

A YEAR
in review



YOUR
JULY 2020

COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY REPORT 2019-2020



AVAILABLE ONLINE TODAY!
WWW.HAWKESBURY.NSW.GOV.AU



A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



In these challenging times, I continue to be amazed by the ongoing resilience and community support that has been shown in the Hawkesbury during the extreme situations of bushfire, flood and the COVID-19 pandemic. I thank everyone in our community for respecting the COVID-19 restrictions and for protecting the vulnerable citizens in our community.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had unparalleled impacts on the wider economy, and it has had a major impact on face to face services and activities delivered by Council. In response, Council has widened its focus to assist and support the recovery of residents, businesses and workers within the Hawkesbury community from these natural disasters.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, we have also worked to ensure that the safety of our community, customers and staff has remained our top priority. We offered online services and phone access and now, in line with the further easing of the State Government's COVID-19 restrictions, we have reopened our Council facilities for face to face community access. For current Council facility opening hours and operational updates, visit, yourhawkesbury-yoursay.com.au/Covid19

The State Government has acknowledged these are unprecedented times, understanding that all councils are facing additional expenses, significant reductions in revenue and challenges in ensuring the ongoing delivery of important community services.

Many businesses are struggling right now and tourism businesses have been particularly hard hit. Council has promoted and supported free business mentoring as well as the Business Bounce Back Mentoring Program which is especially for Hawkesbury Tourism Businesses. For businesses impacted by the bushfires and COVID-19, I encourage you to seek current information through Council's Hawkesbury Business Hub, at yourhawkesbury-yoursay.com.au/hbh

Since COVID-19, Council has hosted Committee Meetings through video conferencing and for the first time, we held Council meetings via YouTube, something new for us. Our Information Services team, who work in the background, have provided valuable support to Council to ensure we could still have community access and participation.

Council has continued to actively engage with the community about the future of our assets and particularly with the bushfire affected communities of Bilpin, Colo Heights and the Macdonald Valley. Community feedback on what projects are needed has been useful and thought provoking. See inside our report for more information on bushfire recovery.

During this time, Council also initiated a review of its Hardship Policy, being particularly conscious of the difficult economic times faced by our community members. Although we are still facing the long-term impact of COVID-19 economically, it is also important to acknowledge that we have managed to get through so much already. We need to remind ourselves that, by working together and supporting each other, our Hawkesbury community will bounce back better and stronger than ever.

Council remains committed to pursuing opportunities that will help to support the local economy and also improve infrastructure for our community. We have been working on our infrastructure, completing roadworks, putting in new footpaths, upgrading the pools at Oasis Leisure and Aquatic Centre – which is now open – and renovating the Visitor Information Centre. We've also upgraded McQuade Park, replaced the Ham Common fitness stations, and we're upgrading Memorial Park in Kurrajong. So now that we can all get out there again, I encourage you to adventure out into your Hawkesbury, support your local businesses and celebrate the local parks – they are yours to enjoy.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barry Calvert".

Councillor, Barry Calvert
MAYOR OF HAWKESBURY

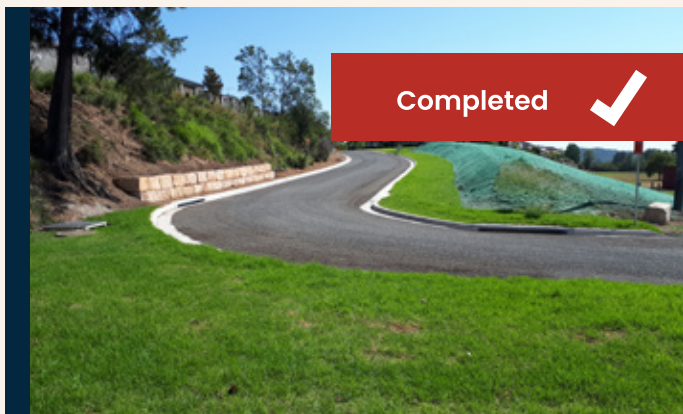
WE ARE BUILDING HAWKESBURY'S *future*

CURRENT PROJECTS IN THE HAWKESBURY

With sealing gravelled roads, constructing new footpaths and building better infrastructure, 2019/2020 marks the start of an expanded works program for our Hawkesbury.

Over the next 12 months, we are undertaking major works such as resealing and rehabilitating our roads, upgrading our parks and sporting facilities and improving our community facilities. Additionally, we are commencing a program to seal many of our gravelled roads.

