd Wed monthly St Luke's Hornsby Hts 155 Galston Rd, 12- 2 pm. primetime@stlukeschurch.com.au Merle 0438 773675.

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF HORNSBY INC. meets 1st Wed evening monthly at Pennant Hills Bowling Club. www.siseap.org Enq: Pam 0425 229 615 or email sihornsby@siseap.org

SYDNEY FRIENDSHIP FORCE meets the Blue Gum Hotel Waitara, Travel & hosting opportunities for members. Enq: Pam for details, 0406 306 401.

TURRAMURRA SPINNERS AND WEAVERS GROUP meet 10am -12noon Turramurra Seniors Centre, Enq: leonie_peterson@hotmail.com

WHEEL'N'WEFT MAY EXHIBITION AND SALE Thornleigh Community Centre Central Ave Thornleigh \$5 entry inc refreshments supporting Hornsby Connect. Fri 3 May 1-5pm, Sat 4 May 9am-5pm Sun, 5 May 10am - 4pm.

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Member for Wahroonga



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Authorised by Alister Henskens SC MP, 27 Redleaf Avenue, Wahroonga NSW 2076. Funded using Parliamentary Entitlements.



Matt Kean MP

Member for Hornsby



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- Recognising State achievements

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Matt

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42nd Annual Meccano Modellers Exhibition 4/5/2024

42nd Annual Meccano Modellers Exhibition
Saturday 4 May – 10:00 to 4:30pm

At Uniting Church Hall, corner Pacific Hwy and Amaroo Ave, Mt Colah

Meccano was developed to demonstrate applied mechanics, science and mathematics over 120 years ago.

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<http://www.sydneymeccanomodellers.org.au>

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Photo above: Late 1950s era mechanical grader in 1/8 scale.



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A MOMENT IN TIME . . .

Lieutenant Frank Ross, Tsili Tsili, 5th September 1943

The rather candid photograph (right) was taken by the Australian Army's official photographer, Warrant Officer Colin Halmarick, on the morning of 5th September 1943.

The image shows **Lieutenant Frank Ross** of the 2/4th Field Regiment seated in a C-47 transport aircraft at *Tsili Tsili Airfield* in **New Guinea** awaiting take off for a flight to **Nadzab**, and into history. Frank was among a group of four officers and thirty enlisted men of the 2/4th Field Regiment who had volunteered only weeks earlier to accompany men of the **American 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment** on what would be America's first unopposed airborne operation of the Second World War. **Unopposed was the key word.** The Americans had carried out a large-scale airborne operation only months earlier in July 1943 on *Sicily*. **Operation Husky**, as it was known, was fraught with problems and led **General Eisenhower** to question the viability of large-scale airborne operations. However, the success of the airborne drop at Nadzab and large-scale field exercises in America led him to persevere; **the lessons of Nadzab being incorporated into the planning of D-Day operations in June 1944.**

So, the reader may ask: how did Lieutenant Frank Ross end up at Nadzab and what is his significance locally? Francis Ernest Harkness Ross was born at Sydenham, in Sydney, on 22nd March 1922. Frank, as *he was known*, was the only son of the **Reverend Alfred Ernest Jones Ross** and his second wife **Ida Jane Ross**. The good reverend had married Ida whilst he was the Rector at *St. Marks, Granville* in 1921. *Sadly, five days after Frank was born his mother passed away.*

By 1925 Reverend Ross had married once more, this marriage being to **Miss Mildred Ash**. The marriage would last ten years before Reverend Jones, then incumbent at *St. Giles in Greenwich*, passed away in 1935 leaving stepmother Mildred to raise Frank. She moved to **No.7 Pacific Highway, Wahroonga** in 1935, and in February of the following year thirteen-year-old Frank entered **Barker College**.

Frank spent four years at Barker College between the years of 1936 and 1940. During his time there he excelled at sports and cadets and was also Head Prefect. *The College Barker*, the school magazine, of December 1945 wrote of Frank:

"Ross will be remembered by Barker boys for his outstanding sporting qualifications, his ability as a cadet officer and his leadership. He achieved distinction in practically every branch of sport and at the same time was a scholar of average ability."

Frank excelled at athletics and cricket in particular during his final years at the school. He won the College Cup and the Open Mile at the **Associated Schools' Sports** in 1939 and captained the 1st XI in 1940. At the same time, he became interested in pursuing a military career through the school's Cadet Corps. He was commissioned as a Cadet Under Officer in 1938 and later topped a cadet officers' school he attended in 1940.

Frank applied for entry to the **Royal Military College Duntroon** and successfully entered the course there in February 1941. The course was of two years length and when he graduated in late 1942 Frank was dux of his class. He was at that time a Corps of Staff Cadet of the Permanent Military Forces and in order to serve overseas he enlisted with the **2nd AIF on 15th December 1942**, volunteering to serve in the artillery.

