

SUMMER 2023



COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



AUSTRALIADAY
ON THE HAWKESBURY

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Available online today!
hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



Hi everybody, so much has been happening in the Hawkesbury lately, including relaxing and celebrating with loved ones during this festive season! We have all had a wonderful holiday period, kicking off our Mayoral Christmas Appeal and then with Council's Light Up Windsor Street Fair. Both were a huge success and I thank our community for their participation.

We are hitting the ground running in 2023, bringing you our Australia Day on the Hawkesbury event on 26 January. This will be a time to get together as a community and welcome visitors to our wonderful district.

In 2023 we know that there is still a lot of work to do. We know from our many conversations with our residents that road repairs are the top priority. Local Government NSW even declared a 'Statewide Roads Emergency' at the National Local Roads and Transport Congress in Hobart in late 2022 – supported by NSW mayors.



Road repairs at Wolseley Road, Oakville

The declaration urged the State and Federal Governments to increase funding commitments to help local councils repair their road network before the situation becomes even more dire.

Approximately 20 per cent of our roads network has sustained damage from repeated disasters and we're also suffering from a shortage of qualified contractors and road repair materials. We have had thousands of potholes filled but we know it is still not enough.

That's why I started campaigning for the Hawkesbury in 2022 as soon as I became Mayor, and we joined with other local councils for better funding and better solutions. I've called on the NSW and Federal Governments to take action to help our community bounce back from the devastation caused by our six floods since 2020, as well as ongoing extreme weather events.

As many of you will know, I have also continued to lobby the NSW Government to lower the water levels at Warragamba Dam and help improve the resilience of the Hawkesbury community – our people, our farms and our businesses – against flooding.

There will be so much more happening in 2023 – we have major projects to deliver, including our Liveability Program, which after South Windsor and Richmond, will see a major upgrade to Windsor. We'll also be opening parks and engaging as much as we can with you. As part of that, we currently have our Draft Community Engagement policy on exhibition, so please have a look and have your say by going to www.yourhawkesbury-yoursay.com.au

I will keep working hard for our community, as well as honour my commitment to keep engaging with you in as many ways as possible, including my Listening Posts at local shops and parks, on my Facebook page, in my Mayoral columns in local media and at local events where I hope to see you. This includes our next big local event, Australia Day on the Hawkesbury at Governor Phillip Park on 26 January. Bring your family and friends and make an afternoon of it, as we celebrate what it means to be Australian right on the banks of our beautiful river.

Let's get together and make 2023 a promising year for us all.

Mayor of Hawkesbury
Councillor Sarah McMahan





COMMUNITY RECOVERY

HAWKESBURY COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

The improvements to Bilpin Oval, Bilpin Hall and Colo Heights Reserve have been officially opened to their communities – an important step in their recovery from the 2019-2020 bushfires.

The \$1.68 million works program, co-funded by the Australian and NSW governments under the Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund, has brought resilience to key infrastructure within the Colo Heights, Bilpin and Macdonald Valley communities as well as offered opportunities for healing and hope for these communities.

In **Bilpin**, a brand-new playground, toilet block, picnic shelters and pathways were built and upgrades were made to the carpark and oval. The fire resilience and amenity of Bilpin Hall was considerably improved. A 120,000 litre water storage tank and pump was installed at both sites for community use during bushfires.

In **Colo Heights**, the fire resilience and amenity of the Horrie Eley Memorial Hall was improved, and a 120,000 litre water storage tank and pump was installed. The adjoining recreational precinct received a new multi-sports court and replacement of the tennis shelter, as well as landscaping, picnic area and oval improvements.

Community artworks were also created – murals of tiles designed by local residents expressing their feelings and emotions around the fire and their recovery.

The projects were unveiled to residents with special community celebrations. A celebration at **St Albans** marking improvements to the park, School of Arts and fire shed will take place in the coming weeks.



current OUR PROJECTS

LIVEABILITY

The revitalisation of Richmond and South Windsor town centres is complete, delivering a much-needed refresh and leafy improvement for these important town centres.