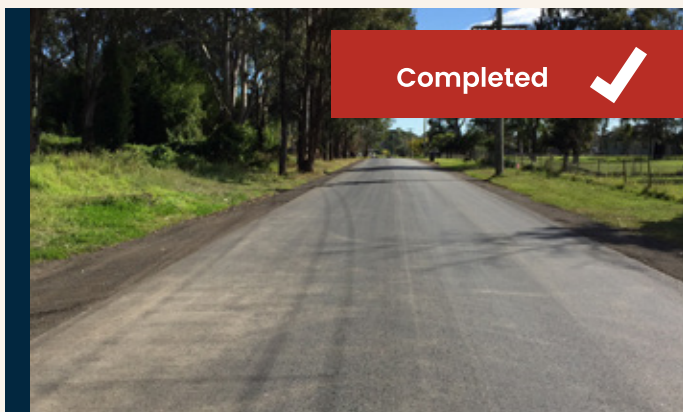
Our 2020/2021 Operational Plan contains the details of our works and we will keep you informed of our planning and progress to deliver these facilities and works as we build Hawkesbury's future.



ROAD AND CARPARK UPGRADE
Hanna Park, North Richmond



ROAD UPGRADE
Berger Road, South Windsor



ROAD UPGRADE
Old Hawkesbury Road, Vineyard



ROAD UPGRADE
East Market and Francis Street, Richmond

A list of our projects are provided online to view current projects, visit hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/bhf

EVENTS snapshot of the year

2019 - 2020

HAWKESBURY FEST 28 JULY 2019 GOVERNOR PHILLIP PARK

25 COMMUNITY STALLS **20** MARKET STALLS **7** COUNCIL STALLS **12** FOOD TRUCKS **6000** ATTENDEES

LIGHT UP WINDSOR 23 NOVEMBER 2019 WINDSOR TOWN CENTRE

11 EVENT SPONSORS **50** MARKET STALLS LOCAL PERFORMERS LOCAL BUSINESS **7000** ATTENDEES

AUSTRALIA DAY CELEBRATIONS 26 JANUARY 2020
AUSTRALIA DAY DAY AWARDS CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY HAWKESBURY REGIONAL GALLERY

45 NEW CITIZENS **13** AWARD WINNERS LOCAL PERFORMERS COMMUNITY GROUP INVOLVEMENT **300** ATTENDEES

AUSTRALIA DAY ON THE HAWKESBURY GOVERNOR PHILLIP PARK

15 FOOD & BEVERAGE STALLS HAWKESBURY EMERGENCY SERVICES LOCAL PERFORMERS RIDES & FIREWORKS **6000** ATTENDEES

HAWKESBURY COMMUNITIES POOL PARTY 28 FEBRUARY 2020 RICHMOND SWIMMING CENTRE

FREE ENTRY FREE KIDS ACTIVITIES FREE RIDES COMMUNITY GROUP INVOLVEMENT **1000** ATTENDEES

COMMUNITY CAPACITY CONNECTIONS



Follow us on social media

@hawkesburyevents

DISCOVER MORE ABOUT OUR

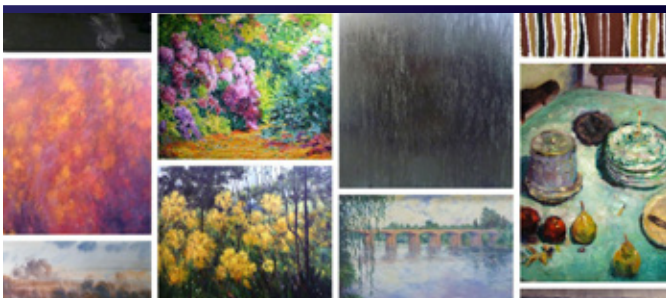
Cultural Services



Museum and Gallery COLLECTIONS GO LIVE!

Click below to access the collections online
hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/museum/collection

Do you want to see some amazing collections of the Hawkesbury Regional Gallery and Hawkesbury Regional Museum online? Photographs, paintings, prints, convict tools, historical records, clothing, military paraphernalia, sculptures, farming equipment, household items, boat building tools and much more can now all be accessed online.



Click below to access the collections online
hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/gallery/collection

This project has been made possible by a NSW Government grant through the State Library of NSW. The funds were used to upgrade the Hawkesbury Library Service catalogue system and to also integrate the Museum, Gallery and the Library's Hawkesbury Images catalogues into the same system.

Hawkesbury City Council is one of the first local councils in Australia to integrate its cultural collections so that people can search across all collections.

For more than 18 months, Gallery and Museum staff have been working diligently behind the scenes documenting, photographing and digitising over 7,000 Museum objects and 500 artworks for the online collection catalogues.

