



*The Preston Report*

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Member for Hawkesbury



# HAWKESBURY REBUILDS AFTER FLOOD EMERGENCY

We are still recovering from the worst flooding in Hawkesbury since 1990, peaking at 12.9 metres at Windsor.

The waters have subsided, but the heartache caused by the wreckage, loss of life and livelihoods will take longer to heal.

The cleanup is underway. Resilience NSW has assessed more than 9,000 residential structures for damage across NSW, with Hawkesbury enduring the brunt. Roads and infrastructure are being repaired by local authorities. Although Bells Line of Road has been partially re-opened, repairs will be ongoing for several months.

There has been support for accommodation, cleanup, mental health, financial assistance and advice about insurance.

Like the bushfires we endured not long ago, we will get through this together.

I am reminded yet again of the volunteer spirit of our community and our ability to rise to meet this challenge.

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# THE LONG CLEANUP BEGINS



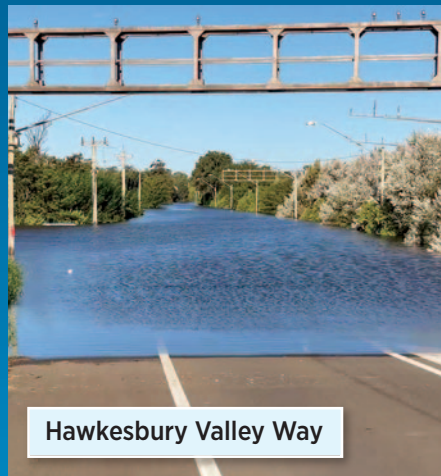
Windsor



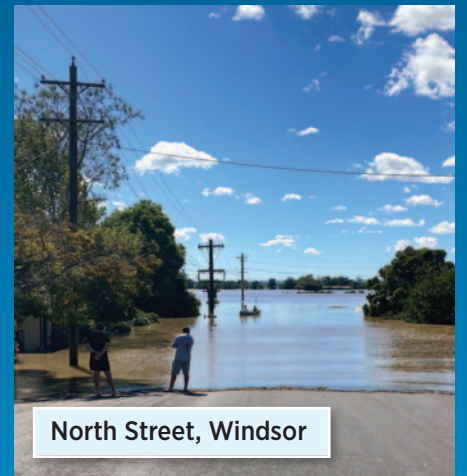
Cornwallis Road



View from Streeton Lookout



Hawkesbury Valley Way



North Street, Windsor



Wrecked caravans at Sackville



Tebbutt's Observatory reduced to an island



River Road



Caravan park debris



Debris beside the river



Yarramundi Bridge



Bathurst Street, Pitt Town



The Terrace, Windsor



Macquarie Street, Windsor

## LOCAL HEROES RALLY TO HELP



*Peter Jones from Hawkesbury SES describes the emergency response to the Deputy Premier, John Barilaro*



*The Premier thanks volunteers from Hawkesbury Red Cross and Anglicare*



*Minister Coustauce with Rob Pirina from Glenorie Bakery who donated 800kg of baked goods by helicopter*



*Ricky from IGA got food supplies to Kurrajong HTS*



*Minister Coustauce with Adrian Acheson of Wisemans Ferry Men's Shed*



*Transport for NSW staff at Sackville Ferry Wharf*



*Anglicare volunteers at Richmond Club Evacuation Centre*



*Margie Pratt coordinated food relief at Wisemans Ferry Bowling Club*



*Woolworths donated 25 pallets of food supplies*



*With Barry Roberts, President of the Wisemans Ferry Bowling Club*



*General Sir Peter Cosgrove visited to promote BizRebuild*



*Fiona & Nathan Germaine coordinated donations from Woolworths for stranded communities at Bilpin and Wilberforce*

## NSW GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES MULTI-AGENCY STRIKE FORCE FOR CLEANUP

The multi-agency recovery strike force mobilised by the NSW Government is continuing in its work with flood affected communities. Councils, organisations and the Australian Government are progressing the mammoth cleanup. Comprising elements of the ADF, SES, RFS, Fire and Rescue, the strike force has deployed over 4,500 personnel and completed over 3,000 tasks including cleaning, removing debris and waste and clearing access to affected sites. The ADF alone has removed 900 tonnes of waste, cleared 170km of roads and helped hundreds of residents.

All flood affected households, primary producers, businesses and not-for-profit organisations will be helped regardless of insurance status. Council costs associated with the removal and disposal of waste will be met by the NSW Government. People in need of help are encouraged to call the Disaster-care hotline on **13 77 88**.



## \$219,000 ROAD SAFETY PROGRAM



Both NSW and Australian Government funds will combine to make three stretches of road in Hawkesbury safer, which are designed to save lives, reduce road trauma and boost the economy.

