

APRIL 2021

NORTHSYDNEY NEWS



PUTTING THEIR BEST FOOT FORWARD



After a year of COVID-19 restrictions, the Neutral Bay Community Centre is helping reunite the community with a string of new classes and activities on offer. Located between Military Road and Grosvenor Lane, the Centre is well-known for its computer classes, tai chi lessons, knitting group, and ballroom dancing class.

Now a morning walking group, book club, men's chat and philosophy group have been added to the mix, along with pay as you go fitness classes, including Pilates, yoga, body groove and meditation.

For many members, the Centre is a place to meet and make friends, to access the internet, play Scrabble, or to practise their waltz technique.

"We've been back dancing for a couple of months now," said retired accountant Cliff, the Centre's volunteer ballroom dancing teacher. "We really missed it - not just the

dancing, but the social aspect. The class is three hours long, so we have breaks between the dances and a bit of time to talk together."

Ballroom dancing is one of the longest running classes at the Centre, believed to have been going for 18 years. The computer literacy classes for seniors are also a Centre staple and still very popular – providing guidance on everything from smartphones and tablets to navigating the internet and social media.

Historically, the Centre has always been run by volunteers – in particular, Phyllis who sadly passed away in 2019, and Pauline and Chris, who all gave up much of their time to keep it going. However, the increased demand on the Centre's space and resources in recent months called for additional help.

Council's Access & Inclusion Coordinator Camelia Tobia temporarily stepped in to

Neutral Bay Club membership costs \$10 a year and includes free access to tea and coffee, daily newspapers, puzzles and games, the library and computer equipment. It also includes free classes, such as the walking group, Japanese poetry recitation, Scrabble and scones, and the knitting and craft meetup. Ballroom dancing and tai chi both cost \$5 a session while Pilates, body groove, meditation, and yoga cost \$10 a class and are open to all.

To find out more about Neutral Bay Community Centre, its classes or volunteer opportunities, please visit: www.nbaycommunity.com.au email snrs.nbay@gmail.com or call 9953 6447.

help facilitate the new classes and to form a new volunteer board which will steer the Centre going forward.

"The Centre is such a vital commodity for our over-50s community," she said. "COVID has left many older people feeling more isolated than before, so it's even more important they have a place they can reconnect with others, have a cup of tea and a chat, or try a new activity."

FROM THE MAYOR



When you hear the word village, what springs to mind? For me, it's about people interacting - seeing faces I recognise and exchanging a smile or greeting, even if I don't know their name.

Perhaps they've seen one too many episodes of *Midsomer Murders*, but for some people the term village equates to a quaint, low-rise centre where everyone knows everyone else (and their business!).

The UK traditionally gave village status to settlements with a church. Modern geographers have moved past the church criteria and apply a size limit of up to 2000 people before a village qualifies as a town. But a village isn't about the numbers of people or the type of buildings in an area. It's about how we relate to a space and feel within it.

A quick google on the term village brings up broader definitions such as an area designed for social interaction or an area with a unique spatial identity. These definitions sit well with me because they reflect what I am seeing in our community.

When I go for my morning walk each day I see people gathering in cafes, chatting to the barista or other customers while they wait for their morning coffee. If I'm running late, the customers have changed demographic to older people or young mothers with toddlers and prams. But the welcoming smiles and conversations remain the same.

The cafes I'm passing are at the base of high-rise buildings, so the sense of community people experience in these

places is not related to building height, but to the willingness of others within the space to create a human connection. When we understand village as community, we can start to build it in a myriad of spaces, small or large, around us.

North Sydney was one of the first councils in Sydney to identify the role of the village in a city. In the 1990s we shifted the language from shopping centre to village in recognition of the value each area played in building community. Our successful mainstreet programs were a response to the changes we were seeing in our suburbs as our city grew.

Over the past five years, the rate of change has accelerated rapidly, thanks in part to State Government infrastructure projects. The Metro development, for instance, has brought high rise development to Crows Nest where Council had not previously envisaged that kind of growth. As our city grows, our hunger for community grows with it.