Frank, now a Lieutenant, was appointed to the 2/4th Field Regiment, an artillery regiment of Australia's 7th Division. This unit had formed in Melbourne during May 1940 and had served in *North Africa* and *Syria* with distinction before returning to Australia in March 1942. They had landed in Adelaide and quickly made their way to Queensland to re-equip and carry out further training to meet the Japanese threat.

Frank was sent to the *School of Artillery at North Head* prior to joining the regiment to undertake a course for potential officers. A copy of a confidential report on Frank's progress during the course exists within his service records and notes that Frank was a **"Good type of young officer. Keen, works hard. Possesses initiative"**. Pretty much a wish list of qualities any senior officer would like to see in a junior officer.

Frank was taken on strength by the 2/4th Field Regiment on 12th April 1943. The regiment was at *Helidon*, east of *Toowoomba* Qld, at the time enjoying a rest day. Three months later on the last day of July 1943 the regiment left *Townsville* aboard the HMAT *Katoomba* bound for Port Moresby. Upon arrival a camp was constructed and the artillerymen prepared themselves for the next approaching offensive against the Japanese.



By this stage of the war the Australian and American forces had stopped the Japanese at *Milne Bay*, on the *Kokoda track*, the *Buna and Gona beach heads* and recently had defended *Wau*. The next objectives were the clearing of the Japanese bases at *Salamua* and *Lae*. An ambitious plan was in place to achieve these objectives known as Operation Postern. The plan worked in two stages. Firstly the 3rd Australian Division would attack **Salamua**, not only to drive the Japanese out but also to provide a staging area for the landing craft the Australian and American forces would need to deliver their soldiers to the beaches at *Lae*. **Nassau Bay**, south of *Salamua*, provided this area.

Secondly, they would simultaneously launch combined amphibious and airborne attacks upon *Lae* and *Nadzab* respectively. The 9th Australian Division would land on the beaches to the east of *Lae* while the 7th Australian Division and the **American 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment** would land twenty-nine kilometres to the northwest of *Lae* at the airfield at *Nadzab*. *The plan was to seize the airfield and quickly utilise it to transport in both troops and supplies to Lae.*

This is the point in time when opportunity arose for Frank Ross.

The American paratroops had been training in Port Moresby and at some point, their Commanding Officer realised that once on the airfield his men would have no artillery support. Eager to seize upon the opportunity the Commanding Officer of the 2/4th Field regiment, **Lieutenant-Colonel Blyth:**

"Submitted a revolutionary idea to the G.O.C. to use the new short 25-pounders in a paratroop landing".

Upon acceptance of the idea a call was put out among the batteries calling for volunteers for an *'intensive physical training course'*, no other details were provided in the interests of security. Many volunteered and commenced training on 17th August 1943. **Upon completion of the course thirty men and four officers were selected to be placed under command of the American paratroops for jump training.** *Frank was among those lucky volunteers.*

Jump-masters of the 503rd provided training to the men, *although it should be pointed out* that only **one practice jump** was carried out, a jump in which two men were injured and their replacements had to proceed without a practice jump. The artillerymen also had to work out how they would stow and organise their equipment for their jump, which would commence an hour after the American paratroops had landed on the airfield.

Come the morning of 5th September 1943 at Port Moresby, eighty-two C-47s left with American paratroops aboard, followed by five additional C-47s carrying the artillerymen. Among the emplaned Americans were **Generals MacArthur and Kenney**, keen to watch the operation up close. *The photograph of Frank was taken later that morning whilst the artillerymen were waiting at Tsili Tsili airfield to follow in behind the Americans.*

Needless to say, all went well, the artillerymen landing an hour after the paratroops. They had at least one gun ready for action within the following hour, although parts for the others had to be searched for among the kunai grass. The Australian Official History records that Frank was one of two Lieutenants who went out on patrol with the Americans, equipped with portable radios to register possible targets. **None were found as the Japanese had left the area, likely drawn into the fighting at Salamua.**



After all that build up it must have been something of a surprise to the paratroops and artillerymen to land unopposed. They had, however proved that an airborne landing could be successful as well as being the first Australian artillerymen to jump into action. For his efforts Frank was among several of the artillerymen to receive a Commander-in-Chief's Card from General Blamey. His efforts had not gone unnoticed.

The photograph in a sense represents a high point of Frank's life. It was his first experience of campaigning. Soldiering became a tougher proposition from then onwards as the 2/4th Field Regiment continued their pursuit of the Japanese towards the coastal town of **Madang**. Frank was hospitalised for malaria for a month in mid-January 1944 and by the time he was discharged the 2/4th Field Regiment had been withdrawn to far North Queensland for rest and re-equipping.

The College Barker records that Frank spent a period of leave in Sydney at this time before returning to the regiment. The 2/4th Field Regiment did not return to the South West Pacific Area until mid-June 1945 when they embarked for **Morotai Island** in preparation for the landing in **Balikpapan** on 1st July 1943. The artillerymen were in the thick of the action on Balikpapan from the first day of the landing; it was anything but unopposed.

