

SUMMER 2024



**COMMUNITY**



**NEWSLETTER**



Hawkesbury

# River Safety

Enjoy the Hawkesbury river safely this summer

Available online today!  
[hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](http://hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au)



# A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



Welcome to 2024! It's a brand new year and we can all look forward to plenty of exciting events, a new BMX track (see page 8), new parks and other infrastructure upgrades here in the Hawkesbury.

Thank you to all the kind people in our community who donated gifts to the Mayoral Christmas Appeal to residents who needed it most. Council's Light Up Windsor Street Fair filled Windsor with happy people and the Christmas spirit. When thousands of people come to an event you know that you're doing something right. This event brings hundreds of thousands of dollars into our local economy in just one day! We have plenty of community events planned for 2024, including Australia Day on the Hawkesbury at Governor Phillip Park, 26 January, from 5pm to 9pm, so make sure you come along!



Make 2024 the year that you Have Your Say in our upcoming projects and public exhibitions! Community input is important to ensure our local projects meet the needs of the community. Keep your eye out for our new Cultural Plan which we are developing too. You can see surveys, public exhibitions and more at [www.yourhawkesbury-yoursay.com.au](http://www.yourhawkesbury-yoursay.com.au)

We are currently facing one of the worst bushfire risk periods we have seen in a long time. Prepare your home for bushfire if you are in a bushfire prone area. Stay informed and visit [www.nsw.gov.au/emergency/bushfire/prepare](http://www.nsw.gov.au/emergency/bushfire/prepare) and also use our emergency dashboard at [disaster.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](http://disaster.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au)

Council opens its pools and Library for extended hours when heatwaves occur on weekends – just stay in touch via our website and Facebook for updates. Although it is summer, I can't forget that we live in a flood prone region. That's why I will continue to campaign for the NSW Government to raise the wall of Warragamba Dam to alleviate future flood threats so we can use the dam for water storage and flood mitigation. The NSW Government must also invest in flood evacuation route upgrades and provide clarity around future town planning in the Hawkesbury with regard to flood levels.

Stay in touch with us in 2024 as we have so much going on in our Local Government Area and see my Facebook page [Sarah McMahon - Mayor of Hawkesbury](#) where I'll be keeping you up to date with our progress and achievements as a Council – see our latest Awards on page 3 and page 5! It's going to be a big year, with Council elections coming up in September 2024 too. I look forward to meeting you at upcoming events, be they park pop-up events or our larger signature events. See you soon at Australia Day on the Hawkesbury!

Mayor of Hawkesbury  
Councillor Sarah McMahon

## Our commitment to child safety

Keeping children and young people safe is a shared responsibility at Hawkesbury City Council. We actively promote a safeguarding culture and seek to create environments across our organisation where all children can feel welcomed, valued, and safe.

We value and support diversity and inclusion and recognise that children come from different backgrounds and have different needs. We believe that all children regardless of their age, gender identity, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religious beliefs, ability, and family background have the right to be protected from harm and to be treated with dignity and respect.

We have zero tolerance of child abuse and are committed to actively contributing towards a child safe community where all children and young people are protected from harm.



# Hawkesbury River Safety



Hawkesbury residents and visitors are urged to enjoy our rivers safely this summer season, with the installation of new safety signage with digital translations, and a multilingual awareness campaign on social media.

Visitors to Macquarie Park will see the newly installed signs, which provide clear advice and warnings around the dangers of swimming in the Hawkesbury River. The signs include a QR code linking to versions of the sign translated into Arabic, Filipino, Punjabi, Hindi and Simplified Chinese. The signs were developed in consultation with Royal Life Saving NSW.

A Facebook ad campaign featuring these languages, urging visitors to consider other fun activities around the river instead of swimming has also been rolled out across neighbouring Local Government Areas. These include walking, camping, boating, fishing and picnics.

Hawkesbury City Council is committed to encouraging water safety around our local waterways all year round.