And so we are left with a choice. Will we bemoan the change to our local village centres and declare our community broken? Or will we find new and different expressions of village life?

We'll do best if that responsibility is shared across Council, business and

residents. From a Council perspective, we are constantly looking for new gathering spaces. Our trial plazas in Young St, Neutral Bay and Burton Street, Kirribilli are part of our plan to provide more places for the community to connect.

Developers have a responsibility as well. A building's interface with the public domain can either expand community connection or close it down. Thoughtful architecture can provide the unique spatial identity that contributes to village life.

As residents, we also need to develop a village mindset, regardless of whether home is a house in a quiet cul de sac or a unit 20 storeys above a busy street.

We need to ask: how can we create connection with others around us? Is there a space we can regularly use to catch up with friends? Is there a corner of garden that would be transformed by a couple of seats? Is there a community group or activity we can join or volunteer to help organise?

I'm on the public record saying building height is not the enemy. But social isolation is! If we start with a commitment to connection, then the best of village life must follow.

That's my philosophy, but perhaps you hold a different view. If you have a better definition of village within a city or ideas of what we can do to improve village connections in North Sydney, drop me a line at mayor@northsydney.nsw.gov.au I would love to hear from you.

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SAVE THE DATE

Local Government elections will be held this year and there are a number of important dates to mark in your diary.

Election day is **Saturday 4 September 2021**.

If you can't get to a polling booth on that day, you can register for a postal vote - applications open on Monday 26 July.

If you live or own property in the North Sydney local government area you are entitled to stand for election as a councillor.

For information on becoming a candidate visit elections.nsw.gov.au



METRO UPDATE

NORTH SYDNEY

Council was given a sneak peek of the Victoria Cross Metro Station development in February, going 11 storeys underground to see the work in progress. The tunnel for the station has already been carved out and the first tracks have been laid.

Plans have also been unveiled for a \$1.2 billion over-station development above the southern entrance. The 42-storey tower will house 56,000m² of office space for more than 4,000 workers and incorporate new dining and retail-activated public laneways, an expansive multi-purpose lobby which will host pop-up events and a green outdoor plaza.

CROWS NEST

Tunnelling for the Crows Nest Metro station is complete and the station is currently being constructed.

A concept plan for development above the station was approved in December last year, allowing for up to 43,400m² of commercial and 13,000m² of residential space. A detailed Development Application for the site is expected to be lodged later this year.

SAFE AND CREATIVE PLAYSPACES

Sirius Street Playground in Cremorne Point came runner-up in the Kidsafe National Playspace Design Awards in the strongly contested division for Public Play Spaces under \$500,000. This award is extra special as Sirius Street Playground was constructed for less than half of the amount and therefore competing against playgrounds with double the budget.

McMahons Point Community Preschool won a Commended Award in the Category 1A Preschool for its new playground. This playground upgrade was coordinated by Council's Community Development Team and incorporates an informal sandpit and new timber play elements for children to explore and enjoy.

STANTON HOURS EXTENDED

Stanton Library is expanding its opening hours – starting with evenings and full day Fridays – in line with relaxing COVID-19 restrictions. At the time of printing, opening hours are:

- Monday to Thursday, 9am to 8pm
- Friday 9am to 6pm
- Saturday to Sunday 10am to 1pm

Study areas, photocopying, scanning and public computers are now available. Baby & Toddler Rhymetimes and Children's Storytimes are currently taking place outdoors in Ted Mack Civic Park – bookings are essential. Please make sure to check Council's website for the most up-to-date information.

MANAGING FLOOD RISK

Council is preparing a Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan (FRMS&P) which will identify ways to mitigate flood risk in the North Sydney local government area. The FRMS&P will guide future development in flood-affected areas and will identify a raft of mitigation measures.

