

AUTUMN 2024

# NORTHSYDNEY NEWS



## LENDING A HAND

Nestled in Cammeray lives an 11-year-old boy named Ted, keen to make a difference. "Since he could walk, he's been in the garden," explains Sarah, Ted's mother. Ted, along with the assistance of his grandfather Richard, mum Sarah and sister Ivy, are helping to keep local flora and fauna thriving around his home.

When the Western Harbour Tunnel began development, Ted was particularly concerned about where wildlife would live as many trees were cleared. After much research, he emailed Council to see if they could help him create some nesting boxes for birds and possums in the area along Warringa Road near Cammeray Park. Bushland Management Coordinator Gareth Debney enlisted Council's arborists to install six boxes in the trees near Ted's home for animals to gather in. An additional four boxes are set to be placed nearby. These boxes are made of a 3D printed plastic shell with timber inserts, creating thermal insulation often difficult to maintain in traditional nest boxes. Since positioned, the boxes are regularly inhabited.

Ted spends many hours maintaining his impressive garden, containing a frog pond he built from scratch, a worm farm, a bird bath and fruits, vegetables and native flowers planted especially to attract his hive of stingless bees to pollinate. He loves creating a space that allows local wildlife to thrive. When Striped Marsh Frogs and cicadas sing at night, possums nibble scraps he's left out, or Cockatoos squawk overhead, he knows his hard work is helping.

Noticing an empty space outside his fence was bare, Ted again contacted Council to find out if he could build a street garden. Bushland Project Officer Karina Hanemann runs the Native Havens Program and offered to help with local native plant suggestions to include in his personal backyard. Karina referred Ted to Streets Alive Coordinator Hugh Goodman for further information on building a street garden.

The Streets Alive Program encourages residents to create and care for gardens on public land. Once a plan is agreed upon, Council helps residents in the completion with horticultural advice, the supply of plants and minor landscaping. Residents then plant and maintain the space. Meeting in November 2023, Hugh noted Ted's proactiveness in learning and researching plants that would be best suited to the area and has been more than happy to help. In late January, Hugh worked with Ted and his family to plant a new native garden bed. Ted carefully selected plants to encourage native wildlife to return to the area.

Ted's favourite colour is unsurprisingly green. His advice for others wanting to garden and look after local wildlife? "Have lots of colours and native flowers that bees and animals would like to visit regularly. Native plants mean the animals are already used to them." Ted's unwavering passion and determination to welcome local wildlife back by making spaces in and around his home all shades of green is heartening for the future of Cammeray.





**"Community: A form of social, and often spatial, organisation centred on common interests and/or a locale; having a quality or qualities in common; shared character, similarity; identity; unity."**

The North Sydney community is more than a group of people who share a geographical location or boundary in common. Part of what makes North Sydney such a special place to live, work and study is our commitment to values of diversity, tolerance, respect for each other, a passion for the environment and strong traditions of public participation and volunteering.

There is enormous creativity, innovation, experience, courage, and compassion in our community. Like all communities, we face challenges and change that faced individually can be overwhelming. The strength and spirit of our community is in working collectively, collaboratively to address problems and opportunities, no matter how big or small.

Since 2011, the residential population of the North Sydney local government area has grown by 6,600 people including 2,000 more school age children and 3,000 seniors. 4,000 new dwellings have been constructed to accommodate this growth with a shift to even higher density living. At the same time, single person households have increased by almost 2,000.

Over the years, there have been technological changes such as the rise of E-commerce and the consequential disruption to how we shop, the introduction of electric vehicles at scale, increased internet speeds changing how and where we work. The post-Covid impacts of work from home combined with skills shortages have left businesses and offices still navigating the 'new normal'.

Alternative sports such as rock climbing, skateboarding, pickleball, padel and parkour have emerged across Sydney. Paradoxically, as we spend more and more time on mobile devices, rates of loneliness and social isolation have soared. Housing

affordability is at an all-time low, and we are experiencing a national rental crisis.

Change is already underway, but it is not without its challenges. Under Council's existing plans, the residential population of North Sydney is expected to increase by 19,500 people (or 27% above the existing population) over the next 20 years. Jobs targets for our area are 22,500 to 37,400 by 2036. The NSW State Government plans to increase this even further.

Our local government area (of 10.9km<sup>2</sup>) is one of the three most densely populated areas in NSW with only Waverley and the City of Sydney ahead of us. 89% of total dwellings are medium to high density. Yet, we have the lowest levels of open space and recreational facilities in northern Sydney and lower than those of the City of Sydney. We have lost more than 3,000 trees from the local government area over the last 18 months as a result of major road projects and the tree canopy continues to decline.

It is time to come together and focus again on our shared values and aspirations. It is time for us to revisit our goals and objectives for the future. Where are we now? Where do we want to be? How will we get there? What do we want to keep doing? What do we want to start doing? And is there anything that just isn't as important anymore?

As we plan for the next decade at North Sydney Council, we will be asking you how to consider how we should align our current community priorities with the needs of future generations.

In May 2024, Council will be inviting you to participate in the planning and priorities for the next decade. Together we will explore the opportunities and challenges, the current and emerging trends, and the changing preferences that we expect will influence our quality of life and sense of belonging.

