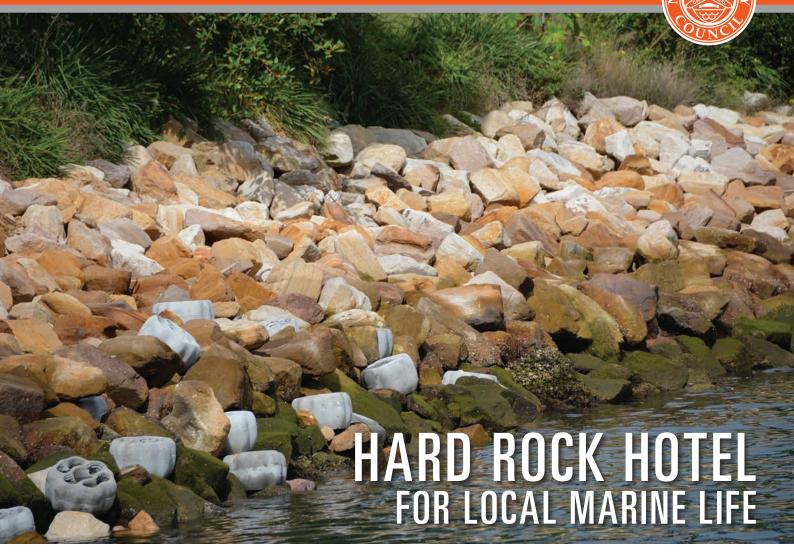
JUNE 2023

NORTHSYDNEWS



If you've been to Lavender Bay recently, you may have noticed some rocks along the Eastern shoreline that look a little different. These grey, manufactured boulders serve a very special purpose – they mimic natural rockpools to provide critical habitat for marine life in Sydney Harbour.

Called Living Seawalls habitat boulders, their installation is the first project of its kind in the world. It was made possible thanks to a collaboration between the Sydney Institute of Marine Science (SIMS), local business Sydney by Kayak and Council. The hope is that the boulders will, in time, increase the area's biodiversity.

Aria Lee, a SIMS marine ecologist and Living Seawalls lead researcher, says Lavender Bay was chosen because the existing sandstone on the shoreline is largely smooth, without significant wear and erosion features.

"Even though it's natural stone, it really lacks the micro habitat of rockpools," she explains. "We've found rockpools to be extremely valuable – they're an important refuge for organisms to stop them drying out, protect them from the sun and keep them safe from predators."

In mid-April, Council used a barge and crane to install the habitat boulders, which were generously funded by Sydney by Kayak, at three intertidal heights. Five were placed low on the shoreline to encourage red algae and creatures that like to stay wet. Along the mid-zone, where oysters live, another five were positioned.

Then, five more were put above the oyster line to act as a refuge for small snails and limpets. Three smooth boulders were also installed at each intertidal height for comparison.

The project will be monitored over the next 12 months. Six weeks after the boulders were installed there were several types of crustacean in the rock pool. However, it takes around two to three years to determine the real impact on biodiversity.

Aria says that the Living Seawalls' habitats are an important way to ensure our marine life is looked after. "More than 50 percent of Sydney Harbour's shoreline has some built structure," she says.

"In North Sydney, there's very little left that is natural shoreline. There's been a lot of habitat loss but it's not necessarily something we see every day. We see the trees being cut down, but we don't see what's happening underwater."

The habitat boulders in Lavender Bay follow on from the success of habitat panels installed in Milsons Point and Sawmillers Reserve in 2018. "At Sawmillers Reserve, after two years, there was a 36 percent increase in species living on the panels compared to a non-modified seawall," Aria says. "We found the textures on the panels support three times the species than the general flat surfaces."

"North Sydney Council has been a huge support to Living Seawalls over its existence, giving us space to install, first the panels, and now the boulders," Aria says.

