

SUMMER 2024/2025



COMMUNITY Newsletter



Discover
the
Hawkesbury
this Summer

Image credit: Destination NSW

Available online today!
hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



Welcome to the Summer edition of your Council Community Newsletter - and my first edition as your Mayor. Firstly, I would like to thank the Hawkesbury for the honour of again serving and representing you as Councillor, and to my Council colleagues for the humbling opportunity to be Mayor. I am committed to being Hawkesbury's champion over the next two years as your Mayor and giving everyone a voice and a chance to have a stake in the future of this City that we love.

If you are reading this newsletter as it arrives in mid-January, then please join with me and thousands of other Hawkesbury families and individuals at Governor Phillip Park on Sunday, 26 January between 5pm and 9pm for Australia Day on the Hawkesbury. This is always such a fun day out and this year will be no exception. See all the details on what we have planned on page 3.

With the holidays in full swing, now is a great time to go and explore the Hawkesbury. There's plenty to see and do, and our Visitor Information Centre is your one-stop-shop for day trips, weekend escapes, family activities, romantic getaways and so much more! Discover the Hawkesbury and what's happening this summer on pages 6 and 7. If you are looking for something a little closer to home to entertain the kids, there are our libraries, gallery and museum. Check out our What's On on the back page. Remember - if you plan to enjoy our waterways during the warmer weather, please be river-safe, or better still - swim at one of our local pools.

Council staff have been hard at work continuing the Hawkesbury's recovery from eight floods in four years. The backlog of road and landslip repairs shrinks every day, and work to better a number of other critical roads, such as Packer Road at Blaxlands Ridge, is also continuing, as well as the upgrade of the Windsor Town Centre. Learn more about these works on pages 4 and 5.

We are also delivering improvements to our playgrounds and parks. A major upgrade is taking place at one of our most popular regional parks - Macquarie Park in Windsor - delivering an exciting expansion of the playground and new picnic areas, thanks to NSW Government funding. We have also just completed brand new playgrounds at Jack Gow Reserve in McGraths Hill and at Freemans Reach Reserve. Turn to page 8 for details.

There's always something happening in the Hawkesbury. Stay up-to-date throughout the year by following us on Facebook and our new Instagram page ([@hawkesburycitycouncil](https://www.instagram.com/hawkesburycitycouncil)) and signing up to the Hawkesbury Buzz fortnightly e-newsletter at www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/link/buzz

Happy New Year!

Mayor of Hawkesbury
Councillor Les Sheather

HAWKESBURY BUZZ!

Sign up today at
www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/link/buzz
or scan the QR code

YOUR FORTNIGHTLY COUNCIL E-NEWSLETTER

Want the latest Council news delivered straight to your inbox? Hawkesbury Buzz is your free fortnightly e-newsletter with all the latest on Council's projects, services, events and more!



YOU'RE INVITED TO AUSTRALIADAY ON THE HAWKESBURY

Don't miss all the fun, excitement and action of Australia Day on the Hawkesbury, our family-friendly community event on Sunday 26 January from 5pm to 9pm at Governor Phillip Park, Windsor.

Australia Day on the Hawkesbury 2025 will feature:

-  Farmer Dave as our MC
-  Live entertainment including a band at 8pm
-  Fireworks display at 9pm
-  Annual thong-throwing competition
-  Food and drink stalls/trucks
-  Rides
-  Free face painting
-  Emergency Services Display
-  Dog-friendly event (on a lead)
-  Inclusive play space at Governor Phillip Park
-  Plenty of on-site parking available

Bring your picnic rugs and chairs - but please leave all portable shelters at home as they can pose a blow-over risk to other visitors, and are not permitted at the event.



**OUR
AWARD
WINNING
CUSTOMER
SERVICE
TEAM
POPPING UP
NEAR YOU!**



Keep an eye out for our Customer Service pop-ups, coming to a location near you this year!

