

APRIL 2022

NORTHSYDNEY NEWS



OUT OF QUARANTINE HISTORIC SITE TO BECOME OPEN SPACE

Council has purchased a sliver of Sydney's maritime history in Waverton, buying the Quarantine Launch Depot in Berrys Bay from Transport for NSW for \$2.3m. The site will be opened to the public to create a new area of open space for the community to enjoy. It is a key part of the missing foreshore link between Carradah Park and existing tracks in Ball Head Reserve.

The Quarantine Launch Depot was opened in 1912 to service the boats operating to and from the Quarantine Station at North Head. The site has two cottages, which served as accommodation for the crew that would ferry medical personnel or patients and fumigate passenger ships arriving in Sydney.

North Sydney Mayor Zoë Baker said the Council had been pursuing the site for more than a decade and was delighted that the acquisition had been finalised.

"Council recognises that Sydney Harbour belongs to all of Sydney and we want both the local and wider community to be able to enjoy this exceptional site.

"The terms of sale prohibit its use for commercial purposes so this site will become another treasured community asset for the generations to come. Money has been set aside in reserves to allow us to bring the site to life."

Council will now consider potential community uses for the cottages and land.

1912 The Quarantine Launch Depot was established. The site had refuelling facilities for the vessels *Pasteur* and *Jenner* which met incoming ships and transported sick passengers to the hospital at the North Head Quarantine Station.

A skipper and engineer were on call to ensure a doctor could be transported to a passenger ship at any time if required. The cottages were used as accommodation for staff working at the Launch Depot.

1988 The site was leased to the Australian National Maritime Museum and used for the maintenance of its heritage fleet. The two cottages were privately leased.

2022 The site is purchased by North Sydney Council for use as a community facility.

FROM THE MAYOR



Since the Council elections, wherever I go within our community there is a palpable sense of optimism, energy and relief - the sunshine returning after a long period of rain.

At the recent local government elections our community overwhelmingly voted for change. My new position as your Mayor is symbolic of that change: serving a new progressive Council reflective of our community and responsive to it.

This change was driven by community concerns about overdevelopment, the environment, transparency and real public participation.

This new Council has listened to the community and "hit the ground running". Already we have:

- rolled back the Military Road Corridor Planning Study (and the proposed 12 storey heights along Military Road)
- reinstated strong opposition to the

Western Harbour Tunnel/Northern Beaches Link projects due to the devastating impacts on our community

- moved to protect heritage in Cremorne and to amend the R3 zone
- acted to ensure compliance at Noake's at Berrys Bay
- endorsed the Uluru Statement from the Heart

And that is just after the first scheduled meeting of the new Council!

I am determined that this Council will be a Council that not only listens to the community but responds and delivers – a true collaboration between you and your elected representatives. A Council that

does not take your voice for granted. A Council that is prepared to stand up to and hold the State Government to account on policies and decisions that will harm our community, no matter which party is in government. A Council that always puts the public interest over self interest.

There's much to do in a very short term – finish our cycle network and expand active transport opportunities, work to expand green space and new public open space, reverse the restrictions on residents being heard at Council meetings, expand and explore public participation and deliberative democracy models, focus on youth services and increase transparency in all of Council's operations, to name just a few.

Council's only purpose is to support our community. We want to hear your ideas and views – write in, call us, turn up to Council meetings in person or online. Raise your voice.