Community collaboration and consultation will start with arts and culture, economic development, and social inclusion followed by a focus on integrated transport and affordable housing. We hope to create lots of energy around this process – the more people involved, the better the outcomes.

There will be discussion papers, surveys, pop ups and focus groups, all designed to create an opportunity for you to help shape the future of services and infrastructure provided by North Sydney Council.

Your input will contribute to the development of Council's new Community Strategic Plan, which, in turn will guide the decision-making by your elected Council over the next decade.

I invite and urge you to come together, raise your voices, participate, collaborate, and engage with Council to guide the next decade for our community.

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	Cr John Lepouris	p: 9936 8100	cr.john.lepouris@northsydney.nsw.gov.au
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# WE NEED YOUR FEEDBACK ON NEUTRAL BAY'S FUTURE

Community members are invited to have their say on shaping future growth in Neutral Bay's town centre.

The draft Neutral Bay Town Centre Planning Study is now on exhibition for public comment. The draft study seeks to maintain and enhance the village atmosphere of Neutral Bay by proposing design guidelines and modest increases to height limits of future developments. It aims to retain businesses and jobs in the town centre; and provide more public open space and community facilities.

The study's proposed improvements to public space and facilities include new plazas on Grosvenor Lane and Rangers Road, a new community centre and an upgrade of the existing centre, widened footpaths along B-Line bus stops, landscaping and sun protection.

The study replaces the Military Road Corridor Planning Study, which was rescinded in 2022 in response to community concerns about its proposed building heights. While the old study proposed allowing building heights of up to 12 storeys, the new draft study has reduced this to a maximum of 8 storeys for a few sites, with the majority capped at 6 storeys.

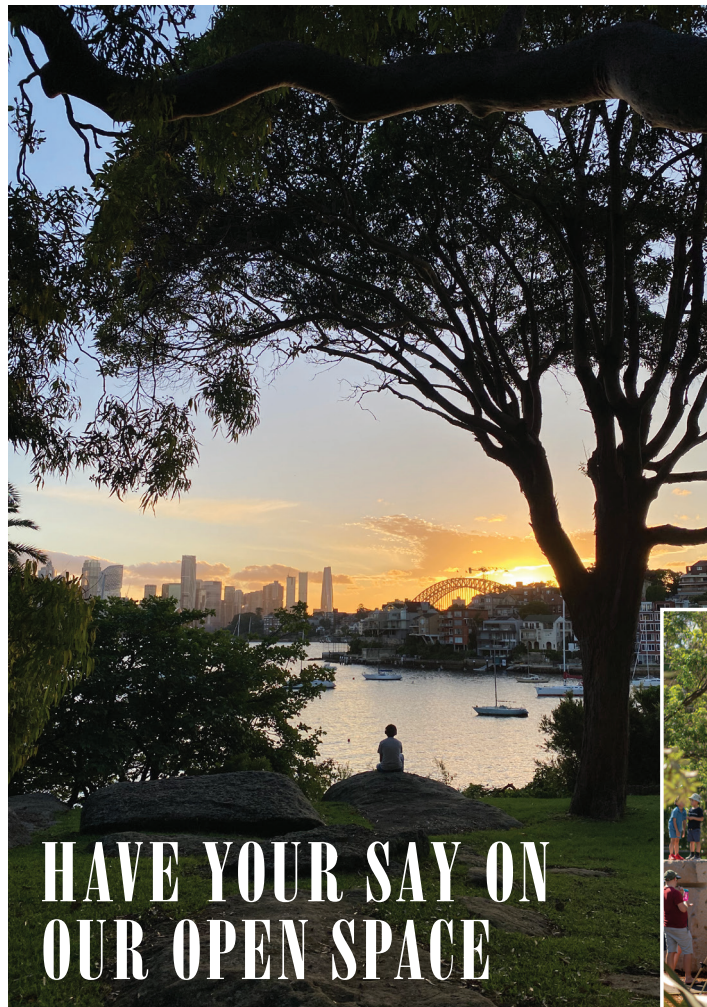
Community feedback from the Neutral Bay Alive community consultation group informed the development of the draft study. It also draws on specialist advice from external consultants.

You can view the draft Neutral Bay Town Centre Planning Study



and provide your feedback online at [northsydney.nsw.gov.au/nbtcps](https://northsydney.nsw.gov.au/nbtcps) or at one of the following locations, until 5pm Tuesday 2 April 2024:

- Council's Customer Service Centre, 200 Miller Street, North Sydney, from 9am to 5pm, Mondays to Fridays
- Stanton Library, 234 Miller Street, North Sydney, during opening hours
- Neutral Bay Community Centre, 190–192 Military Road, Neutral Bay, during opening hours



Soon you will have the opportunity to have your say on the future of North Sydney's open space and recreation facilities.

As a dense Council area, we need to carefully plan to make the best use of the open space opportunities we have and ensure our recreation facilities are serving your needs.

Council is currently preparing an *Open Space and Recreation Needs Study* that will help us achieve these outcomes, and inform a wider open space and recreation strategy.

You may remember late last year we asked you to fill out a survey about how you use open space. The information we gathered from this survey, along with background research and an audit and analysis of the spaces we have now, has informed a discussion paper that presents options to address our current and future demand for open space and recreation facilities.

During the feedback period, you will be able to read the discussion paper on Council's Your Say website and let us know what you think of the ideas in it.