Our pop-ups help make Council more accessible, with a special focus on our more remote towns and villages, as well as out-of-hours community events with a high number of local visitors.

Our team was recognised in November with the Highly Commended Award for National Customer Service Team of the Year at the National Local Government Customer Service Network. This achievement highlights the team's hard work and dedication to enhancing service for our community.

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram ([@hawkesburycitycouncil](https://www.facebook.com/hawkesburycitycouncil)), and sign up for our Hawkesbury Buzz e-newsletter to receive notifications about when we will be popping up at an event near you.

THOMAS JAMES BRIDGE TAKING SHAPE



The rebuilding of Thomas James Bridge at Wisemans Ferry is on target for a mid-year completion.

The first section of the eight-metre concrete retaining walls was poured just prior to Christmas and backfilling work has begun. The retaining walls and footings are essential to ensure the rebuilt bridge is resilient to future flood events and will provide reliable access to the Macdonald Valley via Settlers Road for generations to come.

Once the land level is restored, the bridge and road deck will be laid and the hand-cut convict-era sandstone block retaining wall will be rebuilt. All blocks were numbered and mapped before they were removed to ensure they can be placed back in their original position.

Work to repair and stabilise the nearby rockface has also been completed.



LIVEABILITY UPDATE

Stage 1 of the Windsor Liveability Project is nearing completion and George Street Windsor is looking refreshed, green, shady, and ready to welcome visitors along its new footpaths for many years to come!

Tree planting between Windsor train station to Fitzgerald Street has been completed and we can't wait to see the trees grow bigger, providing much needed shade for pedestrians in the warmer months and then flowers in Springtime.

All footpath paving in this stage has also been completed. Works are still underway on the outdoor dining area in front of Riverview Mall, and on upgrading the pedestrian crossings with new line marking and lights, making them compliant with Australian standards. Remaining works are anticipated to be completed by the end of January, weather permitting.

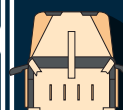
Stage 1A, between Baker Street and Bridge Street, is due to commence in the first quarter of 2025. Work includes lowering the raised dining areas to ground level to expose more of the beautiful heritage sandstone in Windsor. There will be new paved footpaths, potted trees and new street furniture to enhance the eastside seating area near Bridge Street.

Stage 2, Windsor Mall, is still in the detailed design stage of planning, with construction anticipated to commence in the second half of 2025.

To view the concept plans for stages 1A and 2, learn more, and stay up to date on the Windsor Liveability Project, visit [Liveability Project - Revitalising Our Town Centres | Your Hawkesbury Your Say](#)

Windsor Town Centre Revitalisation Project is funded under the Western Parkland City Liveability program, which is part of the Western Sydney City Deal. The Western Sydney City Deal is a partnership between the NSW and Australian Governments and the eight councils of the Western Parkland City.

The project is part of the Greening Our City grant program that is proudly funded by the NSW Government in association with Local Government NSW.



2024 was another very productive year for the renewal of our roads, including ones damaged by flood and weather, and our programmed works as part of our Operational Plan.

The floods and incessant wet weather of 2020-2022 left us with a \$177 million roads and landslips repair bill. Thankfully, the state and federal governments have paid for the vast majority of those repairs through their recovery programs – but the sheer scope of the works required means that certain works had to be prioritised over others, and the full list takes time to work through.

In the 2023/24 financial year, Council spent \$27 million on road and landslip repairs, fixing 22 roads and 10 landslips. This is on top of our \$13 million in programmed works and \$7.9 million in regular maintenance. So far this financial year, Council has spent \$10 million on road and landslip repairs, \$6.7 million in programmed works and \$4 million in regular maintenance.

