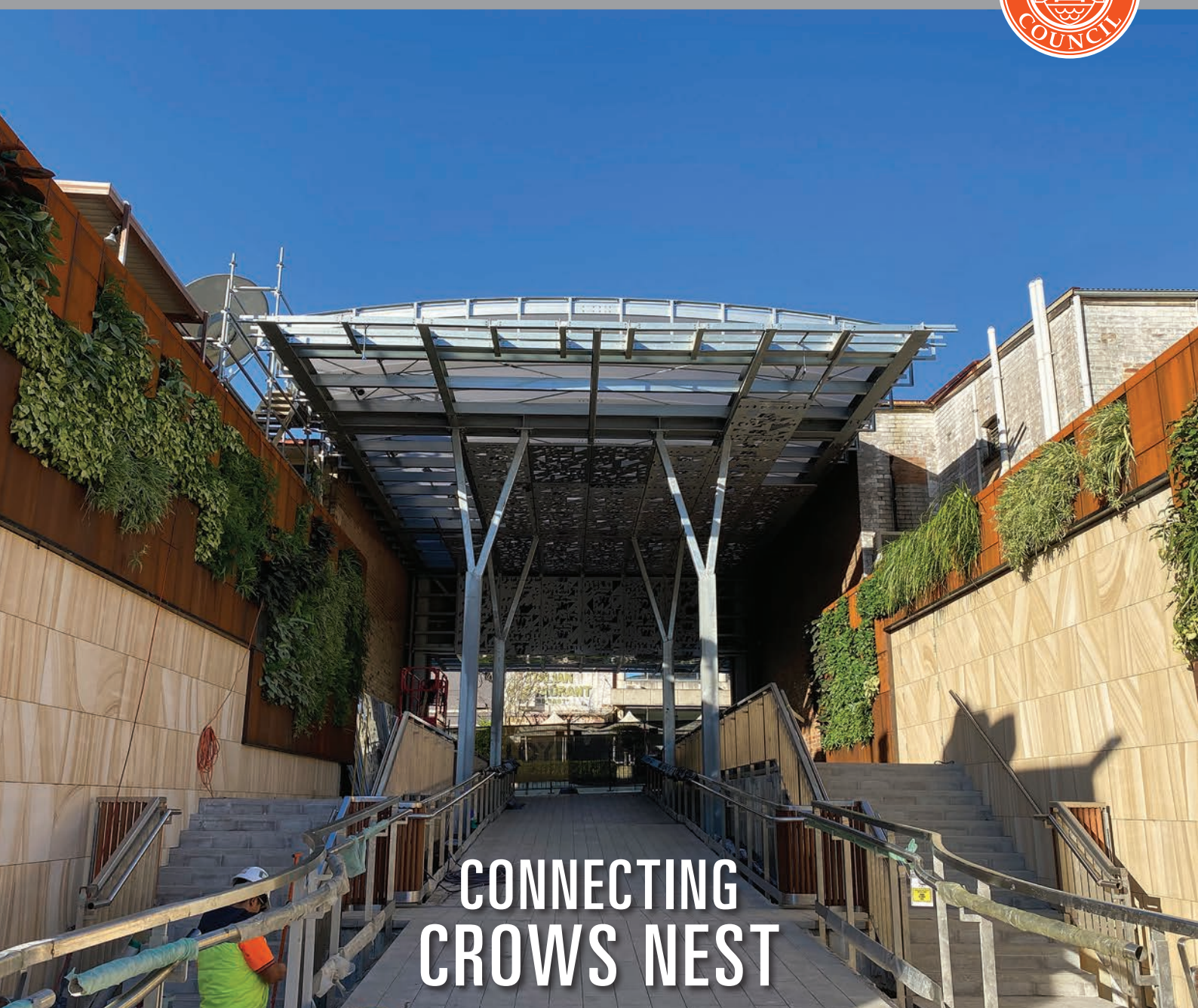


JUNE 2022

# NORTHSYDNEY NEWS



## CONNECTING CROWS NEST

Stage 1 of the Hume St Park expansion is nearing completion, after delays from rain and the pandemic. Here is a sneak preview of the new walkway which links Willoughby Road and Hume Lane. The walkway features sandstone and timber cladding, wall plants, decorative lighting and timber seating. Thousands of people are expected to use this link to walk between the Metro and the village shops and eateries when the station opens in 2024.

