### Hawkesbury City Council



# Weed All About It



**VOLUME 11. ISSUE 1** 

Newsletter for the 'Hawkesbury Bushcare' Program

Autumn 2010

#### Editorial

Hello Everyone, it is with regret that this edition of Weed All About is published as we have seen the passing of Molly Brown. She will remembered for her passion, commitment and dedication to our community. Although I never had the opportunity to work with Molly in the field I would like to express my appreciation of the constant encouragement and support she gave me, in my role as Bushcare Officer; Molly, you will be greatly missed.

As usual a great read, packed with fantastic articles by all those who contributed great information and great events coming up, enjoy the read.

Happy Days!

Marty Gauci Community Bushcare Officer Phone: (02) 4560 4525 martin.gauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au

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## On A Hot Summers Night, By Brenda Smith

On a hot summer's afternoon, with the sun Hawkesbury City Council and Landcare for music, guests were entertained by young the volunteers. Kurrajong singer guitarist Zac Maris.

Martin Gauci cleverly combined his witty remarks with appropriate music to New Kids on the Block - Hawkesbury introduce each of the ten award winning Remnants Landcare Group presentations. Mayor Bart Bassett and Landcare facilitator Alex Muir joined in the merriment as Marty sparkled on the elevated dance floor, displaying enthusiasm, ingenuity and lively footwork. Caught up with the mood, youngsters and some not so young bravely joined in safely watching the hilarity shared in the fun by clapping along in time and Environmental Volunteer of the Year admiration.

shining on our river, Hawkesbury Bushcare providing an excellent, enjoyable occasion & Landcare Volunteers enjoyed the annual culminating in the year's Bushcare / Bushcare and Landcare Christmas party Landcare activities. Congratulations to the aboard the Hawkesbury Paddlewheeler. award winners and a big hearty "thank you" From 5pm to 8pm in a convivial to Marty Gauci and Alex Muir for launching atmosphere, with a feast of food, fun and the festive season with such "goodwill" to all

Those who were acknowledged for their past Hawkesbury Community Bushcare Officer and present efforts and dedication in 2009 were:-

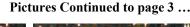
Rookies of the Year - Yellomundee Aboriginal Bushcare Group, Merroo Crown Reserve Bushcare Group and Charles Kemp Reserve Bushcare Group

The Green Thumb - Merv Sharkie 10 Years Long-Service Awards - Molly

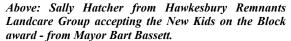
Brown, Steve Munro and Phil Knobbs dancing the Macarena. Those who were Environmental Group of the Year - Colo Valley Landcare Group

Elizabeth Chellingworth

Thank Mayor Bart









Above: Robin Woods accepting an award on behalf of Molly Brown.

## In Praise of Molly Brown,

## By Robin Woods with help from Gwen Hungerford

When new groups form, there is the usual attrition rate within a year or so as people move on; and then there are the stayers! Molly is certainly the latter! I must have met her in the year or so after I started a Streamwatch group with Hawkesbury High School students, down on Currency Creek in Glossodia Park, which then morphed into a Bushcare group set up by Suzanne Hayward and then Geoff Hudson.

Molly comes from a long line of settlers in the Hawkesbury area and is very widely known.

Molly, who was then Molly Hungerford, lived originally at Mt Tomah. She did nursing at Concord after training at Windsor Hospital. She married Clive Brown, whose family were connected with the Hawkesbury River at Ebenezer, and

still are, with one son Matthew and his family still living in that area. Clive was an electrician, but also one of the very first champion water-skiers; they ran the little shop "Ski Inn" on the road down to the Sackville Ferry near where Currency Creek enters the river. So Molly's love and knowledge of the area stems from that, even though the river flooded the shop three times and had to be scrubbed from top to bottom every time!

One thing about Molly that stood out then and still does is her genteel and ladylike demeanor. There was our Bushcare group, grubbing out bridal creeper or fingering trad on hands and knees. There was Molly with a walking stick or slim garden hoe, picking out fireweed, wearing her white gloves all the while! On days out on the riverbank property, Molly would set up a spot under the shade of She-oaks with tea and cakes, while Clive and others worked on grubbing out thistles with hoes and

mattocks, or planting trees along the river front. But Molly certainly knows how to keep everyone fed and happy and always was ready with a pertinent comment or question about everyone in the group.

