



Winter edition 2005

news

NORTH SYDNEY



2020 VISION North Sydney's future in our sights



Open space, foreshore access and a more vibrant CBD have emerged as important directions for the North Sydney community over the next 15 years. While the community has endorsed many of Council's existing values and strategies, such as open government and environmental leadership, there is a desire to see increased emphasis on open space and revitalising the CBD in the years to come.

More than 1000 people have contributed to the development of Council's new 15-year strategy, known as the 2020 Vision, which is currently on exhibition for public comment. The 2020 Vision will guide Council's decision making, planning and service delivery over the next 15 years.

During the extensive community consultation, 10 key themes emerged: neighbourhoods and streetscapes; transport and parking; environmental sustainability; governance and organisation; sense of community; community services and facilities; open space and recreation; North Sydney CBD; local infrastructure; and finance.

North Sydney Mayor Genia McCaffery said it was interesting to note the shift in emphasis by the community. "As you might expect, some issues haven't changed. For example, traffic and parking remain community hot-spots and both residents and businesses look to Council to manage the issue and reduce the impact of cars on the area.

"However, there have also been clear shifts in people's aspirations. The community is more concerned about the need for open space and recreational facilities than they were when our last strategy was developed. No doubt this is because they are aware of Sydney's projected population growth and the growing demand on infrastructure."

Mayor McCaffery said the most interesting change in direction was in the support for more cultural life in the CBD. "In the past decade we have become an international city and our expectations about inner city life have changed, with people wanting more public cultural and social activities. Council will be encouraging a more diverse CBD, while also seeking to ensure that nearby residential areas remain safe, clean and peaceful."

The 2020 Vision was based on more than eight months of consultation. People were surveyed at fairs and markets, invited to attend forums and workshops, and contacted in person on the street, via the telephone or by the internet. A wide range of people made time to contribute their ideas for the future of North Sydney including school children, workers, businesses, community groups, residents and visitors.

The document is on public exhibition until the end of June. You can read a copy at Stanton Library, in our Customer Service Centre, on our website www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au or you can have a copy sent to you by phoning 9936 8270.



Primary school-aged children were the first to be asked what North Sydney should be like in the future. Along with hovercraft, skyscrapers that cut clouds and a lolly store at the local shopping strip, the children's colourful paintings depicted green space, clean air and a sparkling harbour brim full of fish.

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Clean sweep - Council ups the street cleaning budget, page 6



FROM THE MAYOR



North Sydney Council doesn't spend much money on formal openings, however, when residents or businesses put time into a project, we usually organise a get together to say thank you.

In March, Council opened new parklands on the former BP industrial site on the Waverton Peninsula. Many residents helped guide the development of the park and more than 200 turned out for the official opening on a glorious autumn day.



The Hon. Tom Uren, a former minister in the Whitlam Government and one of the early leaders of the green movement, who was instrumental in securing the land as open space, joined me in opening the park.

Top: The Hon Tom Uren, Cr Genia McCaffery and Bruce Burns. Below: The Hon Diane Beamer and Cr Genia McCaffery and residents.

The photo of Tom, pictured with arm raised in delight, says it all. The day was a joyous occasion, as the community celebrated the return of the land to public ownership.

The unveiling of interpretive signage in the Badangi Reserve, Wollstonecraft, in April was a more intimate affair, but an equally happy one. We were delighted that Diane Beamer, the Assistant Planning Minister, was able to help unveil the signs, which were funded by the State Government's Metropolitan Greenspace program.

After walking the track, the Minister stayed to enjoy a BBQ and chat with residents and Bushcare volunteers. Several of them later commented to me how lovely it was to have a State Government Minister take an interest.

The new park and signage are both great places for a walk on a crisp winter afternoon. If you haven't seen them yet, make a date in your diary.

Genia McCaffery

Genia McCaffery
Mayor

2020 VISION what do you want?

Neighbourhood and Streetscapes

We want balance between commercial and residential areas. We want attractive, tree-lined streets, well-designed buildings and to be able to walk to our local village centre for a coffee.

Transport and Parking

We want North Sydney to be a good place for pedestrians, with green corridors between village centres, cycle ways and good public transport. We understand that there are competing interests for our limited parking spaces in North Sydney so we want Council to balance the needs of each group and take our concerns into consideration.