At a recent forum at Parliament House, Mike Allen, the Chief Executive of Link Wentworth Community Housing, said

"I've been involved in social and affordable housing for over 40 years now. I have never seen the housing crisis be as bad as it is now. The depth of the struggle that people are going through right now is so profound and so deep it scares me"

It may be stating the obvious, but the cost of housing in the North Sydney local government area, whether to purchase or rent, is at an historic high – the housing crisis is, indeed, bad and the depth of the crisis is profound.

The latest housing statistics Council collected confirm that housing costs in North Sydney, like the rest of Sydney, when adjusted for inflation, increased 60% between 2011 and 2017 with a drop of 11% through 2018-19, and a further increase of 30% through 2020-22.

The median rental price for single houses is 65% above rents for Greater Sydney and rents for two bedroom apartments are approximately 30% above the Greater Sydney median.

Many assume that our local government area is exceptionally affluent. The fact is that we are a diverse community. There are significant numbers of people in the North Sydney local government area in the lowest socio-economic bands in the country and increasingly many, many households are experiencing housing stress (where more than 30% of household income is dedicated to rent or mortgage payments).

North Sydney is not unique. This current national housing crisis is many decades

FROM THE MAYOR

in the making and the causes are complex. Addressing the urgent need for affordable and social housing will require a nuanced response from all levels of government and the private sector.

You may not know that North Sydney Council was, and continues to be, a pioneer of affordable housing in local government in this State. In 1984, Council started the affordable housing program with the aim of protecting existing affordable housing and replacing affordable housing stock that has been lost

Yet since the affordable housing program began, at least 2,400 affordable bed spaces have been lost.

Over the course of the last four decades, through contribution of land, collection of affordable housing levies and partnerships with the State Government and community housing providers, Council has delivered 23 properties containing 131 tenancies across North Sydney, St Leonards, Kirribilli, Waverton, McMahons Point, Cremorne, Crows Nest, Neutral Bay and Cammeray. These properties include partial ownership of a nursing home and two services offering emergency accommodation to youth.

Nevertheless, Council alone cannot ever meet the need nor even replace the lost affordable housing stock.

Unfortunately, the recent public discourse on housing affordability has been neither nuanced nor, at times, based in fact. Instead, we are faced with a public 'blame game'.

You will have read or heard the narrative that seeks to blame local government for the failures of successive State governments, over many decades, to provide sufficient social housing stock and to mandate affordable housing targets to accompany rezonings (aka Planning Proposals) that have given windfall profits to the private development sector without delivering new affordable housing.

It is a narrative that dwells only on supply of new housing by the private sector and does not touch on other underlying and associated issues around the taxation system, the current high cost of financing for new development or the fragile position of the construction industry post-Covid.

This simplified argument also fails to recognise that development approvals do not equate to completed dwellings. For example, as at May 2023, Council had completed seven rezoning applications allowing for 887 new apartments just in the Crows Nest/St Leonards precinct alone. Of these, only one is under construction. Three had development applications being assessed and the remaining three had taken no action to seek consent for construction.

Over the past decade, more than 2000 private dwellings have been constructed along the Pacific Highway between Berry Street and Oxley Street. Far from reducing the prices of apartments, the prices in that corridor are at an all-time high, with no noticeable effect on the price of other housing stock.

continued on P7

MAYOR	Zoë Baker	m: 0438 857 547	mayor@northsydney.nsw.gov.au
ST LEONARDS WARD	Cr William Bourke	p: 9936 8100	cr.william.bourke@northsydney.nsw.gov.au
	Cr John Lepouris	p: 9936 8100	cr.john.lepouris@northsydney.nsw.gov.au
	Cr Godfrey Santer (Deputy Mayor)	m: 0418 203 071	cr.godfrey.santer@northsydney.nsw.gov.au
	Cr James Spenceley	p: 9936 8100	cr.james.spenceley@northsydney.nsw.gov.au
CAMMERAYGAL WARD	Cr MaryAnn Beregi	m: 0411 829 995	cr.maryann.beregi@northsydney.nsw.gov.au
	Cr Jilly Gibson	m: 0437 454 523	cr.jilly.gibson@northsydney.nsw.gov.au
	Cr Georgia Lamb	p: 9936 8100	cr.georgia.lamb@northsydney.nsw.gov.au
	Cr Ian Mutton	p: 8042 8704	cr.ian.mutton@northsydney.nsw.gov.au
	Cr Shannon Welch	m: 0422 463 707	cr.shannon.welch@northsydney.nsw.gov.au

