

COMMUNITY REPORT



A YEAR IN REVIEW JULY 2021

Hawkesbury Disaster and Emergency Dashboard



For more information
about the
**Hawkesbury Disaster and
Emergency Dashboard**

SEE PAGE 7

Available online today!
hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

While we've all been through so many challenges in the past twelve months, it has been an inspiration to see our community band together and reach out to anyone who needs help. Our Hawkesbury spirit, shown throughout the flood and since, has only reinforced what incredible resilience we have.

As part of our ongoing flood recovery, we are posting regular recovery updates at yourhawkesbury-yoursay.com.au/fih2021 which are available to everyone. You can also find out about grants and financial assistance available. The flood damage has been significant and, although we have repaired many areas, Greens Road, Lower Portland was extensively damaged and remains closed while geotechnical survey results are collected to determine our next steps. Upper Colo Bridge will need to be replaced since it was destroyed in the flood.

Community Hubs have also been set up in the Hawkesbury where you can speak with recovery officers, support services and other government departments that can help you to navigate your flood recovery and help you access support and assistance all in one location. Please check Council's website on hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au or call **4560 4444** for locations, operating days and times and see pages 6 and 7 for more details about our flood recovery.

Supporting the restoration of our local environment is an important part of our bushfire recovery. Our community groups have been able to apply for new tree planting grants available from the Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife (FNPW) to restore bushfire affected regions, including the Hawkesbury, that were left scarred by the 2019-2020 bushfires.

In 2020, FNPW supported the upgrade of the Hawkesbury Community Nursery to become a bushfire recovery nursery to assist in restoration activities.



I'm proud that Council's Hawkesbury Community Nursery in Mulgrave is supplying trees for the 2021 planting season under this grant program.

Council is also implementing some great community projects in Bilpin, Colo Heights and the Macdonald Valley as part of bushfire recovery, see more about this on page 3.

I also encourage you to support our local businesses as much as you can by buying local. A great initiative from our Visitor Information Centre is launching Bilpin's Apple Pie Trail to support our local businesses and tourism. Find out more at discoverthehawkesbury.com.au

Remember, we are committed to continuing to support you through recovery from bushfire, COVID-19 and flood. With COVID-19 lockdowns occurring as we publish this Community Report, please be aware that some events may need to be rescheduled or reformatted. Please see Council's website and Facebook for the latest operational and event updates relating to COVID-19 restrictions.

Stay Safe.

Mayor of Hawkesbury
Councillor Patrick Conolly

LOCAL RECOVERY

The regions of Bilpin, Colo Heights and the Macdonald Valley will share in \$1.68 million of funding for local projects under the Federal and NSW Government's Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Package.

Work has commenced on these projects which will support the local communities by improving recreational and community infrastructure and increase preparedness for future bushfire seasons. See the projects below.

Bilpin Hall Precinct

Community artwork, 120,000 litre water storage tank and pump for community use during bushfires, extra storage area for community use and Rural Fire Service (RFS) briefings.

Bilpin Hall fire resistance

Leaf guard for gutters, sprinkler system, heavy duty screens on windows and doors, door upgrades, community message board, 10kw solar energy system with battery storage, small generator set with essential services circuit throughout the building.

Bilpin Oval

Playground for all ages, oval and carpark upgrade, landscaping with new picnic shelters, 120,000 litre water storage tank and pump for community use during bushfires.

St Albans Town Centre

Yarning circle, picnic shelters with tables, new playground and paths, community artwork.

St Albans RFS Shed fire resistance

Leaf guard for gutters, sprinkler system, heavy duty screens on windows and doors, door upgrades, community message board, 10kw solar energy system with battery storage, small generator set with essential services circuit throughout the building, radio tower, shed extension for additional trucks, 120,000 litre water storage tank and pump for community use during bushfires.

St Albans School of Arts (Council funding)

Removal of old toilet building, sprinkler system, heavy duty screens on windows and doors, door upgrades, community message board, 10kw solar energy system with battery storage, small generator set with essential services circuit throughout the building.