Decorative lighting is also a theme in the park which stretches from Hume Lane to Hume Street and includes an open sunny area of grass, seating and planted areas. The two areas not only create much needed open space, but create a visual connection with the existing Hume St Park.

Council purchased properties at 43-49 Hume Street and 90-92 Willoughby Road to create the walkway and new park. The Willoughby Road properties were the site of the Penfolds Furniture Store which operated under different owners for many decades.

*Contractors putting the finishing touches on the walkway*

The business was bought by Greg MacNamara and the late John Griffin in 1978. John was President of the Crows Nest Chamber of Commerce and established the Mainstreet program to ensure the village remained vibrant and competitive in the face of emerging competition from shopping malls. His progressive approach to working with Council and businesses to improve the shopping area earned him the sobriquet Mr Crows Nest.

Acting General Manager Robert Emerson said John was a well liked and respected member of the Crows Nest community whose vision and hard work ensured Crows Nest was able to reinvent itself while many other villages faltered. "I am confident John would be chuffed to know that the site of his business is now part of this innovative project that will make Crows Nest more pedestrian friendly."



One of the defining issues of the Federal Government election was the emergence of grass roots candidates and their supporters. This trend was not the purview of one party. There were local candidates across the political spectrum who gathered a proactive and hard-working team around them.

I, for one, was delighted to see the resurgence of strong community participation in the democratic process and I hope this continues to flourish at every level of government, including here in North Sydney.

In preparing our new Community Strategic Plan, Council has reaffirmed our commitment to integrity, transparency and community participation as a guiding principle of the Plan. Here’s an excerpt of what we say:

“We respect others, make every effort to understand each other, take responsibility for our actions and decisions, and work together to build mutual trust. We lead by example. We are transparent in our actions, through our longstanding commitment to open government. We exercise open communication. We listen

to the community, actively engaging with them and using these insights to inform our decision making.”

Why did we make such a strong statement about community participation? When people believe they are not listened to by government they feel disempowered and ultimately disengage. It is a natural reaction to withdraw when we think we are wasting our time.

Unfortunately, this clears the way for groups motivated only by self-interest to wield undue influence without accountability. The voice of the whole community is the natural check and balance government needs to ensure it is promoting and protecting the interests of all.

As a Council, we want to encourage wider participation in decision making. We will aim to use plain English and to be transparent about all aspects of our projects. We will allow time to be

iterative, so that policies and projects can be considered, modified and considered again if necessary. We will work harder to reach the people who are not already connected with Council.

Most of all, we will seek to earn the trust of the community so everyone will consider the time taken to engage with Council, is time well spent.

Of course, having our say doesn’t mean getting our own way. We hold different opinions, have different needs and different expectations. These differences add to the richness of our community. But we should be confident that our opinions, needs and expectations have been heard and thoughtfully considered.

I recently read an interesting quote from Chinua Achebe, a Nigerian novelist, poet and critic who is often referred to as the “father of African literature”.

Chinua said: A functioning robust democracy requires a healthy, educated, participatory followership, and an educated, morally grounded leadership.” A sobering but inspirational thought for us all.

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## SCOUTS HONOUR

North Sydney Scouts Group Leader Stuart Warren has been recognised as Citizen of the Year. Stuart's passion for positively contributing to the community is passed down to the Cub Scouts he inspires, encouraging them to attend ANZAC and Remembrance Day Services and undertake fundraisers for worthy causes. He also raises funds for the Scouts by working with a company called Box Divvy to source produce directly from farmers for distribution in the community.

