

JUNE 2021

NORTHSYDNEY NEWS



LIGHTING UP TUNKS WAY

A historic footpath through St Leonards Park is reopening this month after undergoing numerous improvements. Tunks Way has been resurfaced and widened to three metres to improve access for pedestrians. The pathway is named after William Tunks who was the first Mayor of the St Leonards Burough.

More seating has been installed along the pathway as well as new low-level gardens along the North Sydney Oval wall. Lighting has also been moved from the middle of the footpath to the western side of the walkway, freeing

up space and helping walkers navigate St Leonards Park at night.

A World War I Field Gun, which was first mounted in the park in 1921, will be moved to a more prominent location on the northern end of Tunks Way.

These works come after improvements to the Miller Street entrance of the Oval and the cricket practice nets on Fig Tree Lane. All the improvements form part of the St Leonards Park Masterplan, which can be viewed on Council's website.

The life behind the name

WILLIAM TUNKS

Born in the Nepean District on 8 April 1816

Worked as a carpenter, hotelier and metal contractor

Member for St Leonards in the NSW Legislative Assembly from 1864 to 1874

Mayor of St Leonards from 1867 to 1883

Worked for improvements to local facilities including the St Leonards Reserve (now St Leonards Park) and Lavender Bay Baths

Founded the St Leonards School of Arts



When I was first elected as mayor nine years ago I remember describing the North Sydney CBD as Sleeping Beauty, ready to be awakened from a very long sleep. Well Sleeping Beauty has woken up and what a beauty she is turning out to be.

New commercial office space is being built, with each building more interesting than the last. It's fascinating to see imagination and quality coming together – not only on the exterior of a building but also within.

I've been invited into a few of our new buildings and have been impressed by the flexibility and innovation in the internal working space. If you have to go see the boss, taking a graceful, curved staircase to the next floor is much better than ducking up the concrete fire stairs out the back.

After years of being described as boring and dead after hours, the CBD now has bars and restaurants open in the evenings, including some trendy new eateries that are full from the moment they open until they close.

We also have new artworks, some provided by Council and others by the private sector, which are adding colour, joy and elements of surprise to the centre. I am a particular fan of *Chrome Haze* by Nike Savva which was installed by Winten in their development at 1 Denison St.

The artwork is described as coloured totems with a mathematical equation to invoke optical phenomena. Don't ask me to explain it – just join the other people who detour through the CBD to view it.

Of course, the doomsayers are already talking about how we won't need this much commercial office space as more people opt to work from home. Life must be so exhausting as a pessimist!

Personally, I can't see it. People have gravitated back to the office, even in the midst of a pandemic, because they like working with other people. Yes, working from home a day or two a week creates space for projects that require uninterrupted concentration - and it breaks up the week for people who have a long commute.

But most of us enjoy face to face communication, casual conversations over the water cooler and the occasional lunch or after work drinks with colleagues. We also enjoy the creativity that sparks when we solve problems together. And if seeing colleagues isn't enough incentive, the North Sydney CBD has some of the best views in the world that are worth coming out for, at least some days a week.

Of course, Council would love to be able to take full credit for this transformation, but the truth is we are just part of the picture. In 2013, Council signalled we wanted to rejuvenate the CBD and were prepared to review our planning controls and invest in the public domain. Since

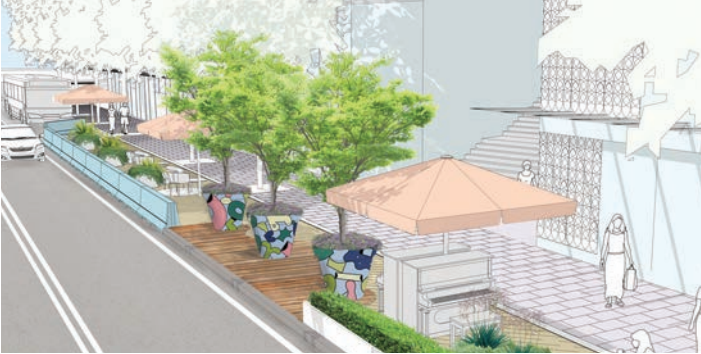
then, we've gone full steam ahead on the planning reviews and strategies, completed 85% of the public domain upgrade and established a popular events and activations program.

At the same time, the NSW Government committed to the Metro project, taking our already good transport connections to a whole new level. Property owners and developers saw the opportunity to build premium grade office space that had been lacking in the centre. And national and international businesses such as Microsoft and Nine Media made the move to North Sydney.