THIS POOL IS GOING TO BE HOT HOT HOT

A pool heated to 34°C is not something you can find in all leisure centres, but you will at the North Sydney Olympic Pool. We're installing a new warm-water program pool which will be located on the upper floor parallel to the 25m indoor lap pool, to complement everything else being offered at the facility.

It's just one of the unique features that we've been able to add to our world-class facility while it's being upgraded. Heated to between 32°C and 34°C, and ranging from 0.9m to 1.3m deep, the pool will have many purposes and can be accessed by a ramp or stairs.

It will be the perfect pool for self-guided hydrotherapy exercise for someone who is recovering from an injury, or who has joint or mobility issues and specifically needs warm water to carry out their activity.

Learn to swim students will also start their swim journey in this pool which will be fitted with removable anchor points, platforms and lane ropes to ensure it can be used by everyone. The pool will be a bonus for parents who are concerned about continuing swimming lessons in winter as consistency is crucial for learning water safety.

Our new manager of Leisure and Aquatics, Duncan Rennie said there is currently limited learn to swim options in the area, so there is demand for more local classes.

"The pool will be heated up to 34°C, but the air temperature will also be warm, to ensure the water temperature is maintained, and this will create a comfortable environment for the kids and the parents," he said.

"There's even a balcony on the top level where parents can sit outside to enjoy the breathtaking view while still being able to keep an eye on their little ones taking classes, through the floor to ceiling windows."

For those patrons who want to sit and relax in the warm water, there's an adjoining spa and seating area where you can take in the harbour view, including a unique close up of the Sydney Harbour Bridge.



KEY FEATURES

- heated between 32°C and 34°C
- 0.9m to 1.3m deep
- floor to ceiling windows with harbour views
- ideal for self-guided hydrotherapy exercise
- suitable for learn to swim program
- spa and seating area for recreational use

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN 2023/24?

Council's focus for 2023/24 is completing the redevelopment of the North Sydney Olympic Pool. Upgrading village centres and open space, increasing tree canopy and working towards net zero emissions by 2030 also remain key priorities.

The capital works budget is \$79.4m of which \$43.5m is allocated for the pool project and \$35.9m for other projects, including:

- construction of a permanent plaza in Burton St, Kirribilli to replace the temporary pop-up
- · the revamp of Willoughby Road
- a lighting upgrade in St Leonards Park

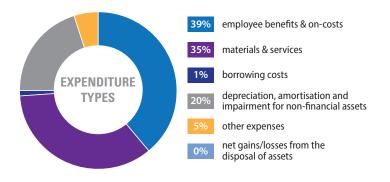
• works to make the Quarantine Boat Depot site accessible to the public, including opening the cottages for community use

Council's wide range of other services and programs will be operating as usual and there will continue to be a full events program at Stanton Library, the Coal Loader, and in the North Sydney CBD, village centres and local parks.

Council is forecasting \$138.6m in income and a deficit of \$2m, largely due to a prior \$2.2m commitment to an affordable housing project. Rates will not increase above the rate peg of 3.7% set by the Independent Pricing and Regulation Tribunal.



- 54% rates & annual charges
- user charges & fees
- other revenue
- grants & contributions provided for operating purposes
- grants & contributions provided for capital purposes
- interest & investment income
- other income



BUS to



Did you know we have a FREE Bus to Books service that picks you up from your home and takes you to the library? The service allows residents who have limited mobility or are without their own transport, to visit the library in person. Spend an hour browsing and borrowing, then enjoy some morning tea and conversation before being driven back home.