This is the most important opportunity you will have to tell us what you think about how we should use open space. Your feedback will help us to ensure that the study, and our strategy for open space more generally, best reflects the needs of the North Sydney community.



## COUNCIL'S NEW GREEN WHEELS

You may have seen Council's new electric cars out and about on our streets.

As well as helping to reduce emissions and lower vehicle running costs, they bring Council one step closer to switching all our passenger and commercial vehicles to electric – a goal of our Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2030.

Council's first electric vehicle, a streetsweeper, has been keeping our streets clean since July 2022 and will soon be joined by two others. The first electric cars arrived last August and three more have recently been added.

Michael Crismale, Council's Fleet Manager, explains the planning that goes into Council's electric vehicle transition: "We look at how many tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> our existing vehicles produce compared with the electric alternative. Then we look at the 'whole of life' cost: electric vehicles may be more expensive,

but they have lower fuel and maintenance costs, so over their lifetime they will cost us less."

For example, over a six-month period, Council's electric vehicles consumed 3,000kWh (or about \$700) of electricity, to drive 17,500km. Petrol for those distances would have cost more than \$3,500.

The cars normally charge during the daytime, when staff are at work and the grid is flooded with solar electricity. Some of that comes from Council's own rooftop solar panels – making the energy even cheaper and cleaner.

Over the next 12 months, more Council cars will be replaced with electric vehicles. We'll also keep evaluating whether other vehicles, like trucks and mowers, can go electric. The aim is to replace as many of these working vehicles as possible, as soon as suitable electric options are available.



## THE WIDER EV TRANSITION

As electric vehicles become more accessible and attractive, Council is preparing to develop an electric vehicle policy to guide the installation of more chargers for everyone to use, and support work towards our goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 65% of 1996 levels by 2030. Electric vehicle chargers are currently available in five Council carparks. For more information visit Council's website.

The traffic and transport team recently worked with the Northern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils to develop an electric vehicle policy roadmap – an important step towards consistent and equitable electric vehicle charging across the Northern Sydney region.



## THE GROSS POLLUTANT TRAPS KEEPING OUR HARBOUR CLEAN AND ANIMALS SAFE

Do you ever wonder what happens to the waste that gets washed down our stormwater drains in bad weather? Fortunately, a lot of it is saved from entering the harbour, where it could harm marine life and pollute the harbour floor, thanks to Council's gross pollutant traps (GPTs).

These huge pits (the biggest are up to 5 metres wide and 12 metres deep) collect up to 800 tonnes of material each year – mostly larger pieces of rubbish, leaves and sediment. Council has 27 GPTs, positioned strategically around the LGA.

Every month or so, a grab truck or a huge vacuum hose removes the rubbish from each GPT. Water is drained out of it, plastic is removed, and what can be recycled is recycled. The remaining sediment and leaves can even be turned into turf underlay and soil.

While the GPT catchment area covers most of our LGA, there is a key area around Brightmore Reserve where stormwater is not currently filtered in this way. Council is embarking on an upgrade program that will see a new GPT installed for this area, and to modernise our GPT technology overall.



## THE MISSION TO BOOST BIODIVERSITY OF OUR SHORELINE

North Sydney is lucky to enjoy kilometres of Sydney Harbour's foreshore. But our sandstone seawalls, smooth boulders and wooden pilings lack the crevices, rockpools and other features of natural erosion that can help provide shelter for marine plants and animals.

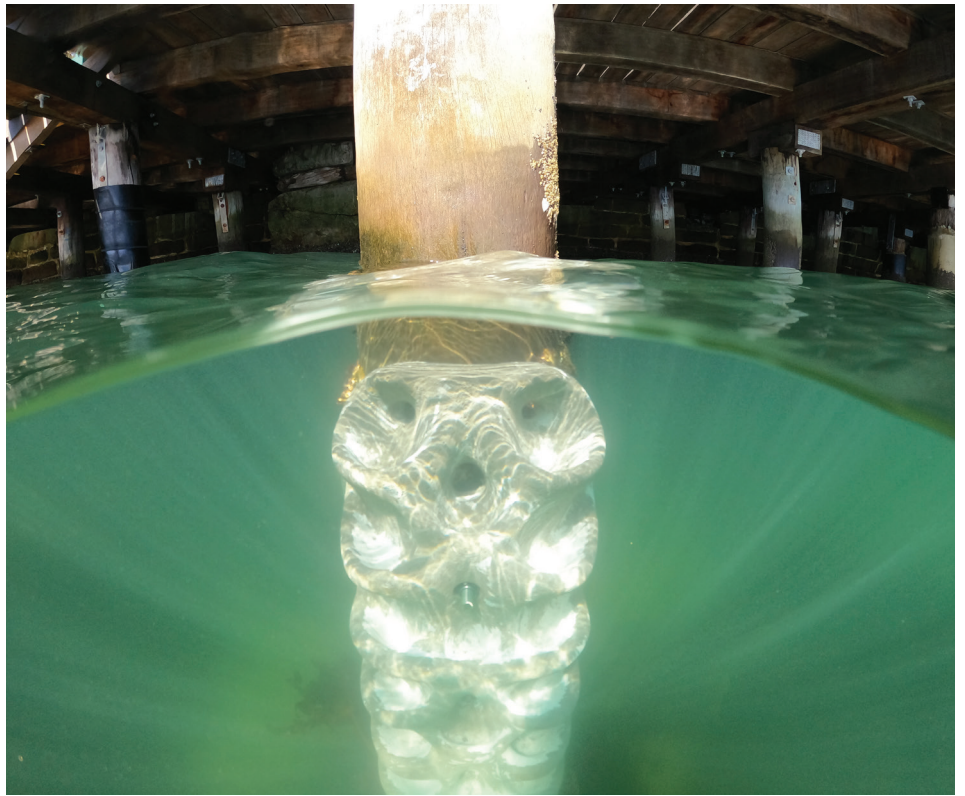
Living Seawalls, an initiative run by the Sydney Institute of Marine Science (SIMS) and Reef Design Lab, has been trying to change this – by testing more welcoming marine structures at sites around the North Sydney shoreline for several years. The team first installed and monitored textured, creviced seawall panels, and more recently have been trialling other options.