## HAWKESBURY OASIS AQUATIC AND FITNESS CENTRE

Corner of Church and Drummond streets, South Windsor

### Monday to Friday:

5:30am – 9pm

### Saturday and Sunday:

8am – 6pm

### Public holidays:

10am – 4pm

Phone: 4587 8900

## RICHMOND SWIMMING CENTRE

71 East Market Street, Hobartville

### 1 December – 29 February:

Monday – Friday: 6am – 8pm

Saturday: 8am – 8pm

Sunday and Public Holidays:

10am – 8pm

### 1 March – 12 April:

Monday – Friday: 7:30am – 7pm

Saturday: 8am – 6pm

Sunday: 10am – 6pm

(Hours may vary at Easter)

### 13 April – 28 April:

Monday – Sunday: 11am – 4pm

Phone: 4578 1349

Looking for somewhere to cool off? Check out our pools this summer!

## ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AWARD

The hard work of Council's Environmental Sustainability team was recognised by Local Government NSW at their annual Excellence in the Environment Awards.

Council won for its Environmental Sustainability Strategy. The Strategy was adopted earlier this year and serves as a framework identifying how Council will protect, maintain, and enhance the sustainability within the local area while also preparing for the projected impacts of climate change. It was formed in conjunction with the local community, including First Nations peoples.

The Strategy is available to view online on Council's website under [For Residents | Living Sustainably | Strategies and Plans](#)



The Archibald Prize 2023 Regional Tour will roll up to the Hawkesbury Regional Gallery from Friday, 15 March to Sunday, 28 April 2024. The Gallery will open for extended hours with an event program including a drop-in maker space, artist talks, a Hawkesbury People's Choice Prize and more.

Toured throughout Australia by the Art Gallery of NSW, the Archibald Prize is Australia's foremost portraiture prize, with the winning artist receiving the prestigious accolade as well as \$100,000 in prize money. It is a rare opportunity to be chosen as part of the Regional Tour so don't miss out! School visits welcome by appointment.

The Hawkesbury Young Archie Portrait Competition will also run in 2024 which will be a fantastic exhibition of young creative talent.

Follow the Gallery's Facebook [www.facebook.com/hawkesburygallery](https://www.facebook.com/hawkesburygallery) and join their eNewsletter list for updates on how to enter.

Visit [www.hawkesbury.asw.gov.au/gallery](http://www.hawkesbury.asw.gov.au/gallery) and click on the Subscribe button.



Archibald Prize - Winner People's Choice 2023 - Jaq Grantford - Through the star window depicts actor, writer and director Noni Hazlehurst.



Archibald Prize Winner 2023 - Julia Gutman - Head in the sky, feet on the ground



Archibald Prize 2023 finalist - Patrice Wills - No place like home - depicts Uncle Wes Marne, a Bigambul man and community Elder living on Darug land.



# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GALLERY AND MUSEUM



Exhibition Projects Award – Dyarubbin

Engagement Programs Award – Bangadyi Nawi Making a Canoe

Two significant local cultural projects have won 2023 IMAGinE Awards from Museums and Galleries of NSW.

Against strong competition from museums and galleries across the NSW, Hawkesbury Regional Gallery won the Exhibition Projects Award for 'Dyarubbin'. The Hawkesbury Regional Museum won the Engagement Programs Award for 'Bangadyi Nawi Making a Canoe'.

The Dyarubbin exhibition encouraged a deeper understanding of the Dharug people and their connection with Dyarubbin (the Hawkesbury River) while generating a sense of shared ownership of the past.

Bangadyi Nawi provided a transformative experience for local Aboriginal high school students who created a traditional canoe during an inter-generational camp, led by Elder Uncle Dean Kelly and with Uncle David Payne and Dharug Educator Erin Wilkins.

The awards recognised the significant engagement between the Gallery and the Museum with the Dharug community and Brewongle Environmental Education Centre (for Bangadyi Nawi Making a Canoe).

Visit the Bangadyi Nawi display at the Museum, 8 Baker Street, Windsor. Free entry! For openings hours visit [www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/museum](http://www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/museum) or contact [museum@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](mailto:museum@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au) | **4560 4655**

# HAVE YOUR SAY!

Want to have your say on Council parks, buildings and plans?

