

WELCOME TO **RICHMOND & GLENBROOK**



ANNUAL GUIDE 2024 **RAAF BASE RICHMOND & RAAF BASE GLENBROOK**

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History, operational units
and community

FAMILY ESSENTIALS
Services, housing, health
and education

LIFESTYLE
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and activities

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A C-130J Hercules taxi's out for a mission at RAAF Base Richmond.
PHOTO: SGT David Gibbs.

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WELCOME TO RICHMOND & GLENBOOK



SARAH MCMAHON

Mayor, Hawkesbury City Council

AS MAYOR OF HAWKESBURY, it is my pleasure to welcome you and your family to our beautiful region. As fate would have it, I have been in your situation, with my own military family posted to RAAF Base Richmond when I was 10 years old. I therefore appreciate that this can be a unique and challenging time as you adjust to a new community.

Having lived in this area ever since, I can categorically attest that it is a warm and welcoming place, with a rich indigenous and colonial history, a vital agriculture and farming sector, a thriving equine industry, a large number of volunteer community groups and a suite of

small businesses within our towns and villages. The Hawkesbury is also a beautiful and aesthetic area, showcasing pristine mountains and valleys with, of course, our iconic Hawkesbury River flowing throughout the district.

As Defence personnel, should you require any assistance relating to Hawkesbury City Council, or our community in general, please do not hesitate to contact me on sarah.mcmahon@hawkesburycouncillor.com.au. As the daughter of a veteran, I sincerely appreciate and value your service to our nation and hope that you quickly grow to love this magnificent part of Australia.



ROBYN PRESTON

State Member for Hawkesbury

I AM HONOURED TO WELCOME YOU to RAAF Base Richmond. I have a deep association and affection for the Defence Force, having worked for a decade with Defence (Army).

I know it is sometimes quite an upheaval having to relocate to a new area, so getting to understand the flavour of the community can take time.

The advantage you have in this area is the great respect I and many in the Hawkesbury electorate have for our Defence personnel.

The Hawkesbury community has a sense of pride with RAAF Base Richmond being the first

base for logistics and transportation in NSW. The community recognises the economic, social, employment and goodwill links the base provides and much history and trust has been earned.

One of the rewarding opportunities of my role is to connect and support the RAAF personnel. The RAAF base is also home to the *Marie Bashir* LAT, named in honour of the former Governor of NSW – a first for Australia and fitting that the base is its custodian.

My office will always welcome you on 02 4578 0300, hawkesbury@parliament.nsw.gov.au or visit my website robynpreston.com.au.



SUSAN TEMPLEMAN

Federal Member for Macquarie

IT IS AN ENORMOUS PLEASURE and privilege to welcome you to RAAF Bases Richmond and Glenbrook.

Our community recognises your service to the nation and I hope you will feel welcomed as you establish your lives here.

Our schools, local groups and businesses all appreciate the important role played by the bases and we are a more vibrant area for having so many of you living in our midst.

I am honoured to represent so many of our ADF personnel and have a keen interest in issues faced by servicemen and women and the

civilian workforce and your families. Please feel free to get in touch with me and my office with any issues you may have.

If this is your first Richmond or Glenbrook posting, you will soon realise you are in one of the most beautiful parts of the country. From the sandy beaches of the Hawkesbury River to the Blue Mountains National Park, there are spectacular outdoor experiences.

It is a real honour to represent you and your family in the Australian Parliament while you are posted here and I hope this soon feels like home. susantempleman.com.au



**WING COMMANDER
TODD YURKOWSKI**

Senior Australian Defence Force Officer,
RAAF Base Richmond, Commanding Officer
22SQN, 96WG, Combat Support Group

IN 2024, I WILL BEGIN MY SECOND CONSECUTIVE YEAR as CO 22SQN and will assume the role of Senior Australian Defence Force Officer at RAAF Base Richmond. It is my honour serving this community in these dual roles.

For those new to this base, welcome, and for those remaining or returning, welcome back. RAAF Base Richmond not only plays an essential role in sustaining our nation's security but also in supporting the Australian community and our international partners across the wider Indo-Pacific region. Though people have changed in my time at RAAF Base Richmond, the importance of our broader mission remains.

Recent announcements, heralding the arrival of a new and larger fleet of C-130J Hercules aircraft secures the future of Richmond for many decades to come. More aircraft brings infrastructure, maintenance and workforce challenges that RAAF Base Richmond is now working hard to overcome. The community on this base face challenges together, so I know that our Australian Defence Force members, Australian Public Service employees, industry partners and our families will be prepared to support each other through these challenges.

Though we look to uncertain strategic and geopolitical times, the need for us to come together, and be ready to face whatever challenges may arise, has never been more important. I ask you all to look for opportunities to make this base a better place for your colleagues, mates and families, just like a mini-

community. Our messes and social clubs are an important part of our traditions and history, and the ability for members and their families to come together in a safe and supportive environment is a critical enabler to our ability to sustain ourselves in challenging and demanding situations. I encourage you to play an active part in the messes and clubs, and to make them what you want them to be.

This base remains an important part of the community and the community is important to us. I will continue to seek opportunities for RAAF Base Richmond to enhance our reputation as an important part of the Hawkesbury and wider Sydney community. We will continue to foster deep bonds, so we are there for each other whenever a need arises.

As Defence members, the Australian Government requires you to be personally and professionally prepared to respond to various requirements and tasks, which could involve short notice deployments for extended periods, into difficult and challenging environments. The various units and organisations on base are positioned to support those missions but are there to work together jointly in a mutually supportive manner.

I seek your support to make RAAF Base Richmond work harmoniously as an inclusive community and rely on the heads of resident units and their people to work together for the overall good of the nation as we look forward in 2024.



GPCAPT GREGORY JERVIS

Senior Australian Defence Force Officer,
RAAF Glenbrook and Orchard Hills

AS YOUR SENIOR AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE OFFICER on base, I extend a warm welcome to all of you who are new to RAAF Glenbrook and a hearty welcome back to those of you returning to our beautiful Blue Mountains home. I sincerely hope that you and your family come to love the leafy location and all that it offers.

RAAF Glenbrook is located in the foothills of the NSW Blue Mountains, an hour by train from Sydney, 30 minutes from Parramatta and only 10 minutes from Penrith. To the west we have some of the most amazing scenery and walks.

RAAF Glenbrook has had a long and proud history in the town of Glenbrook, dating back to 1949, when the Commonwealth acquired the property and in 1950 when facilities were occupied by RAAF Eastern Command. We boast a number of notable building – of greatest significance is the Officers' Mess, which dates back to the 1870s. During the 1920s the building became the magnificent Lapstone Hill Hotel. The restored buildings and grounds remain unaltered from the turn of the century. The Officers' Mess has recently undergone

substantial refurbishment throughout 2020, however the immense charm and atmosphere has been retained.

RAAF Glenbrook is home of Headquarters Air Command. This is an operationally focused Headquarters supporting the Air Commander Australia in the planning, coordinating and generating of Air Power for the Integrated Defence Force. RAAF Glenbrook also hosts elements from various specialised ADF units.

RAAF Glenbrook is not like any other base. Due to the nature of our work and facilities, we often host local and international delegations and conferences and we enjoy the opportunities to build a strong sense of Defence and international community.

Regardless of how long your posting is to RAAF Glenbrook, don't forget that while operating in a high tempo, dynamic and rewarding environment, to enjoy the sights and become a part of our vibrant community. RAAF Glenbrook has much to offer to Defence personnel and their families.

So, welcome! And please take the time to enjoy the benefits our local area has to offer.



↑ The flight line at RAAF Base Richmond.



A PROUD HISTORY

A proud part of the Hawkesbury and wider Sydney community, RAAF Base Richmond's roots in the area extend more than a century, and today it continues to provide an important role for Defence.

HOLDING THE DISTINCTION of being the Air Force's second oldest base, RAAF Base Richmond is located within the City of Hawkesbury, between Windsor and Richmond, and remains home to the RAAF's transport headquarters, Air Mobility Group.

Its origins began with Parramatta dentist William Hart in 1912, who took off in his self-made monoplane from a patch of land in the Hawkesbury known as Ham Common.

An early aviation enthusiast, Hart's flights thrilled the largely rural communities of Richmond and Windsor, but even he couldn't have imagined the aviation legacy to follow.

In September 1912, a serious flying accident hospitalised William Hart and curbed his flying days in the Hawkesbury, however his efforts had sparked the imagination of others.

The outbreak of war in Europe in 1914 led to the establishment of a State Government-sponsored school in 1916. Graduates from the Flying School would either join the Australian Flying Corps at Point Cook in Melbourne, or be shipped to the Royal Flying Corps in Europe.

THE FORMATION OF THE RAAF

The flying school at Ham Common was disbanded following the war, but the facilities that remained caught the attention of the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) when it first formed as an independent service in March 1921.

The RAAF originated at RAAF Base Point Cook in Melbourne, but the need for a second base — located in Sydney — was quickly discerned.

Senior Officers in the RAAF judged that a new base in Sydney couldn't be located near the coast, due to the risk (at the time) of a naval bombardment. The base, however, still needed to be within flying distance of the sea so as to allow for cooperation with the Royal Australian Navy. The new base needed to be located close to major road and rail links that would connect it with local industry, but also required enough open space for pilots to fly without endangering the public.

The Ham Common site between Richmond and Windsor matched the requirements perfectly. As it was located adjacent to Windsor Road and the Richmond train line, it had suitable transport links to Sydney, plus it had existing aviation facilities from World War I.

RAAF Base Richmond was formed on 30 June 1925, and the first biplanes — belonging to No.3 Squadron — arrived from RAAF Base Point Cook.

HOW THE BASE EVOLVED

With aviation still largely in its infancy in the 1920s and 1930s, the role of the Air Force was largely to work in direct support of the Army and Navy — but the best means of doing this was still being explored.

That ranged from tasks such as reconnaissance, aerial spotting of artillery and naval bombardment, although the RAAF did conduct some experiments in aviation from Richmond, including the first use of parachutes in Australia in 1927.

Among the RAAF biplanes flying over the Hawkesbury were a number of aviation pioneers on trailblazing flights, including Sir Charles Kingsford Smith, Amy Johnson and Jean Batten. →

A bust of Sir Charles Kingsford Smith, created by Sydney artist Enid Fleming and presented to the base by her son Dr Lawrence Sayer in 2018, can be found in the Officers' Mess.

RAAF Base Richmond's relationship with Sydney was further consolidated with the establishment of a 'Citizens Air Force' unit, No.22 Squadron, in 1936. It remains today a key part of RAAF Base Richmond's airbase operations and reserve personnel support.

As war clouds darkened in Europe during the late 1930s, RAAF Base Richmond underwent considerable expansion, including construction of the present-day Officers' Mess and Commander's residences.

With the outbreak of World War II in September 1939, a number of flying squadrons at RAAF Base Richmond were dispatched to Europe and the Middle East.

When the war came to the Pacific in December 1941, RAAF Base Richmond found itself a major centre of aircraft maintenance and repairs, as well as a training ground for personnel – from initial recruits through to Army paratroops and new attack bomber squadrons bound for New Guinea.

POST WORLD WAR II

While the RAAF experienced considerable drawdown of aircraft, personnel and bases following the end of World War II, RAAF Base Richmond remained on strength in a variety of roles.

Between 1954 and 1967, maritime patrol missions were flown along the east coast of Australia by twin-engine Neptune surveillance planes operating from Richmond. Vampire and Meteor jet fighters belonging to No.22 Squadron also called Richmond home.

A new role for RAAF Base Richmond emerged in the 1950s, however, one that it continues to fulfil today. The steady increase of RAAF air transport aircraft during the 1950s saw Richmond become a logistics 'hub' for Defence, initially with the venerable C-47 Dakota – an iconic twin-engine transport aircraft from the war.

Then, in December 1958, the first C-130A Hercules transport aircraft touched down at RAAF Base Richmond, and with this (and subsequent) models of the Hercules, personnel from RAAF Base Richmond would be transported around the globe.

Hercules from Richmond have been instrumental in supporting Australian personnel from the Vietnam War through to Peacekeeping Operations in Asia, the Middle East and the South Pacific, and right through to the Middle East region. As well as the Hercules,

other transport aircraft that have called Richmond home include the DHC-4 Caribou (1964 to 1993) and Boeing 707 (1979 to 2008).

THE BASE TODAY

Today, RAAF Base Richmond finds itself retaining its strong links to the air transport role, housing No.37 Squadron (with its C-130J Hercules). Coordinating these Squadrons – and a host of other air mobility units at other RAAF Bases – calls on the talents of other units at RAAF Base Richmond, including Headquarters Air Mobility Group, No.84 Wing and the Air Mobility Control Centre.

On top of this are support units such as Air Mobility Training Development Unit and the Army's own No.176 Air Dispatch Squadron.

Other key units and organisations based at RAAF Base Richmond are Air Lift Systems Program Office (providing logistics and sustainment to the

C-130J and C-27J), No.22 Squadron (delivering garrison support to RAAF Base Richmond), and No.3 Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron (which, as the name suggests, facilitates the care of sick and wounded personnel on Defence aircraft).

A host of other units is also located at the base, including local detachments for Aircraft Research and Development Unit, No.453 Squadron (Air Traffic Control), No.28 Squadron (Imagery) and No.87 Squadron (Intelligence). No.65 Squadron – an Airfield Engineering unit – also operates a detachment from RAAF Base Richmond.

In 2018 the base celebrated major milestones including the 75th anniversary of the formation of No.37 Squadron and the 60th anniversary of RAAF Hercules flying operations. Memorials commemorating the 1943 Battle of the Bismarck Sea and the death of Victoria Cross awardee Flight Lieutenant Bill Newton were also created.

THE BASE AT A GLANCE

RAAF Base Richmond is an important hub for the Australian Defence Force because of its geographical location to Sydney.

THE FOLLOWING UNITS and major commercial contractors to Defence are all located at, or have significant facilities based at, RAAF Base Richmond.

- 176 Air Dispatch Squadron
- No.22 (City of Sydney) Squadron
- No.3 Wing - Richmond
- No.3 Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron
- No.37 Squadron
- No.65 Squadron Detachment Richmond
- No.453 Squadron Detachment Richmond (Air Traffic Control)
- No.464 Squadron Detachment Richmond
- Army Ground Liaison Det 1 and 4
- No.87 Squadron Air Mobility Tactical Intelligence Flight
- Air Mobility Training and Development Unit
- Air Lift Systems Program Office
- Air Force Improvement Team (Richmond)
- Airbus Group Australia Pacific
- BGIS
- CAE
- CIOG Regional ICT Services
- Defence Members and Family Services
- Defence Maintenance Management
- Defence Support Richmond
- Estate & Infrastructure Group
- Headquarters Air Mobility Group
- Headquarters No.84 Wing
- Joint Logistics Unit – East
- MSS Security
- Northrop Grumman Integrated Defence Services
- Raytheon
- School of Post Graduate Studies (Richmond Detachment)
- United States Air Force Detachment
- RAAF School of Administration and Logistics Training (Richmond Detachment)
- Richmond Health Centre
- No.1 Expeditionary Health Squadron (Richmond Detachment)
- Jericho Lab
- New South Wales Rural Fire Service
- RAAF Richmond has three Defence Messes: an Officers' Mess, Sergeants' Mess and Airman's Mess, as well as commercial services on base that include a canteen, barber, motor mechanic, Australian Military Bank and Defence Bank.
- The local Australian Air Force Cadet (AAFC) unit is No.336 Squadron AAFC.
- Ventia

KEY ASSETS

Each squadron and detachment at RAAF Base Richmond has a fascinating background.



PHOTO: CPL Jonathan Goedhart

↑ A RAAF C-130J Hercules takes off at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam During Operation Christmas Drop 2022.



NO. 37 SQUADRON

No. 37 Squadron conducts air mobility missions across the world with a 12-strong fleet of C-130J Hercules transport aircraft. The unit was formed in July 1943 at RAAF

Base Laverton, flying Lockheed Lodestars and later Dakota transports. Following the war, it repatriated Australian prisoners of war and flew 20,000km courier missions to Japan before disbanding in 1947.

Re-established at RAAF Base Richmond in 1966, No.37 Squadron was equipped with C-130E Hercules to provide an 'air bridge' for Defence to South Vietnam. It later delivered the first response to Darwin after Cyclone Tracy, provided humanitarian airlift during the fall of Saigon, and supported peacekeeping in the Sinai, Solomon Islands and East Timor.

No.37 Squadron transitioned from the C-130E to the C-130J Hercules in September 1999, and supported a permanent deployment in the Middle East Region from 2004 to 2021, conducting Australian and coalition combat support operations.

Crews are trained to fly missions by day and night to remote airfields with little infrastructure, and can also airdrop paratroopers, supplies, and equipment to a drop zone.

Each Hercules can carry up to 128 passengers and up to 20 tonnes of cargo, in a standard configuration, however, for operations such as the 2021 Afghanistan evacuation operations aircraft carried considerably more passengers using contingency loading procedures.

Recent upgrades have introduced global communications systems that provide crew and passengers with greater awareness and flexibility whilst airborne, and share information with friendly forces.

The combination of Hercules range and capability, coupled with the training of its workforce, means No.37 Squadron is continuously engaged with Defence operations and exercises around the world.

The unit often assists communities in need, delivering supplies and civilian emergency services, as well as supporting a number of high profile search and rescue events at sea.

The Hercules can also be configured for aeromedical evacuation missions, supporting Defence or civilian patients alike.

Recent examples include the return of Australians from the 2019 White Island volcano

eruption; Bundaberg Hospital evacuation during floods in 2013; and evacuation of Cairns Hospital during Cyclone Yasi in 2011.

Recent accomplishments include support to Operation Bushfire Assist 19/20, delivering COVID-19 relief across the region, and evacuation of personnel from Sudan in 2023.

The squadron has also carried a variety of unusual loads, from Jackson Pollock's 'Blue Poles' on an Australian gallery tour; the Pope-Mobile; a prize bull to China; and a polar bear from Gold Coast to Sydney.



PHOTO: SGT David Gibbs

↑ A No.37 Squadron pilot flies along the coastline of Tonga to assess damage after the eruption of the Hunga-Tonga-Hunga-Ha'apai volcano.

176 AIR DISPATCH SQUADRON

176 Air Dispatch Squadron of the 9th Force Support Battalion is responsible for providing an Air Cargo Delivery capability to the Australian Defence Force and Whole of Government Agencies. This includes the rapid supply and delivery of combat enabling effects that includes conventional airdrop, precision delivery aerial systems, rotary wing external lift, unmanned aerial systems and airland to effectively enable the joint force.

The soldiers of 176 Air Dispatch Squadron prepare, maintain, repair and dispatch stores and equipment required to deliver this capability. Other functions of the Squadron include the conduct of personnel parachuting, operating materiel handling equipment and the preparation of loads for external air lift, where cargo is carried underneath Australian Defence Force and coalition helicopters such as the CH-47 Chinook or MRH90 Taipan.

The Air Dispatch role in the Australian Army has its origins in the skies of New Guinea during World War II, when cargo and supplies were pushed from the side doors of RAAF Dakota aircraft to resupply the Diggers fighting the ground war below.

It carried on through the Malayan Emergency and the Vietnam War, with 176 Air Dispatch Company being formed in 1967. It became 176 Air Dispatch Squadron in 1973, and relocated from Penrith to RAAF Base Richmond in 1993.

Since then, it has been deployed on a



PHOTO: LACW Kate Czerny

↑ No.36 Squadron Loadmasters and 176 Air Dispatch Squadron soldiers load supplies on to a C-17A Globemaster at Hobart International Airport, to be airdropped into Antarctica as part of Operation Southern Discovery.

significant number of Defence military, peacekeeping and humanitarian operations, and most notably played a key role in supporting the RAAF airdrop of supplies to Iraqi civilians in Mt Sinjar and Amirli in 2014 and supporting disaster relief operations in Vanuatu and Tonga.

More recently, it has worked with Air Force and Australian Antarctic Division to fly the longest

airdrop mission in Australian history, delivering fuel and supplies to the southern-most continent. It has also worked with Army Aviation supporting the civilian community during Operation Bushfire Assist 19/20 and Operation Flood Assist WA.

176 Air Dispatch Squadron maintains a community relationship with the Norfolk Island Cadets and is associated with 22 Platoon at 1 RTB.



PHOTO: CPL Veronica O'Hara

↑ Airfield engineers of 65ABRS felling trees during Exercise Mini Burrow at Macrossan airfield, 2021.



NO. 65 AIR BASE RECOVERY SQUADRON

When the Air Force deploys, it needs to ensure airfields are safe to operate from and it is in this role that No. 65 Air Base Recovery Squadron (65ABRS) serves. The

primary role of the unit is to provide the ADF with an air base recovery capability, building on Air Force experience in the role that originated during World War II.

While the unit's headquarters and A Flight are located at RAAF Base Townsville, 65ABRS's B Flight has elements at RAAF Base Richmond and Defence Establishment Orchard Hills.

The squadron was established at RAAF Base Amberley on 1 July 2015, from the Airfield Engineering elements of No.383 Squadron and No.1 Security Forces Squadron's Explosive Ordnance Disposal Flight.

Aircraft such as the C-130J Hercules and C-17A Globemaster can operate from austere airfields during disasters but, fundamentally, robust and

often purpose-built infrastructure is required for them to do their job properly. To support that requirement, 65ABRS elements often deploy to remote locations to survey, plan and regenerate air base infrastructure, along with the construction of passive defence structures to complement physical security to enable active defence of the air base.

Personnel can also be employed to remedy damage to aircraft pavements and moving surfaces to support fast jet operations. Doing so requires a combination of expertise in civil engineering and construction, as well as specialised equipment including bulldozers, graders, power generators and water purification systems. Additionally, personnel are regularly called upon to dispose of unexploded ordnance on Defence Air Weapons Ranges and dispose of Explosive Remnants of War in the South Pacific.