You might remember the Lavender Bay 'Living Boulders' from the spring 2023 edition of North Sydney News.

These boulders, installed along the eastern shoreline of the bay, have holes in them to mimic the effect of natural rockpools. They provide shelter from heat and light, and catch water at low tide that prevents plants and animals from drying out.

"The idea is to increase biodiversity," explains Living Seawalls lead researcher Aria Lee. "First we see green algae. Snails and limpets chomp that down, and then other organisms will start moving in. By providing the base of the food web, we can boost the number of small fish, which encourages more big fish."

In their six-month biodiversity survey, SIMS researchers found 15 unique species on the boulders that were not found at nearby control sites.



## PILINGS GET THE LIVING SEAWALLS TREATMENT

In December, the team installed long habitat panels on the pilings holding up the wharf at Sawmillers Reserve.

Similarly to the boulders, the panels add texture, crevices and rockpool-like structure to the otherwise smooth wooden pilings, and will be monitored over a two-year period.

Over the past few years, surveys have shown Living Seawalls support at least 36% more species than unmodified seawalls. They're now available to other governments to invest in and have already been installed in Clontarf and Barangaroo, and as far as Townsville, Singapore and Wales.

"North Sydney Council was first in the world to install all three types of Living Seawalls," says Aria. "Because of you, we hope to see Living Boulders and Living Pilings all around the world, just like our seawall panels."

## HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT

Spotted a plant or grass growing in your garden but don't know what it is? Make sure to identify it before removing it. It could be a native species adding to our local biodiversity.

Native plants are useful beyond looking

good and being environmentally friendly. They provide food, shelter and nesting materials for our native animals while reducing water consumption. Through our longstanding Native Havens program, our Bushland team can help you preserve native habitats with:

- free local native plants suitable for your garden
- tips to improve habitat features
- identifying native plants
- advice on effective weed control
- ongoing support

To find out more visit Council's website.



Photo by Elaine McKee

## Looking out for wildlife - top tips

During hot and dry weather our local wildlife could all do with a cool drink. You can help animals hydrate and cool off by leaving bowls of water outside. Choose a bowl that isn't made of metal so it doesn't get too hot, change the water regularly and keep the bowl clean. You can also add a rock or stick to help small animals get in and out.



# THROUGH THE DECADES: 60 YEARS OF STANTON LIBRARY



Since its inception, Stanton Library has been a hub for the North Sydney community – loved by locals of all ages and backgrounds, and defended by people passionate about free public access to books, information and community services.

This year, the library celebrates its 60th anniversary. Over the years, Stanton has been through renovations, modernisation and digitisation. But, save for a few exceptional periods, it has been a near-constant community hub.

“Libraries are one of the few facilities that are still free to use,” says Kate Stewart, Manager Library Services at Stanton. “Anyone can access resources, use the spaces and participate in programs. People of all cultures and backgrounds are welcome and treated with kindness. That’s the unique thing about public libraries.

“We hear from a lot of people that the library is part of their daily or weekly routine, throughout different stages of life. They come as children, they come to study as teenagers, then again when they have their own children, and then when they’re no longer working. The library is a constant.”

Kate explains that, over the years, our information needs may have changed, but our desire to read and learn hasn’t. Let’s take a look back at some key moments from Stanton’s history.

## 1964

Stanton Library opened on 8 February 1964, named after Alderman James Street Stanton, who served as Mayor of North Sydney in the 1930s and had advocated for free local libraries. Its curtain wall façade was a marker of the building’s modernity.



## 1970s

Reference, audiovisual and local history material were added to the library’s collection, and the Home Library service began. A new sound room allowed people to listen to books, poetry, plays and music.



## 1980s

In 1982, local artists Bronwen Bassett, Jenny Pitty and Katy O’Conner completed the iconic ‘Heaven’ mural outside Stanton Library, as part of the statewide Women and Arts Festival. The



mural is still a focal point for Ted Mack Civic Park.

The 1980s were a decade of modernisation. Computers and a digital catalogue replaced card catalogues. In 1983, the Shorelink Library Network was established, opening up five libraries on the lower north shore to Stanton members and allowing them to make use of more new digital services.