Visit yourhawkesbury-yoursay.com.au or Follow us on Facebook @[hawkesburycitycouncil](https://www.facebook.com/hawkesburycitycouncil) for regular updates on these and other exciting projects.



COMMUNITY MADE ARTWORKS

Three beautiful public art pieces will be commissioned as a memorial to the 2019-2020 bushfires and honour those who risked so much to keep our community safe.

These artworks, created in close partnership with community members of Bilpin, Colo Heights and the Macdonald Valley, will be installed as part of the Bushfire Local Economic Recovery projects that are currently underway.

Residents will be invited to special community events to design and paint an artwork, which will be transferred to a tile to be glazed, fired and installed on a special wall. This will be a powerful way for the community to take ownership of these artworks and make them a personal expression of their experiences of recovery and rejuvenation that will last for generations to view, understand and remember.

Information on the community art days and the final art launches will be announced on Council's Facebook page [facebook.com/hawkesburycitycouncil](https://www.facebook.com/hawkesburycitycouncil) and Council's website hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au and Your Hawkesbury Your Say at yourhawkesbury-yoursay.com.au

Colo Heights Hall fire resistance

Roof cleaning and painting, air conditioning, commercial grade kitchen, accessible toilet upgrade, sprinkler system, heavy duty screens on windows and doors, door upgrades, community message board, 10kw solar energy system with battery storage, small generator set with essential services circuit throughout the building, 120,000 litre water storage tank and pump for community use during bushfires, replacement of old and damaged signs.

Colo Heights Hall Precinct

Multi-purpose full court, picnic tables and shelters, landscaping, pathways, bollard fences, bin surrounds, oval improvements, community artwork.

HAWKESBURY THANKS YOU

EMERGENCY SERVICES



HAWKESBURY'S

BUILDING PROJECTS



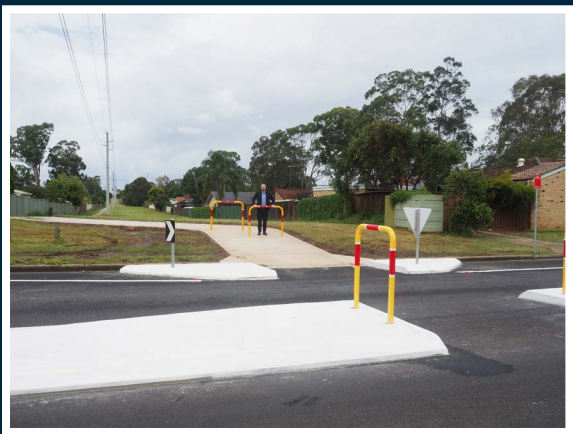
We have upgraded the tennis court and constructed a dual court (Basketball/Tennis) at Blaxlands Ridge. **Completed:** May 2021



We have upgraded the tennis court facility at Maraylya Park. **Completed:** May 2021



We have constructed a new footpath on Castlereagh Road between Hereford Street and Southee Road (eastern side), Hobartville. **Completed:** September 2020



We have constructed the next stage of the cycleway network between Berger Road Reserve and Drummond Street, South Windsor. **Completed:** March 2021

THANK YOU

SES



Thank you to our SES volunteers and all of our Emergency Services who are always there during our times of need. More than 10,000 NSW SES members freely give their time and expertise during emergencies to help our community.

Hawkesbury's crews and other units have been working so hard for us, with the Black Summer fires of 2019-2020 and the March 2021 flood. SES crews responded to many hundreds of requests for assistance across the Hawkesbury as the floodwaters rose and assisted our whole community during and after the flood.

Over the past year, NSW SES volunteers responded to more than 42,000 requests for assistance. More than 10,000 of those were during the recent floods

that affected the Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley, Hunter and Mid North Coast.

NSW SES volunteers respond to storms and floods but they also do so much more. They respond to tsunamis, road crash rescues, bush search and rescues and even support other emergency services by providing life-saving first aid. Their support also extends well beyond NSW, supporting interstate communities after catastrophic events.