During the night of 12th/13th July 1945 Frank was hit by machine gun fire; his service records stating gunshot wounds to his chest, legs, arms and abdomen. The regimental war diary recording that he died on the night of 13th July and his funeral took place on 15th July. His remains were later moved to **Labuan War Cemetery**.

Frank was twenty-three years old when he died, six weeks before the Japanese surrender. You can argue that his death was a waste of a life or you could argue that he died doing a job that he took very seriously. I would argue that the true loss to the community was what Frank could have contributed had he not been killed.

Regardless, Frank was not forgotten.

On 3rd May 1947, a War Memorial stone wall was unveiled surrounding the perimeter of St. Paul's Anglican Church at Wairoonga. The wall was erected in memory of parishioners who had fallen during the war and Frank was among the eight servicemen named on bronze plaques that can be seen at either side the church gates on the Pacific Highway.

St. Paul's had originally been used by Barker College as their school chapel, a tradition that continued into the mid-1950s, by which time the rising student population had increased to the point where it was no longer practical. *Since the 1920s the school had recognised this need for its own chapel and it must have been a cause close to Frank and his stepmother's heart.*

The cause had, however, been difficult to get off the ground and it was at this point that Frank became a significant benefactor to the school. Writing of Frank's contribution to the school in *The Barker* of Winter 2022, the Reverend Peter Tong explained that:

"A slow fund-raising campaign had also stalled progress. While answering the call to fight for his Country, Ross also responded to the needs of his former school. He gave instructions for his army pay to go to the cost of building the Barker Chapel. In 1945 he was fatally wounded in Borneo and after the war, in 1946, his mother presented a cheque for 1000 pounds".

Frank's generosity spurred the building project into action. A foundation stone was laid in April 1956 and the Chapel was completed in August 1957. In November 1996 a window in the chapel was dedicated to Frank, recognising him as one of the building's benefactors. Frank remains a significant figure in the school's history as well as our local history.

Lest we Forget.

Thanks to Rachel Byrne, Senior Archivist at Barker College, for her help with this story.

Written and researched by Scott Wilson 04/24.

Photo above: Frank (second from left) with his fellow officers shortly after the jump.

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THE DISH of ST JOHN HELPING THOSE IN NEED

The Dish of St John, a local Christian organisation providing food, friendship and inclusive community to disadvantaged people in the Hornsby area, is feeding the homeless and making up hampers for families at Coles, Hornsby Westfield. "Many families are single mothers with children," said Hornsby Lion & volunteer **Ted Henebery**.
ENQ: Ted **0414 806 840**.



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Alexandra Torrens,
Pharmacist at Hornsby Heights Pharmacy

IT'S TIME TO PROTECT YOURSELF AGAINST THE FLU
Influenza (the flu) is not just a bad cold.

Whilst the symptoms are somewhat similar, the flu is a potentially life-threatening illness.

The flu is caused by a respiratory virus that spreads easily from person-to-person.

Typically people with the flu experience a sudden high fever, cold shivers, sore throat, headache, muscle aches and pains and cough. In otherwise healthy adults, the worst of the symptoms usually last for three or four days; but significant feelings of ill health can linger on for weeks; and for people in certain high risk groups whose immune systems are already under stress, the consequences can be very serious.

Prevention remains our best weapon against influenza. You can help protect yourself by being vaccinated against the flu.

The vaccine is formulated to work against the most common strains each year (which is why you need to be vaccinated every year). The best time of year to have your flu shot is in Autumn.

To assist our local community in preparing for the flu season, Hornsby Heights Pharmacy is holding convenient **IN-STORE FLU VACCINATION CLINICS** on **Saturday 18 May 2024**,

Book in, get vaccinated, and take home valuable information to help you stay flu free this Winter.

Phone Hornsby Heights Pharmacy on 9987 4777 for more information.

Aged Care Careers Expo



FREE event

Thursday 16 May, 10am - 12pm

West Ryde Community Hall, 3/5 Anthony Rd, West Ryde

Discover how to start your career in aged care

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Enquiries: Lily Li lli@krg.nsw.gov.au or 9424 0970.
krg.nsw.gov.au/agedcareexpo

The Aged Care Careers Expo is brought to you by Your Side, Ku-ring-gai, Mosman, City of Ryde and Willoughby Councils.





“Our Christian ethos ensures that we care with love and dignity that puts people at the heart of all we do – this ensures we have the right people in place within the right conditions to deliver this care everyday,” said **Zia Yasrebi**, Business Manager, Adventist Aged Care Sydney. If you would like to know more about Kings Langley, contact Angela Baglin on (02) 8834 6100 or aacsyd.org.au

ADVENTIST AGED CARE

WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE CORNER AT KINGS LANGLEY?

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This platform ensures the continuum of purpose-built care that meets the needs of residents as their requirements change over time. The integrated approach ensures not only the same culture of care throughout, but also puts residents and their ever-changing needs at the heart of all that is done. A resident can choose to join our warm and welcoming independent living community and if their circumstances change, there is a smooth transitional move to our *Residential Aged Care Facility*.