**Your input helps shape our community!**

Have your say at [www.yourhawkesbury-yoursay.com.au](http://www.yourhawkesbury-yoursay.com.au)

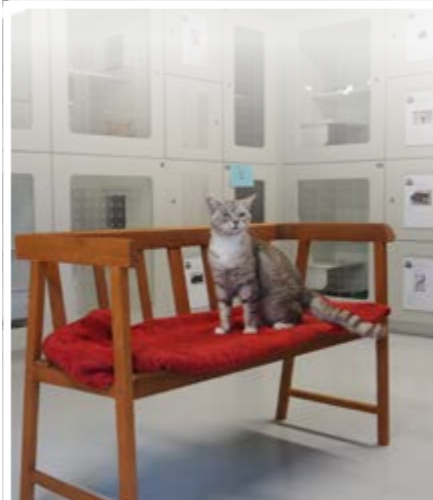


# WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR HAWKESBURY COMPANION ANIMAL SHELTER

## BIG CHANGES

Council's ever popular Companion Animal Shelter is getting a major facelift, improving the lives of its temporary residents and the experience for prospective adoptive families.

The Shelter's cats are the first to benefit from the changes. Twenty six kitty condos have been installed, some double size to allow mums to be housed with their kittens. The condos allow the cats to be housed in comfort, prevents potential fighting, reduces the likelihood of illness and caters more effectively to the high number of cats that are brought to the Shelter. All cats are now being housed in one section of the Shelter, with the old male cattery being renovated to provide an isolation space for cats that are unwell or on stray hold.



## HO HO HO BOW WOW WOW!

Santa made an extra special visit to the Companion Animal Shelter in December for Santa Paws photo sessions with local dogs. The \$10 photo sessions were incredibly popular, with all funds raised going toward the running and ongoing improvements at the shelter.

Don't worry, Shelter pets didn't miss out on the festive fun – adoption photos were given a touch of Christmas flair as well.

Council plans to hold the Santa Paws sessions again in Christmas 2024.



## CHANGES COMING IN 2024

### OTHER

- New and improved exercise yards for dogs
- New meet-and-greet spaces that will deliver a more enjoyable and relaxed bonding experience for families and dogs
- Improved kennel cooling and heating
- New signage and aesthetic improvements to the reception area.

## NEW WEEKEND OPERATING HOURS

The Hawkesbury Companion Animal Shelter has new weekend operating hours to make it even easier to adopt your furry new family member or be reunited with your lost pet.

**The Shelter is now open from 8:30am to midday on Saturdays and Sundays!**

The weekday operating hours remain the same:

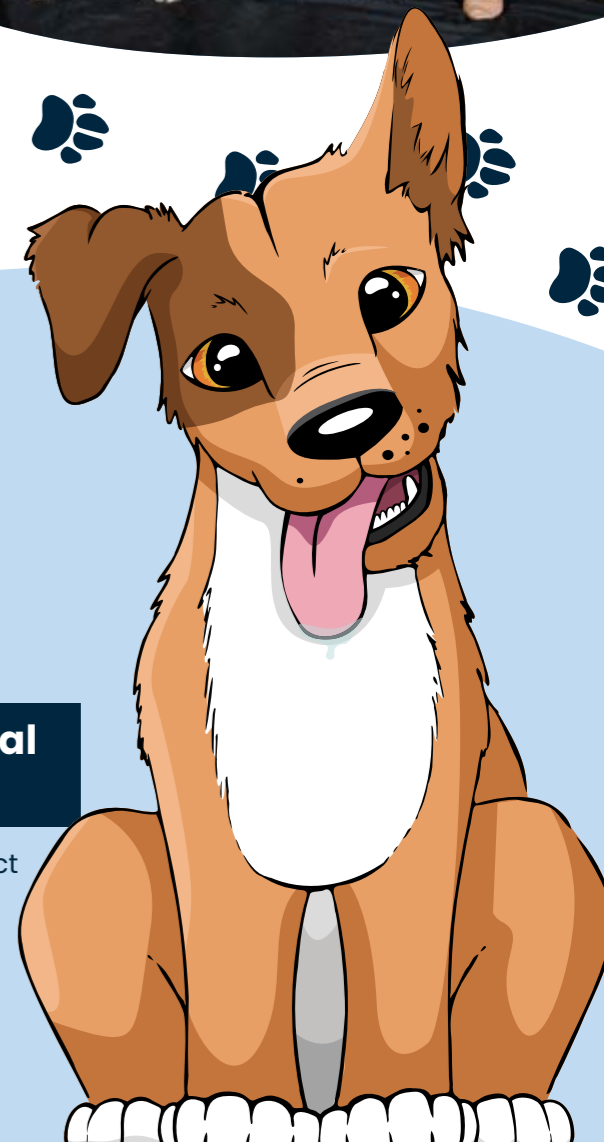
**Monday to Friday – 9am to midday and 2pm to 4:30pm.**



