



## North Sydney given sound bill of health

North Sydney Council has been given a sound sustainability rating by asset management consultants Jeff Roorda & Associates. Mr Roorda told Council that its sustainability ratio of .7 was the highest of any council the company had assessed to date.

The company was commissioned by council to assess the sustainability of North Sydney's infrastructure and develop an asset management plan. The ratio assigned to assets was a measure of the average amount council spends on assets divided by the amount that should be spent for optimal maintenance.

As well as giving us an overall rating, the plan rates individual asset categories. Regional roads (ratio of 1.28), footpaths (1.09), bus shelters (.85) street signs (.81) and local roads (.79) have acceptable ratings, while seawalls (.65) and drainage (.62) have been identified as priorities and have received additional funding from this year's infrastructure levy funds (see page 11).

Council's overall financial position was also assessed as sound by Auditors Spencer Steer and Associates. The operating result for the year was a surplus of \$7.138 million.

General Manager Penny Holloway said she was pleased but not surprised by the good bill of health. "North Sydney is debt free, we operate on a small surplus each year and have \$48 million invested. This achievement is particularly impressive when you consider that North Sydney continues to have the lowest average rates in Sydney and a high level of customer satisfaction with our services."

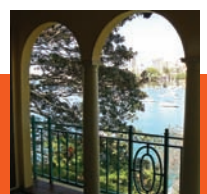
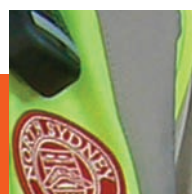
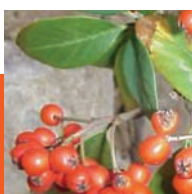
Other key financial results for the 2006/2007 financial year included:

- a total amount of \$3.194 million worth of unrestricted cash and investments, which is available for day-to-day operations
- developer contributions increased substantially compared to the previous financial year
- user charges and fees, as well as investment interest, provided additional revenue.

Ms Holloway said the infrastructure rating was also a pleasing result. "All local councils are aware that more needs to be spent on infrastructure. Older areas such as North Sydney have ageing drainage systems and seawalls while newer regions are still working to provide footpaths, kerb and guttering across their areas.

"Our infrastructure levy is helping us to address some of the poorer performing areas such as drainage and seawalls. We now have the plans in place to monitor and improve our infrastructure in a systematic way."

North Sydney Council's full Statement of Accounts can be viewed on our website [www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au](http://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au) or at our Customer Service Centre.



# From the Mayor



Local government has always been associated with the three Rs – roads, rates and rubbish. In North Sydney, I think the three Ps are more relevant. That’s P for planning, parking and parks.

It’s easy to understand why these are important to inner city residents. In densely populated areas we are affected by each new development and we are rightly concerned that infrastructure, such as childcare, transport and open space, isn’t keeping pace. As for parking spots, they are becoming as rare as the proverbial hens teeth.

The three Ps are not concerns that a council can resolve alone. We need a whole of government approach to planning our cities. Unfortunately, the hard decisions that need to be made seem to be getting lost between a focus on economic growth at any cost and party politics.

It’s clear that as every-day living gets harder, our quality of life decreases and frustration increases. Whatever the provocation, there’s no excuse for taking out our frustration on others.

Over the past year, Council staff have noticed that people are more likely to be verbally or physically abusive. I’m not sure why anyone would think this is an appropriate way to behave. As a community, we don’t tolerate abuse in our preschools or schools.

If we can expect more from our children, why should we accept such behaviour from adults.

Yes, it is frustrating to receive a parking fine. I should know – I’ve had my share. But when you park illegally or choose not to pay the meter, you choose to take a risk.

It is not a parking officer’s fault if there are no legal parks available. You can sheet the blame for that home to government policy that is investing in roads rather than public transport. We’ll all keep driving – and doing battle over limited parking spaces – as long as public transport doesn’t meet our needs.

Council has launched a campaign to protect our officers from abuse. This campaign has my full support and I hope that it will have yours too. I would like to think that the people who serve us – whether they’re mowing our verge, collecting our waste, issuing our library book or managing the parking on our street – will always be treated with courtesy and respect.

If you don’t like the changes in Sydney that are affecting your everyday life, take the matter up with the people who can make a difference – the people you elect at local, state and federal government.