Some of the stayers from that group were Ben Sichter, Steve Munro, John Jose, Eve Stones and Jill Oliver and then along came Michelle Engelhard to take over Geoff Hudson's position. Morning teas were our chance to get to understand a lot more about the history of the area, and why Currency Creek got its name (and that's another story!).

Molly was a great networker, which helped enormously within the organisation of the Landcare group in January 1998, under the auspices of John Cauchi of the then

Hawkesbury Catchment Management Trust, and Council; with its first committee including Philip Cauchi, Jo Moore, Marce Vassallo, Paul and Charlie Vella, and many more. Her very down-to-earth working connection with the market gardeners was a huge bonus, as her own family worked the land too.

Molly continued that networking by maintaining a role as media contact for the Bushcare Program under the Currency Creek Landcare banner. The impression might be misleading, but the aim is still to create a feel for the care of the whole area. Lastly, I can vouch for the works done on their family's stretch of the riverbank at Ebenezer. When you travel across on the ferry from Sackville, look to the left and right of the landing area to see a great stretch of healthy reeds at the bank toe with gorgeous she-oaks and eucalypts rising many metres in the air above!



Above: Molly Brown with her Currency Creek Landcare attire & her white gloves.

## A few kind words for Molly Brown

I fondly remember my times working with Molly and the considerable effort she put into tree plantings on Currency Creek. She was gentle but persuasive; I remember her joy on receiving news that funding was allocated to continue the work that the Currency Creek Landcare Group had started. What a great time; what a great woman; what a great loss.

John Cauchi (former HNCMA employee) Catchment Officer

Central West Catchment Management Authority

Molly was one of my favourite volunteers from the old days in the Hawkesbury. The poise, the grace, the charm and the wicked sense of humour, I remember with great fondness. And those white gloves!!!

Geoff Hudson (former HCC Land Management &

Bushcare Officer)

Senior Policy Officer - Natural Resource Management Local Government and Shires Association of NSW

I remember Molly as the lady with the sunny personality who would occasionally visit the Good Bush People crew years ago at Glossodia Park. She had a pet hate for Fireweed.

David Hicks Re: Habitat

Molly and Clive were really the early pioneers in riverbank restoration, which is understandable given their lineage. Their property adjacent to the Sackville Ferry, is one of the earliest examples that uses native plants (as opposed to willows etc) to stabilise the banks of the dynamic Hawkesbury River. Molly always welcomed visitors, and her place had quite a

Continued on page 3 ...

## On A Hot Summers Night,

By Brenda Smith (continued from cover page)



## A few kind words for Molly Brown (continued from page 2)

number of admirers, she was particularly entertained by the 'kids' that used to collect the 'funny' mushrooms when they were out!

Molly was a lovely lady that everyone had respect for. I first met Molly in 1996 when I supervised the Currency Creek Landcare Group at Glossodia Park (which later led to

Molly certainly knew how to get things done and not slowly. She would usually turn up to pick up some plants, have a bit of a power chat, and be off to the next job. I assume that's how she and Clive won the "Spring Chickens" award at the '99 Bushcare and Landcare Network awards.

Molly was a real local identity who will be missed, her environmental legacy will live on through the people she knew and the examples she leaves behind.

The team at the HNCMA

Molly was a lovely lady that everyone had respect for. I first met Molly in 1996 when I supervised the Currency Creek Landcare Group at Glossodia Park (which later led to the formation of the Glossodia Park Bushcare Group). Molly would always come along with a plastic bag full of fire weed in her hand that she had already collected on her way to the Park, walking stick in hand and always wearing her white cotton gloves. I don't think I ever saw Molly without her gloves on. Molly always had a ready laugh and a commitment to do whatever she could for the group despite her age.

Michelle Engelhard (HCC Land Management Officer maternity leave)

## Grant Update from Land Management Officer, By Nicola Booth

#### **Estuary Management Program - DECCW;**

Is finally coming to an end. After many years of funding the works at South Creek, the program has swung away from funding on ground works. However, the funding that HCC has been fortunate to receive has gone towards maintaining the reconstructed riparian vegetation along the eastern bank of South Creek between Windsor and McGraths Hill. This work has ensured that the planted canopy can now produce successive



Hawkesbury-Nepean

CM A CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

generations.