A THANK YOU FROM THE FRIENDS OF BEROWRA VALLEY

The Friends of Berowra Valley held another successful FAUNA FAIR on March 17th. We wish to thank all participants and attendees, especially the children. There was a great deal of interest in all the information stands and fascination with the live reptiles and animals.

Nature loving children enjoyed receiving information about which creatures belong in a national park from **Tom Hanson and Robin Buchanan**.

The Hornsby Heights Camera Club displayed beautiful nature photographs. A new initiative was the CHILDREN'S PHOTO COMPETITION. Congratulations to **Olivia Vierboom**, 1st place in the 8 to 12 years group and **Charlotte Hare**, 1st place in the 13 to 17 year group.

Special thanks to **Karen Benhar**, President, for her incredible skills in organising everything.

ENQ: <https://www.friendsberowravalle.org.au>

Photo right: Berowra Valley Friends Rae Rosten and Ken Fox.



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HORNSBY

After Dark

The Hornsby After Dark program continues to make headway gaining more traction on social media and bringing more night-time entertainment for your enjoyment. Check out our website: www.2077ad.com.au for UPDATES of UPCOMING EVENTS you won't want to miss!

HORNSBY RSL CLUB

THE SYDNEY COMEDY FESTIVAL SHOWCASE TOUR
8pm Friday 14th June
Hornsby RSL Club

The Sydney Comedy Festival Showcase Tour will be tearing up the freeways of Australia and making a stop at Hornsby RSL Club! Boasting a line-up of festival favourites and some of the freshest emerging talents, this jam-packed night of pure entertainment is bringing the best of the fest direct to you!

Expertly curated and lovingly presented, the Showcase will feature some of the Festival's hottest acts live on stage for an incredible two hours of hard-hitting laughter!

Book now for Friday 14th June at 8pm via the Hornsby RSL Club website www.hornsbyrsl.com.au



WESTSIDE VIBE RETURNS IN MAY

WESTSIDE VIBE WILL TAKE PLACE ON FRIDAY 3 MAY AT HORNSBY'S DURAL LANE, FROM 4PM TO 9PM.

Hornsby's most loved local festival, WESTSIDE VIBE IS RETURNING with a lineup of entertainment and international cuisine that promise an evening overflowing with rhythm, colour and the sensory delights.

HORNSBY'S DURAL LANE will be transformed with striking decorations, food trucks, a licensed bar, face painting and kids' activities, along with five hours of free live music.

Westside Vibe will come alive with music from a range of lively performers to get you dancing including **Gang of Brothers, The Funky Monkeys and Voodoo Punch.**

Taste buds will be set alight by international food from over 15 of Sydney's best food trucks including **Vietnamese Street Foods, Master Gozleme, Myme Express with Indian street food, Fritz's Wieners with German sausages, and Piggy & Moo** with gourmet burgers and loaded fries.

There will be animal shaped fairy floss for the kids from **PourSomeSugar, and Kubarz pop-up bar** will serve delicious drinks, from beers to cocktails. **FIND OUT MORE: visit hornsby.nsw.gov.au/westsidevibe**



UPCOMING LOCAL TRIVIA NIGHTS

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The Hornsby Inn | 7pm | Trivia Night

WEDNESDAY

Blue Gum Hotel | 7:30pm | Witty Wednesdays

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THURSDAY

The Asquith Club | 7pm | Thirsty Thursday Trivia

Magpies Waitara | 7:30pm | Trivia

FRIDAY

Asquith Golf Club | 7pm | Trivia (First Fri of every month)

SUNDAY

Hornsby RSL | 6:30pm | Trivia

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After Dark

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THE “MAYOR” OF BEROWRA WATERS, TONY BRAY

Tony Bray is an amazing and beloved local character who has been associated with Berowra Waters for over 70 years.

As an 8-year-old growing up near **Centennial Park**, Tony first came out to **Berowra Creek** with his grandfather on weekends from the 1950s. They would regularly catch the train out to Berowra and walk down to **Berowra Waters**, where they would stay for weekends and holidays.

Joining the **Commonwealth Bank** directly out of school, just after his 15th birthday, Tony Bray went on to become the *youngest lending manager* in the CBA's history. When working at the **Balmain** branch, Tony became closely associated with the **Balmain Tigers Rugby League Club** who banked with his branch. He even played for the club in their lower grades, when he wasn't boxing at the local **Police Boys Club**.

During his time as a banker, Tony continued regularly visiting Berowra Waters, with the only exception being when he worked for a few years in **Papua New Guinea** with the bank.

For “pocket money” Tony worked with the owner of the **Berowra Waters Boat Shed, Albert Shackleton**. Tony helped by painting and maintaining Shackleton's hire boats and many privately owned boats that were moored in the area. Tony also got to know many of the residents at Berowra Waters when he repaired their boats or helped out with anything else that needed to be done.