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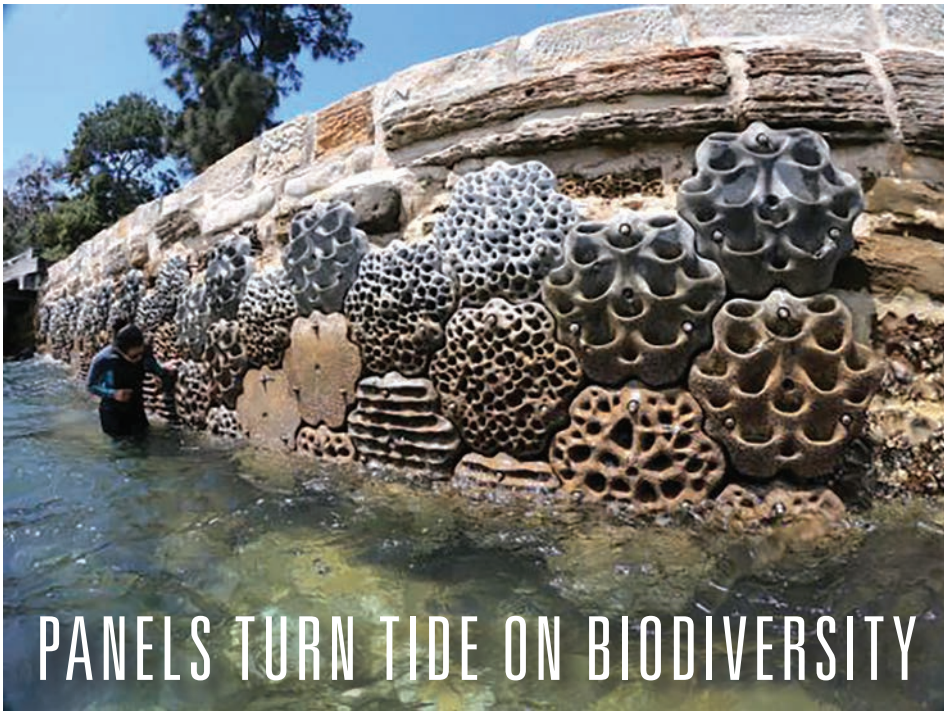
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Carefully crafted panels are helping to bring sealife back into Sydney Harbour after being attached to seawalls in Milsons Point and Sawmillers Reserve.

The habitat panels, which were installed along North Sydney's seawalls in 2018, have already increased biodiversity by an astonishing 264% in some areas when compared to flat control panels.

The habitat panels were designed by scientists from the Living Seawalls project at the Sydney Institute of Marine Science (SIMS) and industrial designers from Reef Design Lab. They contain nooks and crevices to house small sea creatures which are often missing on smooth, man-made seawalls. At Milsons Point, a panel to mimic mangrove roots was designed in partnership with Volvo.

Research found between 43% and 264% more species were observed on the habitat panels at Sawmillers Reserve compared to flat control panels over a two-year period. Monitoring and evaluation of the panels at Sawmillers Reserve has also revealed that different designs of seawall panels promote different species, and some of the panels now have a similar biodiversity to natural rocky shores.

A total of 115 species were observed across the panels, including 25 species of algae (seaweeds), 48 species of mobile invertebrates, and 42 species of sessile invertebrates such as non-mobile oysters and barnacles which filter water as they feed and help to improve water quality.

Scientists also found the Volvo mangrove-style panels at Milsons Point supported 73% more species (90 species), including mussels, oysters and barnacles, compared to the flat control panels (52 species) after two years. More panels were added to the Blues Point Reserve seawall in 2020, but this time they were embedded directly onto the seawall, rather than being detached from the face of the wall.

The embedded panels at Blues Point Reserve are the first to be trialled in Australia and the second in the world after Seattle city. A follow-up biodiversity report will be published once the trial period is completed.



An endangered White's Seahorse was recently found near North Sydney Wharf during works on the ferry stop and safely moved to a nearby location.

The White's Seahorse is endemic to Eastern Australia but their numbers have declined by up to 95% in some areas due to the loss of their natural habitat, prompting their listing as endangered

by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

The White's Seahorse Conservation Project, a collaboration between SEA LIFE Sydney Aquarium, NSW Department of Primary Industries, University of Technology Sydney and SIMS, is breeding seahorses to boost numbers and has already released 234 juvenile seahorses.

Project Aquarist Mitchell Brennan said: "This project is a world-first approach to seahorse conservation."