## Yarramundi Reserve Restoration Project - Funded by the Australian Government;

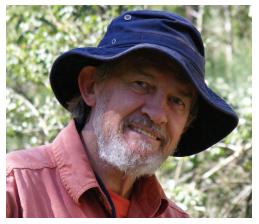
Council has been fortunate enough to be selected to receive a slice of the Australian Governments "Jobs Fund" economic stimulus funding. The project entails bush regeneration works and **Australian Government** construction of fencing to prevent vandalism, which has almost been completed.

### River Restoration Project - HNCMA;

This project has been running for a few years now. Currently the project is in a seed collecting stage to boost seed stores at the Nursery. The works have also

gone towards bush regeneration at Upper Colo Reserve, Chain of Ponds, Ward Park and Mill Rd Reserve.

## Hawkesbury Bushcare Volunteer Profile



Name: Greg Reid.

Group: Mill Road Bushcare Group.
Group Location: Mill Road, Kurrajong.
Time with Group: About 3 1/2 months.
Position in Group: Bushland Regenerator.
Occupation: Bushland Regenerator for Blue
Tongue Eco-systems.

**Reason for Volunteering:** At the start it was to meet people that had an interest in bushland so I could learn from them; and to establish an employment opportunity in bush regen.

**Best Achievement:** Successfully getting through my 1st year of teaching 58, 11 year old school boys at the age of 19 at Mount Isa.

Favourite Native Species: Indigofera australis
Most Hated Weed: Green Cestrum

6 people you would like to invite to dinner: Too difficult; 5 men & women are; Albert Einstein, Aristotle, Niccolò Machiavelli, Frank Vincent Zappa, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Germaine Greer, Madame Curie, Socrates' wife, Elizabeth I of England and Mary Shelley.

## Fire in Your Bush and the History of Fire, By Peter Mobbs

This article is the first in a series on developing knowledge and understanding of the role fire can play in our bushland reserves, so that we can better manage the ecological processes in our bit of bush.

The South-Eastern Australian climate zone contains enormous tracks of forest/woodlands and grasslands. This area is regarded as one of the most bush-fire prone areas of the world and our bush reserves sit smack in the middle of it. General research in this area shows that the type of bush we have has been exposed to fire over tens of thousands of years.

Aboriginal peoples developed the knowledge to read the landscape and vegetation variations and use fire in one form or another for various reasons including personal protection, food gathering and rituals to name a few.

Early Europeans explores recognised that the indigenous inhabitants were using fire to achieve many different ends. They recognised that they would light a fire to hunt but it may also be that the indigenous people were using fire to indicate ownership of their tribal lands to ward off the intruders. Regardless of the reasons for the Aboriginal peoples' use of fire, the fires they lit influenced ecosystem dynamics.

Wildfire created from lightning strikes, unrelated to human intervention, would have occurred naturally over a range of seasons creating a mosaic pattern across the landscape. Changes in climate taking the country from wetter to drier and the influence of drought contributed to the evolution of the types of vegetation in the landscape. Aboriginal people, like us today, had the influences of landscape and vegetation to manage in their environment.

As bush regenerators and land managers it is vital that we develop knowledge and skills to interpret the landscape and vegetation so that fire is managed effectively to maintain ecosystem processes and biodiversity. In Western Sydney the rapid decline of the indigenous peoples and their fire practices has left us without a guideline to follow.



## Eucalyptus Workshop in 2009, by Greg Boyd



Left:Left to Right; Paul and Kirsty Reynolds and Van Klaphake, thinking, thinking, thinking, Eucalyptus... *mmmm.....* 



Below: Left to Right, Benn Treharne, Marty Gauci, Daniel McDonald, Amy Plunkett-Cole and Trish Densmore. Studying gum trees is FUN!

Know the difference between Angophera and Eucalypt? I'm sure many of you do, however. Do you know the difference between Corymbia, Nothocalyptus Symphiomyrtus?