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Cremorne Ward	<b>Richard Pearson</b>	H: 9953 5766	W: 9929 3068	rrp@walkerdouglas.com
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Tunks Ward	<b>Paul Oglesby</b>	H: 9954 3968	M: 0411 213 043	poglesby@gmail.com
	<b>Veronique Marchandeanu</b>	H: 9955 3348	M: 0414 683 185	marver2060@gmail.com
	<b>Patrick Conaghan</b>	M: 0413 844 585	W: 9976 0215	patrick@conaghanhunter.com.au
Victoria Ward	<b>Jilly Gibson</b>	H: 9964 9262		jillygibson@hotmail.com
	<b>Michel Reymond (Deputy Mayor)</b>	H: 9955 4330		
	<b>Virginia Bevan</b>	H: 9956 8201		ginnyb@tpg.com.au
Wollstonecraft Ward	<b>Trent Zimmerman</b>	H: 9460 1175	M: 0419 690 617	trentzimmerman@hotmail.com
	<b>Evan Predavec</b>	H: 9922 3260	M: 0402 052 967	evan@predavec.com
	<b>Nicholas Ritten</b>	H: 9955 2576	M: 0411 279 970	nickritten@gmail.com



With strollers and prams parked at every outdoor café across North Sydney, it certainly appeared there was a baby boom in the North Sydney area.

Now the 2006 Census statistics have confirmed its true.

The proportion of children aged 0 to 4 years in the North Sydney local

*New North Sydney resident Blake Alberts with mum Sophie*

government area increased from 3.9% in 2001 to 4.5% in 2006. However, this was offset by a decrease in the proportion of children aged 5-14 years from 5.6% to 5.1%, and young people aged 15-24 years from 12.1% to 10.6%.

North Sydney has one of the largest populations of older mothers; in 2006, 71% of the women caring for children of their own were aged 35 years or above.

The full Census results have not yet been released. They will be published on Council's website [www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/community](http://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/community) when they become available.

## Welcome to the precinct

Meet Jenny Gleeson - Council's new community engagement coordinator.

One of Jenny's key roles will be to work with precincts, which are neighbourhood groups that meet each month and provide vital feedback to Council on issues ranging from local development applications to major projects in the North Sydney Council area.

"One of my key roles is to reinvigorate the precincts that aren't active." Five of Council's 24 precincts are currently not operating.

Working with precincts will be a new experience for Jenny, who previously worked as a Youth Development Coordinator at Campbelltown City Council.

She's looking forward to the challenges of her new job; one of the



first was to attend all the precinct annual general meetings that were due to take place during November.

"I think it's great for people in the community to be involved with their local council, and understand what it does and how it's represented."

Jenny will also be working with the local chambers of commerce to promote their activities and liaise with them on issues of concern.

## Council blog

Have your say on current issues on our new blog at [www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au](http://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au) The blog will be used to gain community feedback on projects and policies being considered by Council. General Manager Penny Holloway said she hoped the blog would also encourage discussion and greater understanding of the broader challenges facing local government. The first issues up for comment were illegally parked delivery trucks and funding from a tobacco company for a cigarette butt litter education program.

## CBD update

Work is beginning on Ark, a new 21-storey office building in Mount St, North Sydney. The new building, which will feature floor to ceiling windows to take advantage of expansive harbour views, will add an additional 28,500 square metres of premium grade commercial space to the CBD. The work is expected to be complete in 2010. Nearby 101, formerly the Optus Tower, is being progressively upgraded as Optus staff move out. The \$40 million upgrade will include a new luxurious lobby.

# Help halt the weed invasion



Clockwise from top left: Asparagus Fern, Privet, Cotoneaster, Ehrharta erecta

There are many good reasons to keep weeds under control in your garden. Weeds are among the most serious threats to our natural environment because they displace native species and contribute significantly to land degradation.

Weed invasions change the natural diversity and balance of ecological communities. These changes threaten the survival of many plants and animals as the weeds compete with native plants for space, nutrients and sunlight.

Weeds are usually excellent at surviving and reproducing in disturbed environments and are often the first species to colonise and dominate in these conditions.

To win the war against weeds, it is important not only to remove them, but also to dispose of them responsibly.

- Never dump garden waste over the back fence or in bushland.
- Dispose of weeds that are already seeding or readily able to reproduce vegetatively, including through suckers and bulbs, by placing them in a black plastic

bag, sealing it and 'baking it' in the sun until destroyed. This method alone may not kill all parts of the weed, for example bulbs, and may need to be used in combination with other methods such as mulching.

- Cover your compost so that seeds cannot be distributed by wind or animals.
- Be careful when mulching weeds.
- Remove seed heads from plants before they have time to mature and disperse.
- Always cover trailers when transporting plant material to prevent seeds and other live plant material falling off.
- Consider carefully what plants you buy for ponds and aquariums and never dump aquarium water or contents down drains or into waterways.
- Report any weed-infested vacant blocks to Council.