Service operates last Friday of each month. Call 9936 8400, scan the QR code or visit northsydney. nsw.gov.au/bus-books for more information.



Drop into the library and enjoy an afternoon of tabletop games every month. Whether you bring along your friends or simply want to meet other fellow board game enthusiasts, enjoy a few hours of fun at Sunday Games. You can choose to let your competitive streak run or embrace working together – all in the name of victory.

Sunday Games runs from 2pm to 4pm on the last Sunday of each month. This is a family friendly event. No bookings are required. For more information phone 9936 8400.



LEARNING FROM OUR PAST

The latest exhibition at the Heritage Centre explores some of the ways we can learn from past domestic technologies and practices to make more sustainable personal choices today.

Our global economic system has been disrupted in recent years by the pandemic, geopolitics and extreme weather events, leading organisations and individuals to look for ways to build resilience through local solutions.

Many of today's popular sustainable strategies were also common practice in the mid-20th century, albeit with a different motivation. In the 19th and early 20th centuries, domestic life was similarly centred around the local community.

Economic hardships of the 1890s and 1930s, with depressions and wartime shortages, fostered extraordinary resourcefulness. Wartime slogans such as 'make-do and mend' or 'food is a weapon' encouraged

struggling homemakers to persevere.

The From Resourcefulness to Resilience exhibition is open during Library hours at the North Sydney Heritage Centre on Level 1 of Stanton Library until October 2023.

Community veggie growing today (right) and to assist wartime rationing in 1945 (left)



Dig for Victory 1945 Campaign Poster, courtesy of the National Library of Australia

Imagining new worlds

Our new Don Bank writer in residence for 2023 is Margaret M. MacDonald, a writer and filmmaker who is passionate about telling stories which transport people into other worlds. Her visual writing style, shaped by her background as a designer, conveys a tangible sense of place, inviting readers into the story world.

Margaret has written a library of screenplays and novels in a mix of genres. She has also directed several short films, including spontaneous, experimental and one-woman projects, earning awards for both her writing and films.

During her residency at Don Bank, Margaret is working on her Sci-Fi/Fantasy novel series, *The Phoenix Effect*, with the first book to be released in October.



MAKING THE CALL

Ever wondered how we determine if a sportsground needs to be closed in wet weather? Here's your answer.

Our experienced turf managers test the ground's moisture content using POGO, a turf measurement application that provides information on the moisture content of the ground and any problem areas of the turf. The team also assesses the surface water present on the field. the drainage capability and the short-term weather forecast as all these elements can contribute to the turf being damaged. Slippery and wet turf can lead to increased injuries, so player safety is at forefront of the decision-making process.



The current procedure during wet weather periods includes twice daily inspections of each field on weekdays and a morning inspection on weekends. A decision is made on each individual sportsfield, which means that grounds with more than one playing field may have some fields closed and some open.

To have as little impact on play as possible, Council staff assess each field on its merits and only close fields when necessary. You can view the POGO results and status of each ground on Council's website.

ANDERSON PARK READY FOR PLAY

Have you checked out the improved Anderson Park in Neutral Bay? We've relocated the sportsfield further west and installed LED lighting, new turf and two synthetic cricket wickets. There's also improved drainage around the sportsfield, equipping it to cope better with the winter rain. The Anderson Park upgrade was funded by a grant from the State Government's Greater Cities Sport Facility Fund.

CYCLEWAY EXTENSION FOR NEUTRAL BAY

Tell us what you think of our concept designs for the walking and cycling upgrade at the intersection of Young and Grosvenor Streets. The plans extend the cycleway along Young Street connecting to the Neutral Bay town centre. Other design features include a new raised pedestrian and bicycle crossing and the conversion of the roundabout to a four-way intersection.