Thirty or so keen participants at the Eucalypt workshop held at the HNCMA in South Windsor on the weekend of August 29/30 can now answer these questions and more regarding our 'gums'. A good cross section of bush regenerators, Landcarers, CMA and council staff along with Bushcare Volunteers are now better informed on the identification of the Eucalypts (and other species) of the Sydney region thanks to the inspiring workshop presented by Van Klaphake.

As with the grasses workshop Van ran earlier in the year he astounded most with his vast knowledge, great drawings and a book and key that are user friendly for us mere mortals.

Thanks also must go to Alex Muir and Marty Gauci for organising the workshop, and Peter Mobbs for his introduction and assistance. I'm sure, like me, many others are waiting for

## Bushcare Training and Open Day

An "Introduction to Bushland Regeneration" training will Watch out the "Hawkesbury Bushcare Open be held. This will be targeted at Bushcare / Landcare Day" at Chain of Ponds Reserve is coming. Hawkesbury BUSHCARE volunteers who have no formal qualification in bush regen and Everything you wanted to know about environmental restoration who are wanting to learn more about bush regen. It is highly recommended that new volunteers undertake this training.

Topics covered will include the basics and philosophy of bush regen, plant identification and profiling, weeds, removal techniques, fauna, site planning, preparation and site assessment.

Price: Registered HCC Bushcare / Landcare Volunteers \$10. Full-time employed and others \$20.

When: Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> May. 9.00am-4.00pm, lunch provided.

Hawkesbury Where: Nursery, Community Mulgrave Road, Mulgrave.



Hawkesbury Bushcare and the native vegetation of the Hawkesbury area and more. Guest speakers include, native fauna displays of the Hawkesbury, WIRES, weeds and their impacts on bushland, bush regen impacts and how to restore native vegetation and weed removal techniques. Stories of "why I became a volunteer and what I have gotten out of it."

When: Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> August. 9.00am-2.00pm, Free BBQ. Where: Chain of Ponds Reserve, Stannix Park Road, Ebenezer.

**Hosted and Sponsored**: Both events by Hawkesbury City Council and The Hawkesbury-Nepean Catchment Management Authority.

**Bookings:** Essential to both events and places are limited, so RSVP asap and book early, call Marty Gauci 4560 4525.

CMA CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY Email: martin.gauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au

## Men of the Trees Schools Projects, By Mark Anderson

Barbe Baker who was concerned for the rapidly decreasing fertility of the land. He believed it was necessary to plant more trees to combat the shifting methods of agriculture. He initiated the idea of voluntary tree planting by the native tribesmen of the highlands. The activity was most successful and the highlanders became known as forest planters instead of forest destroyers. Since then, MOTT has become a world wide association of men and women who promote the conservation and planting of trees wherever possible.

In the 29 years of the NSW branch existence, MOTT has planted at many sites in the Sydney region, in schools and parks, on private property, in national parks and botanic gardens, along creeks and rivers. A large amount of the plantings have been in the Hawkesbury region. MOTT has planted over 200,000 trees, shrubs and grasses; many of them propagated at the MOTT's nursery at Cattai.

MOTT has carried out planting on some of Hawkesbury City Council's parks. They are Half Moon Farm - Lower Portland, Cattai Bridge Reserve - Cattai, Australian Pioneer Village - Wilberforce, Governor Phillip Park, Macquarie Park, The Breakaway, The old quarry at Cornwallis, Hawkesbury Park, and Yarramundi and Navua Reserve.

Men of the Trees (MOTT) was founded on 22 July 1922 in MOTT have been fairly quiet on the planting front for the last Kenya, by A Government Forestry Officer, Dr. Richard St. two years. There hasn't been many opportunities from private or public landholders to participate in plantings. So MOTTs latest venture "the Schools Plantings Project", is specifically for schools to carry out plantings within their school grounds. MOTT will cover the cost of purchasing the plants, mulch and give assistance with species selection (all plants must be native species) and any maintenance requirements etc. MOTT will also offer to help plant if any school planting is held on Sunday; otherwise the school children will plant during school time.

> So far in the past 8 months, six schools have taken up the offer with four schools in the Hawkesbury area and two in the Sydney metro area. Approximately 430 trees, shrubs and grasses have been planted, 25m<sup>3</sup> of mulch, 30 tree bags and stakes have been given out. Most of the school's plantings were carried out on Schools National Tree Day in late July. This project will assist schools with on ground improvements in their local environmental landscape and could be a huge help for them with the Planet Ark Schools Tree Day taking place on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> July, 2010.