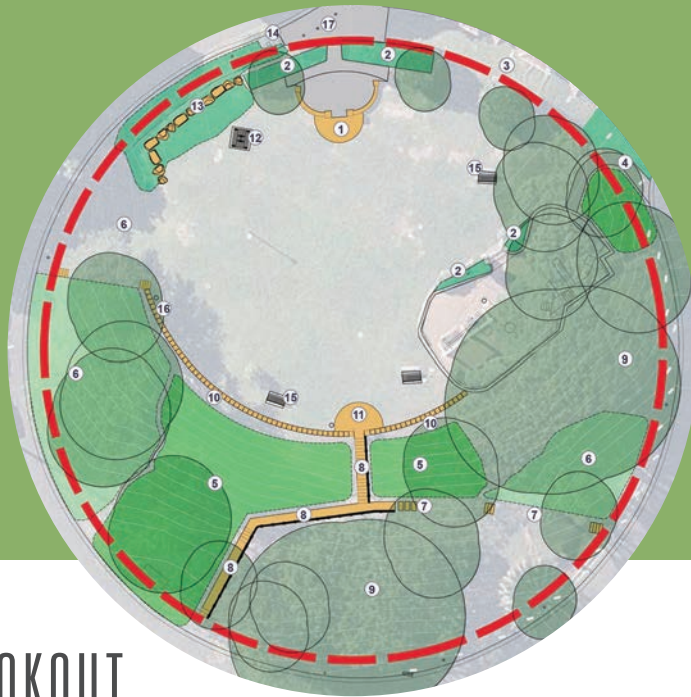
The document, which builds on the flood study completed in 2016, will also assist the SES in its evacuation and logistics planning. The NSW Government has set aside grant money to assist councils to undertake the mitigation works identified in their FRMS&P.

- low sandstone walls and edging

- upgrading paths and stairs

- upgrading and repositioning park furniture and signage

- erosion management plan for the lookout



HODGSON LOOKOUT

Plans to enhance the Hodgson Lookout have been given the green light with work expected to begin this month. Two concept plans were presented to the community in November last year for feedback with the majority supporting option 2. This option includes installing low sandstone walls and edging, upgrading paths and stairs, upgrading and repositioning park furniture and signage.

In response to the feedback received, the upgrade will use sandstone for the stairs to blend in with the area. Council will also close the pedestrian link behind 192B Kurraba Road and ensure there is an erosion management plan for the lookout.

FORGING A NEW PATH

A new green plaza adjacent to Hume Street Park in Crows Nest is one step closer after the demolition of four buildings.

The removal of 43, 45-47, 49 Hume Street and 90-92 Willoughby Road will provide 1200m² of open space for the new plaza and a new accessible pedestrian link connecting it to Crows Nest main street.

Demolition work began in December and is expected to be completed this month, weather permitting. Work will then begin on the installation of drainage, power and water supplies, followed by construction of the new plaza and pedestrian thoroughfare, along with lighting, furniture and planting.

The façade of 90-92 Willoughby Road – also known as the former Penfolds Furniture building – is being retained, restored and a new awning installed, to help form the new entryway to the walkway and plaza. It is anticipated these works, which have been funded by Council and a grant from the NSW Government, will be completed by the end of September. Visit North Sydney Council’s website for more information.



CATCH A MATCH OR TWO

North Sydney Oval is delighted to welcome the North Sydney Bears Rugby League and Northern Suburbs Rugby Union back to their upgraded home ground after a 12-month hiatus.

The Oval is sporting a new state-of-the-art, high-definition outdoor screen that stands 8 metres tall and 12 metres wide and can be seen from 95% of the sportsground. The new screen is a game-changing addition to the Oval allowing not only for scores and replays, but also immersive HD full match screenings.

Head to Council’s website to see the list of Rugby League and Union fixtures and follow North Sydney Oval on Facebook to keep up to date on all their events.