The Project has also installed 27 Seahorse Hotels - artificial cage-like structures providing habitat and protection to seahorses - at three sites in Sydney Harbour. To find out more about the White's Seahorse Conservation Project, visit: www.seabnb.com.au

COLOURS OF LIFE

Following the success of the Living Seawalls project, different colour panels have now been installed at Kurraba Point, Hayes St and McMahon's Point to see if this has a further benefit for biodiversity.

Seaweeds and invertebrates live close to their thermal limits and flat, man-made seawalls provide them with little to no shelter from the sun during low tides.

Over the next 12 months, Macquarie University will monitor whether the colour of the panels, which can create microclimates in their crevices up to 10°C lower than on flat surfaces, can help increase and support biodiversity. It is expected the cooler white panels, which have lower absorption and higher reflection of solar irradiance, will support more biodiversity than the hotter black surfaces.



Celebrating 50 GOLDEN YEARS OF SERVICE

The Crows Nest and North Sydney Community Centres both turn 50 this year. In this issue, we put the spotlight on the Crows Nest Centre which serves up support and connection with the practical services it provides.

North Sydney's second-ever female Alderman Joan Pilone left a significant legacy when she retired from Council. Not only did she pioneer the place of women in local government, she also initiated and formed a Serve the Seniors Committee which laid the foundations for the creation of today's dynamic Crows Nest Centre.

Joan's vision was to support older people to remain in their homes for as long as possible by providing services such as Meals on Wheels.

"Joan saw a real need for the service in the community and that's what gave birth to our centre," said Denise Ward, Executive Officer of the Crows Nest Centre. "Joan chaired the Committee for many years and worked tirelessly to implement Meals on Wheels in 1962."

The first bricks and mortar community centre was in Falcon Street (now Lees Fortuna Court) in the late 1960s. It was named after Alderman James F. Cahill who was a strong advocate for the creation of community facilities for older people.

North Sydney Community Service, which operated the centre, became a registered charity in October 1972. Demand for more services quickly grew, with the original premises bursting at the seams.

In 1987, Mayor Ted Mack officially opened the purpose-built community centre where it stands today in the heart of the

Crows Nest village. The opening coincided with the introduction of a new Government home and community care program, and the Centre took the opportunity to expand its services to include assisted shopping, a bed making service and a wide array of social activities.

"Everyone needs to feel they belong in life and that's what we do."

Today, the Centre employs 16 people and has more than 200 volunteers. It is now also a place where migrants can find their way, parents can feel supported, someone who is homeless can seek help and a person with a disability can find purpose.

Of course, empowering seniors is still a huge part of the organisation's purpose, but the Centre has branched out to support a wider cross-section of the community.

"Essentially, the Centre is about connecting people who are isolated, and promoting health and wellbeing," Denise said.

"Every Friday we have a lunch with activities such as gentle exercise, games and puzzles, singing for joy, and we host interesting guest speakers. It's about creating a fun atmosphere where people can connect."



MORE THAN JUST A MEAL

Meals on Wheels volunteer Kerry Hammond has been a part of the service almost from its inception. "I started volunteering just after having my second child when Meals on Wheels was being run from the back of a house near the Council," Kerry said.

She left the service for a period when she moved out of the area, returning as a volunteer 17 years ago. While several things have changed over the years, including the food choices available and the way it is packaged, the essence and soul of the service remains unchanged.

"Almost everyone we go to seems to be living on their own. Sometimes you're the only person they see, the only person they have contact with, so it's important for someone from Meals on Wheels to be checking on them," Kerry said.

"You really do become attached to everyone you meet, and it becomes more than a meal delivery service. They become your friends. You talk to them, help them with something like collecting their mail, putting away their Christmas decorations or getting something down from a cupboard because they can't reach it themselves."



Kerry said the benefits of volunteering for Meals on Wheels have been important in her own life. "I thank God that I have Meals on Wheels - it gives me something to do and it makes me feel good that I'm doing something nice for someone else. I personally believe that as a volunteer, you get so much more than the person you are delivering the meal to."

Today, the Centre's Meals on Wheels service and onsite community restaurant provides 15,000 meals a year. People who attend the social activities, such as knit and natter or bingo and trivia, often stay on for lunch.

