

ISSUE 1: **WINTER 2025**

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HAWKESBURY BZZ

YOUR NEW-LOOK COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



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hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au



It's an exciting time in the Hawkesbury. As one transformative city project finishes, another one is just beginning.

Windsor locals and frequent visitors will have watched as the town centre has morphed from tired concrete and bitumen, and daggy old pavers to a tree-lined and pedestrian-friendly boulevard that is even more enjoyable to visit and do business in. The finishing touches are underway in Windsor Mall and I thank all of you for your patience as well as your support for our local businesses while this important upgrade has taken place. See **pages 8-9** for more details.

In Pitt Town, the long-awaited Fernadell Park project is now underway. It may look like a lot of dirt right now, but soon this will be a thriving hub of recreation for the growing suburb and surrounds to enjoy. I can't wait to see crowds cheering on their local football and cricket teams every weekend, and local families celebrating important milestones in their brand new community centre. Turn to **pages 6-7** for details on what we are building. You can also stay up-to-date every step of the way on our social media channels, the Hawkesbury Buzz fortnightly e-newsletter or even subscribe to our dedicated Fernadell Park weekly email updates.

Our residents in the Macdonald Valley will no doubt have been watching with interest the reconstruction of Thomas James Bridge – the convict-era bridge that is the oldest on Australia's mainland. I'm pleased to say the bridge will reopen to traffic in just a few weeks! See our story on **page 5**.

This new bridge retains the important sandstone retaining wall but will be far more flood-resilient. We will be announcing a special community opening celebration soon – stay tuned!

Of course, these aren't the only projects we are working on. Our full year of commitments is outlined in our 2025/26 Operational Plan and Budget. You are invited to take the time to read the plan online, or you can see our handy breakdown on **pages 12-13**.

Mark 27-28 September 2025 in your diaries for the RAAF Richmond Air Show, it's a BIG DEAL. The two-day event is being held to celebrate 100 years since the base was established and Council is working closely with the RAAF to create a fun weekend for locals and visitors alike – see **page 4** for details. While you have your diaries out, make sure you also mark Sunday 3 August for Hawkesbury Fest and Saturday 18 October for Savour the Flavour. These are fantastic opportunities to celebrate our region and for us as a Council to connect with you.

It is an absolute privilege to serve as your Mayor during this busy time in our City's history and I look forward to being able to update you on even more important projects in coming editions.



Mayor of Hawkesbury
Councillor Les Sheather

**BEE
IN IT TO
WIN IT!**



Love your Hawkesbury Buzz community newsletter, but want even more regular news updates?

The Hawkesbury Buzz e-newsletter delivers all the important Council updates straight to your inbox every second Friday.

Sign up before Friday 9 August 2025 to go into the draw to win your choice of:

\$50

Richmond
Hotel voucher

\$50

Windsor Ten Pin
bowling voucher

\$50

Jack Little Windsor
café voucher

There will be three winners announced. Sign up today at eepurl.com/iQxHSg or scan the QR code for your chance to win and start receiving your Hawkesbury Buzz e-newsletter!

EVENTS

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SUNDAY 3 AUGUST 10AM-3PM
GOVERNOR PHILLIP PARK, WINDSOR

Hawkesbury Fest returns for 2025 at Governor Phillip Park on Sunday 3 August from 10am to 3pm.

Boasting 20 stalls from our local community partners, 19 market stalls, 15 food trucks and tents, kids activities, free face painting and emergency services display, Hawkesbury Fest is a great day out for all ages. There will also be 10 interactive and informative Council stalls from our arts and culture, major projects and community services teams and more!

Come ride The Wiggles' Big Red Car, chillax in the Youth Zone with our 360 video photo booth and art wall, enjoy the free amusement rides, or sit and listen to our acoustic performers while you eat some delicious food from food trucks or the community BBQ.

Hawkesbury Fest has something for everybody – including your family dog (on a leash of course).

From 10am there will be Sensory Hour where we keep the lights and sounds to an absolute minimum for those who may benefit from reduced sensory stimulation. There is also plenty of seating, and great quiet places to pause and reset and overlook the beautiful Hawkesbury River.