Stuart's commitment to the community stretches beyond the Scouts family. He is an SES volunteer and during the pandemic he organised delivery of local food and necessities for the elderly and vulnerable living in our community.

Jane Curbishley, who nominated Stuart, said there was a significant increase in the number of children joining Scouts since he has been involved. "Stuart is involved in just about every group that seeks to improve the area in which we live," she said.



## COMMUNITY AWARD WINNERS

**Young Citizen of the Year - Akira Durran** for her work as a Venturer Scout and involvement in the Box Divvy initiative.

**Community Group of the Year - The North Sydney RSL Sub Branch** for their support of returned, ex-serving and current serving Defence Services men and women and their families.

**Environmental Citizen of the Year - David Bell**, a Bushcare volunteer who has been helping monitor Rakali (Australian Water Rat) as part of a citizen science project organised by Council.



## BIRDS I VIEW

One fateful day Anne Pickles noticed some Brush Turkeys in Neutral Bay and wondered if they were nesting in nearby Forsyth Park. Anne contacted Council's Bushcare team, who confirmed that the turkeys had indeed set up home in the park, before asking if she'd like to join Wildlife Watch, a program that supports volunteers to record wildlife observations.

A decade later, Anne consistently wins the unofficial competition among Wildlife Watch volunteers for the most fauna seen each year.

"I go out once a week and visit one of the

bushland reserves," said Anne. "I note everything I see, take pictures of what I can, then enter everything into the database via the Wildlife Watch app."

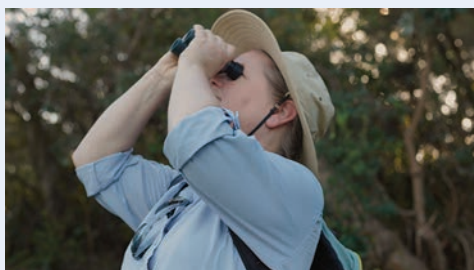
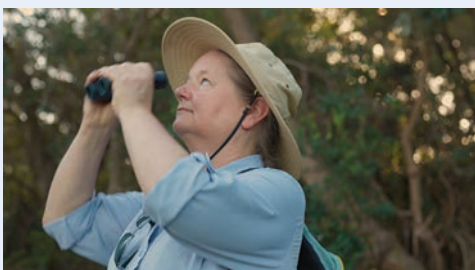
But how does she manage to see so much? Anne says effective wildlife watching is a matter of memory and familiarisation.

"My top tip for seeing wildlife is to know your patch," she said. "If you go to the same place regularly, you'll learn what plants are popular with birds and insects, and where animals have their territories, then you can notice new sounds or see if something has changed."

The information Anne records not only goes into Council's database but also into a national database. "It's really good to know that the data I'm collecting has multiple uses," she said. "It can be used by researchers and for population counts on a national level. It's also great to be able to show the Bushcare team that their valuable work is having an effect on habitat."

Anne encourages everyone to try volunteering with one of Council's various programs. "It's a great way to get some exercise and meet new people but also a wonderful way of contributing to the local community."

Visit [www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/volunteer](http://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/volunteer) to see more volunteer opportunities.



# PARK OVER AND UNDER

Artists impression - Option 1: view looking north over new park and children's water play area; northern façade of the Crows Nest Centre showing new lift and fire stairs



## HOLTERMANN ST CARPARK REDEVELOPMENT STEPS UP A GEAR

An ambitious plan to create a modern urban park in Crows Nest by undergrounding the Holtermann St Carpark is progressing to development application stage. Council has resolved to proceed with design Option 1, which was preferred by the majority of people who made a submission.

Three design options were put on public exhibition over summer for comment, attracting 405 submissions. Option 1 was supported by 56%, with some design modifications.

The new park was proposed by the State Government in response to concerns that there is inadequate open space to support additional residents allowed for in the Government's St Leonards/Crows Nest 2036 Plan. The State Government has fully funded the design stage and will provide a contribution to its construction.

Council also resolved that a business case and revised drawings be provided before the DA is lodged. The business case will include a review of the options considered, cost-benefit analysis of the Holtermann St proposal and an estimate of costs over its lifecycle.