When searching the collections, including recently digitised items, you can browse the collections thematically, and read about fascinating objects in the catalogue. More collection items are being added regularly, so it's always worth coming back too.

STORYTIME WITH OUR **Hawkesbury Library Service**

The much loved Storytime from Hawkesbury Library Service has been online for our community over the last few months to enjoy from home. Storytime aims to be entertaining while helping children to develop listening and interactive skills. A new episode has been released each week with a fun craft activity to enjoy after each story. There are over 12 episodes that have been enjoyed by children and their families. Visit hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/library to see what your library offers online for you!

For further details on the collections, exhibitions, updates and activities follow us on Facebook



facebook.com/HawkesburyRegionalMuseum
facebook.com/hawkesburygallery



DISCOVER YOUR local parklands

what is to love about them

Photo: Destination NSW

As locals we all know that the Hawkesbury is a hidden gem at Sydney's doorstep. It has scenic rural vistas, historic towns, magnificent rivers and more National Parks than any other part of Sydney.

We're lucky to have some beautiful and quiet parks and reserves for our residents and visitors to enjoy. Lots of opportunities to get active, relax, take pictures or just sit back and watch the wildlife. Many of our larger parks have barbecue and picnic facilities, making them perfect for gatherings with family and friends. For the kids we've got playgrounds, easy bike tracks and awesome fishing spots to explore.



Pughs Lagoon & Smith Park RICHMOND

This park is a peaceful recreational space where you can stop for a picnic, try a little fishing and the bird watching is good too.

Did you know we have over 30 parks and reserves to explore and enjoy?

Photo: Destination NSW



Hanna Park & Hawkesbury Park, North Richmond

Hanna Park and Hawkesbury Park is a perfect spot to enjoy a gentle 500m walk or take time out for a little fishing. The park has BBQ facilities and picnic shelters for you to enjoy a picnic with family and friends. There is access to a skatepark, playground and open space area for exercise or to enjoy a fun game of sport.

To discover more about our Hawkesbury Parklands visit discoverthehawkesbury.com.au to view our new 'Love your Hawkesbury Parklands' brochure.

YOUR great spaces

in the Hawkesbury

PROJECT COMPLETE

OPEN SPACES UPGRADE

McQuade Park, Windsor

The green open space of McQuade Park features an upgraded bridge and restored ornamental pond. Families and children can now play and explore the little island over the bridge.

The extensive project included restoring the pond's surrounding area and the pond wall to its original shape. Native wetland plantings and a new inground fountain were installed to improve water quality in the pond. Additional shade trees have been planted as a visual link to the pond, while a second bridge has also been installed and the pathway concreted.

Council upgraded the south western section of McQuade Park using a Heritage Capital Works grant of \$50,000 from the NSW Government's Office of Environment and Heritage and \$400,000 Council funding.



PROJECT COMPLETE

PARK UPGRADE

Ham Common, Richmond

The installation of new gym equipment at Ham Common is almost complete with the soft fall rubber to be installed and the footpath concrete soon to be poured. The gym equipment and footpath will soon be complete and open again to the public.



PROJECT ONGOING

PARK UPGRADE

Kurrajong Memorial Park, Kurrajong

As part of Council's ongoing program to upgrade important community spaces, Kurrajong Memorial Park is set to receive new playground equipment and replacement of the soft fall floor and the damaged shade cover. Families will soon be able to enjoy more shade, improved safety and great fun in the new playspace, which is also popular for picnics and family gatherings.



OPERATIONAL PLAN 2020-2021

SNAPSHOT



\$3.3M
Park, Recreation
Facilities & Amenities
Improvements



Major Projects & Highlights

\$1.6M
Building
Improvements

\$8.0M
Road
Rehabilitation
& Upgrades

\$1.7M
Stormwater Drainage
Improvement
Program

\$0.7M
Enhanced Pedestrian
Safety & Accessibility

\$2.5M
Sealing of Gravel
Roads

\$2.0M
Road Surfaces
Renewals



OUR BUDGET

**Where does the
money come from?**

\$66.9M
Rates & Annual
Charges

\$3.4M
Other
Revenue

\$10.9M
Internal
Reserves

\$0.8M
Interest on
Investments

\$14.0M
Grants &
Contributions

\$1.1M
Sales of
Assets

\$6.5M
Users Charges
& Fees

TOTAL \$103.6M

Where does Council spend our money?