Those sending out messages on social media are encouraged to use the hashtags **#ThankAFirstResponder** and **#PowerOfThanks** to show their support. For more information about the NSW SES, including how to become a volunteer visit ses.nsw.gov.au

HAWKESBURY FLOOD RECOVERY

GIVIT SOME GREAT SUPPORT!



Kirsty and Chloe from GIVIT and Liz from Wisemans Ferry Grocer with Council staff

To help our flood affected community members by donating money, items, skills and services, visit [GIVIT.org.au](https://givit.org.au)

In partnership with the NSW Government, GIVIT is managing donations during this recovery. GIVIT is working directly with Hawkesbury City Council, outreach teams, local charities and community groups to identify exactly what's needed.

GIVIT is free, private and easy to use, and currently supports over 3,800 Australian organisations. 100% of donated money will be used to purchase essential items and services needed by people and communities impacted.

All NSW charities, services and community groups are encouraged to register with GIVIT, free of charge, to access thousands of wonderful donations offered by generous individuals and corporates. Register via givit.org.au/need-help/organisations

GIVIT has coordinated the donation of almost 13,000 items to flood affected residents in the Hawkesbury. With donated funds from the Flood Appeal, GIVIT has purchased grocery vouchers from Wisemans Ferry Grocer to support local flood affected families.

FLOOD RECOVERY CLEAN UP DAY

A special Flood Recovery Clean Up Day was held recently to help restore our local parks and natural environment by removing flood debris from the major flood in March.

60 local volunteers gathered across four locations: Argyle Bailey Memorial Park, Ebenezer; Cattai Creek, Glenorie; Colbee Park, McGraths Hill; and Deerubbin Park, Cornwallis.

Hawkesbury City Council partnered with Clean Up Australia and OzFish to coordinate the clean up.



Mayor Patrick Conolly and Clean Up Australia Day Chairman Ms Pip Kiernan



Deputy Mayor Mary Lyons-Buckett, Councillor Danielle Wheeler and volunteers

A number of volunteer groups also came on board for the Cattai Creek Clean Up including Galston-Glenorie Fishing Club, Hawkesbury-Nepean Landcare, Glenorie Progress Association and the Cattai Hills Environment Network.

They collected several tonnes of waste and a sealed drum of a hazardous chemical was reported to the Environment Protection Authority and removed.

Thank you to everyone who helped to clean up.

COMMUNITY HUBS

Colo Heights Hall
2996 Putty Road
Thursdays fortnightly
10am to 2pm

St Albans School of Arts Hall
Upper MacDonald Road
Fridays fortnightly
10am to 2pm

Bilpin Hall
2596 Bells Line of Road
Tuesdays fortnightly
10am to 2pm

Wilberforce St Johns Anglican Church
43 Macquarie Road (enter off Old Sackville Road)
Wednesdays fortnightly
10am to 2pm

July 2021							August 2021						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4							1
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
							30	31					

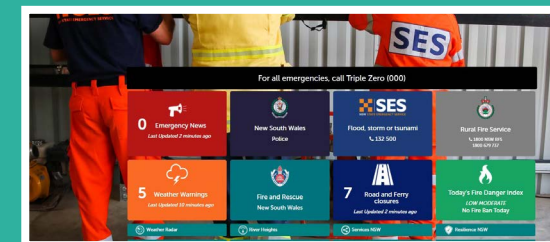
Come to the Community Hubs for recovery services.

- Health and wellbeing support and activities including exercise and arts and crafts groups.
- Support to access financial and practical assistance to help with recovery from storm, fire and floods from organisations including Hawkesbury City Council, Red Cross and others.
- To access the Community Advice and Support Service for a cuppa and a chat and to connect with neighbours, friends and Community Services staff. We can let you know about the many services that can help.



Bounceback with free, weekly exercise classes for all ages and abilities at Wilberforce, Colo Heights or St Albans.