Hawkesbury Fest is part of 2025 Local Government Week. Council thanks our event partners Big Event Picnic Tables and Crowne Plaza Hawkesbury Valley and our small business sponsors.

**HAWKESBURY
FEST**
CELEBRATING LOCAL GOVERNMENT WEEK

THE BEST FEST OF ALL!

Free
Community
Festival

© Commonwealth of Australia, Department of Defence

RAAF BASE RICHMOND AIRSHOW

CELEBRATES 100 YEARS IN THE SKY

RAAF Base Richmond will be hosting an Airshow to celebrate 100 years of the base on Saturday and Sunday 27 and 28 September. This exciting event is expected to attract between 35,000 and 40,000 people each day.

Council and the Visitor Information Centre will be at the airshow for the event, to promote our beautiful region to visitors, to answer your questions and to remind everyone of our foodie event 'Savour the Flavour' coming up in Richmond on Saturday 18 October.

The Visitor Information Centre and cafe at Clarendon will be open the whole weekend and will have airforce merchandise available.

Apart from the weekend of activities at the RAAF base, Council will be celebrating our RAAF compatriots with an outdoor screening of the movie *Top Gun* on Saturday evening at Richmond Oval. Keep an eye out for more details on this event on our social channels and in the fortnightly Buzz e-newsletter (sign up on page 2).

Council's museum and gallery are also joining in the fun, with airforce-themed displays. Make sure you also take a photo with one of the photo walls or displays around Windsor and Richmond.

Local businesses will compete in a window-dressing competition and local schools are being invited to decorate an aeroplane for a prize.