Environmental Sustainability

We want to leave this area in better shape for future generations. We want clean air and waterways, and for Council to be a responsible member of the global community.

Governance and Organisation

We want Council to keep us well informed and give us opportunities to influence issues that we care about. We want Council to act responsibly on our behalf, to spend money wisely and to lead by example.

Local Infrastructure

We want well-maintained footpaths, roads, parks and sea walls and for Council to find ways to provide infrastructure cost effectively.

Sense of Community

We want to live in a safe village atmosphere where we feel we belong. We want community activities including markets, festivals and arts events that bring people together.

Community Services and Facilities

We want everyone to feel welcome in North Sydney and for Council to provide services for everyone, including the very young and the elderly. We want people to be able to stay in the area as they get older and less mobile.

Open space and recreation

We want more parks, more recreational facilities and we want to be able to walk around the foreshore from Wollstonecraft to Cremorne. We want organisations to share recreational resources.

North Sydney CBD

We want businesses to feel welcome and for people to enjoy working in North Sydney. We want the CBD to be lively, with good shopping, exhibitions and events during the day, and places open to share a meal or drinks with friends at night.

Finance

We want Council to be financially secure and responsible and to look for sources of income that will help provide for the future.

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HISTORIC SITE a window to the future

North Sydney will create a 'first' for the greater Sydney region with the establishment of a sustainable living centre on the former Coal Loader/ Caltex site on Balls Head Road at Waverton Peninsula.

A design group, comprising local residents, businesspeople and community representatives, met for the first time in May to begin planning for the centre, which is due to open mid-2006.

The historic administration and caretaker's building on the site will be transformed to showcase a range of ways in which buildings can be constructed to save energy and use fewer natural resources. Both the physical design of the centre and its programs will aim to inspire residents and businesses to put sustainable living ideas into practice.

The centre will be a base for environmental courses on water conservation and minimisation, buying recycled and environmentally preferred products, organic and native gardening, cultural heritage conservation, energy efficiency technologies and environmentally friendly transport.

The site's surroundings, including its beautiful natural bushland, Sydney Harbour, and Aboriginal and industrial heritage, will be the focus of public tours, workshops and art exhibitions. The centre will also house Council's Bushcare and Streets Alive programs. For updates on the project visit www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au

The historic Coal Loader industrial site. Inset: The former administration and caretaker's building, soon to be transformed into a sustainable living centre.



TREE PRESERVATION ORDER What you need to know

If you want to prune or remove a large tree on your property, you will need to obtain a Council permit. Large trees in North Sydney are protected under Council's Tree Preservation Order (TPO) 2001.

People who remove a tree without permission may be fined up to \$100,000 and Council may start legal proceedings against both the owner of the property and the contractor who carries out the work.

Director of Open Space and Environmental Services Rob Emerson said details of the TPO were widely available and ignorance of the order or blaming a contractor was not an excuse.

"Property owners have many legal responsibilities and they include protecting large trees," he said. "As well as contacting Council about any tree you want to prune or remove, we also recommend you use contractors registered with the National Arborists Association of Australia (NAAA).

"An unqualified contractor can cause irreparable damage to a tree. Contractors who belong to the NAAA must be qualified and insured and they will do the work according to the Australian Standard for tree pruning."

For more information, phone Council on 9936 8100 or visit www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/service/treepreservation

TPO at a glance

A permit is needed to prune or remove:

- Any tree listed on the North Sydney Significant Tree Register
- Any vegetation more than 5m tall on a heritage site
- A Port Jackson Fig, Moreton Bay Fig or Sydney Red Gum (*Angophora costata*) more than 5m tall or with a crown wider than 5m
- Any tree more than 10m tall, or with a crown wider than 10m or a trunk circumference of 1.5m.

Grey water - green parks

Council is seeking state and federal government funding for an innovative water re-use project at Cammeray. The proposed dam, on the Cammeray golf course, will store water captured from stormwater run-off draining to Willoughby Bay.

The water will be filtered before being used to irrigate the golf links as well as North Sydney Oval and St Leonards, Primrose, Tunks and Forsyth parks.

It is estimated the dam will save around 90,000 kilolitres of potable (drinking) water each year, saving Council \$40,000 in water rates.

Mayor Genia McCaffery said the dam would allow Council to meet community expectations for both open space and sustainability. "Our community is telling us they want more open spaces and recreational areas. At the same time, there is growing concern about Sydney's decreasing water supply.