Kerry said one of the most heartwarming things following the pandemic was seeing those who weren't able to access the Crows Nest Centre, being able to do so again.

"Seeing lonely people being picked up by the community bus and having lunch together, or watching a movie or playing a bit of bingo together - it is really lovely to see."



HELPING HANDS LIGHTEN THE LOAD

It's no surprise that the linen service is one of the more popular services provided by the Crows Nest Centre.

"Changing your bed is a heavy housework task that often becomes more difficult as people age," explained Executive Officer Denise Ward. "The service makes a real difference to people's ability to stay in their home. Everyone loves the feeling of sleeping in clean sheets and it's giving someone that extra bit of dignity that makes this service special."

Linen service volunteers deliver fresh sheets and towels, strip and remake beds, and return the used linen to the Centre for commercial laundering.

Louise said the service has been a tremendous support for her parents. "The linen service not only had a physical impact on mum and dad's lives, it also came with a social exchange as they looked forward to the visits and became very fond of the volunteers."



PROTECTING THE CULTURAL CROWN OF CREMORNE

A proposal to secure State Heritage Listing for the Orpheum Cinema is being investigated by Council to ensure this cultural gem is protected for future generations. While the Orpheum is currently identified as an item of local heritage significance, the investigation will consider whether it meets the requirements for State Heritage Listing. If so, it will need to be referred to the Heritage Council.

At the time of going to print, a report was being prepared for councillors.



HODGSONS LOOKOUT PARK

Hodgsons Lookout Park in Kurraba Point has been given a facelift to go with its world-class harbour views. The upgrade includes new stairs and footpaths for improved access around the park.

Seating has also been repositioned, with the old mismatched chairs replaced with a new set of furnishings. Significant plant management has taken place with large, weed-infested areas replaced with neat garden beds to complement the park. The project cost \$194,000 and was completed over a period of three months.



IMPROVING THE PLATFORM - New semi-automatic shades, which roll-out and retract, have been installed along the foreshore colonnade of the Coal Loader Platform, covering about 230 square metres. In the future, grape vines will be wrapped around the shades, umbrellas will be placed on the platform and picnic tables will be placed along the colonnade under the current solar panels.

PLANNING NORTH SYDNEY'S FUTURE

Council is currently preparing the Community Strategic Plan (CSP) that will set priorities for the next decade. The newly elected Council has reviewed community feedback from a range of consultations including customer satisfaction and liveability surveys.

The consultations identified things residents value about the North Sydney local government area as well as priorities for the future. Open green space, foreshore access, village centres, history, public transport and events/activities were all valued, along with less tangible things such as quality of life and community spirit.

Some of the values also appear as priorities including open space and heritage conservation. Other priorities are sporting facilities, managing development, traffic and parking, improving Council's community engagement and communication, and transparency in decision making.

As well as preparing a CSP, the Council will develop a Delivery Program that identifies which projects will be resourced and delivered over the term of the Council. The draft CSP and Delivery Program will go on exhibition for public comment. To stay up to date, visit Council's website or subscribe to the monthly e-newsletter at www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/eNews

INFRINGEMENT CHANGE

Parking infringements are now being posted to vehicle owners within two to three days of the offense occurring, as part of a new process introduced by Revenue NSW. They will no longer be placed on vehicle windscreens or handed out on the spot.

The infringement letter contains more information than was previously printed on an on-the-spot infringement. The letter includes options on how to manage the penalty notice, lodge an appeal, make payments and access the evidence of the offence, including photographs.

PROUD TO BE SMOKE-FREE

Smoking is prohibited in the CBD and is enforceable with a penalty of \$110.

Signs have now been installed in the southern no-smoking zone bounded by Walker, Berry and Mount Streets and the Pacific Highway. On the northern end, the no-smoking zone is bound by Ridge, Miller and McLaren Streets.

Council has also identified some spaces in the CBD that are not in busy thoroughfares where smoking is permitted. Appropriate bins with ashtrays have been installed in these areas.