Councillors and staff have been visionary in planning the future of the CBD. We have lobbied the NSW Government and are hopeful that our plans to create a plaza on Miller Street between Berry Street and the Pacific Highway will go ahead. Miller Place, as we've dubbed it, will be a sunny, open space suitable for everything from grand events to coffee with a friend. We've also documented our open space wish list, which includes converting the Tramway Viaduct into a plaza and capping a section of the Warringah Freeway with parkland.

The North Sydney CBD is testament to what can be achieved with imagination, collaboration, commitment and perseverance. There's a buzz of expectation that is more than just the jackhammers. If you haven't visited the CBD lately, I encourage you to experience it for yourself. I look forward to seeing the centre when the transformation is complete.

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POP-UP SPACE FOR MILLER STREET

A new pop-up pedestrian space in the heart of the North Sydney CBD will be trialled from mid 2021. The Miller Street pop-up will include places to sit, improved pedestrian amenity and a small performance area with a public piano. There will also be pop-up activations and a rotating food truck program during the trial which will last at least six months.

The new pedestrian zone will be created by closing a portion of the traffic lane on the western side of Miller Street and by extending the existing footpath. Changes to current traffic and parking arrangements include:

- all existing parking and loading zones along both sides of Miller Street (between Berry Street and Pacific Highway) will be re-purposed as footpath/public space and a substitute loading zone installed on the Pacific Highway
- motorists will not be able to turn left from the Pacific Highway (southbound) into Miller Street as the 'slip lane' will be closed to improve pedestrian safety and access

One bus stop will be relocated to the Pacific Highway end of Miller St to allow space for the activation area. Access to existing driveways and construction areas will be maintained.

Council's long-term vision is to close Miller St between Berry St and the Pacific Highway to create a sunny, open plaza that will be the heart of the CBD. Other plans include creating additional open space in Mount Street and the Tramway Viaduct.

This project is funded by the NSW Government's Streets as Shared Spaces (SaSS) program.

A NON-UNIFORM APPROACH TO WASTE



Several hundred kilos of old school uniforms from North Sydney schools have been diverted from landfill and transformed into new household items.

Three local schools - Cammeray Public, North Sydney Demonstration School and North Sydney Girls High – are taking part in the Council pilot program with new fabric recycling provider Worn Up.

The donated uniforms have been turned into acoustic and floor tiles, dog beds and even new school desks. Other products are still in development by Worn Up and its partners.

Approximately 95% of all textile waste in landfill is recyclable and 10% of all global CO² production comes from textile production.

All three schools will continue to collect



Oliver, Annika, Marcus and Lucy with tiles made from Cammeray Public School uniforms

all non-wearable school uniforms and arrange a quarterly pick up with Worn Up with support from Council. It is estimated that each school will collect between 100kg and 400kg of textiles per year.

If the pilot scheme proves to be a success, Council will look at potentially expanding the program across the rest of the local government area.

DIGITAL PARKING PERMITS

Permit sticker residue on the car windscreen is a thing of the past with the introduction of digital parking permits in April. You will still need to attend Council Chambers to submit your application form and show proof of ID. The permit will become active the next day. Shared Permits and those with Terms and Conditions still need to be displayed.

OPERATIONAL PLANS 2021/22

Council's Operational Plan & Budget for the 2021/22 financial year is scheduled to be placed on public exhibition for 28 days following the Council meeting on 24 May.

An online information session is currently being planned for Tuesday 15 June at 6pm. To register or to view the full Operational Plan & Budget, visit yoursay.northsydney.nsw.gov.au. A recording of the information session will be available to watch after the event.

TOP MARKS FOR OUR ROADS

Council's investment in roads over the past decade has paid off with a recent NRMA survey ranking North Sydney in the top three of the Sydney Harbour region for perceived condition and safety. The NRMA Rate Your Roads survey quizzed more than 5,000 people on road condition, safety, and traffic congestion of local roads.

North Sydney shared the honours for good road condition with Mosman and Ku-ring-gai and for greatest safety with Strathfield.



\$1.6M GRANTS FOR 11 SCHOOL CROSSINGS

Students will soon be even safer on their way to and from school after Council secured \$1.6m in grants to improve road safety infrastructure around North Sydney schools.

Council has received funding for 11 projects under the Transport for NSW's Road Safety Program - School Zone Infrastructure program. The grants will be used to create raised crossings, to extend kerbs and introduce pedestrian refuge islands, which all help improve visibility and slow down traffic, making children safer as they walk to and from school.

Many of the projects are 'shovel ready' and work will get underway in the next few months.