"We don't want grass to become a luxury we can't afford. This scheme will provide enough water to irrigate five extensive areas of parkland and will reduce our water bills for years to come."

The estimated cost of the dam and irrigation piping is \$2.5 million. Almost two-thirds of the construction cost will be met by Council, the RTA, developer levies and the Cammeray Golf Club, which is working in partnership with Council on the project.



CHANGE OF HEART

a new look for a new century



current

A major overhaul of the North Sydney CBD will soon begin breathing new life into the area, making it a vibrant destination for both work and leisure. North Sydney Council Strategic Planning Manager Louise Menday said the changes were part of a plan to make North Sydney more attractive to new businesses.

"Council is committed to ensuring North Sydney remains a strong and vibrant CBD," she said. "We know businesses like the pleasant feel of the area and so we are aiming to maintain the character of the CBD while making it more accessible and contemporary."

Changes to traffic flow and transport services will improve access to the CBD and make the centre more pedestrian-friendly, while the streets will be landscaped to create a distinctive North Sydney feel.

Sunny public squares, more green spaces and public art are just some of the changes you can expect to see in the CBD over the next few years. The first step, to be carried out within the next two years, will be the revitalisation of Victoria Cross and the creation of a 'high street' between Victoria Cross and Berry Street. This is expected to cost about \$3.5 million; Council plans to spend \$17 million on the entire project over the next 10 years.

Victoria Cross and the installation of public art will establish the area as the heart of the North Sydney CBD. Wider footpaths, new signage and lights suspended from overhead wiring will free public walkways from clutter and improve pedestrian access. Public spaces will become more useable with the addition of seating, shrubs and garden beds.

The strategy is built on feedback from the community that shows people would like to see more outdoor dining, places to sit in the sun, wider footpaths and grassed areas.

"One of the main aims will be to make the CBD a better space for people to mingle," Louise said. "People are telling us they like entertainment that they can watch during the lunch hour, they like being able to meet their friends for lunch in the fresh air and they would like more options for after-work entertainment."

Council hopes to attract more retail and entertainment services and to encourage bands, outdoor cinema, markets and sporting events in and around the centre.

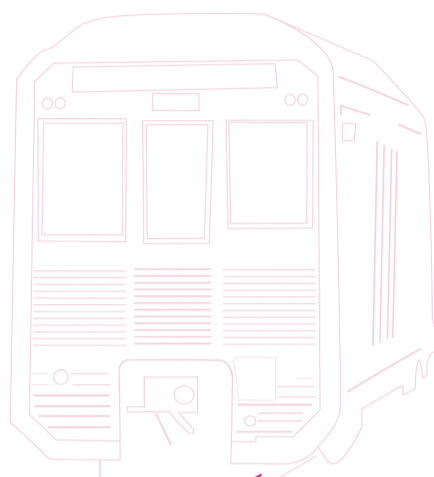
The changes will also make the CBD more environmentally friendly. The landscape designs will incorporate sandstone paving and native species, while stormwater will either be recycled and used for irrigation or treated before it is released into the harbour.



proposed

STATION SPEARHEADS

transport plan



Transport connections to the CBD will be improved to cater for up to 15,000 additional people working in the CBD over the next decade.

The most significant improvement will be the upgrade of North Sydney railway station. In a landmark deal with the State Government, Council agreed to allow for an additional 250,000 sq m of commercial floor space in the CBD if the government would commit to upgrading the station by 2010.

Developers in the CBD pay a unique railway contribution to help fund the upgrade. The plans for North Sydney Station have been approved by the State Government and it is anticipated the new station will be complete by 2008 to coincide with the opening of the new Epping - Chatswood link.

Council also hopes to improve the traffic flow through the CBD, diverting traffic away from Miller and Walker Streets by re-routing traffic through the Pacific Highway and Arthur Street. At the time of writing, the RTA had been consulted about possible changes and details were being negotiated. It is hoped that a draft traffic management plan will go on exhibition in June for public comment and that works will begin late next year.

Access for buses will be improved with the introduction of bus only lanes and a slip area for the bus stops on both sides of Miller Street. New all-weather bus stops will also be installed. Council plans to hold a competition, in conjunction with the Royal Australian Institute of Architects, to determine their design.