ARTWORK CELEBRATES HARMONY DAY



The artwork *Multicultural Harmony Day at Luna Park* was unveiled at Studio A last month as part of Harmony Week. Council commissioned local artist Jaycee Kim to create an artwork that represented our multicultural community - a third of North Sydney's residents were born overseas and speak over 50 different languages.

Jaycee works with local community group Studio A which tackles barriers faced by artists with intellectual disabilities and supports their professional aspirations. He drew inspiration from a focus group of community representatives from Council, Sydney Multicultural Community Services and the Crows Nest Centre.

Jaycee said the artwork explored the themes of celebration, diversity and harmony and featured people from a range of nationalities in their traditional national clothes. "The orange gradient in the sky background represents Harmony. I painted the clouds in the style of my Korean heritage."



COFFEE CUPS SWAP AND GO

A free alternative to carrying a personal reusable cup has launched in North Sydney with several cafes now offering the service to customers. This means you can grab your coffee in a reusable cup, enjoy it, and then return the cup to any participating café, so you no longer have to lug your own around with you. The coffee shop then cleans the cup, ready for the next customer!

Better Business Partnership (BBP), which is supported by Council, has teamed up with Green Caffein to provide free coffee cups to any BBP café or restaurant that sells take-away drinks.

The Green Caffein initiative has a wide range of benefits, including:

- cafe owners save on the cost of disposable cups
- customers no longer need to worry about carrying their own cup
- it saves unnecessary waste going to landfill

Café or restaurant owners interested in taking part in the initiative should contact Council's Sustainable Business Officer Ali Devlin.

Coffee lovers can find out which local cafes are participating by visiting greencaffein.com.au



LIGHTING THE WAY to a SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

All of our Council operations, facilities, and streetlights will soon be 100% powered by solar energy.

North Sydney is one of 25 councils to soon be powered by three NSW solar farms under a new deal between the Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (SSROC) and electricity retailer ZEN Energy.

Most of our operations, major facilities and streetlights will move to solar power on 1 July 2022, with some small sites to move to solar power on 1 January 2023.

Council has opted for 100% renewable energy under the agreement and, overall, 83% of all the participating councils' total electricity supply will be covered by renewable energy from the Moree, Hillston and Nevertire Solar Farms, all located within NSW.

COUNCIL TO LOSE UP TO \$9.3M A YEAR UNDER STATE GOV PROPOSAL

Council is urging residents to write to local members objecting to the State Government's proposed changes to development levies which will reduce Council funding for vital community facilities.

Under the proposal, development infrastructure contributions will be diverted from councils, where they are spent on local parks, playgrounds, and libraries, to the NSW Treasury where they can be spent anywhere in the State.

North Sydney will lose between \$2.8m and \$9.3m in levies every year – which have helped partially fund projects such as the Coal Loader. To find out more about the proposal, visit Council's website.

State Government to take up to \$9.3m from our community each year

Dear Residents,
The State Government is making a grab for development levies that will have a significant and lasting impact on you, our residents and ratepayers.
The Government is proposing to transfer the fourth share of development infrastructure contributions from councils, where they are spent on local parks, libraries and community centres, to the NSW Treasury where they can be spent anywhere in the State.
Under the St Leonards and Crows Nest 2036 plan, the Government imposed hefty population growth targets on our local government area. This means our community assets will have to work harder to meet the demands of the growing residential, worker and student populations. Increasing per population while taking away funding that supports new open space is just wrong.
North Sydney will lose between \$2.8m and \$9.3m in developer levies every year – projects from the Coal Loader at Waverley through to North Sydney Oval refurbishment, CBD Public Domain upgrades and playground improvements like St Thomas Rest Park have all been funded in some way from development contributions.
The loss of these funds will mean that Council will not be able to increase and improve public open space and community facilities to serve our growing population. Worse still, the loss of developer contributions will increase and exacerbate the impact of development on our community.
Few of us measure our quality of life by local footpaths, but we do experience wellbeing when we read a book borrowed from the library, attend an art class at the community centre or share a picnic with friends in the park. More of these facilities will be needed with more residents.
If the proposal goes ahead, development contributions collected by the State Government from development sites in North Sydney will not have to be spent in our community – we will bear the burden of new development without any capacity to deliver new facilities to ameliorate the impacts.
It is outrageous for the State Government to impose high population growth in our area and then cut our funding for essential community facilities – this is a grab from local communities to prop up State coffers. The State Government proposal also shifts the burden from developer to local home owners. For example, a developer building a commercial tower in the CBD will pay up to 70% less than what they are now (\$3.4m instead of \$10.8m), while a resident adding a couple of extra bedrooms to their house will be paying three times more (\$12,000 instead of \$4,000).
North Sydney is one of 23 metropolitan councils fighting the proposed reforms, which the Centre for International Economics (CIE) estimates would give the State Government an additional \$793m per year in revenue (averaged over 20 years).
This will help the State Government temporarily balance their budget, but the cost to local communities will last forever.
North Sydney Council has made a strong submission against this proposal, but we are just one voice. Tell the State Government to leave community infrastructure in community hands.
Make your voice heard by posting on social media and writing to your local member.
www.northsydney.com.au
Zoe Baker
Mayor