KIRRIBILLI PLAZA TRIAL



A new trial plaza is being created in the heart of Kirribilli village by closing off a section of Burton Street. The temporary plaza will be installed for six months between Broughton Street and Humphrey Place to create more open space in the village centre.

Bligh Street will also be transformed into a shared zone for a six-month trial as part of Council's masterplan for the public domain upgrade of the village.

Council also resolved to trial the closure of the Burton St tunnel underpass, however, this work will not begin until changes to parking in Ennis Road can be undertaken to offset the loss of parking.

The three pilot projects received grant funding from the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment's Streets and Shared Spaces program. Council will investigate more funding for permanent implementation of these sites if they prove to be a success.

The masterplan also outlines a range of improvements for the village, which will be delivered in stages as funding becomes available, including new footpath paving, footpath widening, improved street lighting, new street furniture, trees and landscaping to enhance the village streetscape.

SMOOTHEY PARK

Landscape works are expected to begin in May for the upgrade of Smoothey Park. The work includes the installation of new staircases and additional seating, and upgrading the footpaths and park furniture.

Late last year, Council asked the community for feedback on the proposed plans. All submissions supported the works and some of the suggestions received will be incorporated in the final design including:

- use of sandstone blocks to serve as casual seating
- storm water management improvements, and
- provision for a kerb ramp at Milray Ave crossing.



ST LEONARDS PARK

The Tunks Way footpath through St Leonards Park will soon re-open to the public after numerous improvements, including widening of the walkway to three metres. Lighting has been moved from the middle of the footpath to the western side of the path, providing better lighting and space for park users.

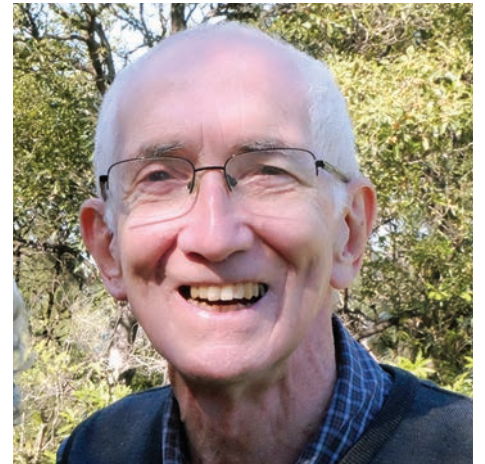
The upgrade includes more seating along the pathway and new low-level gardens to help soften the appearance of the North Sydney Oval wall. The park's WW1 memorial field gun has been moved to a more prominent location on the northern end of Tunks Way.

The improvements form part of the St Leonards Park Masterplan. Projects already completed include upgrading the Miller Street forecourt, the cricket practice nets on Fig Tree Lane and shared pathway along Ridge Street.

ART PROJECT WITH A MESSAGE

Brett Whiteley Place was transformed into a knitted coral reef in March to highlight the threat to our Great Barrier Reef as part of Council's NTH SYD program. Created by the North Sydney Yarnarchists, under the direction of artist Dr Debra J Phillips, the *Refuse of Coral Reef* highlights the message that if we refuse to address environmental damage the Reef will eventually become refuse too.

The coral pieces have been shaped internally with plastic, which will be recycled at the end of the project, to demonstrate how microplastics are destroying coral and killing fish through ingestion. The yarnstorming project was purposefully placed in an outdoor area where its appearance will erode over time to demonstrate the vulnerability of the Reef's fragile eco-system. The Yarnarchists meet in Stanton Library as a branch of the international charity Wrap with Love.



LOCAL HEROES CELEBRATED

Two residents share the North Sydney 2021 Citizen of the Year Award. Music Educator Jane Boyd was honoured for advancing children's musical education through unique teaching programs that combine the Dalcroze, Kodaly and Orff-Schulwerk methods. Davie MacDonald and his therapy dog Zara were honoured for their pawsome work supporting vulnerable people through the Department of Justice NSW Victim Services and at the Bushfire Evacuation Centres during last year's devastating summer fires.

