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COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



Bilpin's
APPLE PIE
TRAIL

For more information
see **page 3**



A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



Autumn is a wonderful time in the Hawkesbury, and I encourage you to make the most of it. With apple season kicking off again, it's time to go on the Apple Pie Trail. We also hope to see you at the 2023 Hawkesbury Show on 28-30 April where we will have our Council tent for everyone to see what we have been doing for our community.

It's also time for you to let us know what you think about our Draft Operational Plan and have your say on the key actions, projects and initiatives for 2023-2024. You can provide comments until 16 May at yourhawkesbury-yoursay.com.au or at Council's Administration Building, 366 George Street, Windsor, Monday to Friday from 9am to 4pm and make submissions via email or by mail. More details on page 10.



So much is happening in the Hawkesbury and our WestInvest projects are a hugely exciting part of this. Pictured above at the WestInvest launch with me is Council's General Manager Elizabeth Richardson and State MP for Hawkesbury Robyn Preston. The \$98 million program funded by the NSW Government will mean we can upgrade and build community facilities, create new cycleways, and improve our visual image with new directional signage. To find out where all this is happening, see our centre page spread and www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/for-residents/westinvest-projects

Our roadworks staff and contractors continue to fix roads and fill potholes and will continue for some time.

Work will soon start on the restoration of Thomas James Bridge in Wisemans Ferry, the oldest in-use bridge in mainland Australia. See more on page 4.

Hawkesbury City Council is one of seven councils in NSW to be chosen as part of a pilot program for road safety, run by the Little Blue Dinosaur Foundation. The 'Hold My Hand' campaign encourages community awareness about child pedestrian safety and aims to reduce child road trauma. See page 9. The initiative was started by Michelle McLaughlin in 2014, when her family lost their precious 4-year-old boy Tom, following a pedestrian motor vehicle crash. Since then, Michelle has ensured that Tom's memory lives on through this program. I truly thank Michelle for ensuring that our community is part of this vital initiative.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to make the Hawkesbury sparkling clean again for Clean Up Australia Day. Last year discarded face masks hit the top ten and cigarette butts have always been #1 but now we're hearing of more and more people finding littered vapes or e-cigarettes. Let's bin our rubbish straight away and make every day Clean Up Australia Day!

To everybody who completed the public survey on our new Hawkesbury Active Transport Plan – a big thank you! We will use your feedback to create a framework for a connected network of safe and high-quality infrastructure for walking and cycling in the Hawkesbury. Find out more on page 8 and yourhawkesbury-yoursay.com.au

Remember, it is up to you to have your say to help us create the Hawkesbury you want. You are a crucial part of the Hawkesbury journey as we nurture and improve this beautiful region both now and into the future.

Mayor of Hawkesbury
Councillor Sarah McMahon





Are you craving a piping-hot slice of apple pie? A cool and crisp cider? Or do you want to spend a leisurely afternoon picking apples? Then Bilpin's Apple Pie Trail has you covered!

The Apple Pie Trail follows a 15 kilometre stretch of the scenic Bells Line of Road on either side of the township of Bilpin. And there's more than just pies and ciders to sample - there's juice, preserves and a wide selection of other fruits all year round!

We've made it easy for you to find all the outlets serving these plates of tasty heaven by mapping them out with their contact details and opening hours. You can download a map from discoverthehawkesbury.com.au or pick up a copy from the Hawkesbury Visitor Information Centre.



HAWKESBURY VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

Whether you're about to embark on the Apple Pie Trail, or you're looking to discover the rest of what the Hawkesbury has to offer, the Hawkesbury Visitor Information Centre is your one-stop shop for day trips and weekends away.

Our passionate staff have assembled comprehensive guides on local bushwalks, cycling routes, accommodation and dining options, local markets, events and more!

The Hawkesbury Visitor Information Centre is located on the Hawkesbury Valley Way at Clarendon (opposite the RAAF base). There's plenty of parking, nearby amenities and the Valleyway Café serving coffee, cakes and pies etc.

discoverthehawkesbury.com.au | 4560 4620



THOMAS JAMES BRIDGE RESTORATION

Design work is well underway for the restoration of Thomas James Bridge including the approaches on Settlers Road and the adjacent rockface – all damaged during the flood events of March and July 2022.