Recent support activities involving the unit include Operation Bushfire Assist 19/20, where personnel deployed to Tumut, NSW, working alongside Army engineers to construct a 70km firebreak in the north-west foothills of the Snowy Mountains and Operation Flood Assist 22, where personnel deployed to Northern NSW to assist flood impacted communities.



↑ **Flight Lieutenant Jillian Wade from NO.3 Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron working on a C-17 Globemaster aircraft during a combined medical interoperability activity with the US Air Force, as part of Exercise Mobility Guardian 23.**



NO.3 AEROMEDICAL EVACUATION SQUADRON

No.3 Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron was formed in 2013 to provide a specialised global aeromedical retrieval capability for

the Australian Defence Force. The squadron was originally formed as No.3 RAAF Hospital established in 1940, providing dedicated hospital services for more than 60 years before shifting focus to a more expeditionary, deployable Air Force health squadron.

The squadron motto, Care Where Needed, exemplifies a tradition of Air Force aeromedical care to the servicemen and women of the ADF that dates back to World War II. During WWII, ill and injured soldiers, sailors and airmen were returned to Australia from New Guinea and the Middle East under the care of nurses on board C-47 Dakotas and other transport aircraft, and following the war, prisoners of war were returned home to Australia, cared for in-flight by medical staff.

The RAAF aeromedical evacuation role evolved during the Vietnam War with the

introduction into service of the more capable C-130 Hercules which has provided decades of aeromedical evacuation support in operational theatres such as East Timor and the Middle East. RAAF aero-medical evacuation has also provided significant benefit to the civilian community, particularly following terrorist bombings in Bali, natural disasters in South East Asia, and cyclone and flood evacuation events in Australia such as Cyclone Yasi, Cyclone Trevor and the Bundaberg flood evacuations.

No.3 Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron has also been tasked to support the evacuation of Australians at home and overseas, and people from other nations following natural disasters at White Island in New Zealand, Nepal, Vanuatu and Fiji.

Prior to the formation of No.3 Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron in 2013, aeromedical evacuation services were conducted by RAAF health units all over Australia. Conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq in recent decades have highlighted the requirement for a dedicated unit of clinical and support personnel staff whose primary task is to perform aeromedical evacuations and this was the primary driver of the unit's formation and re-focused role.

The squadron, located at Richmond, NSW and Amberley, Qld, now comprises a cadre of full-

time and part-time medical, nursing, para-medical and support personnel dedicated to the conduct of aeromedical evacuation missions on a range of civilian and military aircraft including Air Force C-17A Globemaster, C-130J Hercules and C-27J Spartan.

No.3 Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron regularly participates in mission-ready training and exercises with other military forces within the Indo-Pacific region and our Five Eyes partners to share common training objectives and aeromedical evacuation expertise.



NO.87 SQUADRON - AIR MOBILITY TACTICAL INTELLIGENCE FLIGHT

The key role of No.87 Squadron is to provide intelligence support to

the Air Force, ensuring Defence personnel are adequately informed of some of the challenges they may face on operations.

Many personnel at RAAF Base Richmond can find themselves being 'first on the scene' during times of crisis, which makes the information and briefings they receive from No.87 Squadron all the more vital.

The unit's Air Mobility Tactical Intelligence Flight is located at RAAF Bases Richmond and Amberley, with the higher No.87 Squadron headquarters located at RAAF Base Williamtown in Newcastle, NSW.

The unit was originally established in June 1942 as a photographic reconnaissance unit in the Northern Territory, and later flew the Lightning and Mosquito reconnaissance planes. Disbanded in 1953, the unit was re-formed in July 2006 under its present-day guise.

↓ **Air Intelligence Analyst – Operational Intelligence Leading Aircraftwoman Hermione Wald, of No.87 Squadron Air Mobility Tactical Intelligence Flight, provides No. 35 Squadron pilot Flying Officer Oran Harden with a mission brief.**



↓ An air-to-air refuelling flight test between RAAF KC-30A Multi-Role Tanker Transport aircraft from No. 33 Squadron and Japan Air Self-Defense Force Mitsubishi F-2A over Japan.



HEADQUARTERS AIR MOBILITY GROUP

Headquarters Air Mobility Group is located at RAAF Base Richmond and is led by Air Commodore Bradley Clarke, Commander Air Mobility Group (AMG).

AMG has a workforce of approximately 1,800 personnel at three bases across Australia, and provides Defence with fixed-wing airlift and air-to-air refuelling capabilities.

When Defence needs to deploy somewhere quickly, the task typically falls to AMG, and often

it is a C-130J based at Richmond that responds.

The AMG capability ranges from flying up to 77 tonnes of cargo (in the C-17A Globemaster III), to air-to-air refuelling up to 11,000km from a home base (with the KC-30A Multi-Role Tanker Transport), and delivering payloads and personnel to the frontline of operations (using the C-130J Hercules and the C-27J Spartan). It also includes transporting VIP passengers using the 737 Boeing Business Jet, the Falcon 7X and the KC-30A Multi-Role Tanker Transport aircraft.

AMG was known as Air Lift Group until April 2013 and was renamed to better reflect the range of capabilities delivered by the group, and to align with terminology used by coalition air forces.

AIR MOBILITY CONTROL CENTRE

During peace time, the Air Mobility Control Centre (AMCC) controls and supports those Air Mobility assets that are directed by strategic or operational authorities. In doing so, AMCC receives cargo and passenger movement requests from across Defence and government subsequently prioritising and allocating AMG resources to meet those requests in accordance with operational and strategic objectives.

AMCC must also plan the use of Air Force's air-to-air refuelling capability, the KC-30A. This capability allows the RAAF to refuel other aircraft in flight and increase the reach of those aircraft across Australia and the wider globe.

AMCC conducts deliberate planning activities which may enable missions that are months in the creation, or can conduct dynamic planning in response to contingencies that demand immediate response such as disaster relief and crisis reaction around the world.

On operations, AMCC reorientates its posture to integrate with the joint force through the Air and Space Operations Centre commensurate to the Air Mobility commitment.

AMCC is a hive of activity and no two days are ever the same.



← Sergeant Jessica Johnson (left) and Flying Officer Annemarie Peacock discuss an upcoming mission in the Air Mobility Control Centre at RAAF Base Richmond.



NO.84 WING

No.84 Wing is one of two Wings under Air Mobility Group. Located at RAAF Base Richmond, No.84 Wing is responsible for the guidance, governance and leadership of its three subordinate

squadrons – No.37 Squadron, No.35 Squadron, and the Air Mobility Training and Development Unit. No.84 Wing manages the Force Generation of the Air Force’s light and medium combat airlift capability, as well as aerial delivery load clearances and select air logistics, aircrew and technical training. No.84 Wing Headquarters, No.37 Squadron and its fleet of C-130J Hercules aircraft, along with the Air Mobility Training and Development Unit, are located at Richmond. No.35 Squadron and its fleet of C-27J Spartan aircraft are located at RAAF Base Amberley.

No.84 Wing has a proud history dating back to 1944 when it was formed as an Army Co-operation Wing in the South West Pacific theatre of World War II. At the time, No.84 Wing governed squadrons of CAC Boomerangs and Wirraways, Auster observation planes, and Bristol Beauforts. Its duties included reconnaissance and artillery spotting, delivering supplies and marking targets for other attack aircraft. Dis-established in 1946, it remained dormant until being reactivated as a transport Wing in 1991.



NO.453 SQUADRON RICHMOND FLIGHT

453SQN Richmond Flight provides Air Traffic Services through a joint workforce of APS and Military staff. Communications Electronic Technicians are responsible for the maintenance of the Air Traffic Systems, radios and various navigational aids utilised in the airspace. Air Traffic Controllers are responsible for providing airspace and airfield control around RAAF Base Richmond, including the management of multiple parachuting drop zones. Both workforces regularly support deployed operations on remote airfields, domestically and abroad.

No. 453 Squadron was originally formed at Bankstown in May 1941 and served much of World War II as a fighter squadron in South Asia, flying the Brewster Buffalo and the Supermarine Spitfire. Disbanded in 1946, it was re-established in December 2010 to manage air traffic control capability for RAAF Bases Williamtown, Edinburgh, Pearce, East Sale and Richmond, as well as HMAS Albatross at Nowra.



PHOTO: CPL David Said

→ **Communication Electronic Technician (CETECH), Leading Aircraftman (LAC) Joel Van Gunst (right) works alongside CETECH LAC Jordan Lyons (centre) and Communication Electronic Fitter Aircraftman Matt Kent in the No. 453 Squadron air traffic control tower at RAAF Base Richmond.**

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PHOTO: ACW Maddison Scott

↑ Aviators from No.22 Squadron Movements load a fire truck from New South Wales Rural Fire Service onto a RAAF C-17 Globemaster III aircraft at RAAF Base Richmond.



NO.22 SQUADRON

For more than 80 years, No.22 Airbase Operations Squadron, located at RAAF Base Richmond, has been synonymous with the City of Sydney.

Formed at RAAF Base

Richmond on 20 April 1936, No.22 Squadron was established as a 'Citizen Air Force' squadron with Hawker Demon and Gypsy Moth biplanes, offering civilians a chance to participate in the relatively new world of aviation on a part-time basis while still pursuing their civilian vocations.

The squadron could also provide a large number of trained airmen should they be needed in time of war, and following the outbreak of World War II in September 1939, No.22 Squadron was called to active service and flew its first operational mission searching for submarines off the Sydney coastline with Avro Anson aircraft.

It was re-equipped with American-made A-20 Boston bombers in April 1942, with each aircraft carrying a three-person crew and a 910kg bomb load, and armed with six forward-firing machine guns. No.22 Squadron attacked several submarines off the coast of Sydney before being sent to New Guinea in October 1942 to face Japanese forces.

Flight Lieutenant Bill Newton, a pilot with No.22 Squadron, was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross — the only RAAF pilot in the Pacific Theatre to receive the honour — for his actions in combat between 16 to 18 March 1943.

No.22 Squadron continued to serve in the South West Pacific Area, later flying Beaufighter strike aircraft, before returning to Australia after the Japanese surrender and being disbanded in August 1946 at Deniliquin.

In April 1948 it was reformed at Bankstown, once again comprised of a mixture of permanent and part-time Air Force personnel, flying the Mustang Tiger Moth. No.22 Squadron later relocated to Schofields and received a S-51 Dragonfly helicopter — one of the first helicopters to be operated for search and rescue missions.

No.22 Squadron entered the jet age with the de Havilland Vampire and Gloster Meteor, and in 1953 returned to RAAF Base Richmond, where it continues to operate today. Flying operations for No.22 Squadron ceased in June 1960, and it continued serving as a Citizen Air Force — and later reorganised as the Air Force Reserves.

In 2010, under a reorganisation of combat support functions at RAAF Bases, No.22 Squadron took on the airbase operations support role for RAAF Base Richmond. This includes airfield fire-fighting, air movements, vehicle and

equipment maintenance, chaplaincy, physical training, and wider base coordination which is executed through the RAAF Richmond Airbase Command Post.

No.22 Squadron maintains strong ties to local and state-based agencies, including NSW Police, NSW Rural Fire Service, and other agencies that work within the community. From its inception through to today, No.22 Squadron has retained a strong link with the City of Sydney and the Hawkesbury community.

↓ Mobile Air Logistics Team members from No.22 Squadron and No.36 Squadron Loadmasters unload palletised Australian Aid from a RAAF C-17A Globemaster III aircraft at Port Vila International Airport, Vanuatu.



PHOTO: SGT David Gibbs

464 SQUADRON DETACHMENT RICHMOND

No.464 Squadron was re-established in January 2021 under the Information Warfare Directorate of the Air Warfare Centre, providing public affairs and imagery support. On 1 July 2023, as part of Plan MULLEUN, No.464 Squadron's Command and Control transferred to the Chief of Staff Branch under Air Force Headquarters.

Headquartered at HMAS Harman in Canberra, the squadron has Imagery Sections at RAAF

Bases Richmond, Williamtown, Amberley, Darwin, Edinburgh, and in Canberra. It also manages a number of Public Affairs Officers – full-time and reservist – across the country.

The squadron provides public affairs and imagery support to numerous High Profile Public Events, Air Force and wider Defence exercises and operations, including supporting Joint Task Forces in Australia and abroad.

Originally, the squadron was formed in September 1942, flying Ventura bombers from bases in England. It later re-equipped with Mosquito fighter bombers, which were flown in precision attacks on German targets.

This included attacking the Amiens Prison in France – also known as Operation Jericho – and other similar raids which led the squadron to be nicknamed 'The Gestapo Hunters'.

Imagery support requests for RAAF Bases Richmond can be made by emailing 464sqn.imagerysupport-ric@defence.gov.au or 464sqn.militarypublicaffairs@defence.gov.au.

RICHMOND HEALTH CENTRE

The Richmond Health Centre (RICHC) provides health care to ADF members and ensures the health preparedness of all ADF personnel posted to RAAF Base Richmond, Headquarters Air Command (Glenbrook) and Defence Establishment Orchard Hills. RICHC is commanded by Joint Health Unit Northern NSW, Joint Health Command. The Health Centre provides medical (general practice, occupational and aviation medicine), dental, mental health, physiotherapy, rehabilitation and pharmacy services, and airfield emergency response.

RICHC is open 0730-1630 Monday to Thursdays, and 0730-1430 on Fridays. Urgent Care services can be accessed all day and finish one hour prior to closing time. The in-patient ward is open 24 hours 0730 Monday to 1200 Friday with members transferred to Holsworthy Health Centre Simpson Ward for weekends if requiring ongoing care.

Contact numbers:

General Enquiries and appointments: 02 4579 5688 or email jhunnsw.richmondhc@defence.gov.au

COVID/Respiratory Clinic: 02 4579 5688

Dental appointments: 02 4579 2091

Ward: 02 4579 4905

In an emergency, first call 000. Then call 02 4587 2444 (RICHC Medical Emergency Phone)

<https://www.defence.gov.au/adf-members-families/health-well-being/garrison/health-centres/northern-nsw>

NO. 1 EXPEDITIONARY HEALTH SQUADRON

No.1 Expeditionary Health Squadron (1EHS) delivers deployable health support to Air Force and ADF operations. Headquartered at RAAF Base Amberley, 1EHS has detachments at RAAF Bases Richmond, Townsville and East Sale.

As the Health Services Wing lead for the deployable Air Force Role 2 health facility and resuscitative surgical capabilities, 1EHS maintains these specialist health elements to support sustained operations or short-notice contingency deployments. 1EHS deployable capabilities include: primary health, emergency department, surgery, intensive care, dental, environmental health, general wards, pathology, medical imaging, logistics and a deployable health facility command and control element.

At permanent air bases, 1EHS contributes to base health effects, within Joint Health Command health centres, with 1EHS personnel performing garrison clinical duties (including Aerodrome Emergency Health Response, primary health).

NEW SOUTH WALES RURAL FIRE SERVICE

The New South Wales Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) operates a fleet of Large Air Tanker aircraft from RAAF Base Richmond, although these aircraft may deploy to regional airfields to be in closer proximity to local fires.

The Large Air Tanker fleet includes a Boeing 737 Large Air Tanker (named 'Marie Bashir') and an Aero Commander permanently operated by the NSW RFS throughout the year. During the bushfire season, a number of temporarily leased Large Air Tankers and observation aircraft will be operated from RAAF Base Richmond as well.

The unprecedented Bushfire Season of 2019/20 saw the NSW RFS fly many of its Large Air Tanker missions from RAAF Base Richmond. NSW RFS crews used these aircraft to fight local blazes at Gaspers Mountain, through Bilpin and Mt Tomah, and the Grose and Jamison Valleys.

In early 2021, the NSW RFS took delivery of two new Cessna Citation V aircraft in a boost to the Service's aerial firefighting capability. The two aircraft (call signs Fire Scan 200 and Fire Scan 201) will serve a multipurpose role, able to perform lead plane functions for the NSW RFS 737 Large Air Tanker (LAT) and also conduct scanning operations and transport personnel.

← No.464 Squadron Imagery Detachment - Richmond Air Force Imagery Specialist Sergeant Shane Gidall captures video of a No. 37 Squadron C-130J Hercules being loaded with fire retardant bound for Western Australia.



PHOTO: CPL David Said



↓ Air Lift Systems Program Office personnel in front of No. 37 Squadron C-130J Hercules A97-464 with B8.1 modifications on the RAAF Base Richmond flightline.

AIR LIFT SYSTEMS PROGRAM OFFICE

Sustainment of modern air mobility aircraft is performed by teams of maintainers, engineers, supply chain logisticians, contract and finance management personnel. At RAAF Base Richmond, the Air Lift Systems Program Office (ALSPO) is responsible for ensuring that all the sustainment resources an aircraft needs to keep flying are always available. As part of the Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group (CASG), ALSPO partners with and encourages development of Australian industry capabilities, including providing Indigenous Australians with more opportunities to participate to maintain the air mobility capability edge. ALSPO conducts planning to assist Air Mobility Group, and with Industry provides engineering and logistics services for the Air Force’s fleet of C-130J Hercules and C-27J Spartan aircraft.

While much of the maintenance work on these aircraft is conducted by Air Force personnel, deeper level maintenance that is more invasive and requires longer periods on the ground is conducted by industry partners for the C-130J and C-27J aircraft, the latter in RAAF Amberley. ALSPO manages contracts with Australian industry to conduct maintenance of the engine and propeller systems of the C-130J and C-27J, with specialist engineers and technicians employed in both Richmond and Amberley.

With such a high level of industry involvement, ALSPO is responsible for managing Air Force’s engagement with these industry partners. The workforce within ALSPO combines Air Force personnel, Defence civilians and niche Australian industry specialists. The combination marries together a mix of contemporary experience in operating these aircraft and systems, with corporate knowledge of how to sustain them.

This includes an understanding of the complex network of organisations in Richmond and Amberley, how they work together and how they are governed to create Air Mobility capability. ALSPO is also responsible for managing an aircraft simulator contract to support a range of fixed wing and rotary platforms across Army, Navy and Air Force.

December 2022 was the 22nd anniversary of ALSPO’s establishment at RAAF Base Richmond, where ALSPO has a history of providing through-life support for aircraft such as the DHC-4 Caribou, Boeing 707 and C-130H Hercules. ALSPO’s motto is “Dependable” and the organisation continues to provide through-life support to the C-130J Hercules, C-27J Spartan, and also the AP-3C Orion engines.



AIR MOBILITY TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT UNIT

The Air Mobility Training and Development Unit (AMTDU) is uniquely postured to deliver Air Mobility and delivery effects through load clearances, developing

new methods of transporting equipment and vehicles by air, conducting core Air Mobility aircrew and technical training; and qualifying Army personnel to safely prepare cargo and vehicles for airdrop from aircraft and external lift from helicopters.

Whenever Defence needs a new piece of equipment loaded into a transport aircraft, or safely dropped from an aircraft flying at 200kph or carried underneath a helicopter, they come

to one place – AMTDU. These practices were first conducted during World War II on the C-47 Dakota, but were done so in a far more ad hoc fashion. Following the war, steps were taken to professionalise this practice, leading to the creation of AMTDU in 1965. At the time, the RAAF and Army were providing more and more capability to the Vietnam War, and the RAAF was fielding new transport aircraft that pushed its airlift capability into new operational environments — from the UH-1 Iroquois helicopter and DHC-4 Caribou transport to the (then) new C-130 Hercules. Nowadays, AMTDU personnel work closely with the Hercules, C-27J Spartan and C-17A Globemaster III as well as Navy and Army helicopters such as the MRH90 Taipan and CH-47F Chinook.

Whether it be delivering modern Joint Precision Air Drop Systems, Army’s LAND121 vehicles or armoured vehicles (LAND400, Ph 3), autonomous Navy systems or engineering support to specialist equipment or resupply to Australian Antarctic Division, AMTDU continues to provide the expertise required to provide safe and efficient Aerial Delivery Capability to the ADF. As part of AFSTRAT, AMTDU promotes the importance of International Engagement and partnerships through training opportunities (Papua New Guinea Defence Force, Republic of Fiji Military Force and other pacific partners), advice, load clearances and collaborative working groups with Aerial Delivery Field Services Department – US, Joint Air Delivery Test and Evaluation Unit – UK and Canadian Air Force exercises and courses/conferences (Aerial Delivery Materiel Officers Course, Joint Airdrop Capabilities Syndicate, Air Force Interoperability Council).

AMTDU strives to meet its vision of being the centre of excellence ready to develop and deliver air mobility effects to support the Joint force in peace and war.



↑ Squadron Leader Grant Lamb (right) from Air Mobility Training and Development Unit talks with the Service Attaches and Advisors Group during a visit to RAAF Base Richmond.

NO.3 WING AIR FORCE LIAISON OFFICE – RICHMOND

The 3 Wing Air Force Liaison Officer office is responsible for the administration, governance, and facilitation of Australian Air Force Cadet (AAFC) squadrons throughout NSW and the ACT. The office organises active support from the Air Force to AAFC squadrons and acts as a point of contact between the two organisations. RAAF Base Richmond is also home to No.3 Wing Richmond Flight, a component of the Elementary Flying Training School (EFTS). The EFTS conducts aviation training activities, including Cadet Air Experience and Pilot Experience flights with the new Diamond DA40 NG aircraft. Cadets as young as 16 years can learn to fly solo in a VH-registered powered aircraft. For more information, and to find your local squadron in NSW or ACT, visit aafc.org.au.

JERICO LAB RICHMOND

As a part of the Edgy Air Force program, supported by Headquarters Air Command Innovation & Improvement, the Richmond Jericho Lab is one of the 11 'makerspaces' located throughout Air Force and integrated with Navy's Centres for Innovation and Army's MakerSpace program. Providing a place for people to meet, develop ideas, and innovate in a supportive environment. Jericho Labs are rank free spaces connected with local industry and across the ADF, creating a multi-layered innovation ecosystem.