### FEATURES OF THE NEW PARK

4 levels of basement parking with space for 216 cars, 18 motorcycles and 48 bicycles

Shared zones in Holtermann St and adjacent laneways

Raised lawns with seating edges and bleacher seating

Water play feature, kiosk and public toilets

Accessible green roof above the carpark entrance

Lift to all floors of the community centre and solar protection for exposed façade

Electric car charging infrastructure

### AMENDMENTS TO BE CONSIDERED

Increase grass/soft landscaping, reduce hard landscaping

Maximise trees to ensure adequate shade

Include additional children's play equipment

Review public art opportunities

Review carpark entrance to ensure safety

Maximise bicycle parking

# PLAYGROUND UPGRADES HAVE MERRETT

Three of North Sydney's most treasured play spaces for kids – the St Leonards Park, Fred Hutley and Merrett playgrounds – will soon be upgraded.

These playgrounds will get exciting new equipment to expand the play opportunities, while still retaining and upgrading some original features that make these spaces such special spots for local families.



..... existing playground

## The St Leonards Park playground will nearly triple in size and will include:

- 1 new eagles nest rope climbing feature for older children
- 2 installation of a sky-surfer, a track ride and a giant swing
- 3 new sand and water play features
- 4 wooden imaginary animals, kinetic energy activated bird sounds, and snakes and ladders

## Cammeray's Fred Hutley playground will feature:

- improved accessibility and functionality of the much-loved triple slide
- new play equipment, for a range of ages and abilities, which give children the opportunity to spin, swing, slide, bounce, balance and climb
- more seating near the playground

## Waverton Park's Merrett playground improvements will include:

- multiple set of swings suitable for all ages
- nature play zone with timber bridge and bushwood/sandstone stepping logs
- concrete tricycle track
- multi-play structure where children can climb, slide and balance
- rocking equipment which can accommodate several children at once

## SERVING UP AN ACE FOR LOCAL TENNIS

New state-of-the-art tennis courts are opening at Primrose Park in Cremorne after an extensive renovation. The original tennis courts had to be demolished and completely reconstructed on a concrete base after landfill settlement caused them to subside.

Council was awarded a grant of \$2,175,138 through the Federal Government's Local Road and Community Infrastructure Program to fund the project.

The new facilities include four tennis courts with synthetic grass, upgraded court lighting, a 'hit-up' practice wall, and upgraded toilet and change facilities, nets, fencing and seating. A new communal BBQ area and a small children's playground make the courts family friendly. For information on lessons, court hire, tennis camps and competitions visit [primroseparktennis.com.au](http://primroseparktennis.com.au)

## POCKET PARK FOR MCMAHONS POINT

A new pocket park will soon be created in the heart of McMahons Point. The new park will be located just off Blues Point Rd in East Crescent St, providing a green oasis for residents and visitors, while also helping to slow traffic in the area.

Council will fund half of the \$500,000 project, with the remaining \$250,000 coming from the NSW Government's Streets as Shared Spaces scheme. Council will now tender for the construction of the park, with the project set to get underway later this year.

# WHY BUY WHEN YOU CAN BORROW?

*From high tech gadgets to everyday tools, you can now borrow what you need from two exciting collections at Stanton Library and the Coal Loader*

## Discovery Collection

Do Ozobots, digital microscopes and Specdrums belong on the shelves of a library? They do at Stanton! A free gateway to knowledge, history and culture, Stanton has expanded its collection from books and digital resources to electronics, media, sustainability and science-based technology.

The Library's Discovery Collection provides individuals and groups with opportunities to explore technology or find creative uses for a gadget. The collection also gives people the opportunity to learn about sustainability initiatives at home with products like induction cooktops, a PowerMate kit or an infrared camera all available for loan.

The Discovery Collection includes items suitable for people of all ages and abilities. Accessibility has been a key focus, with technology that can be adapted for various uses such as a light panel and Xbox adaptive controller. Also included will be a loan collection of phone and laptop chargers so you can hang out in the library longer.