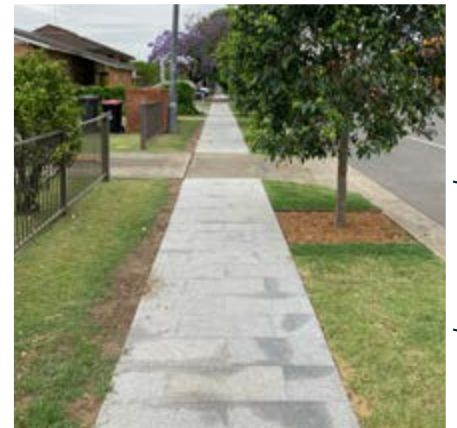
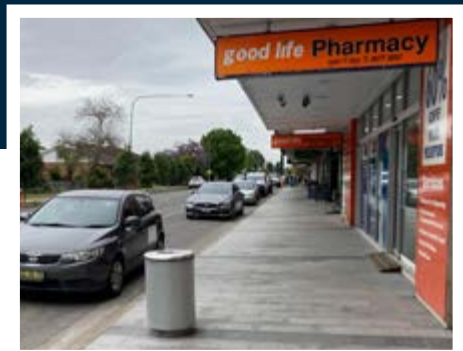
In Richmond, the upgrades to Windsor Street include the planting of 26 advanced trees; new feature paving and street furniture; parking space marking; and new surfacing, signage and lighting for the pedestrian crossing between Bosworth Street and West Market Street.

The works in the South Windsor town centre include planting 15 advanced trees along George Street, new feature paving and street furniture. New refuge islands at Campbell Street and Bell Street, and an upgrade to the pedestrian crossing near Newtown Arcade with new surfacing, lighting and signage have also been completed. In Mullinger Lane, accessible car parking was relocated closer to the medical centre, new paths and kerbs were laid and the car parking spaces converted to angled parking. 40 advanced trees were also planted.

Work on planting 46 advanced trees on George Street from Argyle Street to Beerewan Park is also well underway.

Works in the Windsor town centre are scheduled to begin early this year once plans are approved by Heritage NSW.

To view the plans, visit www.yourhawkesbury-yoursay.com.au/lptc



Photos taken prior to completion

LEAFY BOULEVARDS

The trees are an important addition to the centres to help combat the growing problem of urban heat by providing much-needed shade in summer but allowing sunlight access during cooler months. The trees also improve local air quality, provide habitat for local fauna and improve the visual appearance of the centres. Tree planting was also carefully planned to ensure that no car parking spaces were lost in these popular centres. The trees were funded thanks to a \$1.244 million Greening Our City grant from the NSW Government and Local Government NSW.



The \$18.75 million Vibrant Towns and Villages project is co-funded by Hawkesbury City Council in partnership with the Federal and State governments under the Western Parkland City Liveability Program, which is part of the Western Sydney City Deal.

OUR ^{future} PROJECTS

WESTINVEST

More than \$16.8 million in WestInvest funding from the State Government will deliver four exciting community projects to the Hawkesbury that will bring long-lasting benefits to the community with works starting in 2023.

WOODBURY RESERVE, GLOSSODIA (\$5.42M)



The upgrade includes a playground, multi-purpose courts, amenities building, improved and additional parking, shared path network, improved access to natural areas, additional shelters with barbecue facilities and a designated dog off-leash area. On top of the WestInvest funding, Council has received a State Government Open Spaces Program: Places to Play grant (\$455,000) to construct a BMX pump track. \$3 million in additional funding has also been pledged by the Federal Government.

FERNADELL PARK & COMMUNITY FACILITY, PITT TOWN (\$4.56M)



The works include multi-purpose fields designed for football and cricket; sports lighting; off road parking; toilets and change rooms; kiosk/equipment storage; integrated community space; district level inclusive play space; shelters; barbecues; outdoor fitness equipment; youth facility; and an integrated community centre. On top of the WestInvest funding, the project received Council funding (\$2 million) and \$3.3 million from the NSW Government's Multi-Sport Community Facility Fund.

KURRAJONG TO KURMOND CYCLEWAY (\$4.54M)



The Kurrajong to Kurmond Cycleway Project will undertake treatment works and construct a shared off-road path alongside Bells Line of Road between Kurmond and Kurrajong.