The purpose of the Jericho Labs program is to nurture bottom-up innovation by uplifting, upskilling and challenging our people to creatively design and rapidly prototype next generation solutions to today's problems. Jericho Labs can help personnel realise or test their ideas, develop and expand their professional mastery and add to their network of contacts. The Richmond Lab is equipped with a range of tooling and devices such as 3D printers and high-power computing hardware. Presently located in Building 50, anyone on base can get involved with the Jericho Lab. Contact edgy.af@defence.gov.au for more info or to arrange a visit.

RAAF'S SCHOOL OF ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS TRAINING

RAAF's School of Administration and Logistics Training (RAAFSALT) is headquartered at RAAF Wagga Wagga but bases its Movements training at RAAF Richmond to benefit from close engagement with AMG stakeholders. Air Force's Movements personnel deploy around the world in support of exercises and operations – but their training all traces back to Hangar 1 at RAAF Richmond. SALT's Richmond Detachment delivers Initial and Post-Initial Employment Training to Movements



PHOTO: CPL David Sait

personnel throughout their careers, ranging from Basic Air Terminal functions to specific AMG aircraft type load planning and weight and balance. Our workforce comprises both Movements personnel and AMG Loadmasters to further consolidate the close working relationship between the two outside of the training environment. As Air Force transitions into a Fifth Generation force, RAAFSALT remains postured to deliver, effective, efficient, contemporary learning in support of the Chief of Air Force's intent.

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE DETACHMENT 1

Located in Hangar 308, USAF Detachment 1 is the only USAF Air Mobility Command port in Australia. USAF Det 1's mission is to execute rapid global mobility, and provide logistics support for all USAF aircraft transiting RAAF Base Richmond. The primary support is for weekly C-17 channel missions moving materials to Australia. The Detachment is open 0800h to 1600h Monday to Friday.

Detachment Commander: Major Pascal Won, phone: 02 4587 1664; email: pascal.won@us.af.mil

Air Terminal Manager: Ms Dawn Chang, phone: 02 4579 2057, email: dawn.chang@us.af.mil

↑ **Air Force personnel attend the Plan Jericho EDGY AF event for Air Force Innovators at RAAF Base Richmond.**

JOINT LOGISTICS UNIT (EAST) RICHMOND

Joint Logistics Unit (East) Richmond (JLU(E)-R) provides warehousing and distribution services via a collaborative partnership with the Australian Industry Partner, Linfox, to all RAAF Base Richmond units and contractors, as well as providing support to deployed operations as part of the broader Joint Logistics Command supply chain.

It is a detachment of Joint Logistics Unit (East), which is located at Moorebank, and is one of five sites operating under this command. It holds the bulk of the C-130J platform inventory and is an integral part of the supply chain for RAAF Base Richmond units and contractors.

JLU(E)-R is also responsible for providing governance oversight and support to the AIP-managed retail clothing stores at RAAF Base Richmond and RAAF Base Glenbrook.

↓ **A C-17A Globemaster from the United States Air Force taxiing in to RAAF Base Richmond.**



PHOTO: CPL David Gibbs

CHAPLAIN'S WELCOME

RAAF Base Richmond is served by a team of chaplains and support staff who provide chaplaincy to all personnel and their families.

WELCOME TO the Richmond Chaplaincy team. The ADF recognises the value of serving members and strives to provide good care to sailors, soldiers and aviators. The chaplaincy team here at Richmond is a base-wide resource serving all ADF members and their families.

The Chaplaincy team for 2024 is as follows. Three fulltime chaplains: CHAP Dan Bigg, CHAP Matt Tegart and CHAP Amanda Campbell. Two Reserve chaplains: CHAP Karen Davison, CHAP Gayan Thamel.

Chaplaincy provides 24/7 on-call chaplaincy support. To engage with a chaplain please email RIC.chaplains@defence.gov.au and ask to book an appointment, or call the 24/7 chaplain duty number on 0427 281 741.

You can also simply drop into the Fred McKay Chaplaincy Centre, cnr McNamara and Williams

Streets (opposite AAFCANS and the pool area).

Defence Chaplains are qualified, trained and equipped for the role. In seeking out chaplaincy support, you can have confidence that you will be engaging with a trained and trustworthy professional, operating with a high level of personal integrity and confidentiality.

Although Chaplaincy's primary focus is spiritual welfare, the majority of the role is the practical care and support of members and their families. We advise Command on areas of concern, give input at individual and unit welfare boards and work closely with other support agencies.

As we proactively get out and about among the squadrons, units and work places, please engage with us. Say g'day to us. We promise we will serve you to the best of our abilities as we work together in service of our nation.

The Richmond Chaplaincy team



BASE SERVICES AND FACILITIES

THE RAAF BASE RICHMOND main gate precinct is located on Dight Street, Richmond, and serves as the main entry/exit point for all personnel and visitors to the base. The roundabout at the front gate also serves as the entry driveway for the Pass Office (call 02 4587 2560), which is staffed 24 hours a day. No access to the base is permitted without an authorised pass and/or DCAC activation, which must be obtained from the Pass Office.

SPORTS FACILITIES: A variety of sporting facilities are available to Defence members and their families at the base, including squash courts, tennis courts, basketball/netball courts, volleyball court, a gymnasium, a 50m swimming pool, cricket pitch and soccer/football grounds.

GYM: Available for use by Defence members all year round, the gym is fully equipped with weights and cardio equipment and the staff can provide individual fitness programs. It is open 24/7 via DCAC swipe access with PTIs on duty from 7am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday (call 02 4587 2615).

POOL: The 50m pool is open during the warmer months, usually from the October long weekend until 31 March. It is also open to Defence families.

COURTS: All courts can be booked by contacting the gym.

BANKS: Both the Australian Military Bank (call 02 4588 5333) and Defence Bank (call 02 4570 3600) are located in McNamara Avenue. The Defence Bank has an automatic teller machine.

DEFENCE BANK - RICHMOND BRANCH

Open Mon-Fri 9am to 4pm Website: defencebank.com.au; phone: 02 4570 3600; email: richmond@defencebank.com.au

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY BANK

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BETTER CAR, RAAF BASE RICHMOND

On-base mechanical service and repair facility, catering to all Air Force personnel, civilians and contractors on base. We supply warranty logbook service and scheduled vehicle servicing, tyres, registration inspections, fleet/government vehicle services and everything in between.

Open Mon-Thu, 7am to 5pm; FRI, 7am to 12pm; Sat by appointment.

Contact Mitch Robertson:

mobile 0421 090 090; phone 02 4579 5551; email richmond@bettercargroup.com.

BASE BARBER

On-base barber offering haircuts for all Defence personnel and their families, civilians and contractors.

Open Mon-Fri 9am to 5pm.

Phone 02 4579 2195; 0433 944 444.

AAFCANS

Main Store (opposite pool):

Mon-Thu 7am to 3pm; Fri 7am to 2pm.

Trojan Kiosk (opposite 37SQN):

Mon-Thu 7am to 1.30pm ; Fri 7am to 11.30pm.



↓ A Republic of Singapore Air Force C-130 Hercules on training deployment in Australia takes off from RAAF Base Richmond.

PHOTO: CPL Dan Pinhorn

FLYING OPERATIONS

From routine training and bushfire operations to visits by foreign military aircraft, the runway at RAAF Base Richmond is kept busy.

FLYING ACTIVITY AT RAAF BASE RICHMOND comprises of routine training along with operational missions by civilian and military aircraft alike.

Defence aims to cease flying at RAAF Base Richmond between 11pm and 6am, however operational demands may require aircraft to land or take off between these hours – but that is the exception.

A squadron of 12 C-130J Hercules transports call RAAF Base Richmond home, and crews conduct training in the local area and across regional NSW.

During airdrop practice, Hercules and visiting Spartans and Globemasters deliver paratroops at Rickaby's Creek on the Richmond Lowlands, or cargo over Londonderry Drop Zone.

RAAF Base Richmond has a single asphalt

runway approximately 2,100m in length, with an Instrument Landing System (ILS) installed on the Windsor-end.

Fast jets such as the F-35A Lightning II or Hawk 127 Lead-In Fighter often train to use this ILS, in the event they cannot land at RAAF Base Williamstown.

This training normally falls between January to March, and from June to August, and is advertised to the Hawkesbury via local media and RAAF Social Media.

Frequent visitors include foreign military aircraft – particularly from the United States, Singapore and New Zealand – which are managed in accordance with strict Australian customs and quarantine requirements.

Regular training missions to the base is

conducted by other Defence aircraft, including Air Force transport and surveillance aircraft, and Army helicopters.

The NSW Rural Fire Service also has a Boeing 737 Large Air Tanker – named *Marie Bashir* – permanently based at RAAF Base Richmond, along with a smaller observation aircraft. Other NSW RFS aircraft operate from the base during the bushfire season.

Smaller aircraft can also be seen in the circuit around RAAF Base Richmond, including Diamond DA40s from the Australian Air Force Cadets, the Richmond Flying Club, and the Richmond Gliding Club.

Where to find out more: facebook.com/royalaustrianairforce; airforce.gov.au/news-and-events/flying-activity

AIR FORCE RESERVE

Enjoy a part-time job that complements your career and offers flexible hours, tax-free pay and an exciting lifestyle.

THE RESERVE PRE-DATES FEDERATION, when each of the states maintained locally based naval and army militia. Those forces served in the Sudan, in China during the Boxer Rebellion and in South Africa during the Boer War. The modern Australian Army was drawn from this base at Federation on 1 January 1901, with the Royal Australian Navy and Royal Australian Air Force following some years later.

Volunteers participated in active service during World Wars I and II, with large numbers transferring into the permanent armed forces. Since WWII, the role has changed gradually from separate Reserve units and formations, each

with their own identity and role, to a concept where permanent and Reserve personnel have combined to form a strong and viable force.

In 2001, Federal Parliament passed key legislation to enhance and modernise the Reserve. The legislation affects both Reservists and their employers and has resulted in significant changes to Reserve conditions of employment.

Reservists join the Navy, Army or Air Force as part-time members of the ADF. There are about 32,500 active and standby Reservists, representing about 33 percent of the total Force. They are volunteers who bring with them civilian skills and experience and gain new skills as part of their Reserve training.



Reservists can join as new recruits or can transfer from the full-time Defence Force. They are motivated individuals who are prepared to take on the challenge of training and, through their dedication and time, show a strong commitment to Australia.

Defence Reservists make a commitment to train and serve in the defence and protection of Australia. Further information can be found at defencejobs.gov.au/AirForce/Reserve



PHOTO: LAC Chris Tsakisiris

Joining the Cadets provides an amazing opportunity to experience Air Force life.

↑ AAFC aviators, staff and instructors from the AAFC Elementary Flying Training School - Richmond Flight at RAAF Base Richmond.

AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE CADETS (AAFC) are offered inspiring and challenging military-like experiences and learn valuable life and work skills that may open up new possibilities, opportunities and career options.

You can be a cadet if you're aged between 13 and 17 and most squadrons meet weekly (during school terms) for about three hours in an evening. Training is also conducted on some weekends during the year. In addition, camps and specialist courses are held during most school holidays.

As part of the camps, teenagers swap civilian clothes for RAAF uniform and spend time with like-minded cadets. The General Service Training Camp gives cadets from No.3 Wing, which includes NSW and the Australian Capital Territory, the experience of working on base in the Air Force.

Cadets get to see different sections, ask questions of pilots, engineers and other staff, and experience life in barracks accommodation where you mix with other cadets from No.3 Wing.

Becoming a cadet also means you can try challenging and amazing activities that are partly paid for by the Australian Government through the AAFC. Cadets gain team-building skills, develop leadership and survival skills, make new friends, have fun, experience challenges, learn to take responsibility and take part in physical education activities.

You'll also learn about aviation through flying, gliding, aerospace studies, communications and

navigation skills, air traffic control, aeromodelling, aircraft engineering, orienteering and map reading, safe weapons handling and first aid.

All new cadets are recruits and have the opportunity to be promoted through the ranks after they successfully complete each training stage. Cadets are then required to attend specific training courses for each rank above Leading Cadet.

The expression of interest process has changed in recent years and the window for recruitment now opens from 1 October each year. Contact the squadron you wish to attend to find out their individual intake procedures.

NO.323 AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE CADET SQUADRON

No.323 Squadron City of Blue Mountains is situated opposite the main entry to RAAF Base Glenbrook.

We operate on Wednesday evenings between 1800h and 2130h during school terms. 323SQN celebrated its 70th Anniversary in 2022 and continues to serve the youth of the Blue Mountains and Greater Western Sydney. We pride ourselves on our community service and providing an exciting and dynamic environment for youth development.

We have been awarded Squadron of the Year in NSW and the ACT for 2022 and 2023. In 2016, the Mayor of the Blue Mountains granted 323SQN the Freedom of the City in recognition of our service to the local community as well as our support effort during the 2013 Winmalee Bushfire. Check

out our website airforcecadets.gov.au/323sqn for more information and contact details to express interest in joining our unit. We aim to have two intakes in January and July each year.

NO.336 AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE CADETS SQUADRON

No.336 Squadron Richmond is very active throughout the City of Hawkesbury, having been granted Freedom of Entry to the City in 2016. 336SQN parades at RAAF Base Richmond on Monday nights from 1800 to 2130h. There is usually one weekend activity each month, covering Bivouacs, range shoots/firearms safety, Remembrance Parades, visits to air displays/military museums etc. Expressions of interest to join are open year-round, but processing of applications is done in November/December for the following February intake and again in May/June for the July intake.

For more information: email co.336@airforcecadets.gov.au or adminno.336sqn@airforcecadets.gov.au, or call 0488 644 436.

NO.345 SQN AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE CADETS SQUADRON

No.345 Squadron Penrith is situated within Penrith Anglican College and parades on Thursday evenings between 1800h and 2130h. It is a newly-formed squadron and very active in the Penrith area and supports activities within the Western Sydney region.

For more information see airforcecadets.gov.au or email 345sqn@airforcecadets.gov.au.

AN OLD HOME FOR THE NEW HERC

By Flight Lieutenant Brent Moloney



PHOTO: CPL Casey Forster

↑ A RAAF C-130 Hercules aircraft, prepares to land at Honiara International Airport, Solomon Islands on 30 November 2021.

↓ A C-130J Hercules from No.37 Squadron, viewed from another aircraft in close formation near RAAF Base Richmond. Aircrew practice formation flying to be ready for operational requirements.

A WORKHORSE OF THE RAAF, the C-130J Hercules aircraft will continue serving Australia following an announcement by the Minister for Defence Industry in July 2023.

The Hercules fleet will increase from the current 12 aircraft operated by No.37 Squadron to be replaced by 20 new aircraft.

The move will continue the long and distinguished history of service by Hercules crews in Australian skies, and will ensure the future of the iconic aircraft's home, RAAF Base Richmond.

Speaking on the announcement of the replacement of the fleet, Minister for Defence Industry Pat Conroy praised the Hercules' contribution to the Australian people since the earliest models, the C-130A, first came into RAAF service in 1958.

"Often when people are in trouble and they see the Royal Australian Air Force symbol; it'll be on a Hercules aircraft," Minister Conroy said.

"And the recent announcement of 20 new C-130J aircraft to be based in Richmond brings further certainty on the future of RAAF Base Richmond for decades to come."

The significant fleet increase will bring with it hundreds of job opportunities around RAAF Base Richmond and the wider area for Air Force



PHOTO: CPL Casey Forster

personnel, Australian Public Servants and defence industry workers.

Air Commodore Brad Clarke, Commander Air Mobility Group, said close ties with Defence Industry partners are instrumental for the future of the Hercules and RAAF Base Richmond.

"Australian Industry will continue to play an important role in supporting the C-130J into the future, and will also contribute to the improvement of facilities and infrastructure as well as sustainment of the new fleet," he said.

Air Commodore Clarke spoke fondly of the Hercules and its unique historical relationship with the communities of NSW, recognising

the aircraft's 65-year relationship with the public will now extend out to 80 years and beyond.

"The C-130J played a critical role in supporting our troops in the Middle East for many years, as well as supporting our local community during recent fires, floods and pandemics," he said.

"The Hercules has regularly been seen flying over communities across NSW for 65 years as it conducts training and operates from RAAF Base Richmond, and is one of the most recognised aircraft operated by RAAF."

INDUSTRY PARTNERS

The operating squadrons at Richmond cannot carry out their functions without the support of industry partners. That support includes aircraft maintenance and essential services to operate the airfield infrastructure.



↑ NGA staff work closely with RAAF personnel.

NORTHROP GRUMMAN

Northrop Grumman Australia (NGA) is part of the US-based Northrop Grumman Corporation with 95,000 employees worldwide. This global reach enables it to access leading edge technology to deliver superior defence capability to the ADF. NGA is locally led and its national footprint of more than 800 talented, locally engaged employees are present across 10 sites. Partnering with customers to solve the toughest problems in space, aeronautics, defence and cyberspace, the company is committed to safeguarding Australia's future in an increasingly contested global security environment.

In partnership with the ADF, NGA established the Electronic Sustainment Centre (ESC) at RAAF Richmond in 2017. The ESC makes it possible for NGA and the ADF to expand capability across

the domains of air, sea, land and cyberspace through the repair and planning of next generation mission systems. ESC repair and overhaul capabilities include radar, navigation, communication and electronic warfare systems. This capability is unique in Australia, which means the ADF can prioritise in-country support. Becoming self-reliant in this capability allows Defence to keep costs low and significantly speed up repair pipeline processes.

As the chosen through-life support contractor for the C-27J Spartan, NGA has staff located at Richmond who work closely with No.84 Wing and Air Lift Systems Program Office. The services provided at Richmond include engineering, supply chain management, and capability development – these are ably supported by business management and finance management

activities. Work conducted in Richmond fully supports front line activities conducted by No.35 Squadron at RAAF Amberley.

Defining Possible is the company's mantra, so find out more about how you could do the same: northropgrumman.com/Australia.

ROLLS-ROYCE

Rolls-Royce is proud to have powered the Australian Defence Forces for the past 100 years. It's relationship with the Australian Defence Forces began with the Rolls-Royce Eagle 8 engine fitted to the Fairey IIID in service with the RAN in 1920 and the RAAF in 1921.

Today No.37 Squadron's Hercules C-130J is powered by four Rolls-Royce AE2100 engines, the same engine that powers No.35 Squadron's C-27J Spartan. The engines are supported on-site by Rolls-Royce Field Service Representatives embedded within the relevant RAAF Squadron.

Rolls-Royce is proud to be a long-term partner of the Australian Defence Force and is committed to strengthening Australia's military capability to support the security and stability of the Commonwealth of Australia.

LOCKHEED MARTIN

Lockheed Martin's innovative technologies have contributed to Australia's security for over 70 years and it is one of the largest suppliers of aerospace platforms and enabling technologies to the Australian Department of Defence. It directly employs more than 1,200 staff in Australia and contributes to the employment of over 6,000 Australians within its supply chains and industry partnerships.

The Lockheed Martin C-130 Hercules has been the backbone of RAAF air mobility capability for more than 60 years, since the RAAF acquisition of the C-130A as the first international Hercules operator, through to the current generation C-130J. As the C-130J manufacturer and industry partner to the RAAF, Lockheed Martin has designed, built and partners in the sustainment of Australia's fleet of C-130Js, including employment of a team at Richmond providing a range of technical and logistics support services.

Lockheed Martin's wider engagement in the Hawkesbury and Greater Sydney Region includes partnerships with local industry, educational institutions and the NSW Government.

CAE AUSTRALIA

CAE Australia delivers cutting-edge training and operational support solutions to help defence, civil, and healthcare customers navigate complex operational environments. Building on 75 years of global experience, CAE Australia delivers trusted training and management solutions, maintenance, and instructional capability, that seamlessly transforms training approaches, enhances the user experience, and leverages

next-generation technologies to rapidly advance the mission-readiness of Australia's personnel.

CAE Australia is committed to delivering training excellence on platforms such as C-130J, with over 300 employees delivering extensive knowledge, technical skill, and industry experience in 15 sites across Australia.

CAE has sustained critical instructional, operational, engineering, and maintenance support on the RAAF C-130 training program for decades, which includes training delivered devices such as a Tactical Aircrew Crew Trainer, Fuselage Trainer, and Full Flight Motion Simulator – the first Level D simulator in the world. The provision of classroom, live and simulated training at RAAF Base Richmond ensures aircrew train in a safe, immersive, and high-fidelity setting, experiencing the effects and complexities of critical flight operations across every mission, including Operation Coalition Virtual Guardian.

CAE is committed to developing the highest standard of operational readiness with the Royal Australian Air Force. Recently undergoing a Block 7.0/8.1 upgrade, the C-130J devices introduce capability enhancements that provide accurate and effective training to pilots, maintainers, and loadmasters, enhancing key skills that play a critical part in Australia's defence capability.



CAE Australia is proud to be a leader in ab-initio and advanced training for ADF personnel for over 29 years, deploying a range of innovative solutions from entry-level training devices and content development to the networking

of advanced full-mission simulators operating in a joint environment. CAE is continuously innovating and adapting to meet the evolving needs of its customers. To see how, visit cae.com and CAE Australia on LinkedIn.

PEOPLE. TECHNOLOGY. TRAINING.

Preparing for the moments that matter.

HEADQUARTERS AIR COMMAND

The role of RAAF Base Glenbrook is largely to support Headquarters Air Command.



LOCATED IN THE LOWER BLUE MOUNTAINS and overlooking the Sydney basin, RAAF Base Glenbrook is home to the RAAF's Headquarters Air Command (HQAC) which is responsible for the majority of personnel in the Air

Force and all of the operational aircraft and bases.

HQAC is led by Air Commander Australia, Air Vice-Marshal Glen Braz AM, CSC, DSM.

HQAC has undergone numerous changes since its initial formation in May 1942 as Headquarters Eastern Area Command, which relocated to the then-newly established RAAF Base Glenbrook in February 1950. In 1953, it was re-formed as Headquarters Home Command, then Operational Command in 1959 and then Air Headquarters Australia in 1987. In 1996, it took on its current title as Headquarters Air Command.