Thomas James Bridge is the oldest in-use road bridge on mainland Australia and was constructed using convict labour in 1830. It is one of two routes accessing St Albans from Wisemans Ferry – and the primary access for residents of Lower Macdonald and Central Macdonald.

The restoration of the bridge will involve the replacement of the timber spans and the reconstruction of the convict-built sandstone retaining wall. Each sandstone block will be catalogued, numbered, removed by hand and placed into storage. Following this, the blocks will be placed back into position once the underlying bridge has been reconstructed. The road approaches will also be restored and the overlooking rockface stabilised.

There will be limited access through the site, however Council is working closely with the community to minimise disruptions as much as possible during the construction phase. Works are expected to start in June and take 12 months to complete, weather permitting.



ST ALBANS PARK



The improvements to St Albans Park, the Rural Fire Service (RFS) shed and School of Arts were officially unveiled with a special pop-up community celebration held in April – the third of three Bushfire Local Economic Recovery projects built in the Hawkesbury.

St Albans now has a new playground with picnic shelters and pathways, and a conversation circle to honour the history of the St Albans Writers' Festival.

A community artwork project has also been installed in the playground – a mural of tiles designed by local residents expressing their feelings and emotions around the fire and their recovery.

The fire resilience, amenity and energy efficiency of the RFS shed and the St Albans School of Arts have also been greatly improved. The community now has access to a 120,000 litre water tank and pump for use during bushfire emergencies.

The Bushfire Local Economic Recovery projects are proudly funded by the Australian and NSW Governments. The projects also received Australian Government funding through the Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Program.

RENEWING HAWKESBURY'S ROADS



Council is getting on with the job of repairing local roads damaged by flooding and extended wet weather periods between 2020 and 2022.

All repairs are funded and will be completed as the availability of road repair contractors and materials become available.

Council is currently working through a list of nearly 400 projects costing approximately \$240 million. This is on top of Council's budgeted annual roads renewal program of \$22.5 million, and more than \$1 million in pothole filling this financial year, which is the most Council has ever spent fixing potholes.

Follow Council's progress and find out about projects near you with our Renewing Hawkesbury's Roads information hub and interactive map at www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/emergency/renewing-hawkesburys-roads



Greens Road

Greens Road

Work has been undertaken to stabilise and reconstruct Greens Road at Lower Portland at two road slip sites following the March 2021 flood. This has been a complicated and high-cost engineering task due to the extent of the damage and the challenging nature of the terrain. The road is scheduled to reopen in May, weather permitting. Final cost: **\$15 million**

Upper Colo Bridge

The replacement of the wooden bridge that was destroyed in the March 2021 flood with a new concrete bridge will be completed in May, weather permitting.

This new bridge will offer significantly improved flood and fire resilience. Final cost: **\$2.5 million**



Upper Colo Bridge

OUR ^{Local} PROJECTS



RICHMOND SWIMMING CENTRE // NORTH RICHMOND COMMUNITY CENTRE // TAMPLIN FIELD, HOBARTVILLE

Council has announced an additional five community infrastructure projects that will be built thanks to the State Government's WestInvest funding program. So far, Council has received approximately \$98 million for projects in the Hawkesbury.

Council is now preparing detailed plans for these projects and will present them to the community for feedback in the coming months. Council will partner with the community to deliver these transformative projects that will be enjoyed by residents for generations to come.

1 NORTH RICHMOND COMMUNITY CENTRE

- New library service and technology space
- Performing arts and rehearsal space with a mobile stage
- Multipurpose art studio space
- Indoor sports stadium and change rooms to support hard court sports
- Emergency evacuation centre
- Outdoor seating, shaded areas, barbecues, a shared bike path and additional parking

2 HAWKESBURY OASIS AQUATIC AND LEISURE CENTRE

- Children's splash park
- New shallow-depth program pool with accessibility ramp and hydrotherapy
- Group fitness room and climbing wall
- Additional school-age program amenities and child minding areas
- New covered deck to connect changerooms to the outdoor café
- Touchpads at the end of the main pool
- Additional carparking
- Outdoor gym

These projects are in addition to the projects announced in November 2022.