For further details on this program:

**Contact:** Mark Anderson, President MOTT NSW (inc) **Phone:** 4567 8002 **Email**: lmbosb.allawah@bigpond.com

## **National Tree Day**

Since 2006, National Tree Day has been held at Yarramundi Reserve and each year it has been a successful event with a great turn out by the local community. So come along and enjoy the native tree planting experience that so many Australians have already enjoyed.

When: Sunday 1st August, 2010, at Yarramundi Reserve, Springwood Road.

**Schedule:** 10am-12noon, with a Free BBQ to follow. What to bring: Sun hat, sturdy shoes, long sleeve shirt, long pants, sunscreen, gloves and water. There will be a free BBQ for all participants.

Contact: RSVP to Martin Gauci, Community Bushcare Officer, on 4560 4525, or email.



Above: The creature from Yarramundi Lagoon needs your help to plant some more trees at Yarraumundi Rv.!

## CVA Green Corp Team,



by Rick Asensio

A great big hello from the Penrith/Hawkesbury Green Corps team. We are presently concluding works at the Don Street Remnant Rainforest at Kurrajong Heights. To work on the restoration of such a wonderful ecosystem is a great thrill to us all. We have been mainly involved in the removal of woody weeds (large and small leaf privet), vines (moth vine), groundcovers (trad.), rhizomes (indian ginger) and trees (wild tobacco and camphor laurel). Doing this we have liberated vast quantities of indigenous species including rasp fern, coffee bush and to our delight 5 Australian Red Cedar seedlings.

We, as a group, see our endeavours as being highly valuable and worthwhile to the Hawkesbury environment as a whole. Our team has included Steven Hughes, Shaun Logar and Geoff Pascoe (from the

Blue Mountains) and Tamara Melide. Beau Dent and Greg Shepperd (from the Hawkesbury). Our Green Corps. looks forward in a weeks time to moving on to its next site which will be Navua Reserve.

Rick Asensio Team Leader-Penrith/ Hawkesbury Green Corps. Conservation Volunteers Australia.



Above: Rick Asensio, Steven Hughes and Tamara Melide having removed bags of ginger lilly.

## Hawkesbury Indian Myna Action Group (HIMAG) Update



August 2009. The group has grown from Hawkesbury Community Nursery. strength to strength, starting with 40 interest to the general public and help to Pitt Town area.

teach others how to trap Indian Mynas. A very successful "Indian Myna Trapping Workshop" was held in late 2009, with A member from a local church group from the Tennyson area, well over 100 people in attendance.

designed by the Canberra Indian Myna Action Group can be now run a trap building and trapping tactics workshop where obtained in the Hawkesbury through a few avenues, including:

The Men's Shed at 23 Bosworth Street, Richmond, ask for a donation of \$50; open Mondays & Wednesdays.

Contact: Greg, 0409 443 884.

http://www.hawkesburymensshed.com.au/

- Mr Geoff Wynn, the Volunteer Area Coordinator closest Volunteer Area Coordinator. for Windsor / South Windsor / Bligh Park was so keen that before HIMAG started, he drove down to Canberra to buy If you are interested in helping the native animals of the a "Pee Gee" Trap. Geoff now has made about 10 traps & Hawkesbury by controlling the Indian Mynas: hires these traps for 1-2 weeks for a \$20 refundable deposit Contact: Martin Gauci, Community Bushcare Officer, once the trap is returned. Contact: Geoff Wynn: 0439 070 Hawkesbury City Council on 4560 4525. 162 or Email: himagwindsor@gmail.com
- The John Morony Correctional Complex, located on the corner of The Northern Road and Richmond Road, Berkshire Park. The traps sell for \$50.

Contact: Kenneth Trueman 4582 2219 Email: Kenneth.Trueman@dcs.nsw.gov.au

As the two neighbouring LGAs have not taken on Indian Myna trapping as yet (Penrith and Blue Mountains) it is envisaged that when they undertake this work, there will be a ready distribution of traps to meet the communities needs.