Major highlights over the past 18 months include:

- **Completion of the new Gorricks Run Causeway**
- **Repair of The Terrace, Windsor sinkhole**
- **Repair of the Settlers Road landslip**
- **Upgrade of Packer Road, Blaxlands Ridge**
- **Completion of Greens Road reconstruction**

Over the next six months, Council will be working on the following roads and landslip projects:

- **Completion of Thomas James Bridge reconstruction**
- **Cornwallis road and drainage restoration**
- **Completion of the Percival Street Landslip (adjoining the RAAF base)**
- **Securing of funds for the April and June 2024 flood events**

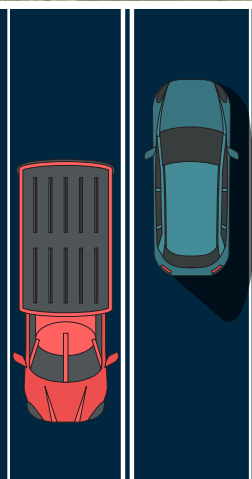
Council is committed to restoring all of our flood affected roads as quickly as possible. We know it has been a long journey and we thank all our residents for their continued patience.



The upgraded Packer Road at Blaxlands Ridge between Putty Road and West Portland Road is due for completion in February. The 3.6km road provides a vital and timesaving link for communities around Lower Portland and Colo, and the works are a significant safety improvement for motorists.

The works include earth excavation, pavement stabilisation and reconstruction, stormwater drainage culvert reconstruction, safety barrier guard rail installation, retaining wall construction and spray seal.

Trees that were removed for the project to provide a safe margin along the roadside will be replaced with two new plantings of locally native species for each tree lost. Council will nurture these trees until they are established.



IT'S APPLE PIE



Image credit: Destination NSW



With the apple season and school holidays in full swing, Bilpin's orchardists are welcoming hundreds of apple hunters to the area to pick their own or just enjoy the satisfying crunch of fresh apples or equally tasty, peaches, veggies and cider.

The mountainous western reaches of our local government area have some of the freshest and coolest air around. Combine that with the undeniable aroma of freshly baked apple pies and a chilled glass of cider, and you're not far away from heaven on earth.

Peak apple picking time is between January and May, and with over 10 places to stop along the Apple Pie trail on historic Bells Line of Road, you're sure to come home with a boot full of goodies.

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Visit www.discoverthehawkesbury.com.au or visit us on our social media pages for more information on our favourite region online or give us a call on 02 4560 4620.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

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

 [@discoverthehawkesbury](https://www.instagram.com/discoverthehawkesbury)

CKING TIME!

The Hawkesbury region attracts a significant number of day trippers each year due to its close proximity to Sydney. The region's activities attract nature lovers, history buffs and family groups, and it is also the perfect location for a weekend getaway.

Being the third oldest colonial settlement in the state after Sydney Cove and Parramatta, our region provides a generous dollop of history, such as the oldest pub on the mainland, Windsor's Macquarie Arms, and the oldest church in the country at Ebenezer. The Australiana Pioneer Village, established in 1970 at Wilberforce, recreates an authentic 1810 village including a bank, police station, shearing shed and more.

There's so much more to discover in the Hawkesbury. Our fully accredited Visitor Information Centre is open 7 days from 9am-4pm at Ham Common in Richmond.



Image credit: Destination NSW



Image credit: Destination NSW



Image credit: Destination NSW

EARN MORE?

hawkesbury.com.au to explore
or give the friendly team

SOCIAL MEDIA

www.hawkesbury.com.au/visitorinformationcentre

www.facebook.com/hawkesbury



MACQUARIE PARK IS GETTING A GLOW UP



Major improvements are now underway at Macquarie Park in Windsor, breathing fresh life into the beloved riverside recreation space.

The works include added shade structures, picnic facilities, signage and a path and trail network to improve accessibility, landscaping and improved water safety signage. The playground will be upgraded with a new water play area with water pumps, sluice gates and a nature play creek bed; a basket swing, a rope canoe swing spinner and nature balance play.