**The Hawkesbury Companion Animal Shelter now has its own website!**

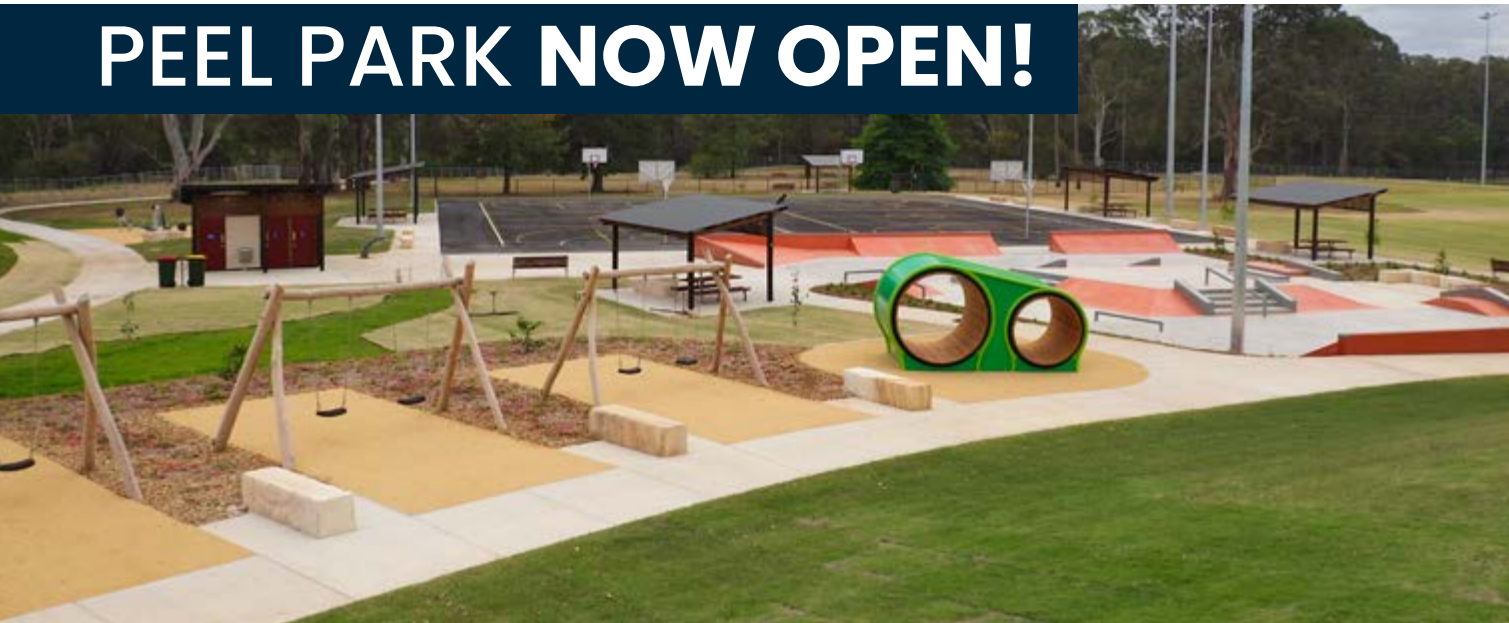
The new site makes it even easier to find the purr-fect furry addition to your family, or find a missing pet.