North Sydney Council offers a fortnightly green waste collection service. For more information, see Council's website or call Council on 9936 8100.

## Four Public Enemies in North Sydney

These four weeds have a huge impact on North Sydney's bushland reserves. If you see them in your garden, remove them!

### Clean and green

North Sydney drycleaners who use electric boilers are invited to take part in an electricity saving project being carried out by North Sydney Council and the NSW Ethnic Communities Council.

Dry cleaners will receive a free boiler energy audit and technical assistance to help identify and fix any steam piping system problems that waste energy.

Council's environmental services manager Peter Massey said energy savings of 10 to 30 percent could be achieved by removing heat losses through problems with pipe works and boiler systems.

After receiving the audit and recommended energy saving measures, dry cleaners will be asked to sign an agreement to implement the recommendations.

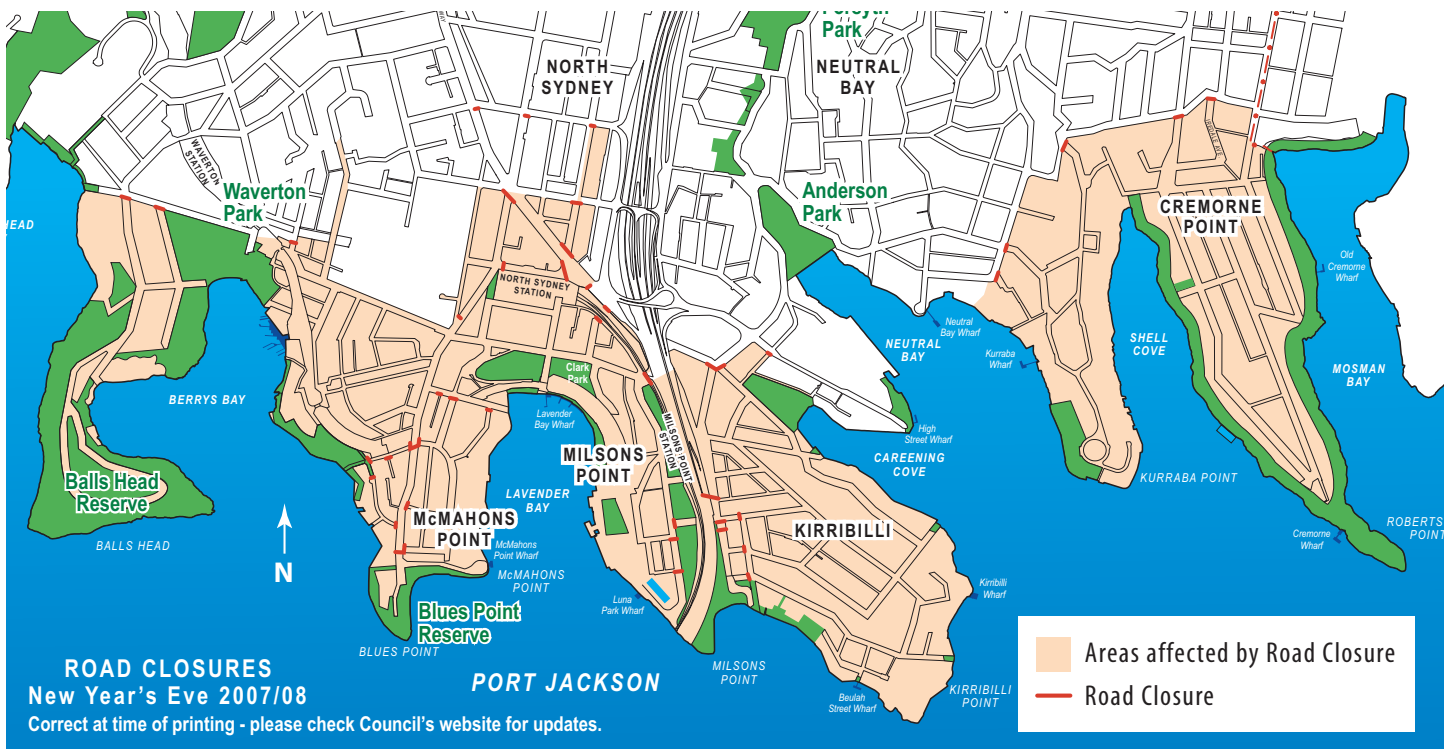
They will also be required to inspect and maintain the boiler and piping system each year for the next 10 years.