The job of Air Command is to raise, train and sustain Air Force's air and space power to meet the government's objectives. Its counterpart organisations are Australian Fleet Command in the Royal Australian Navy and Forces Command in the Australian Army.

Directly under the command of HQAC are the RAAF's six Force Element Groups, these are Air Combat Group (HQ at RAAF Base Williamtown), Air Force Training Group (HQ at RAAF Base Williams), Air Mobility Group (HQ at RAAF Base Richmond), Air Warfare Centre (HQ at RAAF Base Edinburgh), Combat Support Group (HQ at RAAF Base Amberley), and Surveillance and Response Group (HQ at RAAF Base Williamtown).

In January 2021, RAAF Base Glenbrook became home to the re-established No.464 Squadron, which is responsible for Public Affairs and Imagery across all Air Command units and squadrons.

While RAAF Glenbrook does not have an airfield, it does have a helipad. The base has excellent facilities with an impressive Officers'

Mess commanding views over the Sydney basin.

The base enjoys close ties with the nearby Blue Mountains community, and has cooperated closely during several Defence Assistance to the Civil Community initiatives – key among which are responses to bushfires in the local Blue Mountains area and more recently flooding in the Penrith/Richmond area.

GLENBROOK HEALTH CENTRE

The Glenbrook Clinic is a satellite clinic to Richmond Health Centre. Glenbrook clinic provides Outpatient services and remote pharmacy support, and is open 0730-1630 Mondays to Thursdays and 0730-1400 on Fridays. Sick parade services can be accessed all day.

Other services available: Dental (Tuesdays); Aviation Medical Officer (Wednesdays); and Physiotherapy (Wednesdays).

CONTACTS

For general enquiries and medical appointments: 02 4723 1679
 COVID-19 testing/respiratory clinic: 02 4579 5688
 Dental appointments: 02 4579 2091
 In an emergency, please call 000.

GLENBROOK FACILITIES

MAIN GATE AND ACCESS is via Knapsack Street, off the Great Western Highway. New passes are issued between 1-3pm Tuesdays and Thursdays (call the pass office on 02 4737 7203).

THE GYM (Building 112) is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Physical training sessions are run on Tuesdays at 2pm and Thursdays at 8:30am. Members who are interested in attending should bring a water bottle and towel.

TENNIS AND BASKETBALL COURTS are located opposite the Officers Mess. There is a swimming pool at the front of the mess looking over Sydney which is open to all staff and their families. Between October and March, the pool is open 6am to 7pm week days and 9am to 7pm on weekends.

THE MESS is open to all members of the RAAF Glenbrook community for lunch in the heritage dining room. The mess grounds are well manicured and again open to all staff and families. While there are ATM facilities at the Officers Mess, please note there are no bank branches located on RAAF Base Glenbrook.



↑ Incoming Air Commander Australia, Air Vice-Marshal Glen Braz AM, CSC, DSM and outgoing Air Commander Australia, Air Marshal Darren Goldie AM, CSC, sign the change of command certificate at RAAF Base Glenbrook on 26 June 2023.

PHOTO: LAC Chris Tsakiridis



← Ngali Shaw of the Wiradjuri/Murrawarri tribes performs a traditional dance during the Headquarters Air Command NAIDOC Ceremony at RAAF Base Glenbrook.

A COMMANDING VIEW

Few RAAF bases can claim the history of Glenbrook and its historic Officers Mess.

IN THE EARLY HOURS of February 4 1950, a fleet of military trucks climbed the Great Western Highway into the Blue Mountains and arrived at a former luxury hotel. The trucks carried Headquarters Eastern Area Command, which managed almost the entire operational arm of the post-war Air Force. The former Lapstone Hill Hotel, witness to glamorous balls and international conferences, was to become a hub for Air Force operations in the Cold War.

The story of what brought the Air Force to the Blue Mountains goes back to the 1870s. Former NSW politician John Lucas began construction of a house named Logie on his Blue Mountains property, but sold the property before seeing through his creation.

Shipping magnate Charles Smith completed Logie in the 1880s, enjoying the commanding view of the Sydney basin from his retreat. Ownership passed to his son Colin, who sold it in 1921 to Sydney architect Herwald Kirkpatrick and his brother-in-law Jack Morris.

The pair fell out in 1923, leading Morris to construct Briarcliffe on the property – the present-day residence of Air Commander Australia. Kirkpatrick had grander ambitions,

submitting plans in June 1928 for an art deco luxury hotel using the foundation stones of Logie.

With construction costs of £30,000, the Lapstone Hill Hotel opened in 1930. Its success invited further investment, and in 1934 an estimated £10,500 was spent on a new central and western wing with library, beauty salon, ballroom, extra bedrooms, and a covered driveway.

The expansion was completed in 1936 and the nearby Round House Public Bar was opened in 1940, fronting onto the Great Western Highway.

The Hotel's fortunes during the War contrasted with the glamour it attracted in the 1930s, although it hosted various United Nations committee meetings in 1945, 1947 and 1948. High running costs saw it up for auction in April 1949. A bid of £57,000 was received – £23,000 short of the reserve.

The hotel and property came to the attention of Headquarters Eastern Area Command, the Air Force agency responsible for fighter, bomber and transport squadrons at RAAF Bases Amberley, Williamtown and Richmond. The headquarters led a nomadic existence in the 1940s, working from Point Piper on Sydney Harbour then Bradfield Park (present day

Lindfield) on the North Shore. The Lapstone Hill Hotel would be an ideal headquarters with its size, close traffic and rail links, and relative proximity to RAAF Base Richmond.

In July 1949, the federal government paid £60,000 to acquire the hotel and property, and spent another £40,000 on upgrades that included turning hotel rooms into offices.

Tin and wooden huts transported from Bradfield Park became Officers Quarters, and Other Ranks lived at RAAF accommodation in Penrith. The Round House Public Bar became a guardhouse for the base's front gate on the Great Western Highway, and the new RAAF Base began operations in February 1950.

The timing of the relocation was fortunate. In 1950, Headquarters Eastern Area Command sent RAAF Lincoln bombers and Dakota transports to the Malayan Emergency; and RAAF Mustang fighters to Korea.

The function of the Headquarters changed in the years that followed, becoming the present-day Headquarters Air Command in 1996. Over that time, RAAF Base Glenbrook changed significantly. In 1983, a purpose-built headquarters building was opened, along with Other Ranks accommodation and a new front gate on Knapsack Street.

This allowed the former Lapstone Hill Hotel to become a dedicated Officers Mess with living-in accommodation, ante rooms and bar. The Glenbrook Officers Mess is known throughout the modern day RAAF for its spectacular view and heritage decor. Headquarters Air Command and the mess committee regularly use the ballroom, bar and manicured grounds to host balls, Change Of Command ceremonies, pay-night raffles, Air Force birthday events and traditional Dining In nights.

It is also a popular place for reasonably priced private functions. Recent private functions held at the Glenbrook Officers Mess include birthday parties, weddings and special anniversaries. If you would like to hold an unforgettable private function at the Glenbrook Officer Mess please contact the Glenbrook Air Base Command Post.

Private functions in the ballroom are not unlike the heyday of the 1930s, and the balcony enjoys the breathtaking view of the Sydney basin that inspired the construction of Logie in the 1870s.

To retain the longevity of this heritage building, the Officers Mess underwent renovations throughout 2020 and 2021, providing a better standard of living for those accommodated in this historic building.

SOCIAL CLUBS AND SERVICES

You don't need to feel left out at your new posting. Joining one of the social, welfare or recreation clubs at the base will keep you busy.

METRO CINEMA

The RAAF Base Richmond Metro Cinema supports the local Defence community through its screenings of family friendly and mature-themed films at minimal cost for all Defence members, their families and friends across the RAAF Richmond, Glenbrook and DEOHS posting locations. Films are screened on Friday and Saturday evenings, with family friendly screenings on a Saturday matinee. More information can be found at [facebook.com/RichmondMetroCinema](https://www.facebook.com/RichmondMetroCinema). Special event screenings have seen costumed characters from Star Wars and Marvel films join our patrons, and we regularly host other themed nights to create an atmosphere of fun. Volunteers are essential for the running of the cinema and we welcome new members who can assist with screenings. More information can be obtained by emailing: ric.metrocinema@defence.gov.au.

FLYING CLUB

The RAAF Richmond Flying Club provides Defence and APS personnel from across the Sydney area with access to general aviation flying and training. The club is made up of a combined mix of military and civilian members, while its diverse fleet of aircraft can cater for any experience level. It can provide numerous services including Trial Instruction Flights, ADF Flying Currency Scheme hire and flying training up to a Private Pilot License level, as well as a number of endorsements, ratings and reviews. More information is available from rrfc.org.au or email info@rrfc.org.au

GLENBROOK WELFARE CLUB

The Welfare Club at RAAF Base Glenbrook has numerous outdoor and recreational items available for use, including: camping and kayaking equipment, mountain bikes, trailers, and other miscellaneous items.

The Welfare Club also has passes offering discounted access for Taronga Zoo in Sydney and the Western Plains Zoo near Dubbo.

Information about the RAAF Base Glenbrook Welfare Club, including the equipment available for use, is available by searching 'Glenbrook Welfare Club' on Defence Intranet. You can

also purchase work baseball caps and patches from the Welfare Club website. Enquiries can be forwarded through to glnhqac.welfare@defence.gov.au.

FOOTBALL CLUB

The RAAF Base Richmond Football Club coordinates mixed indoor and outdoor football (soccer) tournaments throughout the year, with matches played during lunchtime. Teams are largely formed around workplaces or units at RAAF Base Richmond. More information can be found at <http://drnet.defence.gov.au/raaf/RAAFRFC/pages/Welcome.aspx> or email enquiries to richmondfootballclub@dpe.protected.mil.au.

RAAF RICHMOND GOLF CLUB

The RAAF Richmond Golf Club (RRGC) was formed in October 2002 and is proudly supported by our local Richmond Golf Club. The RRGC's goals are to foster and promote the game, as well as provide regular opportunities for members to play, relax and socialise.

Rounds are normally played on the last Friday of each month with tee times from 1200 to 1245. Monthly and annual championship rounds are held at the Richmond Golf Club.

The RRGC is your gateway to intra/inter-service, tri-service and prestigious charity golfing events and dinners. From beginners to advanced players - membership is open to all ADF, APS and Contractor staff employed at RAAF Richmond, Defence Estate Orchard Hills and RAAF Glenbrook. Players without an AGU Handicap are provided a local RRGC handicap.

For further information email the committee at ricgolfclubcommittee@drn.mil.au or go to the club's website at: <http://drnet.defence.gov.au/raaf/AirForce/RRGC/Pages/Welcome.aspx>

MODEL AIRCRAFT CLUB

RAAF Model Aircraft Club (MAC) is a radio-control aircraft club located next to RAAF Base Richmond, offering Defence personnel and other members a large open area to fly on weekends and public holidays. Club members fly a range of RC aircraft including scale, sport, aerobatic, glider, nitro and electric. RAAF MAC

also hosts a number of model competitions throughout the year including scale and pylon racing. RAAF MAC is perfect for any skill level, with instructors available to help improve your RC flying experience. Further information can be found at raafmac.org or by emailing RAAFMACpresident@gmail.com or raafmacsecretary@gmail.com.

RAAF RICHMOND GLIDING CLUB

Offering *ab initio* glider pilot training, aeronautical engineering projects and a social environment, RAAF Richmond Gliding Club invites RAAF, wider ADO and veteran members to join our club, be involved and enjoy the thrills of gliding. The RAAF Richmond Gliding Club operates once a month (spring to autumn) and undertakes non-flying training in winter.

RAAF Richmond Gliding club operates under the regulation of the Gliding Federation of Australia and offers gliding experiences from the very beginner to the competent cross-country pilot. For more information or bookings, see [facebook.com/richmondgliding](https://www.facebook.com/richmondgliding) or email enquiries to rrgc.org.au.

AIR FORCE DRONE RACING ASSOCIATION

The Air Force Drone Racing Association offers Air Force personnel the opportunity to represent their service in the sport of Drone Racing. The association primarily operates in the RAAF Base Richmond region with other members from Canberra. All Air Force personnel regardless of skill level are encouraged to join the sport and to also further their knowledge in the engineering behind the drones. In addition to the competitive side of Drone Racing, the team also conducts science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) engagement activities in the local region and across Australia. Further information and membership enquiries can be requested from AFDR.team@defence.gov.au.

WINGS WOMEN INTEGRATED NETWORKING GROUPS

WINGS Women Integrated Networking Groups (WINGS) is a localised program that facilitates mentoring and networking amongst Air Force women. Sydney WINGS offers ongoing opportunities for all Air Force women at all stages of their career to optimise their potential by strengthening professional networks, engaging in supportive and nurturing forums where individuals can share experiences, and creating networks and friendships with Air Force women in the local area.

Please contact ricwings@dpe.protected.mil.au to be added to the Sydney WINGS distribution list and for further information.



DEFENCE FAMILIES OF AUSTRALIA

DEFENCE FAMILIES OF AUSTRALIA (DFA)

is the official ADF families advisory body to the Minister for Defence Personnel and Chief of the Defence Force (CDF). The organisation sits outside of Defence systems, allowing DFA independence and impartiality to act in the best interests of ADF families.

There are National Delegates located across Australia near most major bases who know their communities. ADF members and their families can reach out to DFA if they would like advice on the best point of contact to resolve an issue, have been unsuccessful in resolving an issue through existing channels or have identified an existing policy gap which affects your family.

DFA's key advocacy goals are around improving communications to and for Defence families, children's education, supporting family employment, promoting flexible housing and addressing gaps in existing policies around breakdown of relationships, including family and domestic violence, and bereavement.

A more detailed account of their work is outlined in the DFA Advocacy Map, which is updated bi-annually and can be downloaded from their website. Scan the QR code to view the latest version. Follow DFA on social media for updates on their advocacy and sign up to their newsletter at dfa.org.au.



COMMUNITY GROUPS

There's a variety of support groups eager to welcome new members.

Defence Richmond Family Centre

Defence Richmond Family Centre (DFRC), is located at 13 McNamara Avenue RAAF Base Richmond. The DFRC offers various activities throughout the year. These include playgroup, craft activities, evening and weekend activities for ADF members and their families. More details and their current program can be found on the Defence Richmond Family Centre Facebook page, or email the centre at richmondfamilycentre@gmail.com.

Kissingpoint Cottage

Kissingpoint Cottage is a tri-service community house in the Sydney district of Ermington/Dundas. Their aim is to support military partners and their children in a fun and friendly environment where everyone understands the unique lifestyle and challenges faced by Defence families.

If you are new to the area or would simply like to make some new friends, come along and try some of their weekly sessions. They would love to meet you! Join them for one of their many planned activities such as fitness classes, drop in coffee mornings, playgroup or their after school sessions for school aged children.

Wine and Dine: A monthly social dinner held at North Ryde RSL. A fantastic opportunity to meet new people and enjoy a lovely meal. Onsite childminding is available.

Book Club: Do you enjoy reading? Come along to the monthly book club and enjoy fantastic conversation. First Thursday of the month. For more information call 02 9874 4052, email kissingpointcottage@gmail.com, visit the Kissingpoint Cottage Facebook page or feel free to drop in. Open Wednesday to Friday at the house, just behind Timor Barracks, 282 Kissing Point Road, Dundas.

Penrith Military Spouse Weekly Morning Tea

For more information about the group, please contact coordinator Indah on 0400 774 876. They normally meet fortnightly at 10am Thursdays at the Little House of Coffee, Flower Power Garden Centre, Orchard Hills.

Defence Special Needs Support Group

The Defence Special Needs Support Group Inc. (DSNSG) is a national not-for-profit benevolent volunteer organisation. DSNSG provides support, information, assistance and advocacy for all ADF families who are currently serving as well as ex-serving with special needs located both around Australia and overseas. For more information visit dsnsng.org.au or email National coordinator@dsnsng.org.au.





↑ Halloween Fest.

DEFENCE SUPPORT

Defence offers a range of programs and services to help Australian Defence Force members and their families in the Richmond area make the most of the opportunities and challenges of military life.

DEFENCE FAMILIES MAKE a significant contribution to the wellbeing of our Australian Defence Force (ADF) members and the success of their missions. In support of our ADF families, Defence Member and Family Support (DMFS) has a wide range of information and support for families to help them navigate military life.

DMFS delivers national programs and services to ADF families across Australia. There's support available at every stage, from the support for new recruits and their families adjusting to Defence life to partners and children managing the challenges of military life, to the time when a member transitions from permanent service.

Support available from DMFS includes assistance for partners' employment, help with finding childcare, deployment support,

assistance for dependants with special needs, social worker support, relocation, support for community groups, help for families during crisis and emergency, and education support for children. DMFS also holds a number of information sessions and social events throughout the year for military families in the region.

For more information about the services and programs, visit the website defence.gov.au/members-families, contact the 24/7 Defence Member and Family Helpline on 1800 624 608 or email the Helpline for advice at memberandfamilyhelpline@defence.gov.au.

YOUR LOCAL DMFS TEAM

The local DMFS team is made up of military and civilian staff, undertaking a variety of roles including military support, social work, family liaison and transition support.

The team provides a range of services to families across the region, including:

- support in times of crisis
- deployment and absence support
- mobility and relocation support
- professional counselling for personal, relationship and family problems
- information sessions, social or support groups
- local education advice and assistance
- special needs recognition and review
- partner employment assistance
- access to transition coaching and the Defence Force Transition Programs.

Make sure you don't miss out on the range of events DMFS Richmond hosts – like rock climbing, mini golf or evening events aimed exclusively for spouses and members. Go to DMFS's Eventbrite page where you can register for free tickets to events. You can also see what local events are on by visiting the events calendar on the website defence.gov.au/members-families. Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram and keep up-to-date with the latest DMFS news and events.

WHO CAN YOU MEET AT THE LOCAL OFFICE?

- **Defence social workers** are qualified professionals who are knowledgeable about the ADF and the military lifestyle.
- **Family liaison officers** have extensive knowledge of the region and can help families connect with local community groups and support services. They are also proactive in organising a range of information sessions and social events.
- **Education liaison officers** provide information and support to families around children's education and schools in the area.

DMFS PROGRAMS & SERVICES

24-HOUR SUPPORT

If you need support, help, or advice at any time, contact the Defence Member and Family Helpline on 1800 624 608. The Helpline operates 24-hours a day, seven days a week and is staffed by qualified human services professionals, including social workers and psychologists.

PARTNER EMPLOYMENT

The Partner Employment Assistance Program provides funding for initiatives to assist ADF partners with employment when they are relocated on posting, or if their ADF member is medically transitioning, and for some re-registration costs. Partners have the flexibility of opting to receive services from Defence's professional employment services provider or a provider of their choice.

DEPENDANTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Families who have dependants with special needs can get information and practical assistance to reduce the impact of relocation.

SUPPORT DURING DEPLOYMENT AND TIME APART

DMFS provides a range of services, practical assistance and products to help inform and prepare ADF members and families for every stage of deployment. Support includes advice and referral to local support services, access to resilience programs, assistance in emergencies and crisis, and connection to community groups. Families can also opt in to receive regular deployment support calls by registering with the Defence Member and Family Helpline on 1800 624 608.



CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

DMFS has dedicated education liaison officers to provide advice to families, and funds Defence School Mentors to support Defence children through changing schools and times of parental absence.

ACCESS TO CHILDCARE

DMFS maintains a network of childcare centres around Australia, with priority placement for ADF families. Families who are facing difficulties accessing childcare, such as when they move to a new area or change their work or care arrangements, can also access an individual case management service to help them find registered childcare services in their local community.

EMERGENCY AND CRISIS SUPPORT

DMFS provides a range of practical and emotional support programs for families facing emergency or crisis, including assistance in time of illness, injury, domestic crisis or bereavement. Members and their families can access 24-hour support, social work and assessment, or referral from the all-hours Defence Member and Family Helpline.

TRANSITION TO CIVILIAN LIFE

Joint Transition Authority delivers support to members and their families transitioning to the Reserves or separating from the ADF. There is a range of support programs to assist ADF members and their families when they transition to civilian life, enabled by a transition coach. The coach helps to build a personalised package of support based on the circumstances and post-transition goals of the member and their family. The coach remains with the member and their family for up to two years post-transition. For more information, please email transition.richmond@defence.gov.au.



SUPPORT FOR RESERVISTS

The families of Reserve members can access a broad range of support services when the Reservist is on continuous full-time service or away on deployment or exercise.

PARENTS

DMFS offers information and support services for the parents of ADF members to help them understand and manage the challenging aspects of having a son or daughter in the services.

CONNECTION WITH COMMUNITY

Defence families are strongest when they are connected with their local communities. DMFS provides a number of support and information services to help families connect with and contribute to their community.

CONTACT DMFS

The Defence Member and Family Helpline is your first point of call for support, information and connection with your local community. It is staffed by qualified human services professionals, including social workers and psychologists, who can assist you 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Phone 1800 624 608

Email memberandfamilyhelpline@defence.gov.au

Website defence.gov.au/members-families



MAILING LIST

Scan the QR code to join the DMFS Richmond mailing list and keep up-to-date with information.

DEFENCE MEMBER AND FAMILY SUPPORT RICHMOND WELCOME EXPO 2024

The Defence Member and Family Support Richmond Welcome Expo will be held on 9 March 2024 at Sydney Zoo, from 0930.

The Welcome Expo is an opportunity for Defence families to get to know their local DMFS team, the services and support provided in the region, and to build community and social networks with other ADF families.