CBD rises to competitive challenge

A recent study commissioned by North Sydney Council and the Property Council of Australia (PCA) shows commercial tenants and owners enjoy working in North Sydney and investors see it as a sound investment market.

However, with a higher proportion of ageing and lower-grade buildings than other CBDs and stiff competition from cheaper emerging markets such as Parramatta and North Ryde, changes are needed if North Sydney is to remain a preferred location for business.

At present the North Sydney CBD is one of Australia's key commercial centres and provides jobs for some 37,000 people. This number is expected to grow significantly as developers take up the option for an additional 250,000 square metres of floor space allowed for in our new planning controls. Two major commercial developments currently underway

will deliver approximately 57,000 square metres of space, and more are planned for the near future.

The demand study made a number of key recommendations to help North Sydney maintain its strong position in an increasingly competitive property market.

They included:

- developing a marketing strategy with the PCA to attract new investment and a more diverse range of businesses to the CBD
- protecting the commercial and employment future of the CBD by preventing residential developments in the centre's core
- developing a comprehensive traffic and transport management plan for the CBD
- developing a 'living CBD' program to bring greater life into the city centre while protecting the amenity of the neighbouring residential areas.



STREET SMART

Streets in busier and more densely populated parts of North Sydney will be cleaned more often, under a proposal being considered by Council. At the time of writing, Council was considering allocating an additional \$400,000 to the street cleaning budget, bringing total annual expenditure on street cleaning to \$2.18 million.

At present, a cleaning crew rotates around commercial areas during weekday lunch-time periods, however, litter is dropped so frequently it can appear that commercial areas are not being cleaned at all. To keep each area clean from mid-morning to mid-afternoon, Council will need to employ five more part-time street cleaners in the CBD, Crows Nest, Kirribilli, Milsons Point, Neutral Bay and Cremorne. This would cost about \$130,000 each year.

Streets in residential areas are cleaned every four weeks, but high-density areas on the fringe of commercial districts need more frequent cleaning. It is proposed to allocate an additional \$275,000 to allow Milsons Point, Kirribilli, McMahons Point and parts of Crows Nest to be cleaned every two weeks.

Location	Frequency of cleaning
CBD, Pacific Highway from North Sydney to St Leonards and main shopping/office areas in Waverton, McMahons Point, Milsons Point, Kirribilli, Crows Nest, Cammeray, Neutral Bay, Cremorne.	Daily Nightly Tuesday to Saturday
Fringe commercial areas in McMahons Point, Milsons Point, Kirribilli, North Sydney, Crows Nest, Cammeray, Neutral Bay, Cremorne	Twice weekly/weekly
Residential areas throughout North Sydney LGA	Monthly
Proposed changes	
Shopping centres, plazas, dining areas in CBD, Crows Nest, Kirribilli /Milsons Point and Neutral Bay /Cremorne	Cleaned continuously for four hours in the middle of each weekday
Densely populated residential areas in Milsons Point, Kirribilli, McMahons Point, and parts of Crows Nest	Cleaned every two weeks instead of every four.

NEWS in brief

New foreshore walkway

Work will soon begin on a new walkway along the foreshore at Dr Mary Booth Reserve in Kirribilli. The walkway will replace an existing unformed track and link the previously upgraded foreshore reserve east of Jeffrey Street Wharf with an existing path leading to Waruda Street, Kirribilli. The \$430,000 project will be funded by North Sydney Council and the NSW Government.

Police perspective on new DAs

All major development applications will now be referred to Harbourside Police for comment during the development assessment process. This will ensure new buildings are designed with safety in mind.

Dancing in the streets

Council's new busking policy opens the way for performers to busk in North Sydney, providing entertainment for the community and new performance options for local talent. For more information, phone 9936 8100.

New art space

Council has opened a new gallery space next to the Primrose Park Art & Craft Centre in Matora Lane, Cremorne. The gallery, available to hire for \$20 per day, has a hanging system, lighting, kitchen facilities and parking. Artists must have their own public liability insurance, or be a member of Primrose Park Art & Craft Centre. For further information phone Council's Booking Officer on 9936 8200.

Our star chambers

North Sydney Council has received an energy efficiency rating of four and a half stars out of a possible five in the most recent round of Australian Greenhouse Building Ratings. Council has adopted a number of initiatives to help save energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions such as upgrading lighting and air-conditioning equipment, and installing energy saving devices.