There will be impacts to playground access and sections of the park during construction. Weather permitting, it is expected these works will be completed in winter 2025.

The \$1.8 million project includes NSW Government funding thanks to its Places to Swim program (\$839,400) and joint funding from the Australian and NSW Governments' Community Local Infrastructure Recovery Package Community Asset Program (\$600,000), with council contributing \$550,000, creating more options for safe recreation around our river.

YOUR **NEW LOOK** JACK GOW AND FREEMANS REACH RESERVES!

Jack Gow Reserve in McGraths Hill and Freemans Reach Reserve have both unveiled brand new playgrounds!

Both playgrounds were designed following community consultation to ensure the spaces meet the current and ongoing needs of their communities.

Jack Gow Reserve now has a climbing tower with slides, seated and nest swings, ground-level trampoline, see-saw, spinner and play cubby/charging station, riding/walking path, picnic table, benches and seating options, bins, landscaping and shade sails.

Freemans Reach Reserve has a climbing tower with a slide, swings, obstacle course, roundabout, rocker, seating, and beautiful landscaping.

Wilberforce Park was also upgraded with a like-for-like replacement of its play equipment.

NSW Sustainability Awards



LEADERS IN SUSTAINABILITY

Hawkesbury City Council has been crowned as a leader in sustainability, winning the Large Business Sustainability Leadership Award at the NSW Banksia Awards in November.

The award celebrates exceptional commitment and achievements in integrating sustainable practices across our operations. In the aftermath of the 2019/2020 bushfires and consecutive floods, Council developed four foundational sustainability strategic plans addressing Net Zero and Water efficiency, Climate Risk, Urban Greening, and Environmental Sustainability.

Plans for future initiatives will focus on sustainable food systems, resilient infrastructure, and circular economy practices. Council's work will ensure long-term resilience and prosperity for the community.

Council also received a commendation at the Planning Institute of Australia Awards in the Climate Change and Resilience Category for our Climate Change Risk Assessment and Adaptation Action Plan.

WHAT'S ON OFFER?

Save with Rebately

Hawkesbury City Council is working with digital platform Rebately to offer rebates for households that purchase reusable nappies, reusable sanitary products, rechargeable batteries and chargers.

For more information and to apply for your rebate, visit: rebately.co/hawkesbury

Learn with @HOME workshops

Are you looking to build your knowledge and skills in living more sustainably? Hawkesbury City Council offers free face-to-face and online workshops for all residents living in the Hawkesbury Local Government Area to learn about a variety of sustainability topics.

To access online workshops, register as a Hawkesbury resident to the @HOME program: tinyurl.com/hawkesbury-at-home

New Recycling Collection Calendar

Hawkesbury residents can now search their address and print a PDF annual financial year calendar which shows their collection days and which week and day their recycling and garden organics bins are collected.

To find your calendar, search your address in the 'Find Your Bin Collection Day' Dashboard, and then click the 'Waste Calendar' tab. tinyurl.com/yte79f9j

LIGHT UP WINDSOR

Street Fair & Christmas Trail

Light Up Windsor Street Fair – a yuletide sensation!