You have until Monday 14 August to have your say. Visit Council's website to see if you can attend a pop up information stall, onsite walkthrough or an online webinar. Feedback received from the community will be reported to Council and will inform



BLUES POINT LIGHTING UPGRADE

Council is proposing to upgrade the lighting at Blues Point Reserve. The new lights will replace the existing Ausgrid lamps and poles with energy efficient LED luminaires. The new street poles will match the ones recently installed by the State Government near Henry Lawson Reserve.

While the number of lights will increase to 20, there will actually be a reduction in light spill. Other advantages of the new lighting include reduced energy consumption and maintenance costs, and improved night time safety and visibility in the reserve. Native fauna benefits too as the warmer tone of the new lights has less impact on nocturnal wildlife.

Have your say by Wednesday 19 July. It is proposed that these works take place in September if approved by Council.



Trees for Newborns

Council is gifting all new local parents a tree sapling to commemorate the birth of their baby. They'll be encouraged to plant it on their property which will help boost canopy cover in the North Sydney local government area.

Council's goal is to have 24.4 percent total canopy cover by 2036. This will help turnaround the decline witnessed over the past 15 years, particularly on private land. Parents can request a native tree species which has been raised at the Bushcare community nursery, or a Jacaranda sourced from an allied provider. The Trees for Newborns program will be trialled for 12 months. Check Council's website for details on how to apply.



ELECTRIFY EVERYTHING

Did you know that running your home on all electric energy is better for your wallet, health and the climate? Council is encouraging residents to electrify everything in their homes and businesses as we strive to meet our 2030 target for community greenhouse gas emissions.

There are five key ways to go electric:

- 1. install rooftop solar or switch to GreenPower
- 2. switch to reverse cycle air conditioning for your heating
- 3. replace old gas hot water system with a heat pump system
- 4. upgrade to induction cooking
- 5. move to electric transport

To help residents and businesses transition to electric, Council has a sustainability rebates program. To find out the rebates on offer, go to northsydney.nsw.gov.au/electrifynorthsydney

Log your wildlife ohservations

The Wildlife Watch BioCollect app makes it easy to record wildlife sightings in the North Sydney local government area. By logging what you observe in your backyard, local bushland, parks and streetscapes, you'll help build knowledge about what lives in the area. Importantly, you'll also ensure this data can be used for biodiversity management.

When we know what species live where, their habitats can be better protected. Find wildlife on your own or form a local group with friends.

To get started, download the BioCollect app. You'll need to create an account with the Atlas of Living Australia and join Wildlife Watch NSC before you can start adding observations.



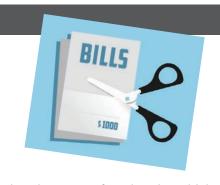
DELAYS ON MILITARY ROAD

Transport for NSW has advised that traffic conditions will be changing along Falcon Street requiring buses and general traffic to merge into one lane. This is expected to create delays, especially during peak commuter times. For more information about this and the Warringah Freeway Upgrade visit transport.nsw.gov.au

STRATA ENERGY SAVINGS

With the cost of gas and electricity continuing to rise, it's a good time to apply for round four of our Future proofing Apartments program. Council will send out a strata specialist who will identify the best opportunities for energy savings in your building and provide a report with recommendations and costs to help you get started on making your energy and water use more efficient.

Some of the benefits include cheaper energy bills and strata levies, solar power on your apartment block roof, and



charging ports for electric vehicles. To learn more and apply for the Futureproofing Apartments program visit northsydney.nsw.gov.au/fpa

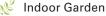
Entries for the North Sydney Council Garden Competition 2023 are now open. Show off the beauty of your garden, balcony, courtyard or veggie patch by entering the competition for the chance to be awarded for your efforts.

Entry is free and open to all residents, businesses or groups in the North Sydney local government area. You are welcome to enter more than one category and, at the judge's discretion, your garden may automatically be judged in categories other than the one entered.