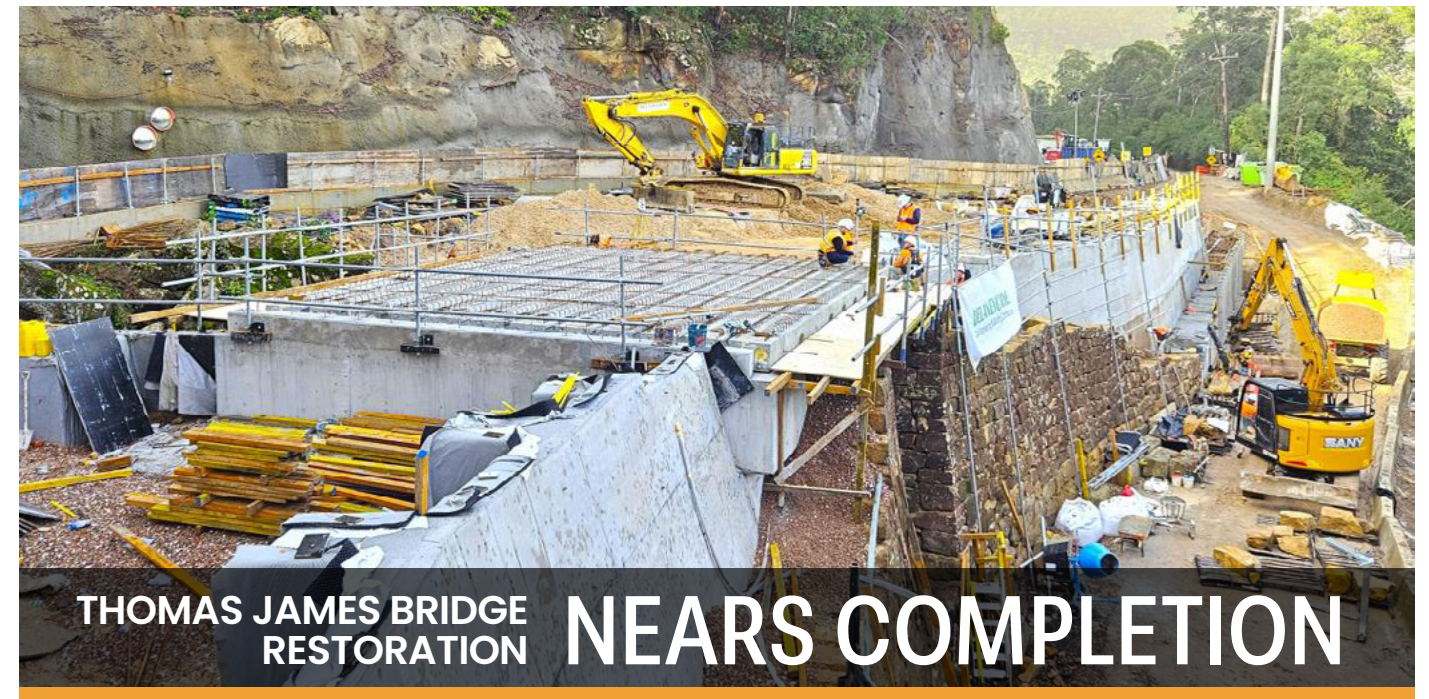
WE HOPE YOU'RE *Hungry*

Savour THE
FLAVOUR
HAWKESBURY

Saturday 18 October 2025 | 4pm-9pm
Richmond Oval, Richmond

savourtheflavour.com.au

Hawkesbury
City Council



THOMAS JAMES BRIDGE RESTORATION NEARS COMPLETION

Restoration of the Hawkesbury's historic 1830 Thomas James Bridge, between Wisemans Ferry and Lower Macdonald, is almost finished.

The remote bridge on Settlers Road as you approach Lower Macdonald from Wisemans Ferry, is the oldest still in use on the Australian mainland. It was damaged significantly during the floods in 2021 and 2022, including the near total collapse of the 8m high sandstone retaining walls supporting the bridge's abutments.

The extensive restoration has required the excavation of the site down to the bedrock to install new steel and concrete footings and drainage that will be resilient in the face of future flooding and rain events.

Its hand-cut sandstone block retaining wall – erected by convict labour – had to be carefully disassembled with each block numbered, original position recorded and placed into storage.

The project's stone masons have worked closely with the surveyor and heritage architect to carefully restore the hand-cut sandstone retaining wall. The reinstatement of the timber bridge deck will maintain the historical significance and visual characteristics of the site.

Hawkesbury City Council is managing the \$17.5 million project with funding from Federal and State Government infrastructure recovery programs.



RIVER SAFETY



WINS ANOTHER TOP AWARD!

Hawkesbury City Council was a winner at the 2025 NSW Local Government Excellence Awards, recognised for our now multi award-winning Hawkesbury River Safety Campaign.

The Hawkesbury River Safety Campaign was developed in response to drownings in the Hawkesbury River at Macquarie Park in Windsor. The multi-lingual campaign involved new safety signage with translations targeting visitors from neighbouring LGAs, and promoting safer ways to enjoy the river other than swimming.

The win follows the 2024 RH Dougherty Events and Communications Award – Excellence in Communication (population 30,000-100,000) received in August last year.



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Want to stay up to date on the progress of Fernadell Park or more of the Western Sydney Infrastructure Grants Projects? Scan the QR code or use the link to subscribe to regular updates directly to your inbox.

mailchi.mp/hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/wsig



FERNADELL PARK | WHAT IS THE VISION?

Fernadell Park in Pitt Town will be redeveloped in line with the Masterplan adopted by Council following community consultation. The park will provide the growing Pitt Town community and surrounds with much-needed passive and active recreation space.

Oct 2022

Masterplan of Management-
Fernadell Park, Pitt Town
adopted by Council

Nov 2024

Detailed design
completed

Jan 2025

Review of
environmental
factors for sports
precinct approved

CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON FERNADELL PARK SPORTS PRECINCT

Construction is officially underway on the much-anticipated Fernadell Park Sports Precinct, with works beginning on Monday, 9 June 2025. This transformative project will deliver a modern sporting and community facility to meet the needs of the growing Pitt Town population.