Tony was also kept busy by going out to work on **Keith Crumpton's fishing trawler** prawning or to catch mullet. In addition, he put out his own crab pots near the home of **Ernie and Dorothy Buckley** at **The Woolwash**.

For accommodation, Tony used to stay in the big cave at **The Woolwash** or another cave in **Calabash Bay**. He eventually got around to building himself a 26-foot boat that he called “**THISLDOME**” (this will do me). *Not only did his boat get him around Berowra Creek but it also provided a more comfortable place to sleep.*

Tony married his first wife, **Robyn**, who was a former nun and, of course, they had their honeymoon at Berowra Waters. However, Robyn was badly afflicted with diabetes which ended up taking her life, after being together with Tony for just 9 years.

His own health issues cut Tony's working life short including a serious heart attack which nearly took him at a young age. Over many years **Doctor Victor Chang** performed several bypass operations on him. Repeated skin cancer issues have also seriously challenged Tony's health throughout his life however, he has somehow always successfully overcome each battle and continued with his ever-effervescent personality. Tony Bray met his second wife in the early 1980s. **Yvette** embarrassingly dropped her Christmas shopping at a packed **Parramatta Westfield** and a dashing man in a smart suit appeared and swooped in to help gather up the gifts. Yvette blushed when Tony Bray insisted that he buy her coffee. *This was followed up with a dinner invitation that the shy Yvette could not refuse.*

Tony's confident, gentlemanly charm eventually won Yvette over and they were married in 1984. *The two of them have been inseparable since.* Berowra Creek continued to be a home away from home for the Brays and one day, around 1990, they were visiting **Harold and Betty Kirkpatrick** at their Berowra Waters home when their neighbours, **Frank and May Sommers**, came over and announced they were selling their home that consisted of a waterfront, one room, tin shack. Tony asked how much they wanted. *With an agreeable response, he immediately stuck out his hand and purchased the property with a handshake deal.*

Tony and Yvette sold their beautiful two storey, four-bedroom, brick veneer home in Castle Hill and immediately moved to Berowra Creek.

Tony transferred his boat's name, “**THISLDOME**” to his newly purchased tin shack and started extending the building.

Soon after becoming permanent at Berowra Waters, Yvette became pregnant with their only child. **Billy** was born and grew up “free range” on Berowra Creek. Tony claims his son could swim before he could walk, which may have been an exaggeration, but only slightly.

As a Berowra Waters resident, it was easy for Tony Bray to throw himself into the river community because he knew the area better than most of the full-time residents and they all knew him.

He was the life of the river and organized many social gatherings, especially dinner parties. At these events Tony would often produce some of his home-made booze that he produced with his own still. He made whiskey, rum, vodka, bourbon and various fruity flavoured alcoholic drinks, that initially came out at 22% strength before being diluted. A label was established, and “*Tony Bray Berowra Waters Distillery*” printed bottles were distributed throughout the Berowra Waters Community and were said to be very popular.

Tony Bray has also been described as the “ultimate neighbour”. He was always available to lend a hand with whatever needed to be done or solve one of the various problems that occurs on the river. That might be to dive to the bottom of Berowra Creek to retrieve a resident's belongings or a sunken boat, rescue a family stuck in the middle of the creek in a broken-down vessel, catch and relocate a snake that had made its way into a house, repair a hole in a roof during a storm or find a lost pet dog in surrounding bushland. On two occasions he even had the unpleasant task of recovering a body from the Creek after an accident.

Tony Bray has always been active in the **Berowra Waters Progress Association** including serving as President for several years. He also served as a *Justice of the Peace* for 55 years.

In addition, Tony was very active in **Legacy** for many years as a fundraiser through being a prolific seller of Legacy items.

Through **Bill and Ernie Foster**, Tony Bray became heavily involved in the upgrade of the **Berowra RSL Club's** building refurbishment. Through this involvement he became an affiliate member of the **Berowra RSL Sub-branch** and as a board member. He was very active in the Sub-branch's events such as ANZAC Day and other ceremonies.

As a life-long and active member of the **Liberal Party**, many people will recall seeing Tony Bray as they entered the gate of a local polling booth on election days. He always enthusiastically supported the *blue party's* candidates, and he will be particularly remembered by the various other volunteers representing the other parties' candidates, as he would light-heartedly engage in constant banter throughout the quieter periods of the day. *Those that did not take him too seriously enjoyed their experience, but the others found it hard work.*

Tony was very active with the **Maritime Services Board** and the *local police*. They would always come to him whenever they wanted to find out what was *really* happening on Berowra Creek, or needed to get into a *tricky part* of Berowra Creek.