## LIBRARY OF THINGS

Are you planning to clean your driveway or trim your hedge? You're not alone. Hedge trimmers and guerneys are the two items most in demand at The Sydney Library of Things (TSLoT), which operates from the Coal Loader in Waverton.

The TSLoT collection contains just about everything you could want to help with a household chore. If you don't need a tool regularly, borrowing it can save you money and storage space.

But it is not all work oriented – the collection also includes a multitude of fun objects that let you try out a new hobby, including tents, a guitar, a cricket set and a yoghurt maker. Puppy owners can test out a puppy crate before investing in their own and jigsaw fans are spoiled for choice.

TSLoT is a volunteer run, not-for-profit community project that is based at the Coal Loader Centre for Sustainability. Memberships are \$30 per quarter, \$50 for six months or \$85 annually, with concessions available. The fees go towards insurance and maintaining and building the collection.

TSLoT is staffed by volunteers and open every Saturday from 9am to midday, except public holidays. You can join, browse the collection and reserve items online – [thesydneylibraryofthings.org.au](http://thesydneylibraryofthings.org.au)



## THERE'S SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE AT STANTON LIBRARY

Audit your home with a PowerMate kit and infrared camera

Get creative with Specdrums - no music skills required

Try out a gimbal to take steadier photos or videos

Discover nature in more detail using Bugnoculars

Explore electronics with Circuit Scribe or Snap Circuits



## TRY INDUCTION COOKING

Council has recently purchased two portable induction hobs which can be borrowed through The Sydney Library of Things to support the rapid transition to renewable energy and zero emissions. The hobs give people who are renovating or upgrading their kitchen a chance to try before they buy.

Why choose an Induction hob? They are:

- + 90% energy efficient
- + easy to clean
- + safe to use
- + can utilise renewable energy
- + reduce the risk of childhood asthma (source: Climate Council review of scientific papers)



## the north sydney ART PRIZE

A stark reminder of the Black Summer Bushfires, *Still (once trees)* by Stevie Fieldsend won the Sculpture Award at this year's Art Prize. *Canary in the Coal Mine* by Anthea Boesenberg, Rhonda Nelson and Anne Russell powerfully highlights the urgent need for action on climate change.

## AIR QUALITY MONITORING

The NSW Environmental Protection Authority has established an air monitoring program in Cammeray Park, with portable sensors stretching from Wollstonecraft to Middle Harbour. The sensors will record air quality before and during the construction of the Warringah Freeway upgrade, taking measurements of particles (dust) in two sizes, sulphur dioxide, carbon monoxide, ozone, oxides of nitrogen, visibility, wind speed, wind direction, ambient temperature and relative humidity. The data will be available online and reported quarterly by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment.

Council's suite of planning documents that outline our priorities and aspirations for the coming years have been completed and placed on exhibition for public comment. The new Community Strategic Plan (CSP) includes a focus on protecting and increasing open space and greater transparency and community participation in decision making.

The supporting Delivery Program, Operational Plan and Resourcing Strategy show how our funds will be spent in the coming years and outline the resources that will be needed to meet the outcomes in the CSP. The documents have been on public exhibition for comment and were being reported to Council in June for adoption.

## NORTH SYDNEY'S VISION

## CALL FOR GARDEN ENTRIES

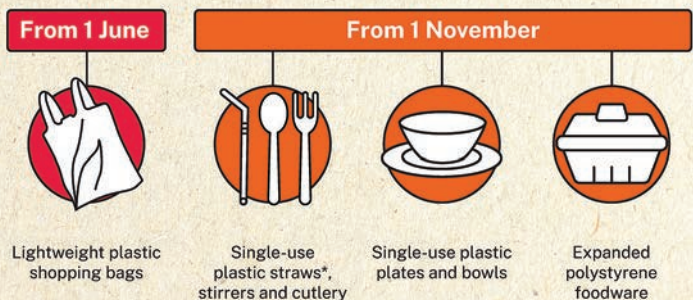
Entries for this year's Garden Competition close on Monday 30 August. Gardens will be judged on weekdays between Monday 19 September and Friday 30 September, with the presentation evening in October. Visit Council's website for more details.