PRECINCT CAMPAIGNS FOR TRAM SHED



The Cremorne Point Precinct has made representations to the NSW Government to have land at the Old Tram Shed Site at Cremorne Point returned to the public.

"The NSW Government made a huge mistake in 1998 when it sold a small piece of land originally 'borrowed' from the public in 1910," Cremorne Point Precinct Chairperson Mr Glyn Jones said. "When it was no longer needed for the old tram/bus drivers' shed, the land should have been handed back to the public.

"Now we face the prospect of a developer constructing a two-bedroom residence right on the foreshore, just metres from the ferry wharf. The public will be literally fenced off from space that was always theirs."

Precinct members fear the proposed building will have huge ramifications for the three-kilometre stretch of park and bushland on the harbour foreshore if allowed to go ahead, by setting a precedent for further developments. Both local and overseas visitors have signed a petition opposing the development.

"This is not a minor parochial matter. There have been long battles between the public and developers over the ownership of Cremorne Point since the 1880s. In 1891 the Supreme Court agreed that the stretch of water frontage belonged to the public," Mr Jones said.

"In 1910, the then Government borrowed from the reserve the small area of land now in dispute for tramway infrastructure. When the Government no longer needed the tram shed, the land should have reverted to the reserve and the people."

Mr Jones said the recent response from the Government leaves a small opening for negotiation and the Cremorne Point Precinct will maintain its commitment to the campaign.

Deputy Chairperson Ian Rodwell with Rob Firth outside the tram shed at Cremorne Point.



WAVERTON'S FORESHORE VISION

Waverton Precinct's Bruce Burns shares the Precinct's vision for the foreshore.

Waverton Precinct has a vision of a virtually continuous harbour foreshore walkway from Berry Island to McMahons Point. The walkway will link with Council's Circle Walks 1 and 2, and be accessible from all over Sydney by ferry, rail and bus.

With the recent opening of the wonderful new park on the former BP site, our vision is coming tantalisingly close to reality.

Not many years ago there were four major, but isolated, parks and reserves around Balls Head Bay and Berry's Bay: Berry Island Reserve, Balls Head Reserve, Waverton Park and Blues Point Reserve. As industrial lands became vacant, successive Councils created parks such as Sawmillers Reserve, Oyster Cove Reserve and the Munro Street waterfront. We applaud their vision.

Council will soon provide public access through the former Caltex and Coal Loader sites, leaving just three significant gaps in the Berry Island to McMahons Point walkway: the John St boatyard, the link from Sawmillers Reserve to Blues Point Reserve, and at HMAS Waterhen.

At HMAS Waterhen, the walkway must follow the Balls Head Road verge, which nonetheless affords panoramic views of the western harbour. Waverton Precinct is working with Council to beautify this part of the walk under the Streets Alive program.

Council is investigating how to provide missing linkages in harbour foreshore access, including installing boardwalks or paths on private property. We recognise the realities faced by Council to make this happen - competing demands for limited resources, legal issues and involvement of other governmental agencies.

However, we believe that completion of this scenic, continuous harbour-facing walkway, much of it through bushland, is now so close that it is imperative that all obstacles be overcome.

UNION'S GIFT TO LOCAL KIDS

Story-time for children attending McMahons Point Occasional Child Care Centre has been greatly enhanced thanks to the generosity of Union Precinct. The precinct donated a multifunctional whiteboard/book rest, with shelving and storage space, worth more than \$400.

McMahons Point OCCC Director and Teacher Tina Smith said the literacy tool was a welcome addition to the centre. "We don't get a lot of funding and we have to do a lot of fundraising ourselves, so it's great to receive something like this."

Union Precinct Secretary-Treasurer Jane Diamond said the precinct placed a strong focus on giving back to the local community. "Each year we look at the money left over from Council and fundraising and try and put it back into the community. We asked the centre to put together a 'wish-list' and this is what we decided on."

McMahons Point OCCC has casual vacancies available for children aged six months to five years. For more information phone 9956 6209.

Top: Children at McMahons Point Occasional Child Care Centre with the new literacy tool.

Below: McMahons Point OCCC Director Tina Smith and Union Precinct secretary Jane Diamond.