Geoff Wynn, has also run two very successful "Building, Usage & Tactics" Trap Building Workshops. The 1st trap building workshop even got on 702 ABC morning radio discussion with a plug; that resulted in quite a lot of people

Since the conception of HIMAG in attending the workshop. These two workshops were held at the

people it now has over 370 involved. Mr Peter Ryan, the Volunteer Area Coordinator from Pitt There are 8 Volunteer Area Town, also ran a small trap building workshop at his Coordinators in the Hawkesbury and this house and has encouraged a strong community / residential has been a great way to spread the following with trapping and control of the Indian Myna in the

Mr Bob Pickworth attended the 1st Trap building Workshop. Since then, Bob has been very successful in trapping (catching The very successful "Pee Gee" Indian Myna trap that was 67 birds in less than 2 weeks, with 28 in one day). Bob has 12 traps were made and 16 people attended and a few handy trapping hints were shared.

> With more than 1,300 recorded successful trappings of Indian Mynas in the Hawkesbury since December 2009, the native fauna is far more grateful than is realized. To gauge the success of HIMAG, please send your capture data to your

Email: martin.gauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au



Above: The eager and keen HIMAG participants wanting to build their own "Pee Gee" trap at the "Building, Usage & Tactics" Trap Building Workshop held at the Hawkesbury Community Nursery on 17th January 2010.

## Clean Up Australia Day with John Jose



The "Clean Up" of Yarramundi Reserve was a success and was well supported with a total of 26 volunteers from Hawkesbury Bushcare and local folks with their families. We were able to clean up both the Northern and Southern sections of the Reserve. Thanks to everyone who helped clean up such an iconic reserve.

John Jose.



Left: James Nethery and Liz Chellingworth respecting the needs of Yarramundi Reserve.

## Hawkesbury City Council



if not claimed within 7 days please return to The General Manager, Hawkesbury City Council P.O. box 146, Windsor 2756

## Weed All About It

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Hawkesbury City Council

Vol 11 Issue 1 Autumn 2010

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## 2010 Bushcare Calendar

### Mill Road Reserve Bushcare

Mill Road, Kurrajong 1st Saturday of the Month (9am-12pm)

## Matheson Park Bushcare

Matheson Park, Kurrajong 1st Saturday of the Month (1pm-4pm)

#### Navua Community Group

Navua Reserve, Grose Wold 1st Sunday of the Month (9am-12pm)

#### Chain of Ponds Reserve Bushcare

 $\begin{array}{c} {\bf Stannix\ Park\ Road,\ Chain\ of\ Ponds\ Reserve,} \\ {\bf Ebenezer} \end{array}$ 

2nd Saturday of the Month (9am-12.30pm)

#### Woodbury Reserve Bushcare

Spinks Road, (40 Acres), Glossodia 2nd Saturday of the Month (1.30pm-4.30pm)

#### McMahon Park Bushcare

McMahon Park, Kurrajong Last Sunday of the Month (9am-12pm)

#### Old General Cemetery Site,

1631 Settlers Road, St Albans, Various work days

#### Sunnyvale Bushies, Lower Macdonald Valley

561 Settlers Rd, Lower Macdonald 3rd Saturday of the Month (9am-12pm)

#### Bellbird Hill Reserve Bushcare

Bells Line of Road, Kurrajong Heights Various work days on 3rd Saturday of the Month (9am-12pm)

#### Don Street Reserve Bushcare

Don Street, Kurrajong Heights Various work days

#### Charles Kemp Reserve Bushcare

Swallow Reach Place, Sackville 4th Saturday of the Month (9am-12pm)

#### Merroo Crown Reserve Bushcare

855 Comleroy Road, Kurrajong Various work days on 4th Saturday of the Month (9am-12pm)

#### Redbank Creek Bushcare, North Richmond.

Various sites TBA



BUSHCARE

North Richmond Community Group Various work days

#### Community Nursery Day Hawkesbury Community Nursery at McGraths Hill

Every Wednesday and by appointment on 4560 4525

If you are interested in being involved in any of the Hawkesbury Bushcare sites, or have any enquiries, please contact Community Bushcare Officer, Martin Gauci on 4560 4525, or email: <a href="martin.gauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au">martin.gauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au</a>.

We would love to hear from you.