Over the years at Berowra Waters, Tony Bray has found himself in many treacherous situations. His most memorable was one day in the 1970s when he drove his car onto the ferry. Being first on the ferry he stopped right on the gate. Behind him a large truck drove on and stopped well behind Tony's car. As the ferry left the eastern ferry ramp the truck driver hopped out of his cabin and went over to speak with the ferry master. *However, he did not notice the truck begin to roll forward and bump into Tony's car, crashing it through the ferry's gates and into Berowra Creek with Tony in the driver's seat.* Everyone on the ferry rushed to the front and held their breath for some time as they desperately looked into the water. **Finally, a simultaneous huge cheer went up as Tony Bray's head popped up.** He had somehow successfully managed to free himself from his car as it plummeted towards the bottom of the creek. Tony climbed up onto the ferry and organized a rope with a hook. He then proceeded to dive back into Berowra Creek and down to his car, where he attached the rope to the rear axle of his car and had it brought back up to the surface. *The car's recovery was completed when it was hoisted onto the ferry ramp.*

Tony was appropriately compensated by the truck driver for his vehicle, and nobody bothered complicating the situation by involving the authorities.

Over the years Tony has spotted a wide variety of interesting animals in and around Berowra Creek. This includes pods of dolphins, seals and many different species of sharks. On land he has seen koalas, huge native



rats and a wide variety of birds. A few eagles even got used to his whistle and flew over for him to hand feed them on the deck of his boat or house. **Gathering and catching a feed was part of the joy of living on Berowra Creek.** Local oysters, fish and crabs were regularly enjoyed. As were prawns and, when the conditions were right on a dark night, Tony would often go out with his nets in **Calabash Bay** and drag up 20 kilos of prawns. *These were gladly shared around amongst his neighbours.* Sadly, Tony explained, *“Bad bushfires and the poor water quality have both negatively impacted the area’s animals at different times over the years.”* Tony Bray would also have amazing experiences when he roamed the remote bushland right along both sides of Berowra Creek. **He once walked from Berowra Waters to Brooklyn without using an established track.**

When asked what he loves most about Berowra Creek he always says, **“the community”.** It doesn’t matter who you are, when you move to a water access property on Berowra Creek, you become part of the family and *family looks after family.*

Just as he has taken care of his community, over the years the Berowra Waters community have also looked after Tony and Yvette Bray. Especially when they have been struggling through their various health issues. Tony Bray is simply loved by everyone on Berowra Creek and he genuinely loves them back.

After over 70 years visiting and living on Berowra Creek the one word he uses to describe the area is **“paradise”.** Now, in his eighty-first year, Tony Bray’s health has finally all but caught up with him. He is restricted to his bedroom of his Berowra Waters home as he waits to **“die on the river”**, with Yvette by his side. When he does finally get carried out of his home in a box, he has arranged for his body to be donated to the **UTS Body Donation Program** to be studied by science. It is a privilege to be able to write this piece on Tony Bray. He is a wonderful man. The hope is that he can read this himself, while he is still with us. When he finally goes, he will be missed by so many, especially Yvette, Billy and his three grandchildren, all of whom he loves dearly, just as he loves Berowra Waters.

Messages from our local Pollies:

From Philip Ruddock AO – Hornsby Shire Mayor
During my time as the Federal Member of Berowra and Mayor of Hornsby Shire one of our most remarkable contributors to our community has been Tony Bray.

He and his wife Yvette are both not just community members but are remarkable close and special friends.

Tony’s unique and special contribution at Berowra Waters is legendary. Ferrying people to and from their homes and assisting in meeting their great and varying and personal needs including maintenance of their extremely special residences meant that the **“The Mayor of Berowra Waters”** is well appreciated.

Tony and Yvette are not just friends to **Heather** and I, but he also knew my Late sister **Janice** very well.

One of the great privileges has been to share important occasions as you would expect usually on the banks of the Hawkesbury.

Tony is one month older than I and each year we share musical renditions with each other. Every Anzac Day he has been a regular participant in all the Berowra events. When the time comes, he will be greatly missed

From Matt Kean – State MP for Hornsby
Tony is one of the great characters of the Hornsby Shire.

He is known for his sense of humour and big heart. In fact, wherever there is a good cause or family in need, chances are that Tony is there to lend a hand. He is involved in so many aspects of community life that he is known as the unofficial Mayor of Berowra Waters.

All of us who know Tony, who have benefited from his friendship and kindness, are a little bigger, a little stronger and a little better because of it. We are grateful for his enormous contribution to our community and we are cheering him on as he tackles his serious health challenges.

From Julian Leeser – Federal member for Berowra
Tony Bray is one of the great characters of our community - the **unofficial Mayor of Berowra Waters.**

Everyone on the river knows him.

For many years he famously ran a dinghy with a flagpole, a toilet and a telephone - *I’m not sure any of them worked.*

Lunch with Tony and Yvette is always great seafood and back in the days some liquor from his homemade still. Tony has such a wonderful sense of humour and an ability to take the mickey out of himself and at the same time he is the most caring person who drops everything to help out someone in trouble. That’s why he has endeared himself to so many over the years. He has been an essential part of my success as an MP and I wish him well.