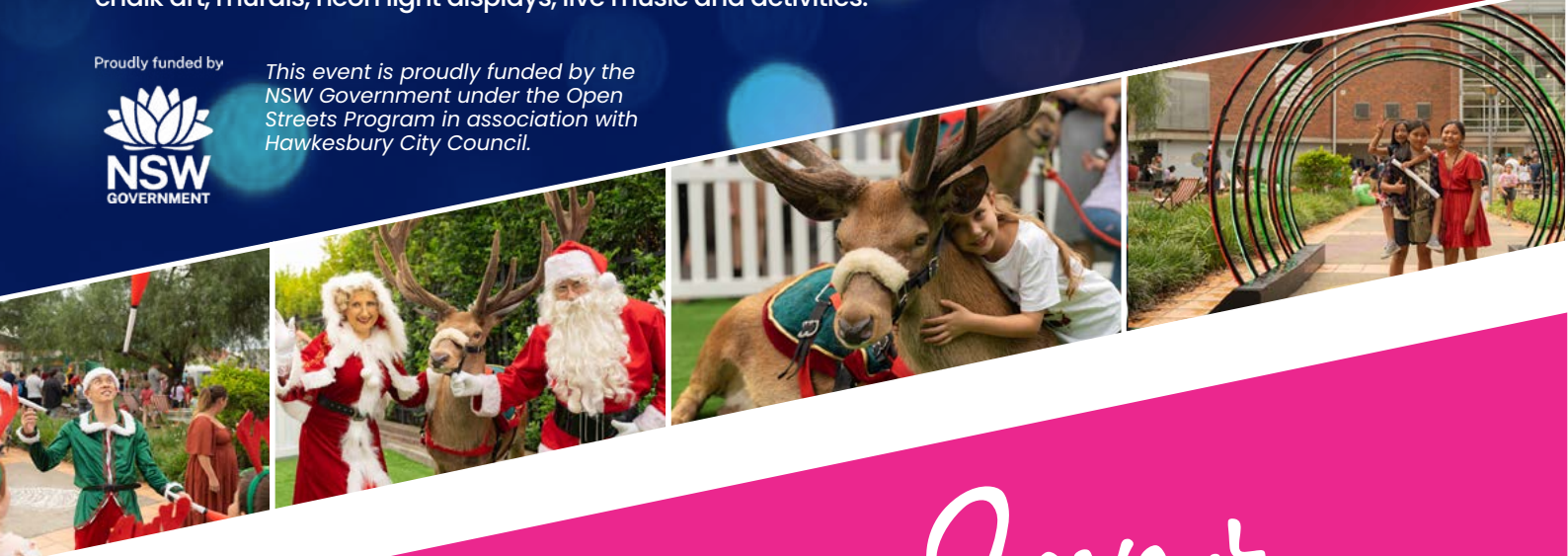
Light Up Windsor once again delivered all the festive fun including live performances, real reindeer, Mr and Mrs Claus and more!

Thanks to a \$65,000 grant from the NSW Government's Open Streets Program, the celebrations flowed right along George Street to the railway station with chalk art, murals, neon light displays, live music and activities.

Proudly funded by



This event is proudly funded by the NSW Government under the Open Streets Program in association with Hawkesbury City Council.



Sydney's food bowl is alive and delicious!

Savour ^{THE} FLAVOUR

HAWKESBURY

More than 15,000 visitors from right across Sydney joined us at Richmond Oval for Savour the Flavour in October to sample the best of food and beverages from across the Hawkesbury.

There were cooking demonstrations, carnival rides, live entertainment and more!

Not only does the event boost our local food and beverage suppliers, it provides substantial economic benefit to businesses in the town centre.



AROUND THE HAWKESBURY

Council is delivering programs and infrastructure to make the Hawkesbury a great place to live. Here is a quick snapshot of Council's work.



14 residents became Australian citizens at our November ceremony



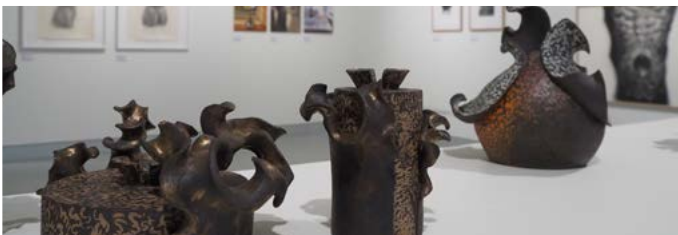
A light up bauble was the perfect backdrop for Christmas photos at Richmond Oval!