Art with Heart, a new friendly group for arts and craft activities. Please call Liz Murphy on **4560 4489** or email emurphy@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au for details. See Council's website for potential COVID-19 restrictions.



Are you ready for the next flood event, bushfire or other emergency? Council has created the Hawkesbury Disaster and Emergency Management Dashboard to help people prepare for emergencies. It is on Council's website

hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au – click on the Emergencies tab or bookmark the direct link disaster.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au

The Dashboard provides current information during an emergency and it is also a useful tool to help you prepare and plan for your family and your animals.

The Dashboard also provides updates on road conditions, weather warnings and updates, river heights, fire danger index and power outages. It also includes links to the Rural Fire Service, the State Emergency Service and NSW Police. Proudly funded by the NSW Government in association with Local Government NSW.

Other useful links:

- Get Prepared App getprepared.app.link/Hawkesbury_City_Council
- Red Cross REDiPlan redcross.org.au/get-help/emergencies/resources-about-disasters
- Know your flood risk ses.nsw.gov.au/hawkesbury-nepean-floods

Flood Recovery Centres operated for several weeks following the March 2021 flood. Those Centres are now closed but assistance is still available at our Community Hubs at Bilpin, Colo Heights, St Albans and Wilberforce on a fortnightly basis.

For addresses and opening hours, visit our Flood Recovery page yourhawkesbury-yoursay.com.au/fih2021 or click on the flood recovery banner at hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au

Register your details yourhawkesbury-yoursay.com.au/fih2021/survey_tools/register to receive our flood recovery updates so we can offer ongoing support.

FLOOD RECOVERY CENTRES

OPERATIONAL PLAN 2021 – 2022

SNAPSHOT



\$2.6M
Park, Recreation
Facilities & Amenities
Improvements



\$6.8M
Road
Rehabilitation
& Upgrades

\$2.9M
Sealing of Gravel
Roads

Major Projects & Highlights

\$1.9M
Building
Improvements

\$1.6M
Stormwater Drainage
Improvement
Program

\$3.2M
Road Surface
Renewals



OUR BUDGET

Where does the
money come from?