Tony Bray hasn't been feeling too well of late, so nice guys Julian Leeser and Matt Kean hired a tinny from Berowra Waters Marina to pay Tony a visit and bring him some cheer.





Auto Feature



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AUTO PERFECTION DETAILING is a premium quality service, specialising in the perfection of automotive appearance and presentation, using benchmark industry standards and products. Proprietor **Pasquale** and his team have an eye for detail and pride themselves on delivering each car to a high standard for a maintenance detail or a pre-sale detail.

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MORE EV CHARGING STATIONS FOR HORNSBY SHIRE

Electric vehicle (EV) sales continue to surge with Hornsby Shire is now ranked the tenth local government area in NSW for EV vehicle ownership.

Electric vehicles now account for over 10% of all new car sales and there are nearly 2,000 EVs registered in the Hornsby Shire

already. As a result, it is important that the required infrastructure keeps up. Last month an EV charging station was installed in the **Berowra Railway Station** commuter carpark adding to the existing one at the **Berowra Tennis Centre** in Boundary Road, Berowra. This follows the new EV charging station that was installed earlier this year in Hornsby Council's **Dural Street carpark** in Hornsby.

In addition, shopping centres and traditional petrol service stations are also installing EV charging stations right across the Hornsby Shire.

The next new charging station to be installed on council land will be opposite the **Magpies Club at Waitara** and this will complement the recently completed upgrade of **Waitara Railway Station.**

All new EV stations are powered by 100% renewable energy and are already experiencing consistent usage by both locally owned EVs and EVs travelling through the local area.



Photo above: Matt Kean MP stands next to the Jo0lt EV charging station Berowra railway station commuter carpark.

BARR AUTOMOTIVE: A TRADITION OF TRUST AND EXCELLENCE

On the busy James Street in Hornsby is located a family-owned and operated mechanic, Barr Automotive, *but this shop is more than just a service centre.*

It's a community pillar dedicated to providing a customer-centric experience that caters to individual automotive needs. Their mission is to give customers control over their vehicle repairs and maintenance with clear communication and transparent reporting.

They believe in empowering customers with knowledge: **"We want our customers to know their cars as well as we do."**

As multiple award winners, Barr Auto's commitment to excellence is evident in its high-quality workmanship. However, it's their unwavering dedication to customer service that truly distinguishes them. They go beyond providing a service, striving to build lasting relationships with their customers and fostering trust and confidence in their services.

For Sydney's North Shore residents, Barr Auto offers more than just a service. It's an opportunity to take control of your car's reliability, to be in the driver's seat of your own maintenance journey, and to feel confident and secure in your vehicle's performance.

For more information on Barr Auto, its story, or its services, head to barrauto.com.au

WANT TO MAKE AN ENQUIRY OR A BOOKING?

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A perfect example:

General mechanical workshops are like your local GP (Doctor). They have to be able to cover a wide range but if not, they'll send you to a specialist. Someone who does that one thing every day because that's what they excel at, getting you the best result for your health.

The problem is that a general mechanic won't tell you to take your Subaru to a specialist for the fear of losing you as a customer.

Instead, they will keep doing general services or *heaven forbid* attempt to do major repairs but incorrectly. Imagine if your GP started doing major operations in their little surgery. **Would that be in the best interest for your Subaru's health?**

At DFR Automotive (Subaru Specialist), we only do Subaru's so we can guarantee we know more about your car than they do. We keep the right parts on the shelf to get your car done correctly.

Childcare



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Come and see for yourself – book a tour today!
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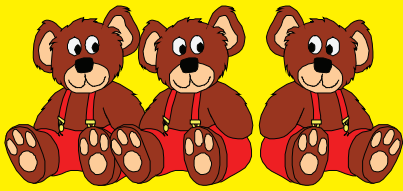


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Childcare

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Our Centre is located on 37A King Road, Hornsby at we are open 7:00am-6:00pm Monday to Friday all year round!

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National 20-26 MAY 2024
Volunteer
 Something for Everyone Week

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

Over six million Australians volunteer through organizations annually—nearly a third of the adult population. Volunteers come from all walks of life, aiming to benefit their local communities. In return, they not only learn new skills and meet new people but often experience improved physical and mental health. **National Volunteer Week 2024**, running from May 20th to 26th, provides an opportunity to recognize, celebrate, and thank volunteers for their significant contributions to our local communities, the voluntary sector, and society as a whole.

According to the 2021 Census, 20.4% of the population of the Ku-ring-gai Council area identified as volunteers, compared to 17% of the Hornsby Shire, 12.8% for the City of Sydney and 11.6% for Greater Sydney.

What is Volunteering?

Volunteering Australia's Definition of Volunteering was introduced in 2015 and is: 'Time willingly given for the common good and without financial gain.' The Australian Bureau of Statistics defines 'formal volunteering' as unpaid voluntary work through an organisation and 'informal volunteering' as the provision of unpaid work/support to non-family members outside of the household.



Movie day for volunteers

As a thank you for all that you do, we're treating all our volunteers and a friend to see the film *The Fall Guy* at the cinemas.