TOTAL \$103.6M



Corporate Functions
\$4.5M



Community & Culture
\$15M



Road & Drainage Infrastructure
\$36.2M



Strategic Planning
\$4.7M



Waste Management & Resource Recovery
\$27.3M



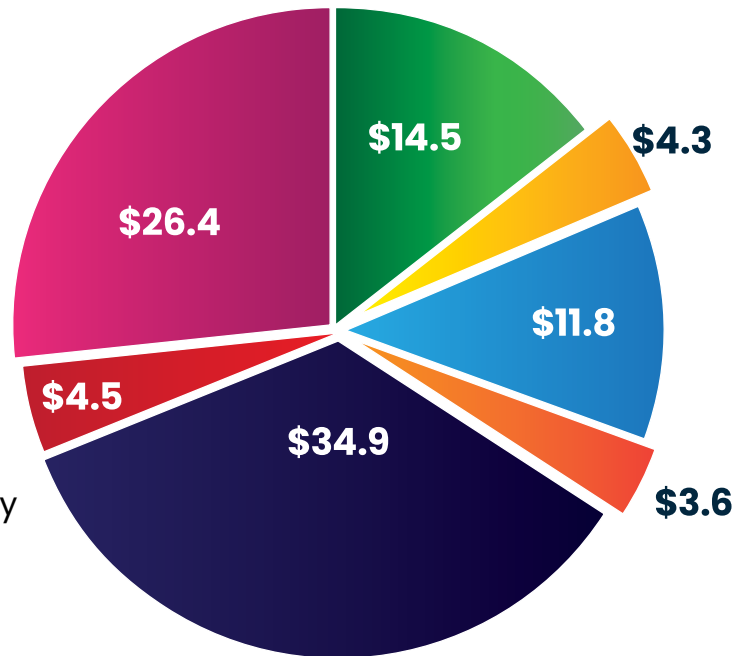
Public Spaces, Parks, Sport & Recreation
\$12.2M



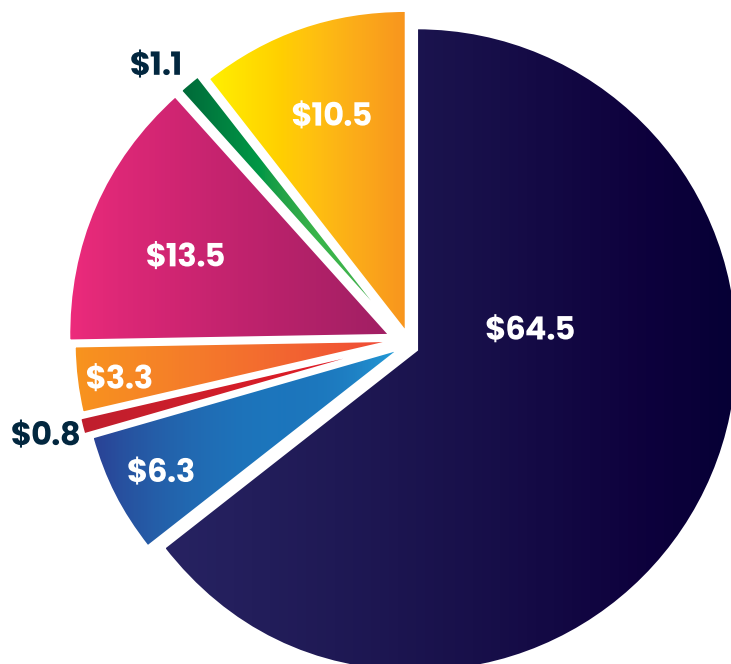
Regulation & Community Safety
\$3.7M

How Council will spend every \$100?

- Corporate Functions
- Community & Culture
- Public Spaces, Parks, Sports & Recreation
- Regulation & Community Safety
- Roads & Drainage Infrastructure
- Strategic Planning
- Waste Management & Resource Recovery



From every \$100, how Council will fund this?



- Rates & Annual Charges
- User Charges & Fees
- Interest on Investments
- Other Revenue
- Grants & Contributions
- Sales of Assets
- Reserves

THE JOURNEY TO Bushfire Recovery

Hawkesbury City Council is continuing to work with government agencies, community organisations and contractors to help bushfire affected community members. Council is also aiming to inform the community about the many services and grants available to residents and local businesses in the journey to bushfire recovery.

BE YOU BUSHFIRE RESPONSE PROGRAM

A key part of this recovery is psychological and emotional wellbeing. A new program called Be You Bushfire Response Program provides tailored mental health support to schools and early learning services affected by bushfires across Australia. Informed by place-based and community-led principles, the Program empowers bushfire affected communities to lead their own recovery.

The Bushfire Response Program is led by Beyond Blue in partnership with Early Childhood Australia, Headspace and Emerging Minds. The Program is a part of Be You, Australia's national mental health in education initiative funded by the Australian Government.

Find out more at beyou.edu.au/bushfire-response-program.