\$69.3M
Rates & Annual
Charges

\$4.3M
Other
Revenue

\$18.2M
Internal
Reserves

\$0.6M
Interest on
Investments

\$18.3M
Grants &
Contributions

\$1.0M
Sales of
Assets

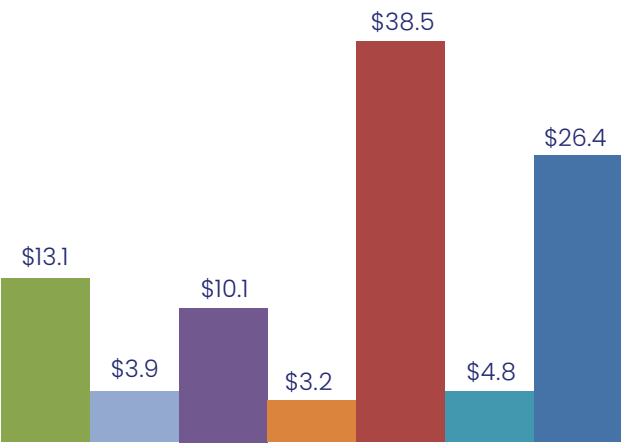
\$7.4M
Users Charges
& Fees

TOTAL \$118.7M

OUR BUDGET

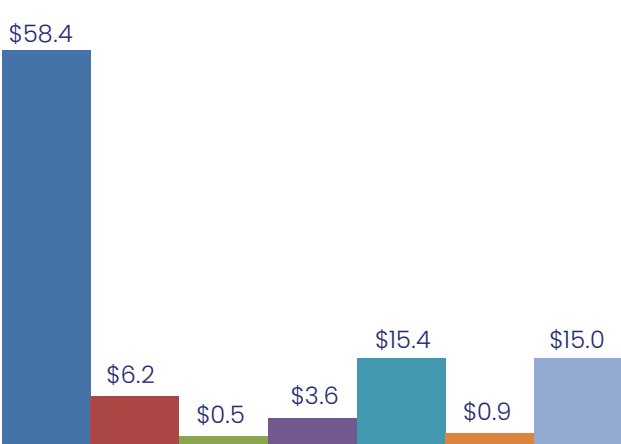
Where does Council spend our money?	\$Million
Community and Culture	15.6
Corporate Functions – includes Information Technology, Human Resources, Governance, Customer Service Planning and Corporate Management functions	4.6
Public Spaces, Parks, Sports and Recreation	12.0
Regulation and Community Safety	3.8
Road and Drainage Infrastructure	45.7
Strategic Planning	5.7
Waste Management & Resource Recovery	31.3
TOTAL	118.7

HOW COUNCIL WILL SPEND EVERY \$100



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

HOW COUNCIL WILL FUND THIS



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

LIVING *SUSTAINABLY*

Council will continue to deliver and promote workshops and programs focused on helping households become more sustainable. For ideas on what type of actions you can take at home, including on energy and water efficiency, solar power, transport and food choices, please visit Council's website hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/for-residents/living-sustainably

NSW GOVERNMENT'S *EMPOWERING HOMES PROGRAM*

Have you thought about going renewable? A home solar battery system can provide you with clean energy, reduce your energy bills and help you become more self-sufficient. The NSW Government is offering eligible homeowners in the Hawkesbury Local Government Area interest-free loans of up to \$14,000 to install solar battery systems.

Search Online: **NSW Empowering Homes** or visit: energysaver.nsw.gov.au



War on Waste and *Living Sustainably* Community Workshops

We're seeking your feedback to determine how we can best deliver future Hawkesbury War on Waste and Living Sustainably Community Workshops that meet your interests and needs.

Council has offered a monthly War on Waste Workshop Series since 2018. Last year, due to COVID-19, these workshops were held online. Now we would like to hear your ideas and feedback on what topics you would like covered next, what times and days you prefer and what formats (online or face to face). Your feedback will be used to plan future War on Waste Workshops and the new Living Sustainably Workshops.

Together we can make the Hawkesbury a more sustainable and resilient place to live and work. Provide your feedback by visiting Your Hawkesbury Your Say at yourhawkesbury-yoursay.com.au/wow

Struggling with energy and water bills? Don't know where to go for help? Speakers from the Energy & Water Ombudsman NSW and Sydney Water will provide you with information to help you save energy and water, and ultimately money.

Learn about:

- how to access government and retailer assistance
- eligibility for energy and water rebates
- how to compare energy contracts
- estimated billing and Time of Use rates
- leak detection dogs and much more!

Where: Hawkesbury Central Library
300 George Street, Windsor
When: Thursday, 23 September 2021
Time: 10am-Midday
Cost: Free

Register: Call 4560 4566 or visit hawklivingsustainably.eventbrite.com

ENERGY AND WATER SAVING HELP
INFORMATION SESSION



free event
Hawkesbury
8 AUGUST
fest

GOVERNOR
PHILLIP PARK

10am to 3pm

live local music
kids workshops
roving entertainment
RAAF display
rides
market stalls
community groups
food stalls
kids activities
dog shows demonstrations

Building a
'Locally Led'
resilient community
together

hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au



Light up is coming
back bigger
and better this
Windsor FESTIVAL DECEMBER



Like us on Facebook to hear about this year's exciting new inclusions.



@hawkesburyevents

Council will advise the public of any changes to the date via our Council website and Facebook pages

GET TO KNOW DAVID RYAN



Our 2021 Hawkesbury Citizen of the Year

David Ryan is:

- A Hawkesbury local
- A Hawkesbury Rural Fire Service volunteer.

David has achieved the National Bravery award and Long Service award in his 48 years of services with the Rural Fire Service.