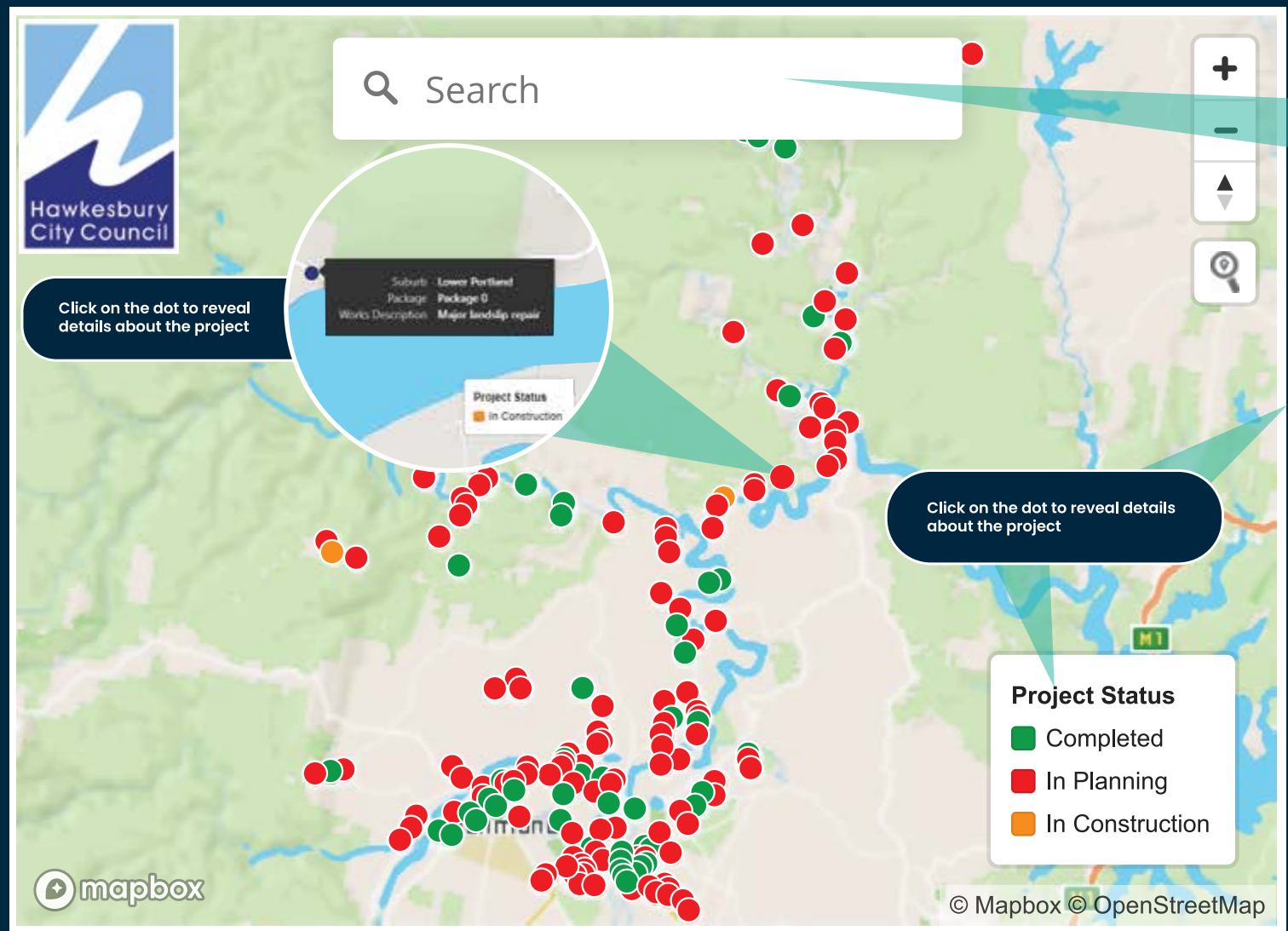
WAYFINDING & SIGNAGE PROJECT (\$2.35M)



The project will introduce a cohesive and consistent signage suite that will ensure navigating the Hawkesbury is smooth and user friendly, and will highlight the important places, histories and stories throughout the region.



OUR ROADS



Council has introduced a new road projects mapping tool to provide residents with clearer information on road repairs across the City.

The simple-to-use tool provides constantly updated details on each of the more than 240 road flood repair projects; including the planned works, potential impact of the works on motorists; current status and approximate timeframe for works to commence. The map also displays all the projects in an easy to follow map, which can also be filtered by location, status and project type.

It is planned that the mapping tool will be expanded to include all works projects across the Hawkesbury, including roads, parks, paths, drainage, major construction and more.

You can find the mapping tool, along with more information on roads projects at www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au and then click on the Renewing Hawkesbury's Roads banner.