The same year, a fierce ‘Keep Stanton Free’ campaign rallied the community against a proposal to charge people to

**Top left:** Library customers using card catalogue, July 1976

**Middle left:** Artists working on the *Heaven* mural, Stanton Library, September 1982 (photograph by Jennifer Isaacs)

**Bottom:** Staff celebrating success of Keep Stanton Library Free Campaign, September 1983

**Top right:** ‘Hello this is Stanton Library, can I help you’, August 1986



use the library. One passionate campaigner was quoted in local press as saying: "If libraries are not free, neither are the people." The proposal was defeated in a referendum at Council elections.

In the late 80s, Council recognised the need to plan for the future of the library and the community's changing needs. During the ensuing renovation, press reported on the mammoth effort required to protect and reorganise the books, which were all laid out on the floor. The 'new' Stanton, designed by architect Feiko Bouman, opened in 1988 and included meeting space for hire, computers with online public access catalogues, public reading spaces, and extended audiovisual and local history facilities.

### 1990s

The popular Writers @ Stanton program began, in a partnership with the Constant Reader bookshop that continues to this day. The Library's Young Writers Award also launched, celebrating the creativity and imagination of young people.

### 2000s

A second floor was built, including a public conference room. The Heritage Centre opened and historic image databases were made available online.

### 2010s

Self-serve kiosks made borrowing and returning books quicker and simpler. The front desk was moved back, towards the centre of the building, to provide a more open and welcoming entryway to the library.

### 2020s

During the COVID lockdown of 2021, the library closed to the public for several months. Staff continued to work remotely to deliver a small range of services.

"During the lockdown, without access to the building, it became very clear how much people rely on and value the space," says Kate. "The community expressed their support very clearly to access our services and space as soon as possible."

Last year, the Shorelink Library Network celebrated

its 40th anniversary. The strong relationship between this network of local libraries is testament to the value of libraries in our area.

Today, Stanton Library is still a busy, lively space. "We have hundreds of children and families come through every week for early literacy programs," says Kate. "Our school holiday activities are always booked out. Our spaces are full of people reading, studying, working and meeting."

This year, the children's library is

due for a touch up, to modernise the facilities and better cater to the needs of families using the space. The library will continue to listen and evolve according to the needs of North Sydney's diverse community.

"Our wish is to adapt along with what the community needs – just as we have always done."

An exhibition to celebrate 60 years of Stanton is on display in the library's Heritage Centre now until spring, featuring photos, archival materials, and some rare treasures from the collection.

Below: *Heaven* mural (detail), Stanton Library, 1982 (photograph by Ted Mack)



## GRAB A BOOK-OR-TWO WITH YOUR COCKATOO

Stanton Library has introduced a kids-only membership card designed by award-winning author and illustrator Philip Bunting – known for his kid-friendly works on wildlife and science. A Bookeater Cockatoo was perfectly picked to feature.

The new library cards are part of Stanton's 1000 Books Before School program, encouraging children

to build their literacy skills before starting school. All books count towards the reading goal, including audiobooks, eBooks and those read during Storytime, with milestones celebrated along the way. For more information on this motivational initiative, head to Council's website.



## SO MUCH TO DISCOVER AT THE LIBRARY

Did you know you can borrow a lot more than books from Stanton Library? The library's Discovery Collection includes items themed around sustainability, accessibility, practicality and creativity – all on loan to anyone with a Stanton Library card.

Get to know the world around you with bug spotting, birdwatching and stargazing kits; or boost your home's energy efficiency with a thermal imaging camera. Tech items include an accessible Xbox gaming kit for people of all physical abilities. For families, Rhymetime kits let you replicate the popular early literacy activity at home or in the park – they come with a picnic rug, finger puppets, board books, and song sheets linking to children's library staff singing on YouTube.

The newest additions are musical instruments: tambourines and xylophones for kids, and a studio-quality percussion kit for adults. More items are always being added.

Just like library books, Discovery Collection items are available for three-week loans and can be reserved and renewed. Browse the full collection by scanning the QR code.





# NORTH SYDNEY ART PRIZE EXHIBITION

North Sydney Council's biennial art prize will be showcasing artwork across the grounds of the Coal Loader Centre for Sustainability in Waverton from 11 May to 2 June 2024.

Over 90 artists from across Australia were selected to present artwork in a variety of mediums, responding to Art Prize themes which encouraged artists to:

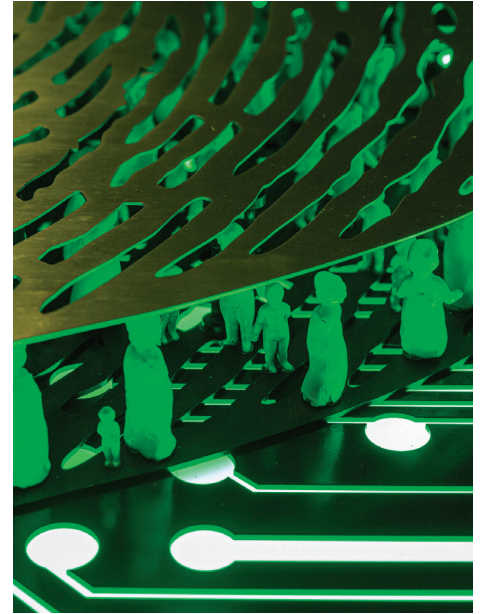
- provide a creative response to the Coal Loader site or its history
- address a local or global issue broadly related to the theme of sustainability

An exciting range of works has been selected by the judges, exploring different aspects of sustainability including climate

action; remediation and regeneration; mass production and consumer culture through mediums such as printmaking, drawing, photography, sculptures, textiles, and site-specific installations.