Crossings to be upgraded include:

St Aloysius College Junior School: installing two raised pedestrian crossings on Alfred St South at Fitzroy St, and raising the existing crossing on Burton St

St Aloysius College: installing raised pedestrian crossing on Broughton St at Kirribilli Ave and raising the existing crossing on Clark Rd at Margaret St

Loreto Kirribilli: raising existing crossing on Carabella St at Fitzroy St

Neutral Bay Public School: raising existing crossing on Ben Boyd Rd at Hardie St

Cammeray Public School: raising existing crossing on Carter St at Colin St

Cammeraygal High School: raising existing crossing on Clarke St at Willoughby Rd

Redlands: raising existing crossing on Waters Rd at Grosvenor St

North Sydney Public School: raising existing crossing on Morton St at Rocklands Rd and constructing pedestrian refuge islands and kerb buildouts on Crows Nest Rd at McHatton St

MCMAHONS POINT MASTERPLAN

The new masterplan for McMahon's Point has been adopted by Council, with the first stage of works to begin later this year. The Blues Point Road works include footpath upgrades and widening along Blues Point Road, improvements at the King George Street intersection and upgrading

the pedestrian crossing.

Further stages of the Masterplan - which include the creation of a pocket park on East Crescent Street, new street furniture and trees, removal of overhead wires and new streetlighting - will be completed as funding becomes available.

NEW OPEN SPACE FOR CROWS NEST

Concept designs to transform the Holtermann Street Carpark in Crows Nest into an underground facility with a park on top have been commissioned by Council. Cox Architecture is preparing the designs which will go on public exhibition for community comment later this year.

The redevelopment of the site will involve the demolition of the existing five-storey carpark and the creation of a new multi-level underground carpark with 207 spaces. A contemporary 1500m² public park, incorporating a children's playground, will be created above it. The design parameters also include an improved interface with the Crows Nest Centre and the opportunity for a public art space.

The NSW Government contributed \$2.5m to the initial design and development phase of the project in conjunction with the announcement of the St Leonards/Crows Nest 2036 Plan. A further State contribution of \$15.1m towards construction has been allocated, subject to the final business case. Council will also contribute funding from development charges.

To keep up to date with the project and have your say on the design concepts, visit www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au



The Young Street Plaza trial has been extended until the end of June 2021 to assess traffic impacts and community use during the cooler months. The plaza was created by closing Young Street, between Military Road and Grosvenor Lane last November.

The plaza has provided an area of open space where people can meet friends, eat lunch or enjoy a quiet moment away from the busy commercial area. Activations have included pop-up lunch-time concerts and Storytime sessions run by the Stanton children's librarians.

A review of the traffic impacts and design options for a permanent plaza, if it proceeds, will be reported to the June meeting of Council.



SERVING UP AN ACE FOR LOCAL TENNIS!

The four tennis courts at Primrose Park are undergoing a full renovation. The courts were constructed in 1985/86 on reclaimed landfill at a former sewerage treatment site. Over the years, there has been settlement on the site, resulting in some displacement of the tennis court slab.

External engineering consultants advised Council that adding a topping slab or fully replacing the slab would only be a temporary fix and that a new suspended slab with piles inserted into the bedrock would need to be built. Council may also need to address issues of land contamination when this is complete.

With the high costs involved for this work, Council appealed to the Federal Government for help and has now been awarded \$2.175m funding through the Local Road and Community Infrastructure Program.

Once complete, the upgraded facility will include four new tennis courts with synthetic grass and line markings, new court lighting, a new 'hit-up' practice wall, and new equipment including nets, fencing and seating. There will also be new change facilities, a tennis shop, a new communal BBQ area and a small children's playground.

The Primrose Park Tennis Club is being relocated to the Green Park courts for the duration of the works.

DA PLANNED FOR HUME STREET PARK

The expansion of Crows Nest's Hume Street Park is one step closer with Council resolving to prepare a DA to create more parkland. Under the plan for Stage Two, Kelly's Place Children's Centre, situated in the middle of the park, would be relocated and the building demolished to open up more green space.

It is also proposed to close a section of Hume Street, between Clarke Street and the indoor sports centre, to create a direct link from the expanded park to the new plaza and pedestrian link that is currently being built between Hume Street and Willoughby Road.

Council has requested a report on the relocation of Kelly's Place, along with preparation of the DA.

WILLOUGHBY COLLECTION

A large collection of documents, artefacts and some furnishings have been generously donated to Council's Historical Services by the family of Alan Willoughby. Alan, who passed away last year at the age of 100, lived at 98 Amherst Street, Cammeray for his entire life.

A long-standing member of the North Shore Historical Society, Alan had a keen sense of history and kept many items from his parents' time as well as his own interesting life.