PROJECTS MAP



251
No. of Projects

\$240M
Total Estimated Cost

Project Status

- Completed
- In Construction
- In Planning

Project Type

- Permanent
- Temporary

Suburb

- Agnes Banks
- Bowen Mountain
- Cattai
- Central Colo
- Central Macdonald
- Clarendon
- Colo

Package

- Package 0
- Package 1
- Package 2
- Package 3
- Package 4
- Package 5
- Package 6
- Package 7
- Temporary Works

- Roads Projects Map**
Read more →
- Major road projects**
Read more →
- Road recovery projects**
Read more →
- Daily road maintenance**
Read more →
- Building Hawkesbury's Future**
Read more →
- Report a roads issue**
Read more →
- Live Traffic NSW**
Read more →

The Roads Projects Map is Council's new dedicated Renewing Hawkesbury's Roads information hub.

The hub will play a central role in collating and presenting road repairs information for hundreds of projects right across the Hawkesbury. The page is updated daily with information on the roads maintenance and repairs program, and major road repairs projects including Greens Road, Upper Colo Bridge, Thomas James Bridge and Cornwallis.

This page is accessible via the Renewing Hawkesbury's Roads banner on the front page of Council's website at www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au



Wolseley Road



Pitt Town Bottoms Road



Lower Portland Road

ROAD UPDATES



General road repairs

Council is currently working through \$240 million worth of flood damage affecting approximately 200 kilometres, or one fifth, of the Hawkesbury road network. Delays are being experienced due to a shortage of suitably qualified road repair contractors and materials. Council anticipates that more than \$1 million will be additionally spent on pothole filling this financial year.

Greens Road

Progress on repairing both roadslip sites is continuing. Recent works include shotcreting and soil nailing of the upslope; excavation, construction of retaining walls and drainage, and pouring of concrete footings for the road surface. Work is expected to be completed on the project in February 2023, weather permitting.



Greens Road

Upper Colo Bridge

The timbers from the old bridge have been removed and are being reused in a number of community projects underway by Council and local resident associations. Work on the new bridge is expected to be completed by mid 2023, weather permitting.



Upper Colo Bridge

Thomas James Bridge

Repair plans for the 1830s convict-built Thomas James Bridge and retaining wall are currently being reviewed by Heritage NSW. Plans include the retention of the convict-built sandstone retaining wall around a strengthened internal structure. Work is expected to commence in the first quarter of 2023, weather permitting.



Thomas James Bridge

Cornwallis

Work on the first stage of the project will commence in the first quarter of 2023, government approvals pending, and will involve the construction of a new levee at each end of the site to protect the area from further water ingress and allow the existing water to be pumped out.



LIGHT UP WINDSOR Street Fair

The Hawkesbury had a Christmas to remember thanks to the biggest-ever Light Up Windsor Street Fair in 2022.

Around 12,000 people visited Windsor Mall and George Street on 3 December for an evening of Christmas entertainment and shopping, including on-stage and roaming performers, 60 market stalls, Christmas lights, snow flurries, free face painting, Find-the-Reindeer competition, a visit from Santa and Mrs Claus, and more.

The finale was the lighting of the beautiful Windsor Mall Christmas tree, with thousands crowding in the forecourt of historical Loder House for the special moment.



Savour the Flavour Hawkesbury didn't just wow 5,000 residents and visitors with some of the best fresh food and beverages the Hawkesbury has to offer – it also delivered significant economic benefits to the local economy.

On top of the dozens of stalls and free entertainment, guests enjoyed the hospitality of local eateries and retailers before, during and after the 15 October event. \$6.12 million was spent in the Hawkesbury that day, delivering an increase in local spending by residents during October 2022 compared to September. There was also an increase in visitor spending compared to October 2021 – a phenomenal result during an economic slowdown.



Hawkesbury Community Hubs



The Hawkesbury Community Hubs will start up for 2023 on Wednesday, 1 February! As part of Council's community recovery program the Hubs offer craft and chat, playgroup, health and wellbeing, bounce back exercise classes and more.

Come along to see what the Community Hubs can offer you! To tell us what you would like from your local Hub, complete the survey at yourhawkesbury-yoursay.com.au/hc and scroll down for the survey link.

To find out more about the Community Hubs and all Hub activities, see the program calendar at yourhawkesbury-yoursay.com.au/hch or call **4560 4444** and ask for the Community Hubs team.