We replaced the ageing play equipment at Wilberforce Park



Glossodia residents helped design the new skate park at Woodbury Reserve



The Hawkesbury Now 2024 exhibition showcased the creativity of local artists



We connected with hundreds of residents at the RAAF Richmond Base Open Day



Fresh and innovative ideas from tomorrow's leaders were given a chance to shine at the 2024 Festival of New Ideas Youth Summit in November, convened by Hawkesbury City Council.

Young people from across the Hawkesbury came together with local creative, cultural and community leaders to explore solutions to local and/or global opportunities and challenges. The event focused on elevating the voices, thoughts, and ideas of local young people to help guide and shape the future direction of local projects, events, and initiatives.

The event comprised of a series of workshops including Music Production, Street Art, Merchandise production, strength-based advocacy and leadership activities. The showcase provided all young people the opportunity to present their ideas and recommendations to Councillors and other stakeholder groups.



WHAT'S ON!



CHECK OUT THE LATEST WHAT'S ON GUIDE!

Find out all the activities available at our arts and culture facilities! Come and visit our library, gallery and museum and pick up a copy of the seasonal LMG What's On Guide or download the online edition at www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/library/whats-on



LIBRARY

4560 4460

Richmond Branch Library
29 West Market Street, Richmond

Hawkesbury Central Library
300 George Street, Windsor

THE SUMMER READING CLUB

1 DECEMBER – 31 JANUARY

Keep your kids engaged in reading over the holidays through the Summer Reading Club program! Children aged 16 and under can record the books they read from 1 December to 31 January and are rewarded with a coupon for every log completed. The coupons can be exchanged for prizes at the SRC Shop at the end of the program.



SRC SHOP

Spend your coupons from the Summer Reading Club program in the pop-up SRC Shop at Hawkesbury Central Library. Open from 7 February 2024.

For more information call the Library or see: www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/library



GALLERY

4560 4441

Deerubbin Centre (top floor)
300 George Street, Windsor



BARELY WEARABLE | RUTH DOWNS

6 DECEMBER – 9 FEBRUARY

Barely Wearables is a continuation of Ruth Downes' passion for reappropriating everyday materials and objects to celebrate their intrinsic beauty. Materials for these 'wearable' artworks have been gleaned from a diverse range of sources – from aircraft headsets to coffee capsules. Detritus from nature has also been salvaged to be reborn as a fashion statement.



RE|PURPOSE

6 DECEMBER – 9 FEBRUARY

RE|PURPOSE is a curated display of objects from the collection of **Hawkesbury Regional Museum**. This playful exhibition shines a spotlight on some of the Museum's most fascinating objects that tell us about the everyday lives of people and the clever and sometimes humorous way they 'made do' – recycling, upcycling and repurposing old materials and objects into something new and useful once more.

For more information call the Gallery or see: www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/gallery



MUSEUM

4560 4655

Hawkesbury Regional Museum
8 Baker Street, Windsor

IMPRINT: STORIES FROM THE ARCHIVE

OPENING 18 JANUARY 2025

Imprint: Stories From the Archives is a new display highlighting stories of lesser-known and underrepresented locals that have, nevertheless, left an imprint on our historical records. This changing display draws from the **Hawkesbury Regional Museum's** archival collection, and features historic photographs, documents, and more.

Be sure not to miss the first set of stories, on display for a limited time only.



SCHOOL TOURS & HOWE HOUSE

Interested in a group tour at the Hawkesbury Regional Museum? The Museum offers tailored educational tours through its curated displays and the Historic Howe House for schools and community groups. Guided group tours are available on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday by appointment. To make an enquiry call the Museum or visit their website.

For more information call the Museum or see: www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/museum

OTHER ARTS AND CULTURE EVENTS

SUMMER SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

Bookings are now open for our Arts & Culture School Holiday Program!

We have a brilliant lineup of activities including science experiments, jewellery making, letter writing workshops and more to keep the kids entertained across the Library, Museum and Gallery. Visit our websites to learn more.



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

Hawkesbury City Council

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