For more information email dmfs.richmond@defence.gov.au or see the event listing, which will be published on the DMFS Richmond Eventbrite page towards the end of 2023: DMFS-Richmond.eventbrite.com

MAPS OF THE AREA



PHOTO: Destination NSW



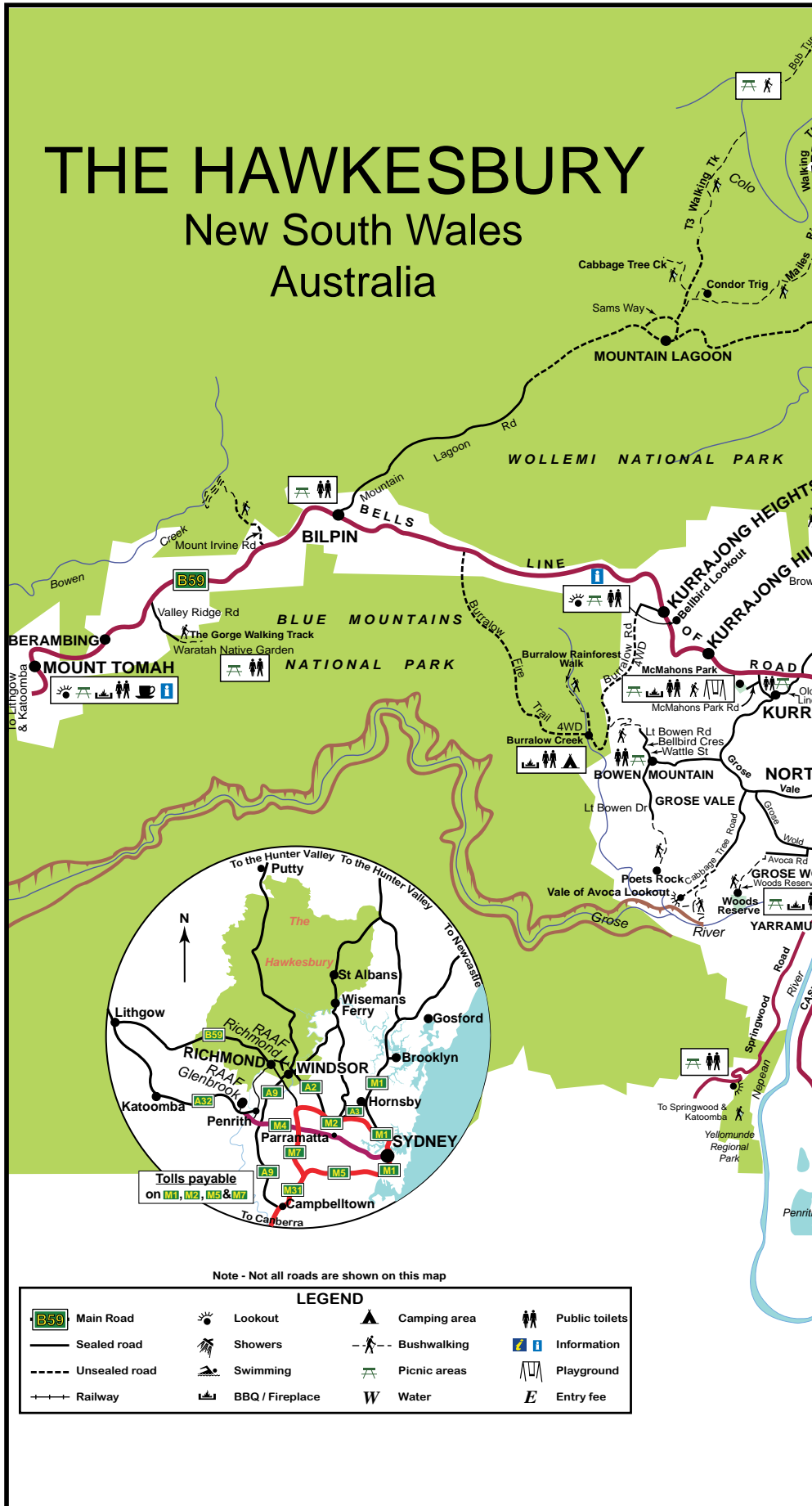
PHOTO: Time Out

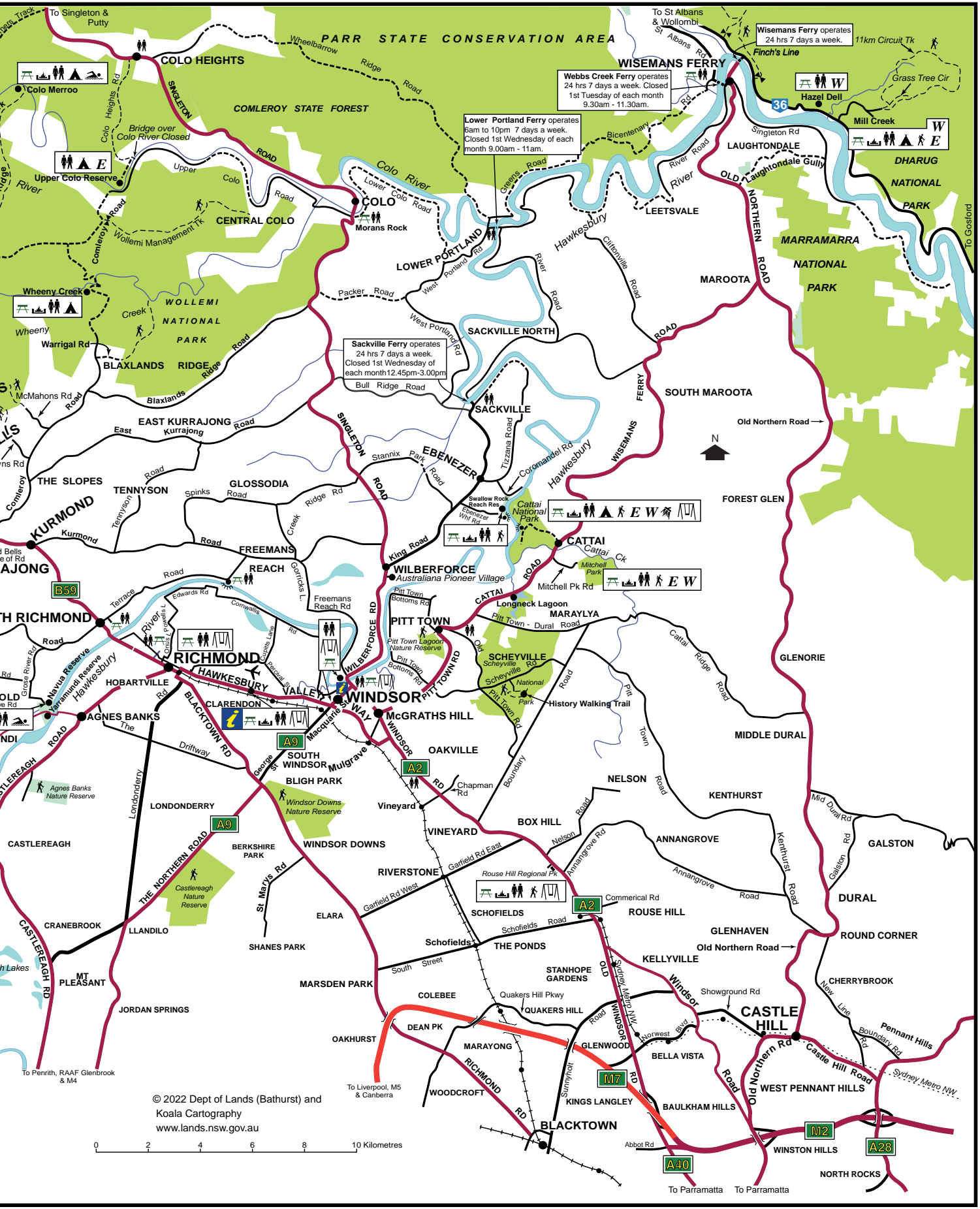


PHOTO: Destination NSW



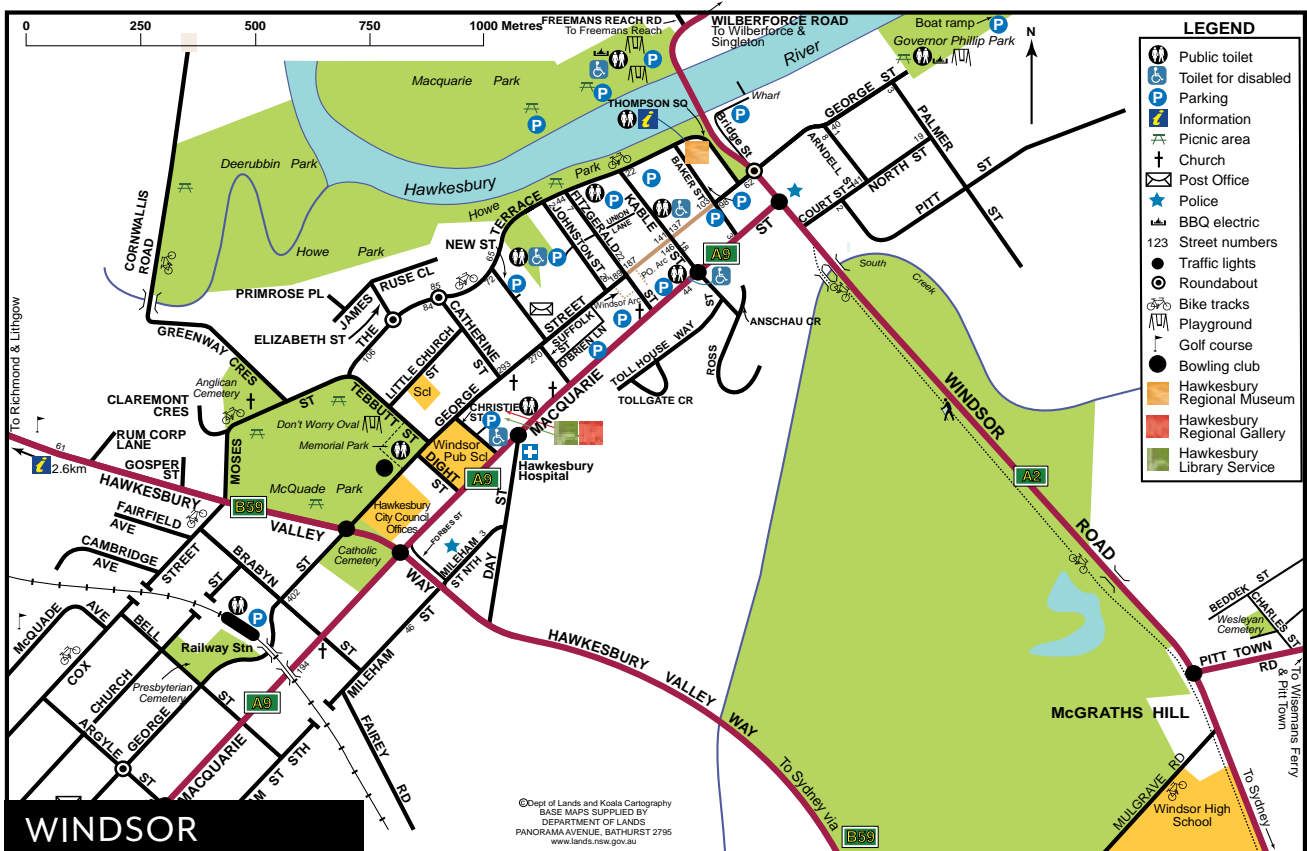
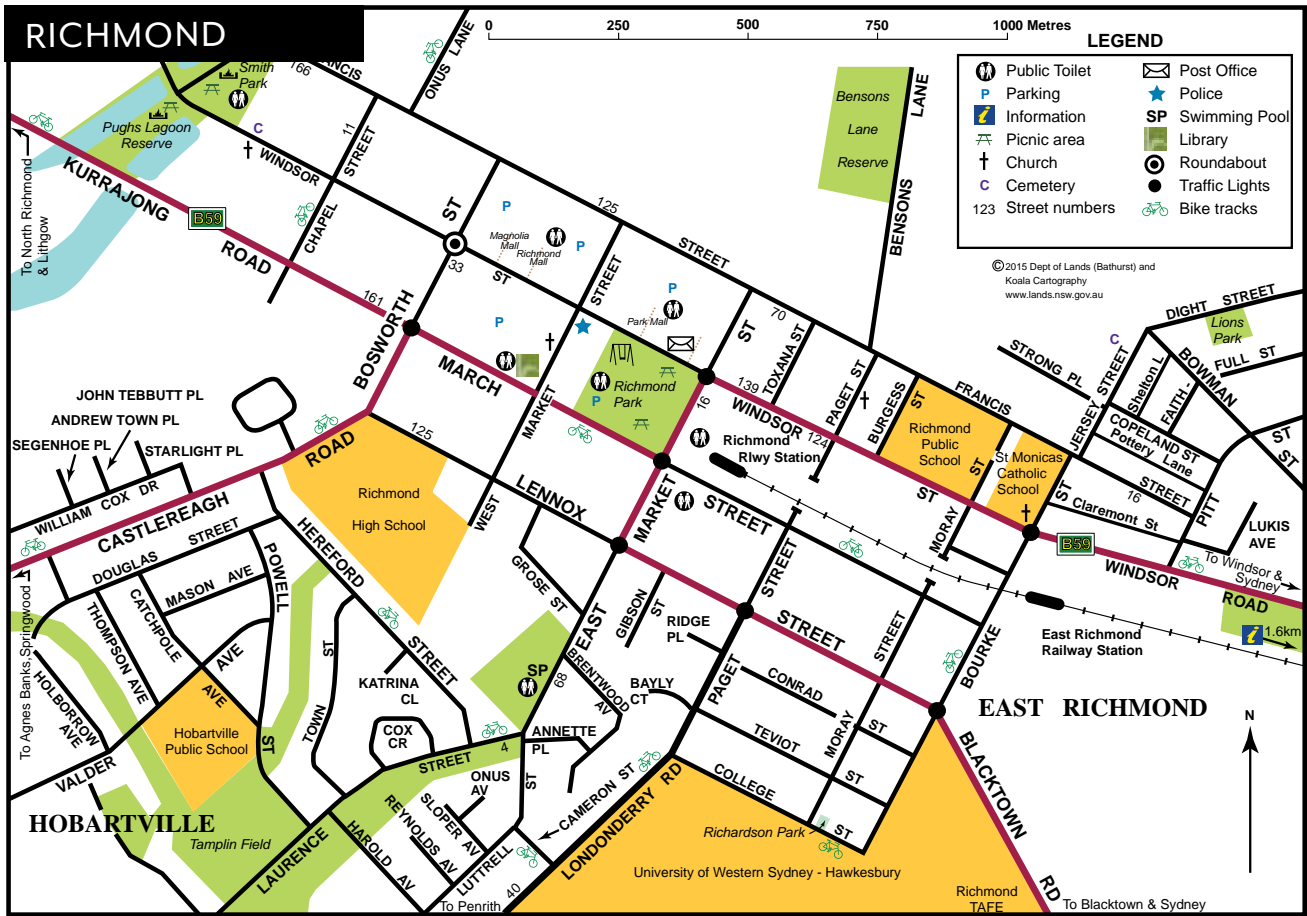
PHOTO: Time Out

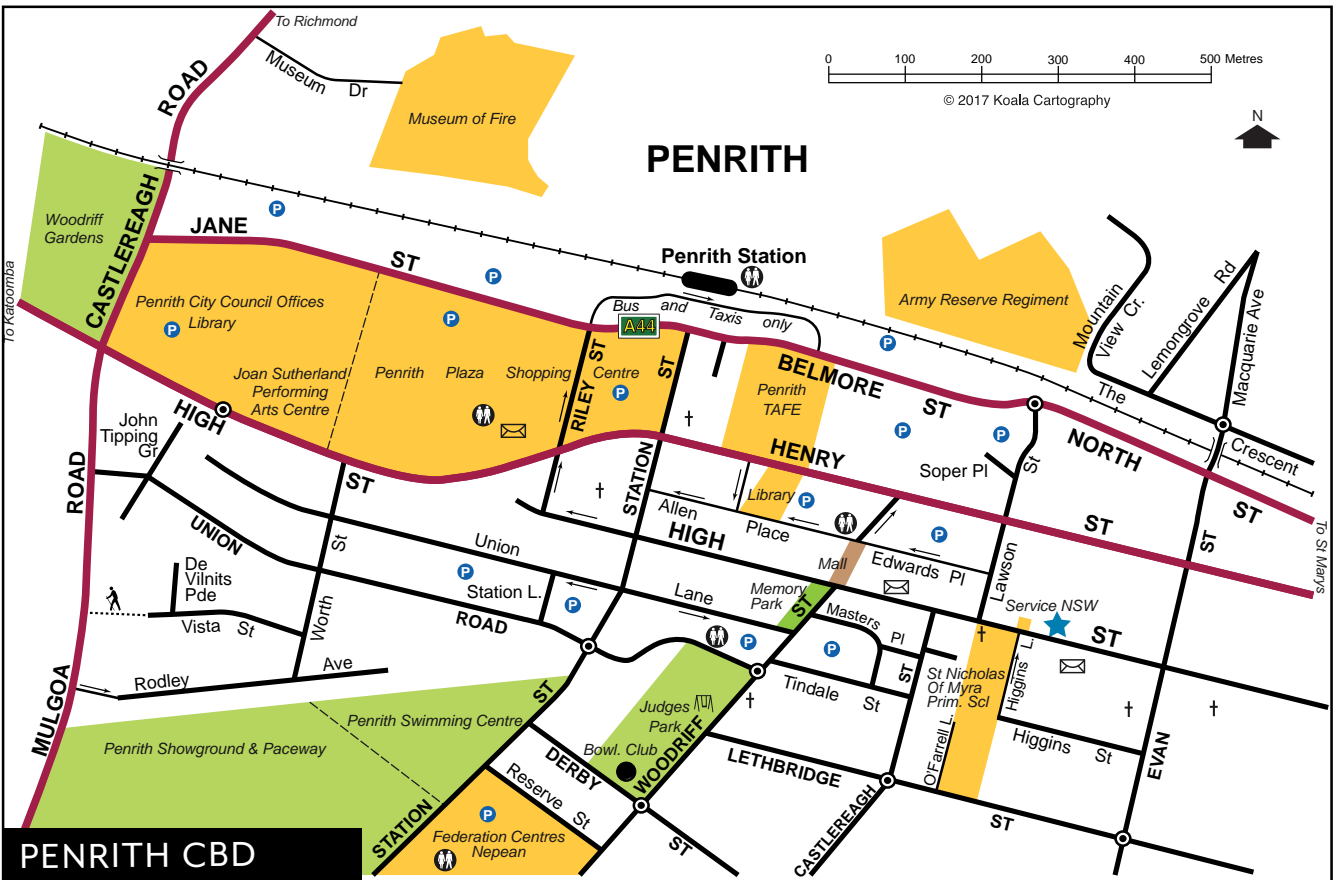
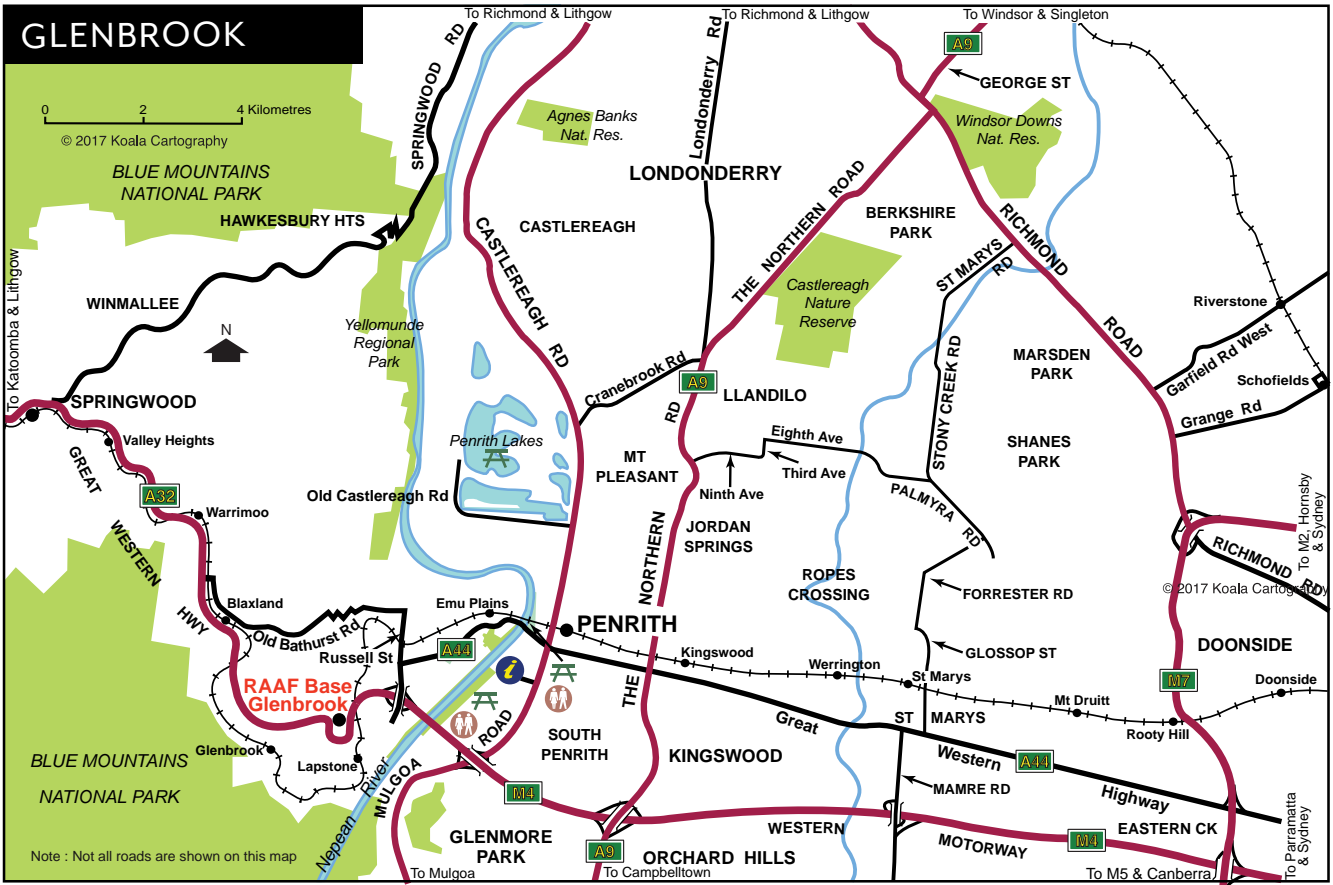




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www.lands.nsw.gov.au

0 2 4 6 8 10 Kilometres





LOCAL SERVICES

To help you establish your family in the Richmond and Glenbrook region, here's a quick guide to local services and amenities.