Anna Davis, Curator at the Museum Contemporary Art and one of this year's Art Prize judges said: "It is such a unique location for an art prize with a great opportunity for artists to present their work in historic tunnels, chambers and buildings."

Throughout the exhibition there will be a series of tours, artist talks, and children's activities. Be sure to check for further information on Council's website or on Instagram @artsandcultureonthsyd



Sandra Pitkin, *Identity's imprint 2021* (detail)

## MAY GIBBS NUTCOTE EXHIBITION

**Alexandra Mill's 'Banksias'**  
12 April to 19 May

May Gibbs' Nutcote will be exhibiting the work of Alexandra Mills that was completed during her residency at Ridge Street Artists Studios. The exhibition features drawings and sculptures expressing her interpretation of May Gibbs' characters and variety of local banksias. This work is Alexandra's response to May Gibbs' lifelong association with the tree through her famous 'Banksia Man'.

Where: May Gibbs' Nutcote, 5 Wallaringa Avenue, Kurraba Point

For further information visit [maygibbs.com.au](http://maygibbs.com.au)

## RIDGE ST WINDOW GALLERY EXHIBITIONS

Located at 43 Ridge St, North Sydney and available for viewing from the footpath until 10pm every day.

**Shahroud Ghahani's  
'Labor of Entanglements'**  
from 1 March to 15 April

Shahroud has been an artist in residence at our Primrose Park Artists Studios in Cremorne. A busy 2023 saw her work shown in First Draft Gallery, Gosford Art Prize, Australian Contemporary Watercolour Prize, Fisher's Ghost Art Prize and more. She started 2024 as the winner of the local artist prize in the Grace Cossington Smith Biennale Art Prize.

In her latest exhibition, Shahroud delivers a fantastical enquiry into cultural and historical portrayals of female archetypes. The artworks delve into themes of motherhood and maternity through a surrealist lens.



**Olivia Arnold's '33.8368°S, 151.2073°E - Tracing North Sydney through silhouette'** from 19 April to 27 May

Readers might recognise Olivia from our June 2023 edition, when she was chosen for the residency program at Ridge Street Artists Studios. This exhibition is the exciting product of her time at the studios. Olivia graduated from the National Art School in 2018 and since then has developed work with a strong focus on materiality.

For this exhibition, Olivia documents the local architecture, interior space, and changing light in her everyday surroundings, featuring the use of monochrome blue, as a reference to the architectural blueprint.

The work has also been documented as an artist book to purchase.





## VALE ROTARY CLUB OF NORTH SYDNEY

After 95 years of serving the local community, the Rotary Club of North Sydney has made the difficult decision to close.

The club attracted local people who embraced the spirit of fellowship and giving back to the community, according to Toni Field, Club President at the time of closure.

"Local business people, a professor from ACU, bankers, sailors from Kirribilli, teachers... our members were all kinds of people," Toni says. "What united them was their sharing conscience."

Once a week, over lunch, members would sit down to discuss and decide on the club's activities.

Over its 95-year history, the club worked to improve the lives of vulnerable people in our community, supported young people to achieve their potential, and fostered connections with local businesses – as well as supporting humanitarian projects around the globe.

Toni says the decision to close was a difficult one to make. She is proud of the club's contributions to the local community over the years. Among many other things, the club:

- ran The Tree of Joy for 18 years, distributing more than 3,000 Christmas gifts annually to those who otherwise might not receive one
- managed the Crows Nest Markets every month
- bought vans for local charities and community organisations including Lifeline, Phoenix House and OzHarvest
- set up the Wollstonecraft Men's Shed
- partnered with the Crows Nest Centre to run the D-Caf café for people with dementia to meet and chat over coffee
- supported young people through the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, Youth Parliament Program and international exchange programs

"I would hope that we've supported people through challenging times and provided service to the community over 95 years," Toni says. "We've helped a lot of people and, at the same time, we've had a lot of fun."

The Crows Nest Markets will continue on the third Saturday of each month, now managed by the Sunrise Rotary Club.



Left: Club Farm Day Out  
Above: Sailability participants 2015  
Below: Lifeline van donation



## STATE HERITAGE LISTING FOR THE MLC BUILDING

North Sydney's distinctive MLC building is now officially recognised for its state significance, thanks to its listing on the NSW State Heritage Register late last year. The listing means that the historic CBD landmark will be retained and can be adapted for reuse while maintaining its heritage features – including its curtain wall glazed façade, highly innovative at the time of construction, as well as modernist artworks by Gerald Lewers and Andor Mészáros.

Completed in 1957 and officially opened by the Prime Minister of the day, Robert Menzies, the MLC building was one of the first major high-rise developments in North Sydney. It was the largest office building in Australia at the time, designed by architects Bates Smart & McCutcheon, the leading post-war firm in high-rise office designs. The building's opening marked the beginning of the transformation of North Sydney into Sydney's second CBD.

Council supported the recent state listing of the building. The building has been on Council's local heritage list since 1989 under the North Sydney Local Environmental Plan.







## HERITAGE LISTING FOR WOLLSTONECRAFT RESERVES

Foreshore bushland home to a Cammeraygal rock engraving and one of the few remaining natural creek lines left on Sydney Harbour has been listed on the State Heritage Register.