WHAT'S ON In North Sydney

Date

- 24 May - 10 July Guringai Festival Celebrating indigenous culture: 9936 8411
- 30 May - 5 June 'Sacred Footsteps from the Roof of the World' Tibetan monks build a sand mandala, Hutley Hall: 9936 8187
- 1 June 15th Bill Coppel Young Writers Award, Stanton Library: 9936 8424
- 3 June *Star Melodrama - Imitation Of Life* McMahons Point Community Centre Film Society: 9371 7295
- 12 June - 29 August Performing Arts Challenge, Crows Nest Performing Arts Centre: 9261 8366
- 17 June Creative Dance Session, FREE, Kirribilli Neighbourhood Centre, 16 -18 Fitzroy Street, Kirribilli: 9936 8411
- 19 June Sydney Jazz Club Picnic with the New Orleans Connection, Berry Island Reserve, Wollstonecraft: 0417 417 586
- 30 June Isabella Brierley History Prize, Stanton Library: 9936 8400
- August - November *Rembrandt of Luna Park* The Art of Arthur Barton, Heritage Centre: 9936 8430
- 8 July Creative Art Session, FREE, Kirribilli Neighbourhood Centre, 16 - 18 Fitzroy Street, Kirribilli: 9936 8411
- 17 July Sydney Jazz Club Picnic featuring the Geoff Power Band, Berry Island Reserve, Wollstonecraft: 0417 417 586
- 17 July The Actors Forum *Burnt Piano* by Justin Flemming, Independent Theatre 269 Miller Street: 9300 9007
- 18 July Wildlife Field Trip to Calga Springs Sanctuary 9936 8258
- 23 July Launch of North Sydney Art Prize, Hutley Hall: 9936 8187
- 24 July - 1 Aug North Sydney Art Prize Exhibition, Hutley Hall: 9936 8187
- 26 July Seraphim Trio, Musica Viva Coffee Concert Series, Independent Theatre, 269 Miller Street, North Sydney: 1800 688 482
- 31 July National Tree Day, 9am - 12pm Fred Hutley Reserve, Hamilton Ave, Cammeray: 9936 8100
- 19 August Creative Art Session, FREE, Kirribilli Neighbourhood Centre, 16-18 Fitzroy Street, Kirribilli: 9936 8411
- 21 August Sydney Jazz Club Picnic featuring Wally Temple's Jazz Serenaders, Berry Island Reserve, Wollstonecraft: 0417 417 586

Markets

- North Sydney Markets** Second Saturday of every month in Civic Park, Miller Street, North Sydney. Enquiries: 9922 2280
- Crows Nest Markets** Third Saturday of every month at the Crows Nest Centre, 2 Ernest Place, Crows Nest. Enquiries: 0412 210 084.
- Kirribilli Markets** Fourth Saturday of the month, corner of Fitzroy and Albert Streets (western side of the Harbour Bridge). Enquiries: 9922 4428.
- Northside Produce Markets** third Saturday of the month, in Civic Park, Miller Street, North Sydney. Enquiries: 9922 2299

Art Prize now open

Entry forms for the North Sydney Art Prize 2005 are now available at North Sydney Council or can be downloaded from the website at www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au.

The theme of the competition is North Sydney - its people, landscape, character and spirit. Artwork must be delivered to Council on Monday 11 July between 9am-5pm. No late entries will be accepted.

There is an open prize of \$5,000 and the launch will take place on Saturday 23 July at 2.30pm, and the exhibition will run from 24 July to 1 August in the Hutley Hall, 200 Miller Street, North Sydney. For more information, phone 9936 8187.

Probus welcomes new members

Probus is an international organisation for retired and semi-retired professionals. The Probus Club of North Sydney meets on the third Tuesday of the month. Members enjoy talks by a range of speakers from entertainers through to business people and military personnel, and outings to places of interest within Sydney and the surrounding areas. For more information, phone 9957 4310.

Experience the golden era of film

Experience the classic movies of the '30s, '40s and '50s as they were designed to be seen - on a large screen, and with no advertising breaks. The McMahons Point Community Centre Film Society presents a classic film each month. Annual membership is \$5, with a \$5 donation for each film screening you attend. For further information, phone 9371 7295.

Postcard exhibition winner

Zoltan Klinger's atmospheric photo of the bridge stairs at Milsons Point won first prize in the *Wish you were here: postcards from special places* competition.



Contact your Councillors

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