**Visit the new website today at [www.hawkesburycas.com.au](http://www.hawkesburycas.com.au)**





# PEEL PARK NOW OPEN!



North Richmond residents can now enjoy new recreation and sports facilities at Peel Park, thanks to a partnership between Redbank North Richmond and Hawkesbury City Council.

The new facilities include improvements to the sports fields, cricket nets, netball/basketball courts, playground equipment, skate/scooter plaza, off-leash dog area, amenities, picnic shelters and walking paths.

A park opening celebration for the North Richmond community will be held in early 2024. Follow us on Facebook for details at [www.facebook.com/hawkesburycitycouncil](https://www.facebook.com/hawkesburycitycouncil)



## BMX PUMP TRACK COMING SOON

**A brand-new BMX pump track is coming soon to Woodbury Reserve in Glossodia.**

Mayor Sarah McMahon joined Peter Primrose, Member of the NSW Legislative Council, to officially break ground on the project, which also marks the beginning of a full redevelopment of the Reserve. Work on the pump track is underway and is expected to take approximately three months to complete, weather permitting.

The pump track is being funded by the NSW Government through a \$455,000 Open Spaces Program: Places to Play grant.

Woodbury Reserve will receive a full redevelopment in line with the already-approved Masterplan, which was adopted in February 2022 following extensive community consultation, and will provide the Glossodia community and surrounds with much-needed passive and active recreation facilities.

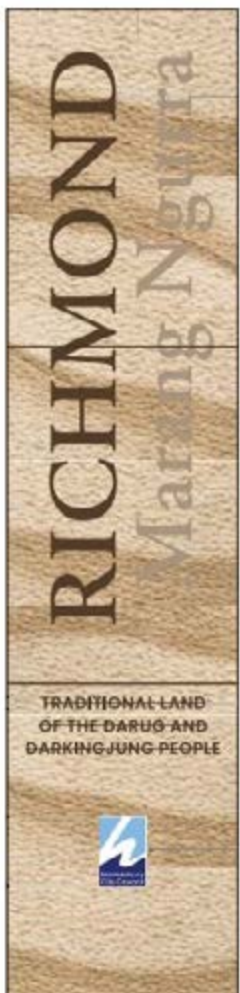
Council is committed to providing spaces and infrastructure that supports healthy and active lifestyles and celebrates the outdoor beauty of the Hawkesbury. Learn more about the redevelopment project at [www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/for-residents/westinvest-projects](https://www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/for-residents/westinvest-projects)



## Have your say on the future of South Windsor Park, also known as the Mileham Street Netball Complex.

Council is developing a Landscape Masterplan to improve the overall amenity and promote greater community use and enjoyment of South Windsor Park. Potential improvements include creating a loop track with exercise stations, formalised car parking, improved and expanded play and youth spaces, and a new combined sporting and amenity building.

Council is inviting the community to view the Concept Landscape Masterplan and fill in the survey at [www.yourhawkesbury-yoursay.com.au](http://www.yourhawkesbury-yoursay.com.au) up to midnight on Sunday, 4 February 2024. Hard copies will also be available to view during the consultation period at Council's Administration Building, 366 George Street, Windsor, Monday to Friday from 9am to 4pm.



# OUR NEW WAYFINDING SIGNAGE

Visitors to Richmond will soon have an easier time navigating the historic town centre with the installation of new wayfinding and suburb signage.

The 16 new signs include suburb signage for Richmond, which features its indigenous name Marang Ngurra. The wayfinding signage includes navigation and local information. Also being installed is new amenity and street signage. Four new signs are also coming to South Windsor town centre.