Badangi Reserve, Berry Island, Gore Cove Reserve, Milray Reserve and Smoothey Park are included in the Badangi listing, which recognises the area's deep links to the Cammeraygal people and cultural heritage including middens, grinding grooves and a large rock engraving on Berry Island.

The listing includes the five reserves, together with three sites within Lane Cove LGA (Holloway Reserve, Greendale Park and Manns Point).

Thanks to the heritage listing, the site's public ownership is now protected, ensuring it will be conserved for ecological purposes and as open space for the community and visitors to enjoy.

## ST LEONARDS PARK LIGHTING GETS AN UPGRADE

If you're passing through St Leonards Park in the evening, you might notice a pleasant warm glow illuminating your path. The park has been fitted out with new light poles that brighten more areas within the park and highlight the pathways through it.

Many of the new light poles throughout the park are a striking red colour. But the light poles along Tunks Way, the straight path linking Ridge and Falcon Streets in the middle of the park, are painted half red and half grey. These poles are symbols of flags at half-mast – creating a link between the war memorial on the southern end and the World War I field gun to the north.

The lighting upgrade is the latest in a series of ongoing improvements to the park under the St Leonards Park Landscape Master Plan. It follows other upgrade works completed over the past few years including the new and improved playground, which was completed in February 2023.



## FRESH LOOK FOR BURTON STREET PLAZA

We are excited to announce that after considerable community consultation, designs have been chosen and Council has resolved to proceed with the construction of Burton Street Plaza. The permanent plaza will enhance the urban landscape of Kirribilli for residents and visitors.

Construction is set to commence on Monday, 25 March 2024 aligning with the autumn school holiday period to minimise the impact on local traffic.

The new plaza will include upgraded footpath paving, street and decorative lighting, new street furniture, sandstone with timber top seating around the outdoor dining areas, and upgraded landscape areas with four new trees, two to be planted at each end of the plaza.



This project is funded through the Capital Works budget as part of the Kirribilli Master Plan

## DO YOU KNOW ABOUT YOUR LOCAL PRECINCT COMMITTEE?

If you want to get involved with your local community and ensure Council hears your voice and the views of your neighbourhood, there's no better place than your local Precinct Committee.

North Sydney has 16 Precinct Committees, which are run by volunteer residents and provide feedback to Council on its projects, plans and proposals in an advisory capacity. Committees meet regularly and meeting comments are reported to and considered by Council as part of its decision-making process.

Precinct Committees are just one of the ways Council stays abreast of community opinion and maintains communication between community members, Council staff and Councillors. They are also an opportunity to get to know your neighbours and share what matters to you in your local area.

Find out more: [northsydney.nsw.gov.au/precincts](https://northsydney.nsw.gov.au/precincts)



## Watch Council meetings at home

Curious to know about the latest meetings, agendas and minutes from your Councillors? All Council meetings are held fortnightly at 6.30pm on Monday nights and can be watched via livestream or at times of your choosing.

On Council's homepage, under the search bar, click on:



From there, click on *Watch a Council meeting online*, which will take you to a YouTube playlist of all Council and Committee meetings. Get involved and learn about your local government area.

## A HUB TO FIX THINGS

What do a music box, an umbrella, a table loom and an electric pasta maker have in common?

They're just some of the items brought in to be repaired by the volunteer 'fixers' of the Fix-It Hub in its first few months of operation.

This free repair workshop is a Council initiative, run in collaboration with The Sydney Library of Things. It aims to promote sustainability, reduce waste, and empower our community to reuse and repair.

On the second Saturday of the month, a team of seven fixers sets up in the Mess Hall at The Coal Loader. The current team can fix gadgets and small electrical appliances, mend clothing, do general handyman repairs, sharpen knives and tools, and fix jewellery.

Bookings are essential, as all the services are in high demand.

"One benefit of the Fix-It Hub is that people aren't sending things to landfill because they don't work anymore," explains Carol Skyring, president of The Sydney Library of Things and coordinator of the Fix-It Hub. "People are also learning because the fixers make repairs with the person sitting with them."

The volunteers will do their best to mend any item that comes in.

"There have been a few things we haven't been able to fix," Carol says. "Sometimes things need a special part – that means the person needs to get the part and come back next time. The fixers will tell them what they need and where to get it."

The popularity of the service and feedback from happy customers are testament to its success so far.

You can book your own repair slot or express your interest in volunteering at the Fix-It Hub on Council's website.



### Next Fix-It Hub

13 April 2024 | 10am – 1pm

The Coal Loader Centre for Sustainability, 2 Balls Head Drive, Waverton

[northsydney.nsw.gov.au/FixItHub](http://northsydney.nsw.gov.au/FixItHub)

FREE

## SUSTAINABILITY REBATES

Alex Rowley of Cremorne estimates he is saving \$1,000 a quarter thanks to the energy-saving systems he's installed in his home – and that's on top of the money he received thanks to Council's sustainability rebate program.

"With energy prices going up, I sat down and did the calculations. I compared how much the money would earn in interest from the bank, versus investing it in a solar battery or panels – and it was actually pretty good."