Mar 2025

Contract for
sports precinct
awarded

Jun 2025

Construction commenced
at sports precinct

BREAKING GROUND FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE

The official sod-turning ceremony to celebrate reaching this milestone was attended by Hawkesbury City Council Mayor Les Sheather, Councillor Peter Ryan, and Councillor Mary Lyons-Buckett along with Hawkesbury City Council staff, marking the beginning of the project.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Construction will be delivered in four stages (weather permitting), with completion expected by 30 June 2027. Once finished, the precinct will offer a wide range of facilities, including:

- Integrated soccer and cricket fields with practice nets
- Modified sports field and event space
- Multi-purpose courts for netball and basketball
- Modern amenities building with canteen, accessible toilets, and change rooms
- Kiosk and equipment storage
- Multi-age children's play area with shade sails
- Outdoor gym equipment
- Accessible pathways throughout the precinct and natural areas
- Fenced off-leash dog park
- Ample off-street parking
- Shelters with BBQs and picnic areas
- Integrated community centre (construction tender to be awarded)



WINDSOR LIVEABILITY PROJECT COMPLETE

After years of planning and a year of construction across three stages, the Windsor Liveability Project is now complete – delivering a vibrant, revitalised town centre for the Hawkesbury community.

A NEW CHAPTER FOR THE HAWKESBURY

Stretching from Windsor Train Station to Bridge Street, the transformation of George Street has brought new life to the heart of Windsor.

STAGE 1

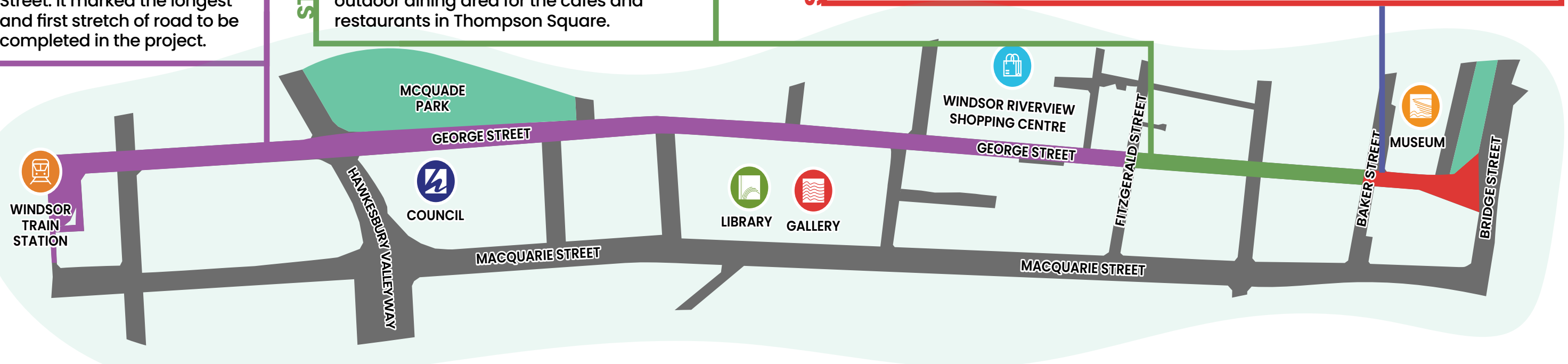
This section of the Liveability project went from Windsor Train Station to Fitzgerald Street. It marked the longest and first stretch of road to be completed in the project.

STAGE 1A

Commencing in February 2025, this section between Baker Street and Bridge Street included renewed paving and a renewed outdoor dining area for the cafés and restaurants in Thompson Square.

STAGE 2

The final piece of the puzzle was the full upgrade of Windsor Mall to revitalise this famous town centre, while maintaining its historic character and charm.



The first two stages of the project included:



- Renewed footpaths for safer, more accessible walking
- Mature tree planting to create a shady, green boulevard
- Upgraded pedestrian crossings and safety features
- Enhanced outdoor dining areas at Windsor Riverview Shopping Centre and Thompson Square
- New heritage-style street furniture
- Fresh line marking for car parking along George Street

Importantly, the upgrade honours Windsor's rich history. Key heritage elements have been preserved, including:

- The largest Gas Lamp network in Australia
- Windsor's iconic water wheel, rotunda, Wisteria tree, post boxes, and clock
- Reused sandstone from the original mall paving

This \$18.75 million Liveability Project was funded by Hawkesbury City Council and the Australian and NSW governments through the Western Sydney City Deal's Western Parkland City Liveability Program. The Western Sydney City Deal is a partnership between the Australian Government, NSW Government and eight Western Parkland City Councils to deliver initiatives that improve the prosperity, sustainability, and liveability of the Western Parkland City community.