These Hawkesbury projects funded under the Road Safety Program include:

- **Bells Line of Road, North Richmond** – shoulder widening, curve alignment markers and wide centreline treatment
- **Bells Line of Road, Kurrajong Heights** – at approximately 400-500m west of Stone Terrace – installation of Vehicle Activated Signs
- **Macquarie Street, Ross Street and Kable Street intersection, Windsor** – proposed upgrade to signalised pedestrian crossing and traffic control signals, giving more time for pedestrians to cross the intersection safely



## \$5.47 MILLION BOOST FOR LOCAL JOBS AND HOUSING

Construction has commenced on a housing renewal project in Hawkesbury that will deliver 15 new social homes and support 27 jobs while bolstering local spending on businesses and trades.

The project at Sunnyside Crescent, North Richmond is one of about 50 projects being delivered under the NSW Government's \$400 million Fast Track Housing Construction Package, to help boost economic recovery from COVID-19 in local communities throughout the State.

The project will see four ageing properties replaced and transformed into modern homes, comprising thirteen two-bedroom townhouses and two one-bedroom villas, both of which will be capable of being adapted for wheelchair access.

## \$1.68 MILLION FOR BUSHFIRE AFFECTED COMMUNITIES



The NSW Government and the Australian Government are working together to co-fund recovery in the bushfire affected communities of Bilpin, Colo Heights and the St Albans/Macdonald Valley area.

Under the Local Economic Recovery Program, Hawkesbury Council will receive **\$1.68 million** to invest in recreation parks and sporting facilities.

I joined Mayor of Hawkesbury Cllr Patrick Conolly at Bilpin to announce this significant funding boost. Our bushfire affected areas will continue to recover with the support of Federal, State and Local Governments working together. My thanks to the Australian Government and in particular **Senator the Honourable Marise Payne** for this generous support.

# HAWKESBURY SHOWGROUND GETS **\$2.66M** UPGRADE



The dogged work of Hawkesbury District Agricultural Association has resulted in multiple grants being secured for a new pavilion and events space, refurbishment of stables and roads, an improved amenities block, seating, safety fencing, electrical upgrades, drainage and guttering improvements. The work will be a boon to tradies, offering local work. The grants come from the NSW Government's Crown Reserve Improvement Fund and from COVID stimulus measures.

## GOVERNMENTS JOIN FORCES FOR NEW BOAT RAMP AT WISEMANS FERRY



The NSW Government has provided \$2.15M, joining with The Hills Shire Council (\$1.5M) and Hornsby Shire Council (\$200K) to fund a new three lane boat ramp, which will make river access easier.

Along with new parking facilities, this investment will be a huge improvement and will attract both locals and tourists to this iconic location.

# LOCATION CONFIRMED FOR ROUSE HILL HOSPITAL

The NSW Government has announced the site for the Rouse Hill Hospital, to be built on the north-eastern side of Windsor Road near Commercial Road.

This site will ensure ideal transport and road links for Western Sydney's growing population – only 200 metres from Rouse Hill Station.

It offers better access and allows for more land use opportunities compared with the previously announced site and will ably meet the future health needs of Northwestern Sydney.

The site acquisition process is underway and construction will start in this term of Government, prior to March 2023. The NSW Government has committed \$10.7 billion in health infrastructure investment across the state over the last four years. Since 2011, the NSW Government has completed more than 150 health related capital projects.



# GREYHOUND RACING ENTERS NEW CHAPTER AT RICHMOND

I joined the Minister for Better Regulation Kevin Anderson MP and Greyhound Racing New South Wales CEO Tony Mestrov at the opening of a new 324 metre straight track at the Richmond Greyhound Race Club on Londonderry Road.

This straight track is the first in NSW and is part of a raft of measures intended to improve greyhound welfare.

A battery operated lure and the 'IsoLynx' microchipping system delivers data relating to the dogs' heart and stress levels, improving animal welfare outcomes. Greyhound racing is now overseen by the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission.

Western Sydney is the heart of Greyhound racing in NSW and this new straight track is a first in NSW and it's right on Hawkesbury's doorstep.

It's a big win for local trainers, patrons and the many racing dogs who will benefit from increased safety at the track.



## SENIORS WEEK RECOGNISES COMMUNITY HIGH ACHIEVERS



NSW Seniors Festival week got off to a wonderful start with a concert and award presentation for cherished local seniors.

I was honoured to have the Minister for Seniors, Dr Geoff Lee MP join me and an appreciative crowd for a toe-tapping performance by the wonderfully talented NSW Police Band featuring vocalist Belinda Parsons.

The event was about recognising some of the significant Hawkesbury citizens who have excelled in serving our community through the Hawkesbury Seniors Week Awards.

My thanks to Chief Inspector Garry Sims APM for his work in organising the event and the generosity of Richmond Club.

## FUNDING BOOST FOR LOCAL SPORTS

Hawkesbury sporting organisations have received a major boost with the announcement of the Local Sports Grant Program by the NSW Government.