## SINGLE-USE PLASTIC BAN

The single use plastic ban not only applies to retailers, suppliers and manufacturers but also community groups including sporting groups, not-for profits, charities, religious bodies and educational providers. If you need assistance implementing the ban for your community group please contact Danielle on 9936 8227.

In 2022, NSW is banning certain single-use plastics.



\*Exemptions will apply for providing a plastic straw for people with a disability or medical need.

## FOOTY @ NORTH SYDNEY OVAL

Support the Norths and Bears on their home ground. More information is available on Council's website.

### RUGBY UNION:

**9 July** | Norths vs Gordon Rugby (Baxter / Mortlock Cup)

**16 July** | Norths vs Eastwood RUFC

**30 July** | Norths vs Western Syd Two Blues (Rod Phelps Cup)

**6 August** | Norths vs Eastern Suburbs RUFC

### RUGBY LEAGUE:

**7 August** | Bears vs Bulldogs

**14 August** | Bears vs Knights

**21 August** | Bears vs Magpies

**28 August** | Bears vs Mounties

## SWANS JOIN THE AFLW



The Sydney Swans are joining the AFLW and in preparation for the season, their Open and Futures Squads will play in an elite five-game series at North Sydney Oval. This is a great opportunity to see the Swans AFLW team in action and learn who's who before the season kicks off in August. Check Council's website for match details.

## SNOW FEST

Monday 18 July - Saturday 30 July  
Greenwood Hotel

Celebrate all things winter with free ice skating, snowman making, a mini ice hockey tournament, figure skating performances and more! This event is presented by Greenwood Hotel, Greenwood Plaza and NTH SYD. Visit [www.nthsyd.com](http://www.nthsyd.com) for more.



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 [twitter.com/NthSydCouncil](https://twitter.com/NthSydCouncil)

 [facebook.com/NthSydCouncil](https://facebook.com/NthSydCouncil)

 [north.sydney](https://north.sydney)

## SHORESHOCKED

Northern Sydney's largest free, all ages, drug-alcohol-smoke-free music festival.

**Saturday 6 August**

**12pm to 5pm**

[www.shoreshocked.com](http://www.shoreshocked.com)



### Coming up at the Coal Loader

**6 July** | NAIDOC Week: An evening in conversation with Karen Smith, 6pm

**29 July** | Plastic Free July morning tea, free, see website

**Coal Loader tours** | Learn more about the Coal Loader, free tours, first and third Saturday each month, visit Council's website to register.

### Stanton school holiday activities

**From 30 June** | Get up! Stand up! Show up! packs, Library packs with books, crafts and activities available to borrow

**4 July** | Badge Making for all Ages, 9.30am 11am and 2pm

**5 July** | Story Time in the Park, 9.30am and 10.45am

**7 July** | Sensational Sand Art, 9.30am and 11am

**12 July** | Writing Masterclass Workshop, 9.30am (ages 7-11), 11am (ages 12-14), 2pm (ages 15-18)

**14 July** | Paper Pilots - Plane Workshop, 9.30am and 11am

**6, 8, 11, 13, 15 July** | Maker Space - Drop in Sessions, 9.30am to 11.30am

### Green events

**Bookings must be made at**

[www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/greenevents](http://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/greenevents) or 9936 8100

**4 July** | Imperfect Low Waste Living

**10 July** | Nestbox building workshop, 10am to 2pm

**31 July** | National Tree Day, 9.30am to 11am

**11 August** | Fire Management Webinar, 6pm to 8pm

**13 August** | Introduction to Wildlife Watch, 10am to 1pm

**27 August** | Bush Walk - Balls Head, 10am to 1pm

**28 August** | Wildflower Walk, 8am to 4pm