WESTINVEST



LE // HAWKESBURY OASIS AQUATIC AND LEISURE CENTRE // CYCLEWAY BRIDGE OVER RICKABYS CREEK

RICHMOND SWIMMING CENTRE // NORTH RICHMOND COMMUNITY CENTRE // TAMPLIN FIELD

3 RICHMOND SWIMMING CENTRE

- A new eight-lane 50 metre pool that can be split into two 25 metre pools – one with the ability to be enclosed during winter for year-round usage
- Accessibility upgrades for less mobile children and adults
- Interactive zero-depth splash feature park for young children
- Increased shade throughout the site
- Additional community infrastructure including picnic facilities
- Improved water efficiency upgrades to aging plant and equipment

4 TAMPLIN FIELD, HOBARTVILLE

- Two storey club house and shaded grandstand, canteen, change rooms, storage and gym
- Regulation size athletics track with rubber surfacing
- Improved field and drainage
- Car parking and lighting improvements
- Field sports facilities including discus, shotput and javelin
- Multi-use courts
- All-inclusive playspace and outdoor fitness area
- Dog training facility

5 CYCLEWAY BRIDGE OVER RICKABYS CREEK

A new crossing between the shared path from Richmond to the off-road cycleway with improved safety from Rickabys Creek to Windsor – completing the off-road cycle route between Richmond and Windsor.

See all projects at www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/for-residents/westinvest-projects

RICHMOND SWIMMING CENTRE // NORTH RICHMOND COMMUNITY CENTRE // TAMPLIN FIELD, HOBARTVILLE

~~Fires Near Me is now~~

Hazards Near Me NSW

The NSW Rural Fire Service app called Fires Near me has been changed to include other hazards and emergency alerts from the State Emergency Service such as floods. After downloading the new Hazards Near Me app from the App Store or Google Play, you can set up a 'watch zone' to receive reliable fire and flood alerts.



ACTIVE TRANSPORT PLAN

Council is preparing a new Transport Action Plan to deliver better walking and cycling connectivity throughout the Hawkesbury. Walking, cycling, and other mobility methods play a crucial role in promoting a healthy and sustainable community. The Active Transport Plan will provide mobility links throughout the Hawkesbury to connect our centres, parks and facilities. It will set the direction for the next 10 years across the Local Government Area. This project is proudly funded by the NSW Government.



DEERUBBIN PARK



Deerubbin Park at Cornwallis is a much-loved sporting and recreational space, popular for rugby competitions, triathalons, dog training and walking.

Improvements to the park were officially opened in April with a community celebration, including a free sausage sizzle by Windsor Rotary Club, as well as free face painting and activities with Hawkesbury Valley Rugby Club.

The improvements include new dedicated parking areas, a walking track, a fenced dog off-leash area, lighting and landscaping. These were identified in the park's Masterplan in 2019.

The \$1.3 million improvement program was fully funded by Council and was completed in two stages due to the 2021/2022 floods. A further \$31,000 was also spent on installing additional bollards to deter vehicle access onto the playing fields, using Council's Park Improvements Capital Funding.

Council has also received State Government funding for improvements to onsite amenities later this year.



KEEPING KIDS

SAFER ON OUR ROADS

Council has joined forces with the Little Blue Dinosaur Foundation and the University of NSW Transport and Road Safety Research Centre on an innovative program focused on keeping our kids safe around busy roads.

Tragically, land transport crashes are the leading cause of death for Australian children aged 1 to 14 (source: Australian Government). This new program will see colourful 'Hold My Hand' signs installed around 10 local childcare centres in the Hawkesbury Local Government Area, combined with parent and carer awareness research, and educational materials. The program is being rolled out across NSW, Victoria and Queensland in 2023.

The Little Blue Dinosaur Foundation is a not-for-profit organisation whose mission is to protect child pedestrians from the ever-present danger of roadways and moving motor vehicles. For more information see www.littlebluedinosaur.org

CROPS at McGraths Hill FLATS

Did you see the silage crops that were growing at the McGraths Hill Wastewater Treatment Plant? Supervisor Dale Munday and his team recently slashed the crop.

In summer, our staff grow sorghum and in winter, oats. Lucerne was trialled but is no longer grown as it does not thrive in the soil conditions. Council has been growing a range of crops for the last 12 years using wastewater. This means Council does not have to pay to dispose of the water, which is a great cost saving. These type of silage crops are suitable for dairy cattle.

The Wastewater Treatment Plant and the crops were impacted by the floods over the last few years. It's great to see crops growing there again.