Hats off to The Hon. Dr Geoff Lee, Minister for Sport, for his support of Hawkesbury sport groups, including:

- **Hawkesbury Hornets BMX Club** – \$9,000 for new start gate
- **Hawkesbury Cricket Club** – \$9,000 for storage and amenities improvement
- **Hawkesbury Baseball Club** – \$9,000 for irrigation
- **Richmond Club Limited** – \$6,000 for hosting seniors PGA tournament and construction of dam walls
- **Lowland Wanderers Soccer Club** – \$5,000 for amenities upgrade
- **Sydney Off Road Racing Association** – \$4,000 for communications equipment
- **Hawkesbury Canoe Classic Association** – \$3,000 for race event
- **Toyosports Car Club Of NSW** – \$3,000 for new equipment and training
- **Windsor Swim Club** – \$2,500 for uniforms
- **Swimwest Swimming Club** – \$2,500 for uniforms
- **Wisemans Ferry Bowling Club** – \$2,000 for new rink scoreboards
- **Windsor Bowling Club Co-operative** – \$2,000 for new synthetic grass matting
- **Glenorie Horse and Pony Club** – \$2,000 for equestrian training
- **Glossodia Football Club** – \$1,000 for pop up gazebos
- **Hawkesbury and District Basketball Association** – \$1,000 for training
- **Windsor Polo Club** – \$1,000 for irrigation upgrade

This funding will get local sports group projects up and running.

# Out and about in Hawkesbury



14 GIVE Day with Minister for Mental Health Brounie Taylor and the Abdallah family



RFS Awards with Deputy Premier John Barilaro



Clean-Up Australia Day, South Windsor



Bilpin Shale Cap Forest project launch



Stephanie from Colo-High School visits Parliament



Honouring Oakville RFS veteran, Peter Speet with Resilience NSW Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons



At Graffiti Removal Day with Windsor Rotary



Admiring Nina's Pre-loved goods, South Windsor



Gabriella Lupi, winning artist for the Hawkesbury Christmas Card Competition



Town Centre Renewal Funding



\$4,500 for Windsor District Baptist Church Train Fethlers Shed



Meeting with Richmond RSL Sub-Brauch Committee

## NEW CITIZENS AND AWARDS FOR AUSTRALIA DAY



Hawkesbury's Citizenship Ceremony on Australia Day brought together people from many countries, and the Australia Day Awards recognised people and organisations who serve and inspire us.

Congratulations to Citizen of the Year David Ryan, along with many others, including Volunteer of the Year, Suzi Samuel (pictured).

## 2021 HAWKESBURY WOMAN OF THE YEAR



The NSW Women of the Year awards were celebrated at a breakfast and I was able to congratulate Hawkesbury's 2021 Woman of the Year, Dennise Williams. I attended with her to applaud many outstanding NSW Women with Premier Gladys Berejiklian, Minister for Women, Bronnie Taylor MLC and Members of Parliament.

Dennise is from Glenorie and has devoted years to her community as P&C President of Glenorie Public School, whilst balancing a career in accountancy. She's helped raise \$148K and secured government funding to renovate a building for before and after school care, supporting over 100 families in the community. The P&C purchased 100 laptops for students and teachers, playground equipment, a soccer field with artificial grass, a gymnastic program and new furniture for the library. Well done, Dennise and colleagues!



*Honouring those who serve*

I addressed the Hawkesbury District National Service Association's Memorial Service at Ham Common, Richmond, to honour and remember our former National Servicemen.

I reflected on a veteran very close to me – John Harold Preston, my father-in-law. He was an 18-year-old from Western Sydney when he enlisted. I was proud to tell his story of heroism, as a typical young Aussie who joined the Royal Australian Airforce in 1944 and became entwined in Operation Oboe, the campaign to liberate Borneo.

### *Robyn's Recipe*

## ANZAC BISCUITS

#### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 cup rolled oats
- 1 ½ tablespoons golden syrup
- 1 cup self-raising flour
- ½ cup butter
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon bicarbonate of soda
- ¾ cup coconut
- 2 tablespoons of boiling water

#### METHOD:

Preheat oven to 160° (slow oven).

Line two baking trays with baking paper or grease the trays.

In a large mixing bowl, combine oats, flour, sugar and coconut and mix with a wooden spoon.

Melt syrup and butter together in a bowl in the microwave, or in a saucepan, then remove from heat.

In a separate small bowl, mix bicarbonate of soda and boiling water together and then add these two ingredients to the melted syrup and butter. Stir with a spoon and watch the mixture get frothy.

Add these combined ingredients to the dry ingredients, mixing thoroughly with the wooden spoon until all ingredients are moist and a little sticky.

Using a teaspoon, spoon out a heaped teaspoon of mixture per biscuit onto the baking trays.

Allow space in between each portion for the biscuits to expand.

Cook for 12 to 15 minutes depending on your oven. You will make approximately 25-30 delicious biscuits which probably won't last long because their aroma makes them irresistible.