The Wayfinding and Signage Project aims to improve how visitors and residents are guided through the local government area to find the diverse experiences, attractions and services on offer throughout Hawkesbury.



# AROUND THE... HAWKESBURY

Council has been hard at work right across our city, delivering programs and infrastructure that makes the Hawkesbury a great place to live. Here is a quick snapshot of some of the work we have been doing.



An estimated 18,000 people attended Light Up Windsor this year



Council acknowledged our local volunteers with a special Christmas lunch at the Richmond Club



We lit up Richmond Park with a giant star for Christmas – a great place for festive photos with friends and family



Reconstruction of Valley Way at Tennyson, including new drainage culvert



Construction of the temporary bridge on Settlers Road, bypassing the under repair Thomas James Bridge



Rocky the reindeer made a surprise visit to Windsor Mall



Locals filled 9 appeal boxes with gifts for families for the 2023 Mayoral Christmas Appeal, through charity San Miguel

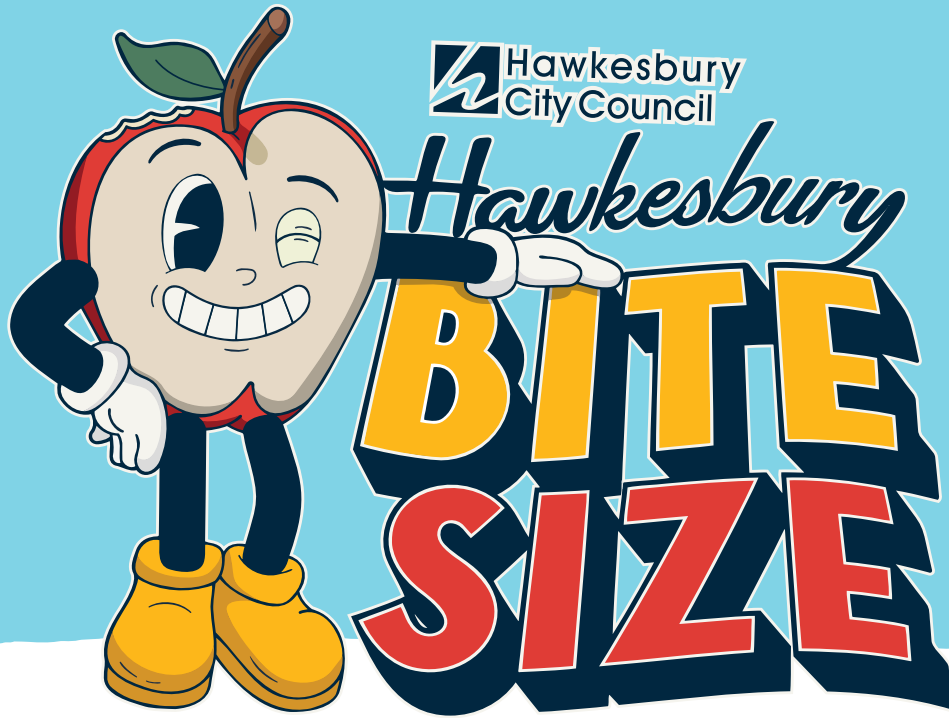


Council engaged with the Pitt Town community about Fernadell Park at the Bona Vista Park Family Picnic Day



We spoke with residents about how best to connect with them at community forums





Want your Council newsletter in quick, easy-to-digest bites?

Introducing **Hawkesbury Bite Size**, your quarterly Council newsletter in a digital at-a-glance format!

Hawkesbury Bite-Size transforms all the quarterly Council Newsletter articles into informative snippets – ideal for families on the go and our younger residents, formatted especially for your digital device. See something you like? Click on the snippet to read the full article.

Sign up for Hawkesbury Bite-Size on our website under [Your Council | Council Notices and Newsletters](#) or find it on your eRates Notice, and on social media – Hawkesbury City Council on [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#), and Hawkesbury Events on [Instagram](#)!