RAAF BASE RICHMOND

LOCATED BETWEEN Windsor to the east and Richmond to the west, RAAF Base Richmond sits within the Hawkesbury City Council boundaries. Neighbouring councils include Penrith, Blacktown, The Hills District and Blue Mountains.

TRANSPORT

RAIL There are CityRail stations at Richmond, East Richmond, Clarendon, Windsor and Mulgrave (transportsw.info). A train journey to Sydney's Central Station takes about 80 minutes.

ROAD RAAF Base Richmond is adjacent to Hawkesbury Valley Way, which links eastbound with Windsor Road (connecting with the M7 and M2 motorways). Alternatively, Racecourse Road intersects with Hawkesbury Valley Way in Clarendon, and links with Richmond Road (connecting with the M7 motorway). Sydney Airport is about a 70-minute drive (off peak).

BUS Bus routes connect RAAF Base Richmond with local town centres and train stations. Route information can be found at transportsw.info.

HAWKESBURY CITY COUNCIL

Council office: 366 George Street, Windsor. 02 4560 4444. Call centre: 8:30am-5pm Monday to Friday. Front Counter: 9am-4pm Monday to Friday. hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au

COMMUNITY HALLS

Council provides 18 community centres and halls, some managed by council, others by volunteers. Centres vary in size and facilities. Centres, halls and outdoor spaces can be booked for one-off or regular meetings or functions via the council's webpage.

ANIMAL SHELTER

The Hawkesbury Companion Animal Shelter is at 10 Mulgrave Road, Mulgrave. Open 9am-12.30pm & 2-4.30pm Monday to Friday, 9.30-11.30am Saturday, 7-9.30am Sunday. 02 4560 4644.

COMMUNITY NURSERY

The Hawkesbury Community Nursery is predominantly a volunteer-run nursery that propagates Hawkesbury indigenous native plants, which are sold at an affordable price. The nursery,

at 10 Mulgrave Road, Mulgrave, is open to the public 9am-1pm Wednesdays and 9am-midday on the first Saturday of each month (excluding December and January). Call the Community Nursery Officer on 02 4560 4651, or email nursery@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au, Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.

LIBRARIES

Hawkesbury Central Library, Deerubbin Centre, 300 George Street, Windsor. 02 4560 4460.

Richmond Library, 29 West Market Street, Richmond. 02 4560 4270.

The libraries are free to join. Items that can be borrowed or used in the libraries include:

- Current and popular fiction and non-fiction books for children, teenagers and adults
 - Newspapers, magazines, books on CD, large-print books, music CDs and DVDs
 - Local and family history research materials
 - Reference materials and online databases.
 - Free streaming service.
- Computers with internet access and wireless

access are free for members to use at both libraries. Audio books and ebooks can also be borrowed from home. A home delivery service for people unable to visit the libraries due to infirmity, disability or prolonged illness is also available. www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/library

DOG OFF-LEASH AREAS

Pool Park, corner of Ham and Cox Streets, South Windsor

Peel Park, Arthur Phillip Drive, North Richmond
Yarramundi Reserve, Springwood Road, Agnes Banks (this area is not fenced)

Pound Paddock, corner of Blacktown and Bourke Street, Richmond.

Deerubbin Park, Greenway Crescent onto Cornwallis Road, Windsor.

SWIMMING POOLS

Hawkesbury Oasis, corner Drummond and Church Streets, South Windsor (managed by Y NSW). Indoor heated leisure pool & 25m pool, outdoor 50m heated pool, spa, sauna, steam room, gym and creche. 02 4587 8900. ymcansw.org.au/centres/hawkesbury-oasis

Richmond Swimming Centre, 71 East Market Street, Richmond. 50m outdoor pool, wading pool and shaded toddler pool. 02 4578 1349.

For opening times and details, see www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/your-spaces/pools.

RAAF BASE GLENBROOK

AT THE GATEWAY between the Sydney Basin and the wider Blue Mountains region, RAAF Base Glenbrook sits at the foothills of the Blue Mountains, adjacent to the Great Western Highway, which runs to the township of Glenbrook. Glenbrook is in the City of Blue Mountains council area, which also includes the townships of Springwood, Blaxland, Wentworth and Katoomba. RAAF Base Glenbrook is also adjacent to the Penrith City Council area.

TRANSPORT

RAIL The CityRail Station at Glenbrook is 2km from RAAF Base Glenbrook and runs services westbound to Springwood, Katoomba and Lithgow or eastbound to Penrith, Blacktown, Parramatta and Sydney (transportnsw.info). A train journey to Sydney's Central Station takes about 65 minutes.

ROAD RAAF Base Glenbrook is adjacent to the Great Western Highway. Eastbound, the highway passes through Penrith, Parramatta and Parramatta Road (which leads to Sydney, a 60-minute car trip without traffic). The highway

is also a 17-minute drive from the Lighthorse interchange in Sydney's west, which connects via the M7 to the M2 (to the north) and M5/Hume Highway (to the south). Sydney Airport is approximately a 60-minute drive (off peak).

BUS Blue Mountains area bus routes information can be found at cdcbus.com.au. The nearest bus stop is on Knapsack Street, immediately outside RAAF Base Glenbrook.

BLUE MOUNTAINS CITY COUNCIL

Katoomba office 2-6 Civic Place, Katoomba. 02 4780 5000. 9am-4pm Monday to Friday.

Springwood office 104 Macquarie Road, Springwood. 02 4723 5000. 89am-4pm Monday to Friday. bmcc.nsw.gov.au

PENRITH CITY COUNCIL

Penrith Civic Centre, 601 High Street, Penrith. 02 4732 7777. 8.30am-4pm Monday to Friday. penrithcity.nsw.gov.au

LIBRARIES

BLUE MOUNTAINS CITY COUNCIL operates six library branches and an eLibrary, which offers online resources for members.

Blaxland, 33 Hope Street. 02 4739 4284.



WHAT'S ON AT RICHMOND'S LOCAL

EST 1900

R.G. MCGEES

RICHMOND

\$20 MEAL DEALS ALL DAY EVERY DAY

HAPPY HOUR • LIVE MUSIC
TRIVIA • BADGE DRAW
\$10 HOUSE COCKTAILS
DINNER DEALS

FIND OUT MORE
RGMCGEES.COM.AU
02 4578 1503 • 193 WINDSOR ST, RICHMOND



Springwood, 104 Macquarie Road. 02 4780 5040.

Katoomba, 30 Parke Street. 02 4780 5750.

Blackheath, Community Hall,
Great Western Highway. 02 4780 5901.

Lawson, San Jose Ave & Loftus Street.
02 4780 5903.

Wentworth Falls, School of Arts Building,
Great Western Highway. 02 4780 5902.

eLibrary – a range of online resources for members, including eBooks, audiobooks and access to free online streaming of movies, TV shows and more. For details and branch opening hours, see library.bmcc.nsw.gov.au.

PENRITH CITY COUNCIL operates three library branches.

Penrith 601 High Street. 02 4732 7891.

St Clair Shop 12, St Clair Shopping Centre,
Bennett Road & Endeavour Avenue. 02 9670 6853.

St Marys 207-209 Queen Street, St Marys.
02 4732 7455.

For information and opening hours, see penrithcity.nsw.gov.au

Penrith eLibrary – a range of online resources for members, including eBooks and magazines. penrith.overdrive.com

DOG OFF-LEASH AREAS

Penrith City Council has off-leash dog parks in Cranebrook, Emu Heights, North St Marys, South

Penrith, St Clair and Werrington. For maps, see penrithcity.nsw.gov.au.

LEISURE CENTRES

BLUE MOUNTAINS CITY COUNCIL has five dedicated leisure centres with swimming pools and other facilities.

Glenbrook Swim Centre, cnr Fletcher & Wascoe Streets, has an outdoor heated 50m pool and an enclosed heated program pool for swim classes. 02 4780 5987.

Katoomba Sports & Aquatic Centre (Catalina Ave) and **Springwood Aquatic and Fitness Centre** (11 Plateau Road) are open year round with a range of competitive and recreational pools and programs as well as fitness centres and group fitness classes. Outdoor pools at **Lawson** (St Bernards Drive) and **Blackheath** (Gardiners Crescent) are open seasonally. bmcc.nsw.gov.au/LeisureCentres

Ripples Leisure Centres in Penrith and St Marys offer a variety of aquatic, fitness and wellbeing services, including indoor and outdoor pools, spa and sauna. ripplesnsw.com.au

HOSPITALS

Blue Mountains District Anzac Memorial Hospital, Woodlands Road, Katoomba, 02 4784 6500.

Hawkesbury District Health Service, 2 Day Street, Windsor, 02 4560 5555.

Nepean Hospital, Gate 7, Somerset Street, Kingswood, 02 4734 2000.

Springwood Hospital, 7 Huntley Grange Road, Springwood, 02 4784 6500.

Westmead Hospital, corner Hawkesbury and Darcy Road, Westmead, 02 8890 5555.

For more health services, see healthdirect.gov.au.

NSW POLICE

Hawkesbury Police Area Command
13 Mileham Street, Windsor, 02 4587 4099.

Blue Mountains Police Area Command
4 Jerseywold Avenue Springwood,
02 4751 0299. police.nsw.gov.au

FLOOD, FIRE & EMERGENCY

In the event of a life-threatening emergency call 000 to connect to Police, Fire and Ambulance. For assistance or information for:

- **Floods or storms** call 132 500. ses.nsw.gov.au
- **Bushfires** call 1800 679 737. rfs.nsw.gov.au
- An emergency involving a council service or facility call your local council office.

SHOPPING

These are some of the larger shopping centres in the area.

Lennox Village, Cnr Great Western Highway and Pyramid Street, Emu Plains. Aldi, Woolworths, retail stores and services. lennoxvillage.com.au

Nepean Village, Station & Woodriff Street, Penrith. Coles, Kmart, retail stores, banks and services. nepeanvillage.com.au

North Richmond Village, 6-16 Riverview Street, North Richmond. Coles and a small selection of stores. northrichmondvillage.com.au

Penrith Homemakers Centre, Pattys Place, Penrith. Home, hardware, outdoor. penrithhomemakercentre.com.au

Richmond Mall, 271 Windsor Street, Richmond. Coles and a small selection of stores. richmondmall.com.au

Richmond Marketplace, 78 March Street, Richmond. Big W, Woolworths, fashion, retail stores, banks and services. richmondmarketplace.com.au

Westfield Penrith, 585 High Street, Penrith. Aldi, Coles, Woolworths, Myer, Big W, retail, banks and cinema. westfield.com.au/penrith

Winmalee Shopping Centre, 32-44 White Cross Road, Winmalee. Coles and specialty retailers. winmaleevillage.com.au

Windsor Marketplace, 6-16 Kable Street, Windsor. Woolworths and a small selection of stores. windsormarketplace.com.au

Windsor Riverview Shopping Centre, 227 George Street, Windsor. Coles, retail stores and services. windsor-riverview.com.au



PHOTO: Destination NSW



PHOTO: Destination NSW



PHOTO: Hawkesbury City Council



HEALTH MATTERS

There are a number of services to help manage your family's health in a new posting.

ADF MEMBER HEALTH

Defence provides essential healthcare to all ADF members, on and off base, including medical and dental, mental health, ambulance transport and hospitalisation. ADF members do not need a Medicare card.

RICHMOND HEALTH CENTRE

Enquiries & appointments 02 4579 5688

Physiotherapy 02 4579 4936

Pharmacy 02 4579 4774

Dental reception 02 4579 2091

GLENBROOK CLINIC

Enquiries & appointments 02 4723 1679

Dental appointments 02 4579 2091

24-HOUR HEALTH SUPPORT

ADF members needing urgent medical treatment when away from base should call 1800 IM SICK (1800 467 425). The IM SICK line is a toll-free, all-hours service for ADF personnel to discuss health concerns over the phone and receive immediate advice on where they need to go to receive appropriate treatment. The service is provided by BUPA under the ADF Health Services Contract.

RECOGNISED DEPENDENTS

Members need to make arrangements for the healthcare of their families, but note that financial assistance is available (see under: DEFENCE FAMILY HEALTH CARE).

FINDING A GP

To find a GP in your locality, a good place to start is the 'find a health service' tool on the Australian Government's Health Direct website, healthdirect.gov.au/australian-health-services, which allows you to filter out GPs who don't bulk bill. GPs who don't bulk bill will charge you for the visit. You can claim the 'schedule fee' from Medicare, but it will probably be less than the GP's account, leaving a residual cost. Many doctors now offer a service called HICAPS that allows you to claim your Medicare rebate when you pay at the doctor's surgery. Joining a social group to connect with others in your area is also good way to glean advice on local GPs and medical centres.

DEFENCE FAMILY HEALTH CARE

The National ADF Family Health Program will reimburse dependants of ADF members for out-of-pocket expenses for all GP visits. Specialist services will also be reimbursed, up to a total allocation of \$800 per dependent which can be shared between dependents. For more information visit adffamilyhealth.com or phone 02 6266 3547.

PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE

Medicare makes adequate provision to cover all Australian citizens for their essential health needs. However, Medicare doesn't cover many 'extras' such as ambulance services, most dental services, spectacles, contact lenses, hearing aids and cosmetic surgery.

You may choose to take out private health

insurance to provide your family with a wider range of options and more comprehensive cover. Health insurance policies can be either hospital or general treatment (extras) or a combination of both. Your decision to purchase private insurance is a personal one and will be based on a number of factors:

- The advantages of having more choices, for instance the ability to choose your surgeon/obstetrician/specialist and the hospital you prefer from the private health insurer's agreed providers
- The probability of obtaining treatment faster than you might do on a public hospital waiting list
- Your desire to be covered for the extras
- The cost of private health cover for different options that are offered by the numerous providers in the health-insurance market.

With respect to the cost, you will also need to consider the tax implications of the Medicare Levy surcharge, which (as distinct from the Medicare Levy) is an additional tax imposed on those with a taxable income above a certain threshold who do not have a prescribed level of private health insurance.

The cost of your private health insurance policy will also be influenced by your age when you commence your policy. Once you turn 31, a Lifetime Health Cover (LHC) loading of two percent is added to your hospital cover premium for every year you're without hospital cover, e.g. if you delay until age 40, your LHC would be 20 percent. Note that permanent ADF members are considered to have had private hospital cover while serving.

This article is published as general education and should not be taken as professional advice.

SOME USEFUL WEBSITE

Health insurance

- accg.gov.au/consumers/health-home-travel/private-health-insurance
- PrivateHealth.gov.au
- choice.com.au/money/insurance/health

Medicare Levy

- Go to the Australian Tax Office website, ato.gov.au, and search 'Medicare Levy'.
- For more, go to help.airtax.com.au and search 'Medicare and Medicare Levy exemption for ADF members'.



HOUSING

MOVING HOUSE CAN be both an exciting and daunting prospect – some big decisions need to be made, the most important one being where you are going to live. Children’s education, distance to work for both the member and spouse/ partner, health care, lifestyle preferences and the amenity of available housing are all factors to be considered.

SERVICE RESIDENCES

Unless you own a suitable home in your new posting locality, your first port of call is Defence Housing Australia (DHA). DHA provides housing and related services for Australian Defence Force members and their families through its portfolio of service residences (SR). DHA’s portfolio comprises modern houses, townhouses and apartments in selected locations. The majority are off-base, integrated throughout the local community and in reasonably close proximity to Defence bases and establishments, amenities and services. DHA maintains the currency of its portfolio by upgrading existing properties, sourcing new properties through a variety of construction activities, acquiring properties

through traditional real estate markets and directly sourcing and leasing properties from private owners. You are eligible for a SR if you fit into any of these groups:

- You have a spouse, recognised interdependent partner or children who live with you (Accompanied Resident Family)
- You have Recognised Other Persons who normally live with you
- You are a member with unaccompanied resident family and your dependants need housing (Unaccompanied Resident Family).

More detailed information on entitlements can be found in the Pay and Conditions Manual, Chapter 7, [pay-conditions.defence.gov.au/pacman/chapter-7](https://www.defence.gov.au/pacman/chapter-7), and/or on DHA’s website [dha.gov.au](https://www.dha.gov.au).

SINGLES

DHA also holds some apartments suitable for single members – called Members Choice accommodation. The process for accessing Members Choice or private rental under Rent Allowance (RA) is the same as for families accessing SR, outlined below.

HOW DO I FIND A SERVICE RESIDENCE?

As soon as you know you require a Service Residence, call DHA on 139 342 to obtain a username and password to access Online Services, a unique online tool that will allow you to select your new home. Online Services will show you:

- Homes within your entitlement
- Interior and exterior photos of the homes
- Property details for each home
- A floor plan
- A map showing the location of the home and nearby facilities.

Once you have researched your options, you can reserve a home on Online Services.

Note that, whether you are an Accompanied Resident Family or a single, if you own a home in your current posting location which is suitable for you to live in, you will not be eligible for a SR or RA.

PRIVATE RENTAL

If DHA cannot provide you with a suitable SR, you may be eligible for RA. While DHA will manage your RA application, it is up to you to

find a suitable rental property. Rental properties in the region can be sourced from local real estate agencies or on any of the following commercial websites:

- [realestate.com.au/rent](https://www.realestate.com.au/rent)
- [domain.com.au/rent](https://www.domain.com.au/rent)
- [rent.com.au](https://www.rent.com.au)
- [realestateview.com.au/rental-properties](https://www.realestateview.com.au/rental-properties)
- [rentfind.com.au/rentals](https://www.rentfind.com.au/rentals).

BUYING A HOUSE

You may feel it's time to enter the housing market or wish to sell your home in your losing locality and purchase in the gaining locality. Assistance for home purchase may be available through:

- The Defence Home Ownership Assistance Scheme pays a monthly subsidy on a member's home loan interest. The scheme is administered by the Department of Veterans' Affairs, for details see [dhoas.gov.au](https://www.dhoas.gov.au).
- The Home Purchase or Sale Expenses Allowance reimburses reasonable buying and selling costs. For details see the Pay and Conditions Manual, [pay-conditions.defence.gov.au/pacman/chapter-7/part-3](https://www.defence.gov.au/pacman/chapter-7/part-3). Note that a decision to purchase your own

home in your new locality does not need to be made before you proceed on posting, you can decide at any time during your posting. However, if you are in RA accommodation, you will need to consider the penalties in your lease for early termination.

MORE INFORMATION OR ASSISTANCE

For information on all accommodation options, application forms and to access Online Services, visit DHA's website, [dha.gov.au](https://www.dha.gov.au).

At times, finding the right housing solution can be a challenging process. The Directorate of Relocations and Housing is responsible for the provision and delivery of quality housing and related services to ADF members under national contracts and in accordance with Defence Policy. If you require additional support please email DRH.DRHM@defence.gov.au with your enquiry and your local Defence Relocation Manager will be in touch.



POSTING CONNECT

PostingConnect provides an online environment from where you can manage your posting. The platform provides direct access to posting services, including Toll and DHA, and is accessible from any device. PostingConnect allows members and their families to navigate the many aspects of a posting within one application. Visit the PostingConnect website, [defence.gov.au/postingconnect](https://www.defence.gov.au/postingconnect), for more information.

HARS Aviation Museum

Highly acclaimed collection of lovingly restored aircraft as well as a selection of Australia's Aviation Heritage aircraft. An incredible tour with a team of knowledgeable tour guides who provide outstanding commentary on your visit.

Over 40 aircraft including:

- DHC-4 Caribou (A4-210, A4-234)
- F-111C (A8-109)
- PBY-6A Catalina
- AP-3C Orion (A9-753)
- CAC CA-27 Sabre (A94-901)
- P2V-7 Neptune (A89-273)
- Douglas C-47 (A65-94, A65-95, A65-90 - now N2-90)
- CA-25 Winjeel (A85-435)
- English Electric Canberra (A84-502)
- DH-115 Vampire T-35 (A79-637, A79-665)
- Mirage III (A3-42)

Most displays under cover - a great rainy day venue

Well stocked shop with memorabilia from aviation history

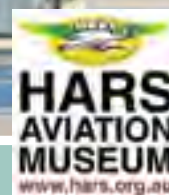
Award winning café with great coffee, breakfast & lunch menus

High-tech conference and meeting rooms with state of the art equipment

Last tour 2pm
café 10am - 2pm



Image: © Hars Aviation Museum



Open 7 days from 9:30am – 3:30pm | 02 4257 4333 | [hars.org.au](https://www.hars.org.au) | Shellharbour Airport, Albion Park Rail NSW

EARLY LEARNING

Choosing the right childcare and early learning service will depend on your family's needs and the environment with which you and your child will feel most comfortable.

A **SWELL AS PROVIDING CARE,** childcare and early-learning services provide an opportunity for your child to develop social, emotional and learning skills. Approved childcare services are required to meet high national standards to ensure children are safe and are given opportunities for learning and development on a regular basis. These services are given National Quality Standard (NQS) quality ratings to help families choose the best service for their child and family. When deciding on the type of care that is best for your child, you may want to ask:

- How many hours of care do I need?