The final stage focused on Windsor Mall, which underwent a rapid two-month upgrade program starting in May 2025. The mall now features:



- New paving that matches the rest of George Street
- Lush garden beds with shrubs and mature trees including Crepe Myrtles, Eumundi Quandong, and Cimmarron Ash
- Engraved Name Pavers purchased by local residents
- New heritage-style furniture
- Improved sightlines to the heritage buildings throughout the mall



Additional support came from the NSW Government's \$1.244 million Greening Our Cities grant, which funded the planting of established trees across the town centre.

Join us for the official opening of Windsor Mall on Sunday, 10 August!

For more details, visit or scan the QR code:
yourhawkesbury-yoursay.com.au/lptc



Waste Collection Days

Waste Guide

Discover our Waste Guide

You can find a quick link to our handy waste guide on Council's homepage.

Once there you can: check which bins go out each week and check what can and can't go into your recycling. For instance, searching for broken glass shows it needs to go into the red lidded bin which goes into landfill. Egg cartons can be recycled (yellow lid) but takeaway coffee cups and lids go into the red bin. What about plastic detergent bottles? They can go into your yellow recycling bin.

If your waste item did not appear or you have a tricky question about reducing, reusing or recycling, you can consult a waste expert!

See the Waste Guide at
data.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/pages/waste-dashboard
 or scan the QR code.



Q How can I dispose of these items?

Batteries  **Not for household bins**

Paint (household)

Cardboard (boxes, egg cartons & containers) – household

Timber  **Small amounts in household bins only**

Additional Household General Waste (with NO recyclables)

Well I better find out
 when the next chemical
 cleanout event is then...



Adopt a
best mate
 TODAY

hawkesburycas.com.au



BURNT INTO MEMORY

7 June - 17 August

The Black Summer bushfires were just over five years ago but for many they are burnt into memory.

Hawkesbury Regional Gallery is presenting a major exhibition of the same name until mid-August. Three years in the making, *Burnt into Memory* features works by 14 artists living and working within the Hawkesbury and Blue Mountains regions.

Photographic works by artists such as Freya Jobbins and Katherine Boland will be shown alongside large sculptural pieces by Wona Bae and Charlie Lawler, dynamic works on paper from Jody Graham and Gary Shinfield, and immersive paintings from Laura Jones and Dharug woman Leanne Tobin, among others.

The exhibition will also showcase Hawkesbury City Council's newly commissioned film *Dancing with the Devil*. Funded through the Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grants Program and produced by award-winning journalists Sarah Allely and Bill Code (Wedgetail Pictures), the film navigates the impact of the Gospers Mountain fire on local communities.



20 YEARS OF DEERUBBIN



BUT IT FEELS LIKE YESTERDAY

Council has just celebrated 20 years since the opening of the Deerubbin Centre in Windsor.

The building, which is home to the central library and art gallery, has welcomed more than 2.8 million people through its doors in that time and is a beloved hub for creativity, culture and community spaces.

As the building was about to open, in June 2005, the new space was welcomed with a massive human conveyor belt when more than 400 people came together to pass the final resources, one-by-one, from the old Windsor Library on Dight Street to the new Deerubbin Building.

Joy Shepherd (pictured) told us via social media she was there with Val Birch, representing Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society. She described it as "a symbolic day!"

Lesley George said via socials: "A lifetime ago but it feels like yesterday!"

The art gallery has just had a lighting upgrade to create a more modern, energy-efficient system that not only ensures a stunning display of exhibitions but also helps conserve precious artworks for generations to come.

The library will also be improved with a new Digital Hub which will offer community members access to specialist computer equipment and improved technology.

We'll be celebrating the Deerubbin Building in a family-friendly event on Friday 14 November, from 3-8pm. Drop by and enjoy exhibitions featuring artworks by local artists, live music, and free activities suitable for all ages in the library and gallery. To learn more, sign up to the library and gallery e-newsletters:

hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/library/whats-on/connect

You can learn more about the Deerubbin Building's history in the 2005 commemorative booklet:
tinyurl.com/2srfn7a9

WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?