On a catastrophic day on 12 November 2019, as Deputy Group Captain in the Hawkesbury, David led a team to safety after being entrapped in a burn over at Colo Heights. The firefront had flame heights of 60 metres and wind gusts high enough to tear metal sheets off buildings.

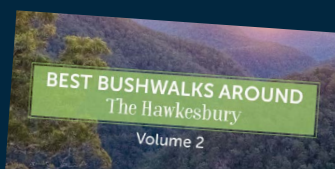
David's good leadership decisions allowed every crew member to be able to return home safely. His bravery and leadership is truly inspiring.

David has gained great respect within the community through his personal sacrifices and his generous spirit.

Nominate a Mate like David Ryan for the 2022 Hawkesbury Australia Day Awards at

hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/_resources/forms/australiadayawards2022

BEST BUSHWALKS AROUND THE HAWKESBURY



The Hawkesbury Visitor Information Centre is excited to announce that Volume 2 of 'Best Bushwalks Around the Hawkesbury' has arrived! Eleven new walks, maps and trail advice.

Only \$6! Get your copy today at the Hawkesbury Visitor Information Centre at Ham Common (opposite RAAF Base Richmond) 1/328 Hawkesbury Valley Way, Richmond. You can call the Centre on **4560 4620** or visit the website discoverthehawkesbury.com.au or Facebook [@hawkesburyvisitorinformationcentre](https://www.facebook.com/hawkesburyvisitorinformationcentre)

DYARUBBIN: THE HAWKESBURY RIVER

20 August – 24 October

The exhibition will include artworks, soundscapes, installation art, animation and storytelling.

Location: Hawkesbury Regional Gallery
300 George Street, Windsor

RAAF 100

Until 31 December 2021

100 years of the Royal Australian Air Force

Location: Hawkesbury Central Library
300 George Street, Windsor

PARADISE LOST

Coming soon

Through images, video and souvenirs, this exhibition explores the history of the Hawkesbury's former fun park, Paradise Gardens.

Location: Hawkesbury Regional Museum
8 Baker Street, Windsor

COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS

Do you have ideas about how Council can continue to build community resilience? Do you have an experience of recovery from natural disasters in the Hawkesbury to share? Council will hold a series of workshops in early August to bring people together to hear about local recovery and resilience, and to gather ideas for future community initiatives. To register your interest, please call Liz Murphy on **4560 4489** or email emurphy@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au



Phone: (02) 4560 4444
Fax: (02) 4587 7740

Email: council@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au
Website: www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au

CONTACT US

Hawkesbury City Council
366 George Street
(PO BOX 146)
Windsor NSW 2756



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

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Councillor
Patrick Conolly
Mayor
0419 321 328

patrick.conolly@hawkesburycouncillor.com.au



Councillor
Mary Lyons-Buckett
Deputy Mayor
0419 512 192

mary.lyonsbuckett@hawkesburycouncillor.com.au



Councillor
Barry Calvert
0437 998 951

barry.calvert@hawkesburycouncillor.com.au



Councillor
Emma-Jane Garrow
0427 219 602

emmajane.garrow@hawkesburycouncillor.com.au



Councillor
Amanda Kotlash
0427 039 714

amanda.kotlash@hawkesburycouncillor.com.au



Councillor
Paul Rasmussen
0412 366 633

paul.rasmussen@hawkesburycouncillor.com.au



Councillor
Peter Reynolds
0427 883 974

peter.reynolds@hawkesburycouncillor.com.au



Councillor
Sarah Richards
0425 199 677

sarah.richards@hawkesburycouncillor.com.au



Councillor
John Ross
0427 835 130

john.ross@hawkesburycouncillor.com.au



Councillor
Tiffany Tree
0434 021 610

tiffany.tree@hawkesburycouncillor.com.au



Councillor
Danielle Wheeler
0419 910 967

danielle.wheeler@hawkesburycouncillor.com.au



Councillor
Nathan Zamprogno
0427 122 419

nathan.zamprogno@hawkesburycouncillor.com.au

COUNCILLORS