- Do I want my child cared for in a home environment or in a centre?
- What kind of qualifications and experience do the staff members have?
- Does the service offer a preschool program?
- What learning and play opportunities do I want my child to have?
- What kind of routine will my child have?
- Do I want the service to provide lunch?
- What is the carer-to-child ratio?
- Has the service been NQS rated?
- What ages of children are cared for?
- Can I claim the Child Care Subsidy?

LONG DAY CARE

Long day care is also referred to as centre-based care and is generally provided in a building or part of a building that has been created specifically to be used as a childcare centre.

Centres usually operate between 7.30am and 6pm and also offer professional care for children aged from six weeks to six years. Children are usually grouped in rooms according to age and developmental stage. Childcare is usually available for all day or part of the day. Some centres offer morning or afternoon sessions. Many centres offer meals throughout the day and most have an early education component to their program.

Centres are run by private companies, local councils, community organisations, individuals, non-profit organisations or by employers for their staff. The majority are approved childcare services, which means families using the service may be eligible for the Child Care Subsidy. Approved services must also show they are meeting certain quality standards. startingblocks.gov.au

FAMILY DAY CARE

Family Day Care services delivers flexible home-based education and care for children aged six weeks to 12 years via a network of family day care educators. An educator may provide care in their home for the maximum number of children, including their own children, in accordance with the national law and the national regulations.

These services can provide flexible care, including all-day, part-time, casual, overnight, before and after school, and care during school holidays. The majority of family day-care services are approved childcare services. This means families using the service may be eligible for the Child Care Subsidy. nswfdc.org.au

PRESCHOOL

Preschools generally provide early education and care for children aged between three and six years, although some may be licensed to take children from two years of age. Some preschools offer half-day sessions, with children attending either five mornings or five afternoons per week. Others provide full-day attendance for two, three or five days a week.

The preschool program is designed to stimulate children's thinking, communicating, investigating, exploring and problem-solving skills. The program includes play-based activities that help children learn how to interact positively with other children. It also supports the development of early language, literacy and numeracy skills.

Many preschools operate from 9am to 3pm and the majority only operate in line with public school terms and close during school holidays.

School-based preschools provide educational programs for children one year prior to



enrolment in kindergarten. A child may be eligible for enrolment in preschool from the beginning of the school year if they turn four years on or before 31 July that year. Applications for the next year are taken from Term 2 of the current school year. education.nsw.gov.au; service.nsw.gov.au/find-eccec-providers

IN-HOME CARE

In-home care is similar to family day care, but the professional carer looks after the child in their home. It is not widely available, but is suitable for families who have no access to other childcare services and/or whose circumstances mean that an existing childcare service cannot meet their needs and to whom one or more of the following applies:

- the child has, or lives with another child who has, an illness or disability
- the child's guardian (or guardian's partner) has an illness or disability that affects their ability to care for the child
- the guardian (or guardian's partner) works hours when no other approved childcare service is available
- the guardian is caring for three or more children who have not yet started school. australianhomechildcare.com.au

OCCASIONAL CARE

This service is suitable for families who would like someone to look after their children occasionally, for example when they have a medical or other appointment. Most occasional care centres have flexible operating hours and can cater for children whose parents work irregular or unpredictable hours, such as shift workers. With this type of care, you only pay for the hours you use. careforkids.com.au/occasional-care

WAITING LISTS

There may be situations where there are no vacancies at the childcare or early learning service you wish to use and some services have waiting lists. Where demand for childcare is high, all approved services with the exception of occasional care must adhere to Priority of Access Guidelines (available at dss.gov.au) to ensure there is a fair childcare system.

The system ensures that, where there are vacancies or a waiting list for childcare services, places are allocated to families with the greatest need for childcare. The guidelines only apply to Child Care Subsidy-approved childcare services with the exception of occasional care.

Every approved service with the exception of occasional care has to abide by the guidelines and tell you about them when you enrol your child.

CHILD CARE SUBSIDY

The Australian Government provides families with financial assistance to help them cover the costs of approved childcare, under the Child Care Subsidy. The Child Care Subsidy is income tested and is usually paid directly to approved child care services to reduce the fees that eligible families pay. You can apply for the Child Care Subsidy online or in person through Centrelink. To apply online, visit the Services Australia website, servicesaustralia.gov.au/child-care-subsidy.

LOCAL CARE

Little Eagles is a long day care centre located at RAAF Base Richmond. A One Tree Defence Childcare service run under the Defence Childcare Program, the centre provides care for babies and children aged up to five years. The centre operates from 6.30am to 6pm, Monday to Friday. 02 4579 2403; email: Littleeagles.dcu@onetree.org.au; dcu.onetree.org.au.

WINGS

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- MILITARY AND INDUSTRY NEWS SUMMARIES
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AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION

SCHOOLING

There's a lot to learn about how primary schools and high schools function – especially as different states have different arrangements in place. Here's some information about New South Wales.

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Primary school in New South Wales follows a curriculum based on stages of learning. Each stage is approximately equivalent to two school years. For each learning stage there are skills, knowledge and levels of understanding that each student should develop.

FINDING A SCHOOL

Each NSW public school has a defined local enrolment area. This means your child is designated to a particular school based on the permanent residential address of the primary caregiver. Every public school reserves enough places within their school for students in their local enrolment area. Non-local applications may be considered by the school's enrolment panel, according to the department's policy and subject to selection criteria such as availability of appropriate staff and classroom accommodation. Contact the school to find out about their out-of-area selection criteria. See education.nsw.gov.au to find local schools and for information on enrolment.

STARTING SCHOOL

Starting school is an important step. Children develop at different rates and learn skills in different ways. It is the school's task to respond to the needs, learning styles and rates of progress of individual students. Specialist advice and support is available to parents/

caregivers of children with disabilities to help them access educational services. Talk to the school as early as possible about these services.

ORIENTATION DAY

Most schools have orientation days towards the end of the previous year to welcome children to kindergarten. Many schools also have transition to kindergarten programs over several weeks in the second part of the year.

KINDERGARTEN TO YEAR 6

Children may enter kindergarten at the beginning of the school year in NSW government schools if they turn five on or before 31 July in that year. By law, all children must start school by their sixth birthday. Kindergarten to Year 6 focuses on the key learning areas of English, mathematics, science and technology, human society, personal development, health and physical education, and creative arts.

OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS CARE

Outside school hours care (OSHC) centres provide care for primary school-aged children before and after school (7.30am to 9am and 3pm to 6pm), during school holidays and on pupil-free days. OSHC is also referred to as out-of-school hours care in some states or territories.

Vacation care is a type of OSHC that includes



indoor and outdoor activities. The centres are sometimes run by the same organisation that runs before- and after-school care.

Centres are usually located on primary school sites in the school hall and/or in a childcare centre, community facility or OSHC centre near the primary school. Many centres offer a snack as well as the Active After-school Communities exercise program.

The majority of OSHC centres are approved childcare services. This means families using the service may be eligible for the Child Care Subsidy. Approved services must also show that they are meeting certain quality standards.

HIGH SCHOOL

NSW students enter high school in Year 7. Once you have determined which high school you



SCHOOL DATES FOR 2024

This information is relevant to NSW state schools. Independent and Catholic school term dates can vary so check with the relevant school.

PERIOD	START	FINISH
Term 1	Tuesday 30 January	Friday 12 April
School Holidays	Monday 15 April	Friday 26 April
Term 2	Monday 29 April	Friday 5 July
School Holidays	Monday 8 July	Friday 19 July
Term 3	Monday 22 July	Friday 27 September
School Holidays	Monday 30 September	Friday 11 October
Term 4	Monday 14 October	Friday 20 December
School Holidays	Monday 23 December	Thursday 30 January 2025



would like your child to attend, the next step is to complete an expression of interest for placement in Year 7 form. If your child is already attending Year 6 in a public primary school, you will receive this form towards the end of Term 1.

SCHOOL LEAVING AGE

Students must complete Year 10 (or its equivalent) then remain in approved education or training or a combination of education and paid work until the age of 17.

SENIOR YEARS

Students in Year 10 choose the subjects they wish to study for the Higher School Certificate (HSC). There is a lot to consider and support is provided by your school to help students make informed decisions about their future. The

school's career adviser is available to guide and support each student's subject choices in line with individual career and transition planning. Sound advice for young people and their parents/carers about choosing school subjects is available at the My Future website myfuture.edu.au.

STARTING YEAR 11

Students begin to prepare for their HSC in Year 11 so it's important to get settled into a good study routine at the beginning of the year. Study requirements will increase markedly in Year 11 and more so in Year 12.

There are two types of HSC courses: Board-developed courses, which are set and examined externally and can contribute to the calculation of a Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR), and Board-endorsed courses, which are developed by schools, TAFE or universities and count towards the HSC, but do not count towards the student's ATAR.

Vocational Education and Training (VET) Framework courses give specific competencies that are valuable in the workplace. VET courses give students work-related skills in a variety of industry and can count towards the HSC if students sit the HSC exam. Students will receive a nationally recognised qualification when they successfully complete their course. Some VET courses are studied at school while others can be studied at TAFE.

YEAR 12

Students and their families can find the HSC year stressful. For study tips and information on preparing for and completing the HSC, see studentsonline.nesa.nsw.edu.au.

The most obvious forms of support parents can offer are the practical, physical things:

- Provide a good place to study. Ideally it should be quiet, a comfortable temperature, with good ventilation, good lighting, adequate

desk or table space and free from distractions such as TV, noise, telephone, conversations and little brothers and sisters.

- Provide good, balanced meals. Encourage sensible levels of sleep and some form of regular exercise. Encourage moderation in late-night parties and alcohol consumption.

Of equal, or perhaps greater importance, are the things you can do to provide a positive and understanding emotional environment:

- Be supportive and encouraging. If you have doubts, keep them to yourself.
- Highlight strengths and successes.
- Encourage your child not to dwell on failures.

Appreciate that most students will be experiencing quite a high level of stress, frequently without any obvious indicators. Many fear they might let their family down or will not be able to match the performance of siblings or relatives. There are also many pressures other than exams. Many students experience a sense of impending departure: leaving home, leaving lifelong friends, the prospect of starting university. Appreciate that it is normal for people under pressure to become super-sensitive and explosive from time to time. Family members are usually the first targets. Try not to overreact to such outbursts.

Encourage a reasonable balance between work and leisure. Planned leisure periods are an essential component of a good study program. An occasional total escape for a few days may also be excellent therapy for a student who is feeling excessively stressed.

It is important to encourage and allow your child to be as independent as you can possibly stand. The more independent he or she can be in meeting the demands of Year 12, the better prepared he or she will be to succeed at a tertiary level or in the workforce.

SUPPORT FOR DEFENCE CHILDREN

If you're keen to minimise any disruption to your child's education as a result of your family's relocation, talk to Defence Member and Family Support.

DEFENCE MEMBER AND FAMILY SUPPORT

(DMFS) provides information, resources and programs to help with the transition between schools and education systems when ADF members and their families move, and provides support for the unique needs of Defence children.

ADF EQUIP

The ADF Equip Program is designed to help children manage the challenges associated with Defence life. The program supports children to learn appropriate strategies to help them manage the challenge of parental absence and relocation related to service. It includes facilitated sessions tailored to age group and is open to children aged between five and 18 years.

EDUCATION LIAISON OFFICERS

Education liaison officers are experienced staff who help Defence families as they move around the country, providing information, advice, referral and specialised assistance. They are located in each state and territory and have extensive knowledge about the local schools and education systems as well as the challenges faced by Defence children. The assistance provided includes:

- Informing families about local schools and education systems
- Linking families with special education providers, resources or support agencies according to their children's individual needs (including special needs students)
- Working with schools to ensure a supportive education environment and to raise awareness of issues facing Defence children
- Informing families about Defence support services available, such as financial assistance under the Education Assistance Scheme.

DEFENCE SCHOOL MENTORS

DMFS's school mentor program provides support to the children of ADF members, particularly when moving in and out of a school on posting or when a parent is absent from home. Under the program, mentors in primary

and secondary schools support Defence students transitioning from school to school and during times of parental absence. Mentors help schools, families and children to develop strategies to successfully integrate into the school and community. Their role also includes:

- Coordinating appropriate welcome and farewell activities
- Smoothing the transition between different schools and different education systems (including minimising the impact of relocation on learning outcomes)
- Monitoring the social, emotional and academic wellbeing of Defence students
- Helping students develop self-confidence, self-reliance and resilience
- Referring students to services or school community programs that meet their needs.

To see which schools in your area are currently funded under the program, see www.defence.gov.au/adf-members-families/family-programs-services/support-for-children/defence-school-mentor-program

CHILDCARE

DMFS maintains a network of childcare centres around Australia and has a range of programs to support the availability of childcare services to Defence families, who might face difficulties

accessing childcare. That includes access to an individual case management service to help them find registered childcare services in their local community.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR FAMILIES

Defence families can access a range of financial support to help minimise the disruption to schooling caused by posting and relocations. The support available includes:

- Tutoring assistance
- Boarding school allowance
- Tertiary accommodation
- Students with special needs
- Reimbursement of a lost scholarship
- Reunion travel.

The aim is to provide students with educational stability or short-term assistance to help overcome any immediate difficulties with education or emotional wellbeing as a result of relocation.

CONTACT DMFS

For more information about these services, contact the 24/7 Defence Member and Family Helpline on 1800 624 608, visit defence.gov.au/members-families or email memberandfamilyhelpline@defence.gov.au.



↑ Defence School Mentors organise family events, such as movie nights.



← Personnel from RAAF Base Richmond provided a ceremonial guard at ANZAC Memorial in Hyde Park, Sydney as part of the RAAF Centenary commemorations.

PHOTO: TPR Jonathan Coedhart

THE VETERAN COMMUNITY

There is wide range of support available to veterans of all ages.

A **S THE EMPLOYER** of the Australian military enterprise, the Federal Government has, over time, established a number of agencies and functions to provide post-service support and welfare to military personnel, primarily through the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA).

THE AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION NSW

The NSW Division of the Air Force Association (AFA NSW) has a robust working relationship with DVA. Together with NSW RSL, other high-profile ex-service organisations (ESOs) and agencies, we provide essential supplementary

engagement with those government services and work assiduously to promote veteran support and concerns.

Serving veterans are encouraged to engage with their aligned ESO and exploit that network to promote and debate conditions of service and post-service support and welfare. In other words, serving RAAF members are encouraged to participate with, and adopt, the Air Force Association as your equivalent to a workplace union. It is worth noting that AFA NSW has two serving members on its State Council.

Membership of AFA NSW provides personal and material benefits derived through:

- Welfare, face-to-face counselling and advocacy support

- Providing assistance to navigate government processes to access DVA support
- Assisting families during times of hardship
- Creating and sponsoring awards and trophies for personal or unit excellence
- Commemorations
- Social functions.

Enabling activities

To maximise our effectiveness, AFA NSW promotes strong working relationships with all ESOs in NSW, particularly the RSL, the Premier's Department, DVA, NSW Ex-Service Organisation Round Table members and local councils. We also keep our members conversant with changes within government and DVA, and local issues that have an effect on their wellbeing.

Regular communication is maintained with



our members through our quarterly newsletter (SITREP), social media and our high-quality aviation magazine, *Wings* (wingsmagazine.org) which is published by our own publishing company, RAAFANSW Publications Pty Ltd, the same company that publishes this Welcome guide. For further information visit raafapublications.org.au or raafansw.org.au.

Current AFA NSW projects under development include:

- Provision of transition coaching to civilian employment for serving members
- Supporting and providing Assistance Dog placement programs
- Financial support for RAAF students through a scholarship program
- Development of a Crisis Centre with major partner RSL NSW, other NSW ESOs and Veteran Centres for 24/7 veteran support
- Providing bursaries and educational support for veterans' children where required.

NSW branches

AFA NSW comprises a number of dispersed branches, some based on geographic location, others based on squadron or historical aircraft affiliation. There are also satellite organisations, such as Bomber Command Association in Australia, formed to retain a camaraderie and solemn remembrance of those who served in respective wartime operations. Those satellite organisations do not aim to function as ESOs, but through the bond of Air Force men and women derive some strength and presence from the Air Force Association.

Until recently, the veteran community was bounded by those military personnel who had served on active operations. Today it encompasses all military personnel, serving and post-service regardless of active operational experience. The family has grown and, while not yet fully acknowledged, has the strength of numbers and the capacity to influence policy direction and implementation.



Contact AFA NSW

If you are in need help or know of someone needing support, contact your local branch listed on the AFA NSW website (raafansw.org.au) or call the NSW President on 0418 261 528.

If you wish to become an Advocate please call the President, who would be happy to discuss and provide assistance in the process to enrol and qualify. For AFA NSW membership enquiries and support contact the Secretary, Karim Anwar JP, on 0401 154 154, or refer to the AFA NSW website.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) services include:

- Financial support
- healthcare
- rehabilitation
- mental-health care
- help returning to civilian life
- commemoration and recognition
- homecare assistance

- help with housing
- historical information.

DVA continues to transform, changing the way it operates, putting the needs and wellbeing of veterans at the heart of everything it does. The program of work underway is building a better client experience, making it faster and easier for veterans and their families to get the treatment and support they need, when they need it.

Connect with DVA online

Through DVA's online portal, MyService, you can update your personal and contact details, submit claims and view your veteran profile. To register visit dva.gov.au/myservice.

Mental health support

DVA has a strong focus on mental-health treatment. Under a program called Non-Liability Health Care, DVA funds treatment for all mental-health conditions, whether related to service or not, for those with at least one day of continuous full-time service in the ADF, as well as eligible Reservists. See dva.gov.au/nlhc. In addition, mental-health support including free and confidential counselling 24/7 is offered through Open Arms.

Finding employment after the ADF

For ADF personnel transitioning back into civilian life, there is an information page for veterans on the government's Workforce Australia website (workforceaustralia.gov.au) to help translate service training and skills to the civilian workforce. There is also an optional 'Defence Force experience desirable' flag for vacancies listed on the jobactive website, helping veterans connect with employers.

The Prime Minister's Veterans' Employment Program was established in 2016 to raise awareness of the enormous value and unique experience of veterans, for more information see veteranemployment.gov.au.

HOW THE AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION BEGAN

Just over 100 years ago, members of the Australian flying Corp held a dinner in Melbourne with Sir Ross Macpherson Smith and crew to celebrate their magnificent achievements, in particular, the Great Air Race triumph. That dinner spawned an association to foster and sustain the friendship and comradeship among airmen forged during the war and to establish a support network for veterans of the Air arm. The Australian Flying Corps and Royal Australian Air Force Association was born.

Over time the Association grew and established Divisions in each state and the ACT. The name of the organisation also changed with time, first to Royal Australian Air force Association and now simply, Air force Association. Officially, the NSW Division has retained the Australian Flying Corps and Royal Australian Air Force Association (NSW Division) title but is now commonly referred to as AFA NSW (formerly RAAFA NSW). Air Force Association is now one of the more substantial Ex Service Organisations in Australia and strives to promote the wellbeing and welfare of both serving and post-service Air Force veterans and their families.



OPEN ARMS

Open Arms – Veterans & Families Counselling is Australia’s leading national provider of quality, free and confidential

counselling and support services for Australian veterans and their families. As with other community-based mental health services, Open Arms’ clients experience depression, anxiety, substance use challenges, workplace struggles, and relationship, parenting and family issues. The difference with Open Arms is that staff members have specialist training in the military experience. And, while they support families experiencing the routine daily challenges, they also understand the unique stressors military and veteran families experience relating to the posting cycle, training exercises, deployments and partner employment.

Open Arms’s Community and Peer Program connects veterans and family members with peers who have served in the ADF, or had family members who have served, and have had the experience of accessing mental health services for their own wellbeing. Peers work collaboratively with veterans, family supports, community agencies and mental health clinicians to complement other services.

There are six Open Arms office sites in NSW and the closest to Richmond and Glenbrook is Parramatta. There is also a network of professional providers across metropolitan and regional areas.

Contact Open Arms If you or someone you know wants someone to talk to, even just for a chat, Open Arms is available 24/7 by calling 1800 011 046. The service is free and confidential.



WINDSOR RSL

Veterans formed the RSL in 1915 to care for “each other and ourselves”. We have more than 100 years of experience serving the needs of serving and ex-serving ADF

and allied forces members and their families.

Windsor RSL sub-Branch supports serving and ex-serving veterans throughout the Hawkesbury and surrounding districts. We offer all members monthly meetings to engage with others and to provide information about current issues affecting veterans. Our membership stretches from members who served in Korea and Vietnam to current ADF serving members.

Frequent social activities are available to members during the year to provide social

gatherings and support. Those activities include bus trips, river/harbour cruises and nights out to the races. The sub-Branch hosts golf and lawn bowls days in conjunction with Anzac Day and Remembrance Day as well as a Christmas Dinner and a Christmas in July luncheon.

Beach units The sub-Branch owns three beach units for the respite of our members. These fully furnished two-bedroom apartments are maintained by the sub-Branch. Active members of the sub-Branch may reserve the units for their immediate family’s use on a first-come-first-served basis throughout the year, at a very attractive rate. The units are located in Manly, The Entrance and Thirroul. Each are within easy walking distance of restaurants, clubs, pubs and the beach.

Advocates Our sub-Branch has three trained advocates to assist with submitting DVA claims and case reviews. If you are considering discharge, we understand the difficulties of transition and offer our services to help. We strongly recommend attending a transition seminar and making an appointment with one of our advocates well ahead of your discharge. It’s a modern world and much of the work can be done electronically, ask us how to get registered with DVA.

Windsor RSL sub-Branch is housed within the last remaining RSL Club in the Hawkesbury, Windsor RSL Club, at 36 Argyle Street, South Windsor. Please contact us if you are interested in joining or just coming in for chat. windsorrsl.com.au/sub-branch/sub-branch-contact or follow Windsor RSL on Facebook.



LEGACY

Legacy is an iconic Australian charity that supports the

families of former Australian Defence Force personnel. Our mission is simple – ensuring that partners and children of veterans who gave their lives or health in service to our nation can fully realise their potential. Across Sydney, including Hawkesbury and the Blue Mountains, Legacy supports 5,856 families, including 355 children and dependants with a disability, through the help of over 360 dedicated volunteers.