"Council was delighted to be invited to select from the contents of the house for our historical collection," said Council's historian Dr Ian Hoskins. "This was a rare opportunity to add objects to the collection which have impeccable provenance. I know the community will be fascinated to see some of Alan's treasures from decades past."

The collection includes a 1913 mortgage book, an octagonal occasional table, a beautifully maintained Early Kooka gas stove c.1938, a 1941 Healing bicycle and more. Many items will go on display as part of the refurbishment of the permanent exhibition *Locality: telling North Sydney stories in objects and pictures* in the North Sydney Heritage Centre.



We're going on a Horse Trough Hunt

A horse trough in Neutral Bay has recently been rescued and relocated to the corner of Kurraba and Clark Road, behind the bus stop, helping to preserve this tangible reminder of what was one of our main modes of transportation.

In the days of horse and cart there were many water troughs around North Sydney and Council would be interested to know if any others have survived in the area. If you have spotted one on a morning walk or maybe even have one in your backyard we'd love to hear from you. Send an email to localhistory@northsydney.nsw.gov.au



RE-NAMING BEN BOYD ROAD

Should Ben Boyd Road in Neutral Bay be renamed? Council is carrying out a survey to gauge community sentiment following recent public discourse about Boyd's life. Ben Boyd was the first person to bring South Sea Islanders to Australia as cheap labour – a practice variously known as blackbirding, kidnapping and slavery – which made him a controversial figure in his own time.

Boyd's reputation has waxed and waned over the decades, however, following recent media reports and online conversations, Council received requests to change the name of Ben Boyd Road, as well as support for retaining it. You can add your voice to the conversation at yoursay.northsydney.nsw.gov.au

Two plaques commemorating Boyd were installed by the Royal Australian Historical Society and North Sydney Council in 1931, near the corner of Ben Boyd Road and Kurraba Road in Neutral Bay. The oldest historical memorials in the area, both were recently restored. A third interpretative plaque is being considered to explain the history and context of the original plaques, and provide further information about Boyd's labour practices.

A century of community service by Rotary has been honoured in a plaque in Ted Mack Civic Park, North Sydney. Founded in the United States in 1905, Rotary quickly spread, arriving on our shores in 1921. North Sydney was the 19th Rotary Club to be established in Australia in 1928.

In North Sydney, Rotary's many local achievements include running the Crows Nest Markets, supporting teenagers in science and leadership initiatives, running the Middle Harbour Sailability Program for people with disabilities, and starting the Men's Shed in Wollstonecraft. Internationally the Club has raised money for polio eradication, the Nepal earthquake reconstruction program, hand wells in India and education opportunities for children in Tanzania and China.

The Club has also extended the hand of friendship to individuals in hardship. For example, it once not only provided a young woman with a car adapted for her disability but taught her to drive. She passed her driving test first go!

For more information about the Rotary Club of North Sydney or to get involved with their many community projects, visit www.northsydneyrotary.org



VALUED VOLUNTEER HANGS UP HIS GLOVES

It's been said that volunteering is choosing the kind of community you want to live in. Volunteer Dick Gall wanted a garden of flowers to admire, strong bushland to support homes for native animals and to ensure the hidden beauties of Sydney Harbour were protected for the next generation to enjoy. And as a bonus, he loved having a zoo in his neighbourhood close by to visit.

After retiring, the Neutral Bay local volunteered at May Gibbs' Nutcote, Council's Bushcare program, the National

Parks and Wildlife Service and Taronga Zoo. He has been volunteering for more than 20 years and is now ready to pass the baton to the next generation, especially keen gardeners.

"I wasn't really a gardener, I was more of a handyman," Dick said. "Nutcote really needed some gardeners to help at the time so I learnt."

When he didn't have a rake in his hand, Dick ran tours of the house and garden for the many visitors who came by. "I actually lived in Neutral Bay in the 1950s when May Gibbs was alive, but unfortunately we didn't cross paths."

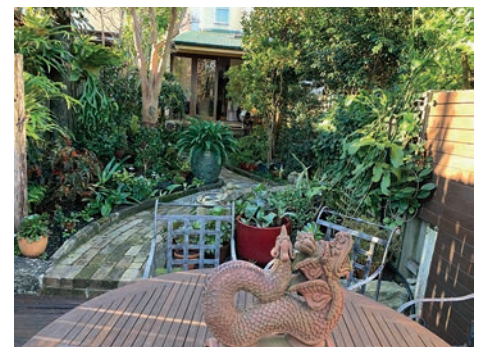
Nutcote curator Stephanie Lake said Dick was one of those brilliant volunteers who works hard and is very modest. "He will be very much missed at Nutcote," she said.