Garden Competition categories for 2023:



Balcony/Courtyard



🧶 Most Beautiful Garden



Children's Garden



Mative Habitat Garden



Edible Garden – Private



🗽 Edible Garden – Community



Lex and Ruby Graham Prize Individual



Lex and Ruby Graham Prize - Group

Entries close 30 August 2023, with judging scheduled from 11 to 22 September 2023.



OLIVIA'S BLUEPRINT FOR SUCCESS



Olivia Arnold is one of the five artists who have taken up a year-long tenancy in our new Ridge St Artists' Studios. At 26, Olivia has already received a number of awards and held exhibitions displaying her multidisciplinary art style. Trained in print making and drawing, she has expanded her work beyond these mediums to incorporate textiles and other formats.

As a North Sydney resident, Olivia is the perfect candidate for the residency program that focuses on highlighting local and emerging artists. Her locality is a focus of her work along with architecture which can be seen in her colour palette and a style that is often reminiscent of blueprints.

Noting the impact of the pandemic on her art she said: "Your world gets a bit smaller, and you focus on what's around you. I was going on lots of walks and observing all the suburban scenes and looking at ephemeral elements such as light and shadow and that informs a lot of my art practice now."

Olivia will be sharing her studio space with fellow print maker and co-founder of the Print Making Collective, Millie Mitchell. With architecture being a focus of Millie's subject matter the two hope to use the Stanton Library archives to create a shared project.

The pair hope to incorporate an educational element into their residency by facilitating workshops and programs. "I think we really like the idea of sharing the knowledge we've gained and being able to potentially inspire other artists and children too," Olivia said.

Olivia has also been awarded one of Council's Creative Grants which will allow her to develop a collection of drawn shadow tableaus inspired by the local area. "This is a really exciting opportunity as the drawings will be printed and available to view and borrow from Stanton Library," Olivia said.

WINDOW GALLERY Our newest Arts & Culture project

Our new Ridge Street Window Gallery launched in June, opening with an exhibition by 2022 Archibald Prize winner Dhungatti artist Blak Douglas. The Window Gallery connects the community with local artists and their works as the artwork is visible from outside the building and on display until 8pm every day. The Window Gallery is located at 43 Ridge St, North Sydney and will feature a different exhibition each month.



Mayoral column continued from P2

Stripping councils and communities of local planning controls to produce more housing approvals without mandating a percentage of affordable housing in new developments nor providing commensurate investment in open space, hospitals, schools and other community facilities for the new population is not the answer.

So what is Council currently doing? On 14 November 2022 Council resolved to:

- Urgently prioritise seeking funding partners (including State and Federal Governments) to deliver the Parraween Street 18 unit affordable housing/early childhood health centre/public park project and to take all steps necessary to ensure the project can proceed as soon as possible.
- Undertake a review of Council landholdings and identify whether there is land that has potential for affordable housing provision in partnership with a community housing provider.

- Review whether the work undertaken by Resilient Sydney, including data being collated, may require Council to amend any planning controls and development contributions schemes to increase affordable housing within the North Sydney local government area.
- Work with Resilient Sydney to jointly advocate to the Federal and State Governments to establish effective policies and programmes for the delivery of more affordable housing.

In addition, this year Council has commenced a redevelopment with Link Wentworth Community Housing at Miller Street, Cammeray to convert an ageing 5-bedroom boarding house into 12 self-contained units, two of the units will be set aside to be used for women escaping domestic and family violence.

Council continues to seek to increase affordable housing through Voluntary Planning Agreements (VPA) on new residential development such as a recently exhibited VPA including nine

affordable housing units in Walker Street, North Sydney.

Recently I met with the new NSW Housing Minister, Rose Jackson MLC, who is strongly committed to addressing these issues. We discussed opportunities for Council, and local government more generally, to contribute to policy solutions as well as the delivery of new affordable housing including Council's plans for Parraween Street.