The Gavins’ are one of those Legacy families. Lance Corporal Luke Gavin, a member of the 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment was tragically killed while on deployment in Afghanistan, leaving behind his wife Jacky and three children.

“I didn’t have much chance to fall apart, because of the kids, but there were moments where I didn’t even want to get out of bed,” Jacky recalls.

Legacy has helped with financial assistance for the family, as well educational support, taking the kids on camps and giving Jacky the opportunity to meet with other war widows and share experiences. The Gavin family has also formed a bond with their Legatee, Eric. Eric helps provides social support to their family and helps put them in touch with Legacy’s services.

“Eric and his wife have accepted us with open arms. He comes over and checks on us, and we have a chit-chat about life and what the kids have been up to,” Jacky says.

To find out more, visit legacy.com.au/sydney.



↑ The Gavin family with their Legatee, Eric.

LIFESTYLE

↓ Sunset over the Hawkesbury Valley from the Vale of Avoca lookout in Grose Vale.

TIME OUT

From history and culture to nature and adventure, there's plenty to keep you busy around Richmond and Glenbrook.

PHOTO: Destination NSW

THE HAWKESBURY

THE HAWKESBURY is one of Australia's earliest settlements and many of the area's original buildings have survived, creating a "time capsule" of Australian colonial history. Historic towns and rural settlements dot the area, many beside the Hawkesbury River, interspersed with farms, orchards and national parks.

HISTORIC TOWNS

Windsor

Settled in 1791, Windsor has a number of colonial buildings still used for their original purposes, including the Macquarie Arms Hotel (1794), Windsor Court House (1822), and St Matthews Anglican Church (1817), the latter two designed by Sir Francis Greenway. Thompson Square is the oldest public square in Australia and the mall is lined with historic buildings. Windsor has a regional museum, gallery, stores, cafes and markets, where you can stock up for a picnic in Deerubbin Park.

Richmond

The town's historic buildings include the Richmond School of Arts, St Peters Anglican Church (1841), the post office, courthouse and Victorian mansions along March Street, West Market Street and Windsor Street. Richmond Park boasts a pavilion built in 1883-84 and hosts the Richmond Good Food Market on Saturday mornings. richmondmarket.com.au

Wisemans Ferry

Beside the Hawkesbury River, the town is named after Solomon Wiseman who settled here in 1817 and started the ferry service. His 1826 residence has been preserved as the Cobham Hall Museum, part of the Wisemans Inn Hotel (wisemansinnhotel.com.au). The World

Heritage walk in Dharug National Park includes parts of the convict-built Old Great North Road that ran 240km to the Hunter Valley.

wisemans.org.au

St Albans

Historic St Albans sits in the Macdonald Valley. Stop for lunch at the Settlers Arms Inn (settlersarmsinn.com.au), built in 1836 from convict-hewn sandstone and once a stopover for stagecoaches travelling between Sydney and Newcastle. St Albans hosts an annual folk festival around the Anzac weekend (stalbansfolkfestival.com.au) and the Convict Mountain Bike Ride (convict100.com.au) in May – one of Australia's most challenging MTB marathon races, following the historic Convict Trail through the Dharug and Yengo National Parks.

Wilberforce

Wilberforce is home to The Australiana Pioneer Village (theapv.org.au), a collection of historic

working buildings set on 11ha along the riverbank. Just up the road is The Butterfly Farm and Indy 800 Kart Track with riverside camping and water skiing (butterflyfarm.com.au).

Pitt Town

Pitt Town and surrounds were the location for the long running TV series *A Country Practice*. The village's heritage buildings include the Bird in the Hand Inn (1825). Nearby Scheyville National Park and Longneck Lagoon are great for birdwatchers.

Ebenezer

On the banks of the Hawkesbury River, Ebenezer was settled by the British in 1803 and is home to Australia's oldest church (1809) and school house (1810). Open Wednesday-Sunday, the church serves Devonshire tea and sells homemade jams. A short bushwalk (Swallow Rock Reach Walking Trail) shadows the river.

Bilpin

In the mountain foothills, Bilpin is known for stone fruit and apples and during harvest you can pick your own. Cafes and stores sell seasonal fare such as cider, apple pies, honey, jams and berries. Bilpin has two cider companies

PHOTO: Destination NSW



↑ [Hawkesbury River at Percy's Place Caravan Park, Pitt Town.](#)



DISCOVER

THE BEST THINGS TO SEE IN
the HAWKESBURY



Open 7 days

Ph (02) 4560 4620

Ham Common (opposite Richmond RAAF Base)
328 Hawkesbury Valley Way, Richmond NSW
www.discoverthehawkesbury.com.au



offering tastings and sales and Wildwood (wildwoodgarden.com.au), a luxuriant cool climate garden that is open twice a year for spring (August, September, October and the first week of November) and autumn (March, April, May and first weekend of June).

MUSEUMS & GALLERIES

Hawkesbury Regional Museum

A good place to learn about Australia's third mainland European settlement, the museum includes historic Howe House, built in the 1820s. Open 10am-4pm Wednesday to Monday. 8 Baker Street, Windsor. www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/museum

Kurrajong Radio Museum

A collection of radio memorabilia that is mostly in operational condition. Open by prior arrangement. 842 Bells Line of Road, Kurrajong Hills. kurrajongradiomuseum.com.au

Rouse Hill Estate

Built in the early 1800s, Rouse Hill House is now a museum. 356 Annangrove Rd, Rouse Hill. mhns.wa.gov.au/visit-us/rouse-hill-estate

Ferry Artists Gallery

A community-run venue for local artists to exhibit and sell their work. Open 10am-4pm daily. Shops 1 & 2, 5557 Old Northern Road, Wisemans Ferry. ferryartists.org.au

Hawkesbury Regional Gallery

A changing program of exhibitions includes visual art, craft, photography and design with talks, workshops, film screenings and tours. Open 10am-4pm Monday, Wednesday-Friday, 10am-3pm Saturday-Sunday (closed public holidays). Deerubbin Centre, 300 George Street, Windsor. www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/gallery

Hawkesbury Artists & Artisans Trail

Explore galleries, visit studios and meet the artists. Some members hold regular classes and workshops. haat.com.au

PARKS & WILDLIFE

The Hawkesbury is cradled by four gigantic parks – the Blue Mountains National Park to the west, Yengo and Dharug National Parks to the north and Wollemi National Park to the north-west. These and the region's numerous smaller parks are ideal for bushwalking, canyoning, cycling, canoeing, picnicking, camping and bird watching.

The mighty Hawkesbury River runs 120km from Yarramundi to the sea, and offers plenty of opportunities for fishing, kayaking, wakeboarding and water skiing. For details about the Hawkesbury's most popular bushwalks, cycling routes and other outdoor activities, see discoverthehawkesbury.com.au. For more information about the National Parks, see nationalparks.nsw.gov.au.

The Wild Cat Conservation Centre

The Wild Cat Conservation Centre at Wilberforce runs the only conservation breeding program for Clouded Leopards and Cheetahs in Sydney. Private tours can be arranged by appointment, and there are a few open days each year. wildcatcentre.org.au

MORE INFORMATION:

Visitor Information Centre,
1/328 Hawkesbury Valley Way, Richmond
(opposite RAAF Base Richmond).
02 4560 4620.
discoverthehawkesbury.com.au



PHOTO: Bilpin Cider. Destination NSW



PHOTO: Rouse Hill Estate. Destination NSW



PHOTO: Nepean River. Destination NSW



PHOTO: Destination NSW

↑ [Lennox Bridge, Glenbrook.](#)

↓ Hydro Majestic Hotel, Medlow Bath overlooking Megalong Valley.



BLUE MOUNTAINS

RISING TO THE WEST of Richmond, the Blue Mountains region is one of the state's premier tourism destinations, with stunning natural beauty, charming villages, gardens, galleries and good food, it draws visitors year-round. Spend a day canyoning, abseiling, caving, bushwalking or mountain biking, unwind at a day spa, relax over afternoon tea at an old-world cafe, lunch at a historic grand hotel, browse through boutique shops or enjoy a round of golf at one of the four mountain courses.

VILLAGES

Wentworth Falls

This pretty village has cafes, restaurants, specialty shops and galleries, surrounded by spectacular bushland. There are extensive trails and Wentworth Falls Lake is a good picnic and barbecue spot with children's' play equipment.

Leura

A good spot for morning or afternoon tea or lunch, Leura has heritage buildings, glorious gardens and a charming main street lined with stores, restaurants and cafes. The Fairmont Resort (fairmontresort.com.au/blue-mountains) has a day spa, golf course and a 600 square

metre indoor ice skating rink, along with bars and dining. There are numerous walking tracks around Leura and panoramic mountain views from Sublime Point. leuravillage.com.au

Katoomba

Along with restaurants, antique shops and galleries, Katoomba is home to the historic Carrington Hotel (thecarrington.com.au), Australia's oldest remaining resort-style hotel which offers accommodation, dining and bars. Scenic World (scenicworld.com.au) has one of the world's steepest railways and the glass-floored Skyway cable car. The Beyond Skyway experience takes four guests to the middle of



PHOTO: Mount Tomah, Destination NSW

the Jamison Valley, 270m above the rainforest canopy, and then allows them to climb through the hatch and out onto the roof of the cable car.

Blackheath

The relaxed village hosts an annual Rhododendron Festival (rhodofestival.org), and is close to numerous walking tracks.

A winding road leads to Megalong Valley where you can horse ride, mountain bike or bush walk.

Medlow Bath

The small village sits at an elevation of 1,050m and is home to the oldest and grandest hotel in the Blue Mountains, the Hydro Majestic



(hydromajestic.com.au) which has breathtaking views of the Megalong Valley and offers accommodation, meals and formal high tea.

Mount Victoria

The westernmost village in the Blue Mountains, Mount Victoria has historic buildings dating back to the mid 19th century, including the Imperial Hotel, The Manor House and Toll Keepers Cottage. About a kilometre from town, One Tree Hill is the highest point in the Blue Mountains and there is a lookout and picnic area at nearby Mount Piddington.

WORLD HERITAGE AREA

Covering a million hectares, the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area includes numerous spectacular National Parks.

The Blue Mountains National Park has walking tracks, camp sites, canyoning, climbing and mountain biking trails. Bush walks range from easy strolls around lookouts such as Govetts Leap and Sublime Point, to longer walks such as the Grand Canyon Track. On the escarpment in Katoomba, Echo Point Lookout has views of the Jamison Valley and the Three Sisters and is the gateway to many great walks, including the Giant Stairway down more than 800 steps to the valley floor and the Federal Pass. At picturesque

Wentworth Falls, Jamison Creek drops over the escarpment plunges 187m into the Valley of the Waters. Bushwalks in the area vary from 10 minutes to more than four hours

The Jenolan Karst Conservation Reserve has a spectacular cave system with fantastic limestone formations and underground rivers. There are guided tours and walking trails. Visit for the day or stay in the historic Jenolan Caves House hotel (jenolancaves.org.au). The Six Foot Track is a three-day walk between Katoomba and Jenolan Caves. nationalparks.nsw.gov.au

ARTS & CULTURE

Blue Mountains Cultural Centre

The Blue Mountains City Art Gallery showcases local and national artists and touring exhibitions. Also on site, the Blue Mountains World Heritage Interpretive Centre is a high-tech, interactive exhibition. 30 Parke Street, Katoomba. bluemountainculturalcentre.com.au

Braemar Gallery

Situated in the beautiful historic Braemar House, the community gallery hosts changing exhibitions each month that showcase works of local and regional artists. 104 Macquarie Road, Springwood bluemountainculturalcentre.com.au/braemar-gallery

Blue Mountains Theatre

A 418-seat theatre with a full program of performances. bluemountainstheatre.com.au

Norman Lindsay Gallery

The former home of artist Norman Lindsay is now a gallery displaying his diverse work. 14 Norman Lindsay Crescent, Faulconbridge. normanlindsay.com.au

GARDENS

Blue Mountains Botanic Garden

The cool-climate garden covers 28 hectares with more than 40,000 plants from around the world. There are picnic areas with barbecues and Tomah Gardens Restaurant with views of Wollemi National Park. Bells Line of Road, Mount Tomah. bluemountainbotanicgarden.com.au

Campbell Rhododendron Gardens Covering 18.3ha, the gardens include rhododendrons, azaleas, maples and other deciduous trees and pristine native bushland. Bacchante Street, Blackheath. rhodogarden.org.au

Everglades Gardens

The beautiful Everglades House and gardens are owned by the National Trust and open to the public all year round. 37 Everglades Avenue, Leura. nationaltrust.org.au/places/everglades-house-gardens

Windyridge Garden

Two hectares of beautifully landscaped gardens showcasing an extensive range of cool climate plants including Japanese Maples, camellias, azaleas and hydrangeas. Queens Avenue, Mount Wilson. windyridgegarden.com



PHOTO: Leura, Destination NSW



PHOTO: Wentworth Falls, Destination NSW



↑ Blue Mountains Botanic Garden, Mount Tomah.

MORE INFORMATION:
 Echo Point Visitor Information Centre,
 Echo Point Road, Katoomba.
 Glenbrook Visitor Information Centre,
 Great Western Highway, Glenbrook.
visitbluemountains.com.au

PENRITH & SYDNEY'S GREATER WEST

AT THE FOOT of the Blue Mountains to the south of Richmond, the City of Penrith is the gateway to Western Sydney and has been dubbed the adventure capital of NSW. It features world-class sports venues and thrilling sporting events. There is also an exciting mix of weekly, monthly, seasonal and annual events including markets, performances, festivals and shows.

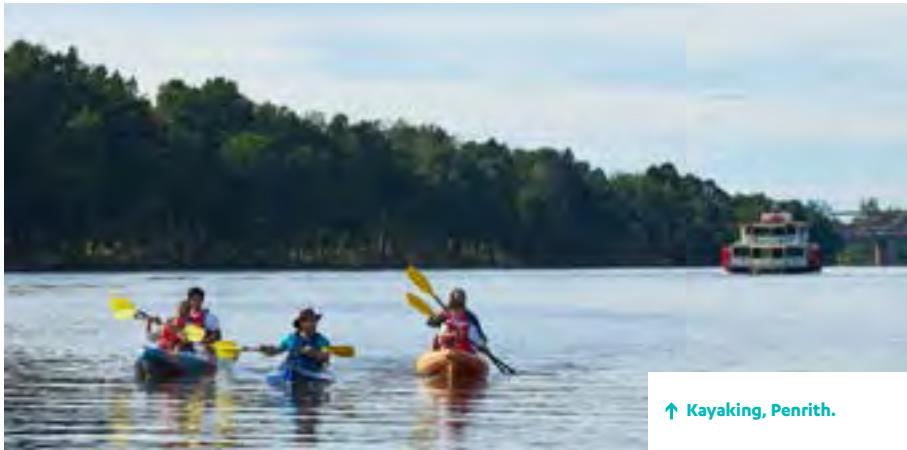


PHOTO: Destination NSW

↑ Kayaking, Penrith.

FUN & ADVENTURE

Penrith Whitewater Stadium

The centre offers whitewater rafting, kayaking, swiftwater rescue training and local, national and international slalom competitions. Open Wednesday to Sunday, September to May. McCarthy's Lane, Cranebrook. penrithwhitewater.com.au

Jetpack Adventures

Fly through air and water with a water-powered Jetpack or Flyboard. Gate A Sydney International Regatta Centre, Old Castlereagh Road, Cranebrook. jetpackadventures.com.au

International Regatta Centre

An Olympic rowing venue with 5km of cycling and walking paths, picnic grounds, lakeside barbecue facilities and function rooms. Open for public recreation on non-event days. Old Castlereagh Road, Cranebrook. regattacentre.nsw.gov.au

iFLY Indoor Skydiving

A state-of-the-art vertical wind tunnel provides a fun and safe way to experience true human body flight. Open daily. Next to Panthers Entertainment Complex, 123 Mulgoa Road, Penrith. iflyworld.com.au/locations/sydney

Cables Wake Park

Try cable skiing, wakeboarding and knee-boarding at this world-class facility, which features two main cable lakes. 405 Jamison Road, Penrith. cableswakepark.com.au

Luddenham Raceway

Outdoor karting centre with two tracks – a Pro Circuit and a Rookie Circuit designed for eight to 14 year olds. There is also a Motorsport Park with a purpose built circuit, and four paintball fields. Open daily. 849 Luddenham Road, Luddenham. luddenhamraceway.com

Trees Adventure

Soar through the treetops on an array of flying foxes, tight ropes and tunnels. Treetops Adventure Yarramundi 200 Springwood Road, Yarramundi & Treetops Adventure Western Sydney, 749 Elizabeth Drive, Abbotsbury. treetopsadventure.com.au

On the river

Hire a canoe, kayak or stand-up paddleboard to explore the Hawkesbury-Nepean River, or take a cruise aboard an old-world paddlesteamer. Nepean Belle Paddlerwheeler cruises explore the Nepean Gorge, departing from the boarding jetty at Tench Reserve, Tench Avenue, Jamisontown (nepeanbelle.com.au). There is a public boat ramp at Tench Reserve, Tench Avenue, Penrith which recently received a \$6.7 million upgrade.

Great River Walk

See the Nepean River from both sides on the Great River Walk, which covers about 8km in total, the bulk of which is the 6.4km Bridge to Bridge loop. The easy route is suitable for walkers

and cyclists and offers stunning views of the river and the Blue Mountains. penrithcity.nsw.gov.au/facilities-recreation/nepean-river

ARTS & CULTURE

Penrith Regional Gallery

The beautiful gallery set in heritage gardens on the Nepean River in the former home of sculptor Gerald Lewers and his wife Margo Lewers, a well-known artist. Open 10am-4pm daily. 86 River Road, Emu Plains. penrithregionalgallery.com.au

The Joan

The Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre is a world-class venue with superb performances in music, theatre and dance. 597 High Street, Penrith. 02 4723 7600. thejoan.com.au

Museum of Fire

One of the most popular family attractions in Penrith, the museum has an impressive collection of fire-fighting vehicles and memorabilia. Open 9.30am-4.30pm daily. 1 Museum Drive, Penrith. museumoffire.net

Museum Of Printing

The Penrith Museum of Printing has 23 working letterpress printing machines on display, dating back more than 100 years. Open Sundays 11am - 3pm for general viewing and demonstration. Penrith Paceway, Ransley Street, Penrith. printingmuseum.org.au

Arms of Australia Inn

A great place to discover the local history of Penrith with artefacts, photos, tours, special events and exhibitions. Open 9am-2pm Monday, and Wednesday. Corner Great Western Highway and Gardenia Avenue, Emu Plains. armsofaustraliainn.org.au

The Nepean Naval Museum

A collection of naval forces memorabilia. Open 11am-3pm Sunday. Gold coin donation for entry. 40-42 Bruce Neale Drive, Penrith. nepeannavalmuseum.org



PHOTO: Destination NSW

MORE INFORMATION:

Penrith Tourism, Civic Centre, 601 High Street, Penrith. visitpenrith.com.au

EDUCATION

ARNDELL ANGLICAN COLLEGE

Arndell Anglican College is a co-educational, Pre-kindergarten to Year 12 school serving the Hawkesbury region. With a diverse and comprehensive curriculum, students are encouraged to grow in their individual abilities. Families can expect high-quality pastoral care, academic development, extracurricular programs and community engagement. At Arndell, we have built a community where every child matters.

CONTACT 02 4572 3633, arndell.nsw.edu.au, enquiries@arndell.nsw.edu.au



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CONTACT 02 4570 3600, defencebank.com.au, richmond@defencebank.com.au



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CONTACT caeaus@cae.com.au



BARNS, CLUBS & DINING

RG MCGEES HOTEL RICHMOND

RG McGees is Richmond's favourite family-friendly local, and home to some of the best pub food and cocktails in the Hawkesbury. Settle in for drinks in the beer garden and a weekly line-up of live music, trivia and sport on the big screens.

CONTACT 02 4578 1503, 193 Windsor Street, Richmond, rgmcgees.com.au



ONE GIANT LEAP

One Giant Leap Australia Foundation has been established to advance education by providing opportunities for students and educators to develop and build their knowledge and understanding of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The continuation of studies in primary, secondary and tertiary education is encouraged by various activities, including providing education programs about space science, technology and exploration.

CONTACT 0412 326509, onegiantleapfoundation.com.au



RECREATION

HARS AVIATION MUSEUM

The museum showcases a lovingly restored collection of significant, and in some cases rare, military and civilian aircraft. Board a record-breaking 747-400, sit in the pilot's seat of an F-111C and view the workstations on an AP-3C Orion. Tour guides provide insights, family passes available, award-winning café on site. A great all-weather venue. The interactive museum is open daily from 9.30am to 3.30pm (last tour 2.00pm). 747 Premium Tours – see website for details.

CONTACT 02 4257 4333, 54 Airport Drive, Albion Park Rail, NSW, hars.org.au



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VETERANS & DEFENCE

AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION NSW

The Air Force Association specialises in providing important services to ex and currently serving veterans and their families. We use our skilled volunteers to provide expert engagement with government, including Department of Veterans Affairs, and are able to generate the support available, resolve administrative hurdles and promote veteran concerns. Go to our (website <https://raafansw.org.au/>) for the full range of veteran services that we offer.

CONTACT Karim Anwar - Secretary RAAFANSW secretary@raafansw.org.au



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VISITOR INFORMATION

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CONTACT 02 4560 4620, discoverthehawkesbury.com.au, discover@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au





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The Air Force Association NSW is run by retired and serving veterans of the Royal Australian Air Force.

We are the voice for the RAAF Veteran and together we advocate for the support and welfare of RAAF personnel and their families with various government bodies. We **honour** and **preserve the history** and memory of those who served and we offer **camaraderie, mateship** and foster life-long connections within the RAAF family.



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