LOCAL LANDCARE

Council is working in collaboration with Hawkesbury Local Landcare Network to provide support to bushfire affected Hawkesbury residents who live adjacent to National, State or Regional Parks.

Landcare coordinators will visit Bushfire affected properties to provide advice on post-fire land management and conservation and also discuss what to look out for and explain how to support research such as notifying of a species you don't recognise, logging wildlife sightings and so on. They will also organise workshops that will cover, weed management, erosion control, feral animal management and more.

To participate, contact Katherine Claire at Hawkesbury Local Landcare Network on 4574 9601 or Council's Bushfire Recovery Coordinator on 4560 4444 to register for a site inspection to assess your eligibility.

STEP BY STEP

Hawkesbury residents affected by the recent bushfires or other emergency events can also access a free recovery support service called Step by Step, which aims to provide immediate emotional and social support. The program is run by Gateway Family Services using funding from the NSW Department of Communities and Justice and additional funding from Council.

Step by Step aims to provide immediate emotional and social support. The service can also help community members with accessing grants, dealing with applications, insurance issues and by linking people to other recovery resources and services.

The recovery support service is available Monday to Saturday from 9am to 6pm and can be accessed by calling 0417 298 832 or email stepbystep@gatewayfamilyservices.org.au or facebook.com/Step-by-Step-Disaster-Recovery-Support-Service-110797763847269/

BEYOND BLUE

If you or someone you know is distressed and needs support, the Beyond Blue Support Service offers short term counselling and referrals by phone and webchat on 1300 22 4636 or visit beyondblue.org.au for more information. Other support services to help include:

- Mental Health Line – 1800 011 511
- Lifeline Bushfire Recovery Line – 13 43 57
- Mensline – 1300 789 978
- Kids Helpline – 1800 55 1800.

BUSHFIRE RECOVERY

Council's bushfire recovery information can be found at yourhawkesbury-yoursay.com.au/bushfire-recovery. It includes information on grants, relevant links and contact details to make it easier for the community to access all the latest information.

Stay connected with us online for general community updates, visit yourhawkesbury-yoursay.com.au or facebook.com/hawkesburycitycouncil



GET TO
KNOW YOUR 2020
HAWKESBURY
CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Mal Bobrige

Did you know?

- 1 Mal joined the Royal Australian Navy back when he was 15 years old, serving on destroyers, then submarines.
- 2 Mal has been a member of the Rural Fire Service for 39 years, 29 of them within the Hawkesbury area.
- 3 Mal was the Captain of Blaxland Ridge Brigade before becoming a Group Captain.
- 4 Mal enjoys walking his dog and going four-wheel driving.
- 5 Mal loves to travel throughout Australia with his wife.

Nominate a *Mate* for the 2021 HAWKESBURY AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS

The Hawkesbury Australia Day Awards acknowledge outstanding citizens of the Hawkesbury. Several of the awards categories recognise long term commitment and significant one-off contributions to the Hawkesbury.

Nominations close at 5pm on Friday, 23 October 2020.

Nominate a mate online via the Council website
www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au
search '2021 Hawkesbury Australia Day Awards'

FAMILY-FRIENDLY bushwalks

The Hawkesbury region boasts beautiful world heritage locations, majestic rivers and more National Parks than any other part of Sydney. The Hawkesbury is cradled by four gigantic parks - the Blue Mountains National Park to the west, Yengo and Dharug National Parks to the north and the mighty Wollemi National Park to the north-west. Some great bushwalks include:

To get the most out of bushwalking in the Hawkesbury, the Hawkesbury Visitor Information Centre has a handy \$6 guide which details 12 of the Hawkesbury's best bushwalks, all of which are about an hour's drive from Richmond. This extremely popular guide has something for everyone; for novice bushwalkers and more experienced walkers.

To purchase the guide, call 4560 4620 or visit the Hawkesbury Regional Museum at 8 Baker Street, Windsor.

SAVE THE DATE

HAWKESBURY FEST ONLINE

3 to 9 August 2020

This year Hawkesbury Fest will look a slightly different with the event going ONLINE to celebrate Local Government Week. Council will be delivering the event via Council's website and social media pages. Stay connected with us online and find out more about the event online, visit facebook.com/hawkesburyevents

CHEMICAL CLEANOUT - HAWKESBURY

9 August 2020

9am to 3:30pm

Hawkesbury Showground

This event is in partnership with the NSW EPA.

FIELDWORK - LANDSCAPES WEST OF SYDNEY

Art Gallery of New South Wales Exhibition

18 July to 20 September 2020

Hawkesbury Regional Gallery

300 George St, Windsor, 1st Floor

Deerubbin Centre

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