LOCATIONS

WILBERFORCE HUB

531 Wilberforce Road,
Wilberforce
Wednesdays 9:30am-2:30pm

COLO HEIGHTS HUB

2996 Putty Road, Colo Heights
Thursdays 9:30am-2:30pm

ST ALBANS HUB

Upper Macdonald Road,
St Albans
Fridays 9:30am-2:30pm



Scan QR code
for Hubs updates

DYARUBBIN

FREE EXHIBITION NOW OPEN UNTIL
5 FEBRUARY 2023



DIVE IN BEFORE IT'S OVER

Come along to Dyarubbin, an exhibition that provides insight into Aboriginal spirituality and culture along the Hawkesbury River. The exhibition follows on from the State Library of NSW exhibition which was based on the research of Professor Grace Karskens - The Real Secret River, Dyarubbin. Hawkesbury Regional Gallery is located on the first floor, Deerubbin Centre, 300 George Street, Windsor.

Enquiries: gallery@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au or 4560 4441



CARING FOR OUR HERITAGE



Over **\$260,000** will be spent on preserving and repairing heritage projects in the Hawkesbury in 2022/2023 thanks to the combined investment of the Local Heritage Assistance Program and Hawkesbury local heritage property owners.

Historic windows, picket fences, rooves and gutters will be fixed or replaced, while painting and other restorations will include works underway for the 25 local heritage property owners receiving funds. Council has approved the highest number of applications received under the Local Heritage Assistance Fund to date.



Heritage properties in Windsor, Sackville, Richmond, Kurmond, Pitt Town, Lower Portland, Kurrajong and St Albans will share in a total of \$48,750 in local heritage grants. In Thompson Square, Windsor, the façade of the historic 'Doctor's House' will be repainted while a St Albans property will undergo wall restoration to a timber slab building.

Hawkesbury City Council administers the annual program, which is jointly funded by Council and Heritage NSW. This funding aims to promote a positive attitude and awareness in the community about the importance of conservation and restoration of our significant local heritage.

The total grant funds allocated is \$48,750, with \$43,250 allocated by Council and \$5,500 from Heritage NSW, whilst the applicants' contribution will be \$216,865. The combined monetary value of the works will be \$265,615.

For more information about Council's Heritage Advisory Service visit www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-build/heritage/heritage-in-the-hawkesbury

HEATWAVES THIS SUMMER

On extreme heat days of 40-plus degrees, Council has a policy to extend the operating hours of Hawkesbury Central Library and Richmond Swimming Centre on weekends. On weekdays, these facility hours are already longer than weekends.

Council has received positive feedback from this initiative since it was first activated as a way to help residents find a way to stay cool during heatwaves. To stay up to date on any changes to facility hours, see Council's website and Facebook [@hawkesburycitycouncil](https://www.facebook.com/hawkesburycitycouncil)



NOW ON EXHIBITION

Hawkesbury City Council **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT POLICY**

Go to yourhawkesbury-yoursay.com.au/draft-cep to have your say. Feedback can be provided until 1 February 2023.

WHAT'S ON!

LIBRARY

Richmond Branch Library
29 West Market Street, Richmond

Hawkesbury Central Library
300 George Street, Windsor

SUMMER READING CLUB

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 or Hawkesbury Central Library, Windsor or Richmond Branch Library. Collect coupons for each book read and then redeem at Hawkesbury Central Library from 4 February to 19 February 2023. Book an early bird session 3 February hawkesburylibrary.eventbrite.com

REWARDING READS

Summer is a great time to grab some books from your local library. Until 31 January 2023, you can enter a draw for a chance to win a weekly prize pack. Borrow up to 40 items over summer. It's free to become a member!



GALLERY

Deerubbin Centre (top floor)
300 George Street, Windsor

DYARUBBIN – FREE EXHIBITION

OPEN UNTIL 5 FEBRUARY 2023

Explores the recent discovery of Dharug place names for landmarks along the Hawkesbury River. FREE – NO BOOKINGS.



MUSEUM

Hawkesbury Regional Museum
8 Baker Street, Windsor

COMING SOON – ONLINE JOHN TEBBUTT EXHIBITION

19th Century Australian astronomer John Tebbutt, who lived his entire life in the Hawkesbury, will be the feature of an amazing new online resource featuring interviews with prominent contemporary astronomers about John Tebbutt's astronomical contributions.

There will also be a 360° online tour of his observatory which still stands at Windsor and stunning photographs of his original objects, educational resources and downloadable astronomy activities.

Visit www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/museum for more about this exciting project or follow us on Facebook @HawkesburyRegionalMuseum



AUSTRALIADAY

ON THE HAWKESBURY

Thursday, 26 January 2023
5pm–9pm

Be part of Australia Day on the Hawkesbury!
Free event with live and roving entertainment, music and food
Relaxed family picnic event, fireworks at 9pm

Hawkesbury
City Council



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



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