"Dry cleaners will save on their energy bills through improvements to the boiler and piping systems. They'll also extend the life span of their boilers through regular maintenance and will create a safer working environment for their staff," said Mr Massey.

For more information, or to take part in the project, you can contact Joyce Fu, at the Ethnic Communities Council, phone 9319 0288 or email [energy@eccnsw.org.au](mailto:energy@eccnsw.org.au)

### YMCA care

The YMCA will now operate vacation care services in North Sydney. Council has entered into an agreement with the YMCA to operate vacation care at the North Sydney Community Centre, Grandstand Kindergarten and Forsyth Park. The YMCA is a not-for-profit organisation operating more than 320 facilities across Australia. Director of Library and Community Services Martin Ellis said he was confident the YMCA would provide a safe, stimulating and inclusive program with more dynamic recreational content than has previously been provided.



## New Year in North Sydney – what you need to know

Alcohol free zones extending from North Sydney station south to the harbour will be in place on New Years Eve. Visitors to properties in these areas will not be able to take alcohol into the area on the night. Guests are being asked to deliver alcohol to their hosts the day before and definitely no later than noon on New Years Eve.

Roads near the harbour will once again be closed, with some areas closing at noon and others at 4pm. In a few areas, residents will still be given access until 7pm. After 7pm, there will be no vehicle access in or out of closed areas until after 2am on 1 January. This applies to residents' cars and taxis, as well as to visitors.

Olympic Drive in Kirribilli will be closed from 10am, Blue Street, North Sydney from 3pm and Fitzroy Street in Kirribilli will be closed from 4pm. Access to properties west of the expressway will be from Bay Road, Waverton and east of the expressway will be

from High Street, North Sydney. Residents are asked to check the map for the times and details of other road closures in their area.

The two managed access areas at Bradfield Park and Blues Point Reserve will be closely monitored and the sites closed when they reach capacity. No alcohol and no glass can be taken into a managed access area, however, alcohol and food will be for sale from 4pm. There will also be food for sale at Cremorne Point.

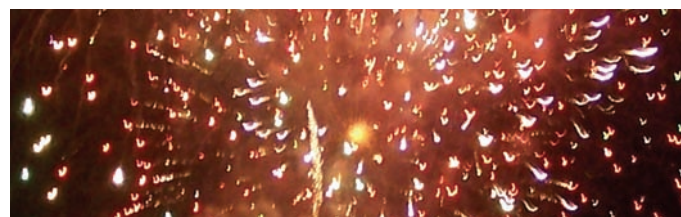
This year, emergency services are also asking residents to monitor the numbers of people using private property and, in particular, to ensure that lifts and balconies are not overloaded.

General Manager Penny Holloway said the arrangements were designed to ensure that everyone who visited the foreshore had a safe and happy experience.

“This year we have a developed a party pack containing a range of

information on road closures, safety advice and details about access for guests and requirement for the delivery of alcohol.

“I urge everyone who lives near the foreshore and is planning a New Years Eve party to call into Council’s Customer Service Centre and collect a party pack. Alternatively, if they phone 9936 8100 we can post or email a pack out to them.”



### Cool pool celebrations

You can enjoy the festivities on Sydney Harbour in a secure and friendly environment at North Sydney Olympic Pool. The Pool’s popular family fun night returns this year with inflatables, entertainment, face painting and clowns.

Food hampers can be pre-ordered from Ripples Café or bring your own food and drinks (sorry, no glass). The event runs from 6pm until after the 9pm fireworks. Tickets are \$30 for adults and \$15 for children. To book, or for more information, phone 9955 2309.

# Hands off our officers

With assaults on officers increasing, Council says enough is enough.

The number of verbal and physical assaults on Council officers has risen dramatically over the past year, with five parking officers recently assaulted within a five-week period.

The assaults ranged from spitting through to pushing and kicking the officers. All incidents of physical assault were reported to the police and charges have been laid.

North Sydney Mayor Genia McCaffery said the Council was conducting a “hands off our officers” campaign to improve the safety and image of people doing regulatory work.

“I understand people’s frustration at receiving a parking ticket. Parking is one of the most difficult issues we face in North Sydney.

“But resorting to violence is unacceptable. If people are unhappy about a fine or about a Council policy, they should contact us, not take it out on a Council employee who is doing his or her job.”

Council staff enforce a number of different laws relating to food handling, pollution and dog registration and behaviour, as well as parking.

“These laws are important for the safety and well-being of the whole community and the people who enforce them are entitled to be treated with respect,” said Mayor McCaffery.

“Violence is not an accepted behaviour in our society and if it is

becoming more prevalent then we, as a community, need to address the issue before it escalates further.”