Choose from the following sessions:

Thursday 21 May - 10.30am
 Event Cinema Hornsby Westfield

Thursday 23 May - 10.30am
 Roseville Cinema

Book now
krg.nsw.gov.au/volunteerevents

For registered Hornsby and Ku-ring-gai volunteers as part of National Volunteer Week.



Would you like to share your love for technology?

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Scan the QR code to find out how you can help or email volunteers@hkcc.nsw.edu.au or call 9482 1189.



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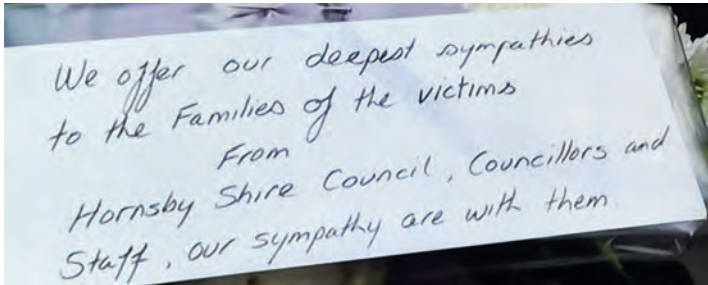
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In our community



HORNSBY MAYOR RESPONDS TO TRAGIC EVENTS AT WESTFIELD BONDI JUNCTION



On behalf of the Council, staff and community of Hornsby Shire, I would like to express my shock and sadness at the tragic events at Westfield Bondi Junction in April. We extend our sincere condolences to the family and friends of those who have lost their lives and wish those who were injured a full recovery. As the flags of Hornsby Shire flew at half-mast, they were a symbol of how our community is united in support for everyone affected by this tragedy. **The Hon Mayor of Hornsby Philip Ruddock AO.**

POSITION WANTED: DISABILITY SUPPORT WORKER/SPECIAL NEEDS

Ivette is a Christian: trustworthy, highly reliable, compassionate and an experienced mature female who is trained and available to work with people with disabilities, special needs, the elderly and people of all ages with cognitive decline. She is passionate about helping others to maintain their quality of life, finding a strong match for their skills and rewarding opportunities. She is highly adaptable and trustworthy in family environments. She can also provide assistance for young families who need some extra help with little children.

Ivette is a mother, has a full driver's licence and has her own ABN. Normally, she works as a NDIS provider and in personal arrangements. Recent roles have included caring for a teenager with *Cockayne Syndrome*, adults with cancer who would like to remain at home, people with quadriplegia using wheelchair, hoist transfer, sling, bowel and urinary care, elderly people with dementia, deaf and dumb, and those with mental health needs and vulnerable elderly people who need assistance in home to allow them to stay safely and happily and in their own environments. She enables their daily routines and job, with shopping, walking, restaurants, cooking, going to the doctor, occupational therapy, hydrotherapy, swimming, physical exercises, massage, company and all forms of support.

Ivette is invaluable, has multiple references, Australian Citizenship, and an amazing work ethic. She would be happy to be contacted via email in the first instance, if you would like more information.

Email: ivette.nobrega@gmail.com | Phone: 0474 075 419

MOTHERS DAY PLANT SALE



The Rotary Club of Berowra is holding the annual MOTHERS DAY PLANT SALE, on **SATURDAY 11 MAY 2024**, 8.30am - 3.30pm at HUNT RESERVE, corner of Pacific Highway and Beryl Avenue, MOUNT COLAH, around the corner fronting on to Beryl Avenue.

We are pleased with the support of our suppliers and will have a range of plants suitable for gifts for mums, grandmothers and aunts, as well as for freshening up the garden. **WHILE BROWSING THE PLANTS ENJOY A SAUSAGE SIZZLE!** Berowra Rotary raises funds through the two major plant sales a year to allow us to support our humanitarian and community projects.

BEROWRA ORCHID SOCIETY PLANT SALE



By Trevor Bailey

Come to The Berowra Orchid Society stall at the Rotary Mothers Day Plant Sale on **SATURDAY 11TH MAY** at Hunt Reserve, cnr of Pacific Highway and Beryl Ave, Mt Colah commencing 8.30am.

FOR THAT SPECIAL GIFT FOR MOTHERS DAY

you can't go past an orchid! A variety of living gifts for Mum, the Rotary Club's Plant Sale has a wide range of plants on offer to enhance your garden.

CABARET '24

Stepping Out Theatre Inc, your Berowra based Community Theatre, is presenting CABARET '24. This collection of acts from across the performance arts will entertain you with a sequence of sequined, glittering little gems. Gather your friends, book a table, or come alone, bring your party platters and your favourite tipple.

WARNING: this is for adults only. The show contains nudity!! Photo ID will be checked.

There are only 5 performances in MAY, in the District Hall, Berowra:

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Saturday 25th at 2:30 pm and 7:30 pm, Sunday 26th at 2:30 pm



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