Alex received three Council rebates for installing a solar battery, a 6kW rooftop solar system and a hot water heat pump in his home. "The rebate application process was really fast and

easy," he says. "Before, I would think maybe I shouldn't turn the AC on because it costs a lot and there's going to be a lot more pollution. Now, I worry less about the impact I'm having."

Council offers fourteen different rebates for taking steps to make your property more sustainable, up to the value of \$5,000, including for solar, hot water, electric vehicle chargers, induction stovetops and lighting. Businesses and apartment complexes receive stronger incentives, to cover their higher upfront costs. The program supports Council's goals to lower emissions across our LGA by 50% compared with 1996 levels and facilitate the transition to clean energy. Find out more and apply for your own rebate on Council's website.





## MARKETS GALORE

**Kirribilli General & Fashion Market**  
Burton Street Tunnel & Kirribilli Bowling Green, Kirribilli | 8.30am to 3pm  
**23 March, 27 April, 25 May, 22 June**

**Northside Produce Market**  
Ted Mack Civic Park, 200 Miller Street, North Sydney | 8am to 12pm  
**16 March, 6 & 20 April, 4 & 18 May, 1 & 15 June**

**Kirribilli Art, Design & Fashion Market**  
Burton Street Tunnel & Kirribilli Bowling Green, Kirribilli | 8.30am to 3pm  
**7 & 14 April, 5 & 12 May, 2 & 9 June**

**Rotary Crows Nest Market**  
Ernest Place, Crows Nest | 9am to 4pm  
**16 March, 20 April, 18 May, 15 June**

**The Coal Loader Artisan Market**  
2 Balls Head Drive, Waverton | 9am to 3pm  
**2 June**



Due to popular demand, Sunset Series is returning this Autumn. Located in St Leonards Park, this free afternoon concert series is a great way to enjoy the last hours of the weekend surrounded by live music, food stalls and family and friends.

**St Leonards Park**  
**10 March** | 3.30pm to 6pm  
North Sydney Orchestra  
**14 April** | 3pm to 5.30pm | To be announced  
**12 May** | 3pm to 5.30pm  
Fleetwood Mac Tribute Band

## Stanton Library



**Writer in Residence** | Applications close 31 March

**Teen Design Competition: Pride Pins**  
Opens 1 March | Closes 31 March

**Lego Legends (3 to 12 years)** | Every Friday during school terms | 3pm to 4pm

**Drop-in myGov ad Services NSW app help desk** | Every second Wednesday | 10am to 12pm

**Sunday Games at Stanton** | Last Sunday of the month | 2pm to 4pm

**Writers @ Stanton:** 1pm to 2pm

**13 March** | David Hardaker

**30 April** | Anne Manne

**3 May** | Hugh Mackay

[Go to Council's website to book](#)



## EASTER JAMBOREE

Hop on down for an egg-citing afternoon of fun that includes a petting zoo, kids games and activities, music, an Easter bunny sighting and animal fairy floss for purchase. Bring along your favourite rug, don your Easter hat and grab lunch from one of Kirribilli's local eateries for a picnic in the park.

**23 March** | 11am to 2pm |  
Milson Park, Kirribilli

## NORTH SYDNEY OVAL

**Rugby Union**  
**20 April** | Norths Rugby vs Southern Districts  
**4 May** | Norths Rugby vs Randwick  
**25 May** | Norths Rugby vs Warringah Rats

**Rugby League**  
**7 April** | Bears vs Magpies  
**21 April** | Bears vs Raiders  
**5 May** | Bears vs Roosters  
**12 May** | Bears vs Eels  
**18 May** | Magic Round  
**19 May** | Magic Round  
**26 May** | Bears vs Warriors

## THE COAL LOADER

**Eco Playgroup: Small World Play**  
**18 March** | 10.30am to 11.30am

**Eucalyptus Day Walk and Talk**  
**23 March** | 10am to 1pm

**Indigenous Cultural Tour**  
**23 March** | 2pm to 3.30pm

**Imperfectly Sustainable Low Waste Living:**  
Reducing Waste at Home  
**30 March** | 11am and 1.30pm

**Eco Playgroup: Garden Play**  
**3 April** | 10.30am to 11.30am

**Imperfectly Sustainable Low Waste Living:**  
Low Waste Parenting  
**27 April** | 11am and 1.30pm

**Eco Playgroup: Rainbow Play**  
**1 May** | 10.30am to 11.30am

**Eco Playgroup: Nature Play**  
**13 May** | 10.30am to 11.30am

**Imperfectly Sustainable Low Waste Living:**  
Green Cleaning  
**25 May** | 11am and 1.30pm

**Eco Playgroup: Creative Play**  
**29 May** | 10.30am to 11.30am

**Indigenous Cultural Tour**  
**8 June** | 2pm to 3.30pm

**Eco Playgroup: Plant Play**  
**10 June** | 10.30am to 11.30am

**Eco Playgroup: Love of Country**  
**26 June** | 10.30am to 11.30am

**Imperfectly Sustainable Low Waste Living:**  
Low Tox Skincare  
**29 June** | 11am and 1.30pm

## GREEN WEBINARS

**Finding a Sustainability Team**  
**12 March** | 6.30pm to 8pm

**Bat Talk**  
**21 March** | 6.30pm to 8pm

**Sustainable Building Materials**  
**9 April** | 6.30pm to 8pm

**Water and Greening**  
**14 May** | 6.30pm to 8pm

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