# AUSTRALIA DAY ON THE HAWKESBURY

26 January 2024 | 5pm–9pm | Governor Phillip Park, Windsor

On-river demonstration by Wakeboard Australia | Thong-throwing competition  
Emergency Services Display | Live and roaming entertainment | RAAF Roulettes flypast  
Food and drink stalls and trucks | Free face painting | Fireworks display at 9pm

**And so much more!**

Follow Hawkesbury Events on Facebook and Instagram for more details



# WHAT'S ON!



## SUMMER HOLIDAY FUN

Council is presenting a range of fun programs to keep the kids entertained during the summer school holidays.

 **LIBRARY** | 4560 4460

**Richmond Branch Library**  
29 West Market Street, Richmond

**Hawkesbury Central Library**  
300 George Street, Windsor

### TUESDAY MOVIES@ THE LIBRARY

TUESDAY, 23 JANUARY 2PM-3:30PM – FREE Avoid the summer heat and watch a new release movie. Check Eventbrite for details or call the Library. Bring snacks. All welcome.



### SUMMER READING CLUB

1 DECEMBER – 31 JANUARY

The Summer Reading Club is open until 31 January 2023 and free for children up to 16 years! Register at [www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/library](http://www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/library) or Hawkesbury Central Library, Windsor or Richmond Branch Library. Collect coupons for each book read and then redeem at Hawkesbury Central Library.



 **GALLERY** | 4560 4441

**Deerubbin Centre (top floor)**  
300 George Street, Windsor

### COLLAGED LANDSCAPES

WEDNESDAY, 24 JANUARY, 10AM TO MIDDAY – \$15 – AGES 6-10

Learn how to use textured paper and upcycle materials to assemble a collaged landscape.



### MAKERSPACE

UNTIL 10 MARCH, 10AM TO 4PM DAILY – FREE DROP IN EVENT

Drop into our cardboard makerspace and get creative with self-guided activities or let your imagination run wild and create your own creations.

### ADVANCE NOTICE! THE ARCHIBALD PRIZE 2023 REGIONAL TOUR

FRIDAY, 15 MARCH TO SUNDAY, 28 APRIL 2024

Extended opening hours with a special event program including a drop-in maker space, artist talks, a Hawkesbury People's Choice Prize and more. School visits welcome by appointment. Toured throughout Australia by the Art Gallery of NSW.

 **MUSEUM** | 4560 4655

**Hawkesbury Regional Museum**  
8 Baker Street, Windsor

### BOAT RACES

THURSDAY, 25 JANUARY 10AM TO MIDDAY – \$15 – AGES 8-12

Learn how to build a rubber band powered boat using a recycled drink bottle.

### FIND THE FLABBITS ON HOLIDAY!

FOR AGES 5+

FREE DAILY DROP IN EVENT

Junior explorers can use the activity booklet to solve the clues and find the Flabbit's favourite things.



### FREE SAFETY CHECKS

TUESDAY, 20 FEBRUARY 2024 – NORTH RICHMOND COMMUNITY CENTRE

Free childcare seat/booster safety check by an Authorised Restraint Fitter. Call 4560 4444 to book.

## Hawkesbury CommunityHubs

COMMUNITY HUBS ARE BACK – ALL WELCOME! FREE ACTIVITIES HELPING THE COMMUNITY TO CONNECT

### WILBERFORCE SCHOOL OF ARTS

Wednesday, 14 February

### COLO HEIGHTS COMMUNITY HALL

Thursday, 15 February

### ST ALBANS SCHOOL OF ARTS

Friday, 16 February

All events are subject to change, please confirm details before attendance.



**Hawkesbury City Council**

4560 4444

[council@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au)

[hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](http://hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au)



[www.facebook.com/hawkesburycitycouncil](https://www.facebook.com/hawkesburycitycouncil)

366 George Street

(PO BOX 146)

Windsor NSW 2756

Printed December 2023 on Impact Recycled Paper. 100% FSC certified recycled paper made from Post Consumer Waste. Certified Carbon Neutral and produced by an ISO 14001 accredited mill. Please recycle this newsletter.