Hairy Soul by Jane Théau

NORTH SYDNEY ART PRIZE 2022

The biennial North Sydney Art Prize returns to the Coal Loader Centre for Sustainability in Waverton from 14 to 29 May. Works from emerging and established artists across Australia will be exhibited indoors and outdoors, including in the Coal Loader Tunnels, Platform and surrounding parklands.

The event will showcase more than 100 artworks covering a broad spectrum of materials and methods, including painting, works on paper, small and large sculptures, and site-specific installations. Visit www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/artprize for more information.

Bark IN THE Park

5 JUNE, 9.30AM TO 2.30PM, ST LEONARDS PARK

Put Sunday 5 June into your calendar now for our pawfect pets day out! Bark in the Park will be at St Leonards Park from 9.30am to 2.30pm. Visit www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/barkinthePark for more information and event program updates.

AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE FESTIVAL

Curiosity is the theme of The National Trust of Australia's Heritage Festival this year, running from 1 April to 31 May. Council will be hosting two events about North Sydney's local history, as part of the national festival.

Book your spot at www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au

OBJECTS OF CURIOSITY: BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE ARCHIVES

Wednesday 27 April, 10.30am to 12pm

Are you curious about what local historians actually do? Join Historical Services staff for a free tour behind the scenes of some of Council's stored artefacts, which have so much to tell us about North Sydney.

INDUSTRIAL TEXTURES OF THE COAL LOADER

Friday 27 May, 2pm-3.30pm

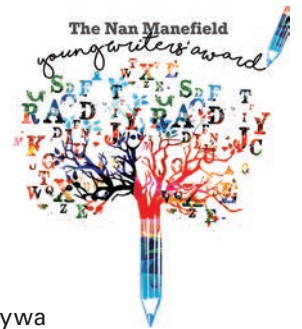
Join North Sydney Council Historian Dr Ian Hoskins on a free walk around the Coal Loader to hear about the material details of the site and a historical background on their use.



NAN MANFIELD YOUNG WRITERS AWARD

Entries are now being accepted for the 2022 Nan Manfield Young Writers' Award. Young writers aged 11 to 18 years are invited to submit either one poem or one short story. The competition is judged by award winning authors in five age categories with prizes totalling over \$2,000. Entries will be open until 5pm, Friday 6 May.

Visit www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/ywa



Council events

4-5 June | Claymakers Expo, Coal Loader, 9am to 4pm

Green events

Bookings must be made at

www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/greenevents or 9936 8100

12 April | Family Bush Walk - Berry Island, Tuesday 10.30am to 12pm

13 April | Family Kayak, Wednesday 10am to 12pm

14 April | Family Spotlight Walk, Thursday 6pm to 8pm

8 May | Trees for Mum Day, Sunday 9.30am to 11am

9 May | Webinar - Rewilding Bush Rats to North Head, Monday 7pm to 8.30pm

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