ARTEXPRESS

Hawkesbury Regional Gallery | 16 June – 13 August 2023



Image: Zoe Capel, Richmond High School, The Usurpation 2022

Come along to see ARTEXPRESS! The artworks showcase the creative talent and technical skills of the previous year's Higher School Certificate Visual Arts candidates. The student works explore the young artists' many interests and concerns, including the exploration of culture, personal identity and family relationships.

The exhibitions are curated in partnership with ARTEXPRESS and the curatorial and educational staff of partnering venues.

ARTEXPRESS is a joint venture of the NSW Education Standards Authority and the NSW Department of Education, managed by the project team at The Arts Unit.



ARTEXPRESS

HAWKESBURY CITY COUNCIL DRAFT OPERATIONAL PLAN

Council is inviting community members to view Council's Draft 2023/2024 Operational Plan until 16 May at yourhawkesbury-yoursay.com.au or at Council's Administration Building, 366 George Street, Windsor, Monday to Friday from 9am to 4pm.

Have your say on the key actions, projects and initiatives Council has planned for 2023/2024. All submissions will be considered as part of the consultation process. Submissions accepted online yourhawkesbury-yoursay.com.au or via email council@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au or mail to PO Box 146 Windsor NSW, up to close of business on 16 May.

The Draft Operational Plan includes information about rates, fees and charges, Council's budget and estimated income and expenditure.



**HAWKESBURY
CITY COUNCIL**

DRAFT OPERATIONAL
PLAN 2023/2024





Hawkesbury Show 2023

Come along and see us at the 2023 Hawkesbury Show! Council will pop up at the show with great activities for everyone and a pop up park for the kids. Get free plants from the Hawkesbury Community Nursery and join in free workshops making frog hotels.

Have your say about upcoming park projects and enjoy free craft activities including badge making and carving Aboriginal designs into Hebel blocks with our Arts and Culture staff. Not only that, everyone's favourite passport activity returns with giveaways galore, so grab a passport at the Council tent and explore the emergency services zone to get all your stamps. See you there!



HAVE YOUR SAY

BMX PUMP TRACK

Council is building a new BMX pump track and bike trails at Woodbury Reserve at Glossodia as part of its masterplan for the site. Have your say on proposed designs at yourhawkesbury-yoursay.com.au by 30 April 2023.

Proudly funded by the NSW Government in association with Hawkesbury City Council.

WHAT'S ON!

HAWKESBURY LIVING SUSTAINABLY WORKSHOP SERIES

Are you looking to build your knowledge and skills in living more sustainably? 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.

Upcoming workshops can be found on the Living Sustainably section of the Council website www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/for-residents/living-sustainably/sustainability-workshops



LIBRARY | 4560 4460

Richmond Branch Library
29 West Market Street, Richmond

Hawkesbury Central Library
300 George Street, Windsor

SYDNEY WRITERS' FESTIVAL

FRIDAY, 26 MAY 6PM

Conversation with Tasmanian food writer, chef and host of The Gourmet Farmer, Matthew Evans on his latest book 'The Real Food Companion'.

\$5, free tea and coffee. BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

hawkesburylibrary.eventbrite.com or call 4560 4460.

See other Sydney Writers' Festival events from 22-28 May at www.swf.org.au



GALLERY | 4560 4441

Deerubbin Centre (top floor)
300 George Street, Windsor

TREASURES OF TRUTH WITH JODY GRAHAM

SATURDAY, 27 MAY 11AM-1PM

A workshop to make personalised treasure boxes to store individual truths, goals, and desires from daily/weekly journal notes. All materials, light refreshments included. Ages 13+. \$25 - BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

hawkesburygallery.eventbrite.com



MUSEUM | 4560 4655

Hawkesbury Regional Museum
8 Baker Street, Windsor

MUSEUM OPEN DAY

SUNDAY, 21 MAY 10AM-4PM

Celebrate the Hawkesbury Regional Museum's 15th birthday on International Museum Day with a family fun day!

Children's activities, live music, tours, food and more!

FREE - BOOKINGS RECOMMENDED hawkesburymuseum.eventbrite.com



Hawkesbury
**Community
Hubs**

Scan the
QR code for
more
information



Bowen Mountain • Wilberforce
Colo Heights • St Albans



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



Hawkesbury City Council

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