IN COUNCIL
RESERVES
\$20M

ROADS AND
DRAINAGE

\$89.4M

STRATEGIC
PLANNING

\$6.1M

REGULATION AND
COMMUNITY
SAFETY

\$3.1M

PUBLIC SPACES,
PARKS, SPORTS
AND RECREATION

\$36.0M

CORPORATE
SERVICES

\$5.5M

WASTE
MANAGEMENT

\$41.4M

COMMUNITY
AND CULTURE

\$43.3M

DEPRECIATION

\$31.5M

GRANTS AND
CONTRIBUTIONS

\$102.3M

USER
CHARGES
AND FEES

\$9.7M

INTEREST ON
INVESTMENTS

\$4.1M

RATES AND
ANNUAL CHARGES

\$89.5M

SALE OF ASSETS

\$2.1M

OTHER
REVENUE

\$5.6M

WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?

“ Council’s budgeted expenditure of \$224.8 million is the second largest in our history ”

ROAD REHABILITATION AND UPGRADES

St Albans Rd, St Albans	\$6,779,000
Tennyson Rd, Tennyson	\$820,000
Spinks Rd, Freemans Reach	\$720,000
Old Pitt Town Rd, Oakville	\$670,000
Hanckel Rd, Oakville	\$470,000
Freemans Reach Rd, Freemans Reach	\$620,000
Scheyville Rd, Scheyville	\$378,000
Sanctuary Dr, Windsor Downs	\$652,000
Boundary Rd, Vineyard	\$30,000
Cornwallis Rd, Cornwallis	\$5,000,000
Road Resealing Program	\$1,200,000
Minor Road Rehabilitation Program	\$800,000
Road Rehabilitation Program	\$8,074,000

BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS

North Richmond Community Precinct and Evacuation Centre	\$5,400,000
Hawkesbury Oasis and Fitness Centre Improvements	\$680,448
Deerubbin Park Sporting Amenities	\$850,000
Women’s Cottage Extension	\$640,000

PUBLIC DOMAIN, OPEN SPACES AND RECREATION

Fernadell Park	\$8,500,000
Woodbury Reserve	\$3,960,000
Howe Park, The Terrace	\$200,000
Ham Common Playspace	\$150,000
Bligh Park Playground	\$250,000
Lions Park, Richmond Playspace Upgrade	\$350,000
Richmond Lawn Cemetery	\$105,600

ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABILITY AND OTHER WORKS

Waste Management Facility Leachate System and Cell Construction	\$1,500,000
Urban Tree Inventory Mapping	\$100,000
CCTV Stormwater Inspections	\$250,000
Emergency Services Contribution	\$1,600,000



2025–2026 OPERATIONAL PLAN

HOW ARE WE BUILDING YOUR HAWKESBURY?

Read the full plan at hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au, select ‘Your Council’ then ‘Corporate Publications’.



HEARTS OF GOLD (AND GREEN) 2026 Hawkesbury Australia Day Awards

Do you know someone who is committed to our community, selfless and just mucks in and helps!

Nominations are now open for the Hawkesbury's 2026 Australia Day Awards – and it's the perfect opportunity to nominate someone you know who has a heart of gold and makes a difference in our community – no matter how big or small.

It could be through volunteer work, cheering others up with a cuppa, mowing lawns or inspiring our future leaders. There are categories for individuals and groups – and a posthumous award for someone who's left an indelible mark even after they've gone.

Last year's Australia Day Citizen of the Year, business consultant Sarah Cassim, has inspired hundreds of women through her Hawkesbury Women in Business group, which now has over 1000 members.

She says Australia Day is about honouring the contributions of individuals and communities who work tirelessly to make Australia a better place. *"For me, it's also a chance to take stock of the values that shape our unique Hawkesbury identity like compassion, inclusivity and resilience."*



"What inspires me most about the Hawkesbury is its heart. It's a place where people genuinely care about one another and come together to face challenges. The sense of community here is unique - there's a real spirit of helping a mate and collaboration, and that fuels the passion for community-building. The sheer strength and resilience of the Hawkesbury people should never be understated."