Captain of Cammeraygal High School Pratham Gupta was named Young Citizen of the Year. Along with volunteering and charity fundraising, Pratham played an important role in shaping the mentoring and peer support culture at this newly established school.

Two community groups received environmental awards. Environmental Citizen of the Year was won by Pool Pod, who created a productive food garden in their apartment complex, initiated a composting program and regularly share their produce, knowledge and skills among residents.

The Student Green Team from Monte Sant' Angelo Mercy College collected the Young Environmental Citizen of the Year Award for their recycling and organic food waste collection program which reduced the waste going to landfill from the school by a massive 60 per cent.

The Student Reference Group at Phoenix House Youth Services won Community Group of the Year for two projects – the Cream Bean Mobile Café and Fig Jam Podcast.

PIONEERING ADVOCATE HONOURED

The Waverton community mourned the loss of one its dedicated community champions late last year. A member of Waverton Precinct and the Waverton Peninsula Working Group, Bruce Burns worked tirelessly for over 40 years to defend the natural and heritage features of the peninsula.

With his wife Carole, he played a key role in the campaign to return industrial foreshore sites to public ownership, including the BP site (now Carradah Park) and the Coal Loader. Bruce is remembered by friends and family for his kindness, sharp wit, calm determination and meticulous record keeping which ensured all relevant planning documents were available when they were needed.

CHECK COUNCIL'S WEBSITE TO BOOK OR FOR UPDATES ON ALL EVENTS

NSW SENIORS FESTIVAL: 13 – 24 APRIL



If you've ever wanted to try yoga, master the foxtrot, write your memoir, or learn to paint, this month is the perfect time to give it a go. The NSW Seniors Festival provides a wide range of free events and activities for the over 60s.

There will be more than 25 Seniors Festival events happening in the North Sydney area. Highlights include the Annual Garden Luncheon at The Kirribilli Centre, a Fabulous Fifties-themed event and Bollywood Music experience at the Crows Nest Centre, Bingo and High Tea at the Neutral Bay Community Centre and a Memoir Writing workshop at Stanton Library.

There are also plenty of health and exercise classes, behind-the-scenes tours of the Northside Produce Market, workshops at the Coal Loader and information sessions.

The Seniors Festival's *Art of Ageing Digital Exhibition*, which explores this year's theme *In Our Nature*, will also be on display at Stanton Library and the North Sydney, Kirribilli and Crows Nest community centres.

All Seniors Festival events across NSW can be found online at www.seniorsfestival.nsw.gov.au

To find out what's on in North Sydney, visit Council's website www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/seniorsfestival

DEMENTIA CAFÉ LAUNCHED FOR CARERS

If you are a carer, family member or friend of someone who has dementia, the Crows Nest Centre has recently launched a dementia café where you can share experiences with others over a tea or coffee.

Part of the Rotary D-Caf program, this free monthly meet-up at the Centre provides a warm and welcoming place to bring your loved one while meeting other carers of dementia sufferers. There will also be occasional guest speakers talking about dementia and available support services.

To find out more about the monthly meet-ups on the 4th Wednesday of every month, from 10am to 12pm, contact the Crows Nest Centre on 9439 5122 or email communitysupport@crowsnestcentre.org.au. Bookings are essential.

NATIONAL SIMULTANEOUS STORYTIME

19 May, 11am

Now in its 21st year, National Simultaneous Storytime sees schools, childcare centres, bookstores and libraries reading the same picture book by an Australian author at the same time. *Give Me Some Space* by Philip Bunting is this year's book and will be read at Stanton Library in a special Storytime event. Visit Council's website for more details.

THE NAN MANEFIELD YOUNG WRITERS' AWARD

Is there a budding young writer in your midst? Entries are now open for the 2021 Nan Manefield Young Writers' Award. Young people, aged between 11 and 18 years, can submit either a poem or short story of up to 750 words before 23 April. The competition is judged in five age categories by a panel of professional authors and has prizes totalling over \$2,000. Head to Council's website for more details.

AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE FESTIVAL

The National Trust's Australian Heritage Festival is celebrating the theme *Our Heritage for the Future* this year, running from 18 April to 19 May 2021. Visit www.nationaltrust.org.au/ahf for their other events. Bookings are essential for festival events in North Sydney (see right) and made via Council's website.

23 April and 14 May, 10.30am to 12pm
200 tons per hour: a guided tour of the Coal Loader

29 April and 6 May, 10.30am to 11.30am
Caring for Keepsakes: conservation tips for family mementos



Bark IN THE Park and Meow MARKET

23 MAY, 9AM TO 3PM, ST LEONARDS PARK

The community's favourite pets' day out event, previously known as Bradfield Bark, is moving to a new location with a new name – Bark in the Park! The grass carpet will be rolled out for the first time at St Leonards Park, just up the road from the North Sydney CBD.

This bone-anza day of furry fun will be pared down to meet COVID-19 Public Health Order restrictions, but will still include dog demonstrations and talks, a Mutt & Meow Market, food stalls and live music. All pets attending the event must be on-leash – visit Council's website closer to the time for details.

MIGHTY MARKETS

Several popular markets are held across North Sydney all year round, including the fortnightly Northside Produce Market, the monthly Kirribilli General & Fashion Market, the seasonal Coal Loader Artisans Market and the monthly Kirribilli Art, Design & Fashion Market. More information and market dates are available on our website.

1st & 3rd Saturday of every month: Northside Produce Market, Ted Mack Civic Park, 8am to 12pm

3rd Saturday of every month: Crows Nest Market, Ernest Place, 9am to 1pm

4th Saturday of every month: Kirribilli Market, Burton Street Tunnel and Kirribilli Bowling Green, Milsons Point, 8.30am to 3pm

1st Sunday of every month: Kirribilli Art & Design Market, Burton Street Tunnel and Kirribilli Bowling Green, Milsons Point, 8.30am to 3pm

Last Sunday of the season: Artisans Market at the Coal Loader Centre for Sustainability, Waverton, Sunday 30 May, 9am to 3pm

Green events

Bookings must be made at
www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/greenevents or 9936 8100

13 April

Family Bush Walk, 10.30am to 12pm

20 April

Native Bee Webinar, 7pm to 8.30pm

Wildlife of Lane Cove Webinar,
7pm to 8pm

9 May

Trees for Mum Day, 9.30am to 11am

11 May

Secret Life of Echidnas Webinar,
7pm to 8.15pm

20 May

Community Nursery Visit SSC,
9am to 1pm

22 May

Eucalyptus ID Walk, 10am to 1pm

DON'T MISS A BEAT

Stay up-to-date by checking the events listings on Council's website, following our social media pages or subscribing to our monthly events e-newsletter at www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/enews

Other events

18 April

Mushroom Picking Bus Tour, 8am to 5pm, limited to North Sydney residents only



1 May

Northside Produce Market Tour, Ted Mack Civic Park, 7.30am and 9am

29, 30, 31 May

Claymakers Expo at the Coal Loader

15 May

Check In & Tune Up for your Bicycle, Ted Mack Civic Park, 8am to 12pm

Footy @ North Sydney Oval

Rugby Union

24 April, 3pm

Northern Suburbs v Gordon

1 May, 3pm

Northern Suburbs v Southern Districts

15 May, 3pm

Northern Suburbs v Eastwood

22 May, 3pm

Northern Suburbs v Two Blues

Rugby League

11 April, 2pm

North Sydney Bears v Newtown Jets

25 April, 2pm

North Sydney Bears v St George Dragons

13 May, 7.30pm

North Sydney Bears v Western Suburbs Magpies

23 May, 2pm

North Sydney Bears v Mount Pritchard Mounties

30 May, 2pm

North Sydney Bears v Canberra Raiders

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