This is a national emergency, not unlike the housing crisis our nation faced in the post-World War II period. It will need a coordinated national response.

It is time to engage in a nuanced conversation about the role that each level of government can play to ensure the delivery of this basic human right for our community.

Join the conversation. Tell the Federal and State Governments you expect a thoughtful and integrated solution to a complex, multi-faceted problem.

NTH SYD KICK OFF

20 July 11am to 2pm Get into the FIFA Women's World Cup spirit, Brett Whiteley Place, North Sydney

SNOWFEST save the date

1-5 August

Greenwood Plaza rooftop

23 August | 5.30pm to 8.30pm A winter wrap up, Bradfield Park Central, Milsons Point

Neon Night

7 September | 5.30pm to 9.30pm A night of music and lights, Hume Street Park, **Crows Nest**

North Sydney Living Futures

Festival Day | Sunday 29 October **Coal Loader Centre for Sustainability**

Stage entertainment, workshops, stalls, kids' activities, guided walks and tours are just a few of the things that will be on offer for a great day out at one of Sydney's most iconic harbourside sites.

Be sure to meet our amazing festival ambassadors; TV favourite Costa Georgiadis and Indigenous educator and performer Charleen Aguiar Dos Santos.

The Coal Loader Artisans Market 2 Balls Head Road, Waverton | 9am to 3pm

3 September

Rotary Crows Nest Market

Ernest Place, Crows Nest | 9am to 4pm

9 August, 16 September, 21 October

Kirribilli General & Fashion Market

Burton Street Tunnel & Kirribilli Bowling Green, Kirribilli | 8.30am to 3pm

22 July, 26 August, 23 September, 28 October

Kirribilli Art, Design & Fashion Market

Burton Street Tunnel & Kirribilli Bowling Green, Kirribilli | 8.30am to 3pm

6 August, 13 August, 3 September, 10 September, 1 October, 8 October

Northside Produce Market

Ted Mack Civic Park, 200 Miller Street, North Sydney | 8am to 12pm

7 and 21 October

5 and 19 August, 2 and 16 September,

Legacy Centenary Torch Relay and family fun day

Bradfield Park

23 July | 10am to 2pm

Stanton Library **–**

30 July, 27 August, 24 September, 29 October, 26 November | Sunday games

1 July - 20 August | Bookmark Design Competition

11 August | Family History and Artificial Intelligence

15 August | Discover our Discovery Collection

17 August | TinkerTank Robotics and Coding

17 August | Tax and Superannuation in Australia (for Mandarin speakers)

23 August | Interactive Storytime with **Granny Lindy**

24 August | Picnic in the Library!

9 September | Shorelink Libraries 40th Open Day



Green events

5 Aug | 8am to 4pm, Wildflower Walk

6 Aug | 9.30am to 11am, National Tree Day

13 Aug | 9.30am to 1pm, Native Havens Garden Tour

19 Aug | 10am to 2pm, Nestbox Building Workshop 2 Sept | 10am to 1pm, Introduction to Wildlife Watch

4 Sept | 8am to 4pm, Illawarra Grevillea Gardens Visit

16 Sept | 10am to 1pm, Composting with Weeds 23 Sept | 9am to 12pm, Community Nursery Open

26 Sept | 10.30am to 12pm, Family Bush Walk - Berry Island

28 Sept | 5.30pm to 9pm, Family Spotlight Walk

Events at the Coal Loader

Be the Future Pre-school Program 19 July, 2 August, 16 August, 30 August, 13 September | 10.30am to 11.30am

The Coal Loader, 2 Balls Head Drive Waverton

Seasonal Feasts

26 August | 1.30pm to 3pm Creating tasty food with a minimal environmental footprint

200 Miller St, North Sydney NSW 2060

PO Box 12, North Sydney NSW 2059

9936 8100



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