Sarah says being acknowledged for her work is absolutely humbling. *"It's not just a personal achievement but a reflection of the incredible community I'm fortunate to be a part of. I'm incredibly grateful for this recognition and the support I've received along the way."*

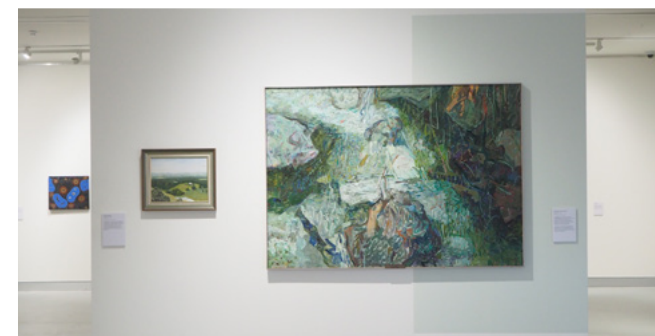
Let us know about someone special now. The award categories are: Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year, Community Organisation of the Year, Sports Person of the Year, Local Hero Award, Environmental Award, Arts and Culture Award, Commemorative Plaque (Posthumous Award).

Find out more at: hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/link/nominateyourmate by Sunday 17 September 2025.



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.



Upgraded lighting at Hawkesbury Regional Gallery is energy efficient and helps conserve the artworks.



More than 350 young people turned out for Youth Fest 2025 in April.



More than 300 books were sold at Hawkesbury Central Library's Vintage, Rare and Collectable Book Sale



Council is seeking heritage listing of 17 slab barns, nine to share in \$121,000 in Local Heritage Assistance funding



Riverbank slips at Howe Park, The Terrace and Governor Phillip Park were repaired thanks to NSW Government Community Local Infrastructure Recovery Package funding



A new lift has opened at Council's Administration Centre, improving accessibility for staff and visitors



The Cornwallis Road and Drainage Culvert Remediation project is underway



20 new citizens pledged their loyalty to Australia at our citizenship ceremony in June



WHAT'S ON IN THE LIBRARY MUSEUM GALLERY

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

TECH SAVVY SENIORS

THURSDAY 10, 17, 24, 31 JULY | 10:30AM – 12:30PM

Are you, or do you know, a senior wanting to gain more confidence in using everyday technology?

Join Hawkesbury Central Library, Windsor for the new series of Tech Savvy Seniors: Health, Home & Help. These workshops will share how to access health services, manage home technologies, and find helpful resources online.

A NSW Government initiative in partnership with Telstra.

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



Tech Savvy Seniors

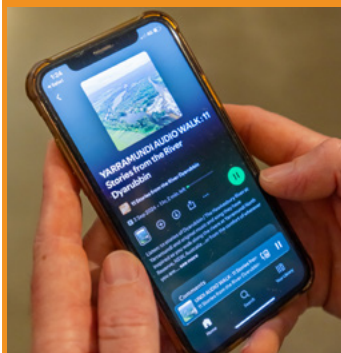
A NSW Government initiative
in partnership with Telstra



MUSEUM

4560 4655

Hawkesbury Regional Museum
8 Baker Street, Windsor



11 STORIES FROM THE RIVER DYARUBBIN

AUDIO WALKS AVAILABLE FOR STREAMING

The 11 Stories from the River Dyarubbin self-guided audio walks are now available for streaming on Youtube, Spotify and Apple Podcasts.

11 Stories from the River Dyarubbin is a collaborative work led by composer and producer Oonagh Sherrard, with input from more than 80 participants – including Dharug Knowledge Holders, locals, experts, students, creatives and organisations.

WINNER of the 2024 IMAGInE Award – Engagement Program – Small Organisation

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



GALLERY

4560 4441

Deerubbin Centre (top floor)
300 George Street, Windsor

BURNT INTO MEMORY

7 JUNE – 17 AUGUST

Burnt into Memory explores the complex impact of the 2019–2020 Black Summer Bushfires on individuals and communities within the context of reflection, healing, resilience and forward momentum.

The exhibition includes works from artists living and working in the Hawkesbury and Blue Mountains regions and beyond, made in the aftermath of the fires.

This project has received grant funding from the Australian Government.

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



WINTER SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

WINTER SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

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

We have a brilliant lineup of activities including juggling workshops, archaeology digs, eco-art making and more to keep the kids entertained across the Library, Museum and Gallery.



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



Hawkesbury City Council

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