Dick also volunteered as a tour guide at Taronga Zoo, providing visitors with an opportunity to get behind the scenes with Australian animals.

He spoke fondly of his volunteer work for Council's Bushcare program, and bush regeneration work on Goat and Shark Islands, which he enjoyed because it kept him outdoors.

"I think volunteer work is hugely important. Council can do so much more if they have volunteers to help," he said. "During the pandemic it has been more important than ever. It has given volunteers somewhere to connect and socialise safely during this difficult time."

To learn more about volunteering opportunities in North Sydney visit www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/volunteer



2021 | NORTH SYDNEY GARDEN COMPETITION

How is your garden looking? Once again, Council is celebrating the wonderful work of North Sydney's keen gardeners. Entries will open for our 2021 North Sydney Garden Competition in July. View last year's winning gardens on Council's website and keep up to date on this year's event via Council's social media channels.

WHAT'S GOOD IN YOUR HOOD?

The largest social research project in Australian history is underway with the 2021 Australian Liveability Census. After a year where our local neighbourhoods have been more important than ever, it is the perfect time to understand what would make them better for you.

Parks or parking? Playgrounds or nightlife? Be a voice for your community – the survey takes up to 15 minutes to complete and will help inform the review of Council's next Community Strategic Plan. Visit www.placescore.org/dc

CALLING ALL ARTISTS: SCULPTURE AT SAWMILLERS EXHIBITION

Entries for the popular Sculpture at Sawmillers exhibition close at the end of the month. The outdoor event will be held in the iconic harbourside Sawmillers Reserve in McMahons Point from Friday 8 October to Sunday 17 October 2021.

Artists are invited to submit medium-sized exterior

sculptures and installations for consideration by 30 June 2021. Exhibition finalists will be selected by a panel in mid-July. A major prize of \$30,000 (non-acquisitive) will be awarded, as well as other smaller prizes. Visit www.sculptureatsawmillers.com to download the entry form and for more information.

MOMENTS IN TIME

A fascinating photographic exhibition on Paris and France by Australian photojournalist and author Tony Maniaty will be on display at the Kirribilli Centre from 11 to 25 July.

Tony, who was based in Paris during the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, documented the daily life of French people as they tackled, with courage and fortitude, the greatest crisis in a generation.

"One morning as I was leaving the boulangerie, I commented to the owner that Paris had become a ghost town," Tony said.

"Oui, she called out, cheerily. The bars and cafes are closed, monsieur, but our hearts are still open."

Tony will be giving a talk at Stanton Library on Wednesday 14 July (Bastille Day) at 1pm. The talk entitled, *France and Photography, 1830-1990*, will highlight France's central role in the birth and development of the photographic arts. Visit Council's website for more details.



Green events

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

27 June

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Walk, 8am to 2pm

11 July

Nestbox Building Workshop, 10am to 2pm

11 & 14 July

Bushcare Essentials, 10.30am to 1pm

1 August

National Tree Day Forsyth Park Community Garden, 9.30am to 11am

Fairy Tale Festival

8 June, 10am to 12pm,

Stanton Library

Discussion with authors Sereena Connelly, Kate Forsyth, Jo Henwood and Dr Debra J Phillips

17 June, 6pm to 7.30pm,

Stanton Library

How to write a fairy tale with Jo Henwood and Dr Debra J Phillips

20 June, 10.30am to 12.30pm, Coal Loader

Story-telling for families with Fairy Godmother, Jo Henwood and Sydney based storytellers

Coal Loader

Head to Council's website or the Coal Loader Facebook page for updated details and how to book.

The Coal Loader Sketchbook Challenge and Exhibition – June/July

Join local artists and residents for free tutorials, tips, discussion and inspiration. The challenge will culminate in a community-centric exhibition.

NAIDOC Week, 4-11 July

Tours and workshops embracing First Nation's cultural knowledge and understanding of Country as part of Australia's national heritage in partnership with the Aboriginal Heritage Office and Koori Kinnections.

Salon de Refuse - drop off of donations begins in July

Hosted in collaboration with Street Bounty, Salon de Refuse is a free community-led art "shop" that aims to promote the rehoming of art. Donate artworks you no longer need, or rescue an artwork collected in Council clean-ups and take it home.

Christmas in July

Dust off your ugly Christmas sweater, gather your friends and family and book your free table in The Coal Loader Winter Garden. BYO sustainable, low-waste food and refreshments. Brunch, lunch, dinner and dinner sessions available.

Loader Lights, July/August

A fully immersive light and sound experience in Tunnel One - designed and brought to life in collaboration with lighting technicians and students.

Primrose Park Photography

inTransit Art Space, Council Chambers, until 14 June.



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