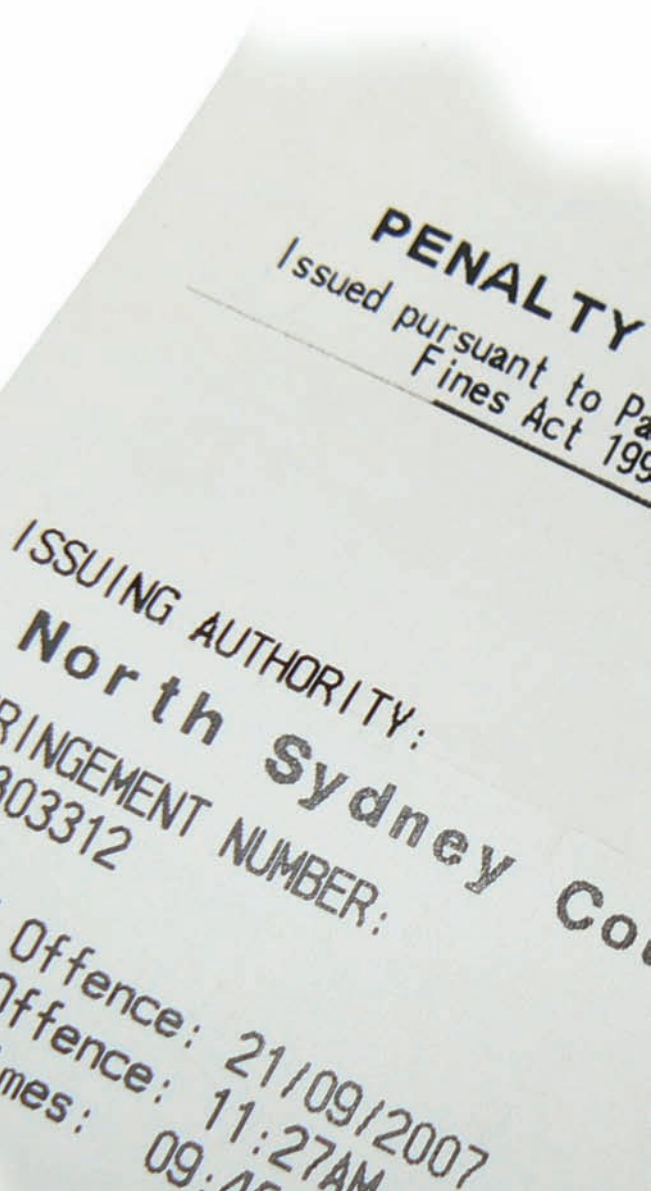
Mark Richardson, Manager of Ranger Services, said parking officers and rangers were pleased the Council was making a stand on their behalf.

“Our rangers and parking officers are not wilting violets,” he said. “They are used to being abused and they accept that people can be upset with a fine. It comes with the territory.

“But abusing anyone is not appropriate and when it gets physical then it is time to say enough is enough. Members of the community should ask themselves whether they would be happy to be sworn at or physically assaulted in their office day after day. The same standards that apply in an office should also apply on the street.”

General Manager Penny Holloway said Council staff were trained in dealing with angry customers and had guidelines to follow when someone was abusive.

“North Sydney Council is fortunate to have excellent rangers, parking officers and compliance officers who are professional and hard working. We hope this campaign will encourage people to think twice before taking their anger out on a Council employee and will encourage greater understanding and respect for the valuable work that they do.”





## Mean streets

Receiving death threats in the course of their job would have most people reaching for the positions vacant column. Council's parking officers are learning to take them in their stride.

"Yes, I've been threatened," says our parking officer Elisabet. "One person threatened to smash my face in, another threatened to stab me and one threw a brick-sized piece of wood at me.

"But we remind ourselves that these are one-off incidents. Most people are friendly and try to do the right thing. Many say thank you when you hand them a parking ticket."

Elisabet admits that people do seem more stressed and aggressive than they did a few years ago and are more likely to be verbally abusive. However, she says the advantages of the job offset the stresses.

"I really like being outdoors. I like

the fact that every day and every situation is different. We know we make a difference in the community when we reduce complaints in an area or delivery drivers can get a park in a loading zone."

Elisabet accepts that parking officers get a hard time in the media, but laughs at the two common media claims that parking officers have quotas and that they lurk behind trees.

"We wear flouro jackets," she says. "Everyone can see us. And no, we don't have quotas. Would I mark up two-hour zones in the back of Waverton if I could reach a quota by standing for an hour each day in Miller St fining people who stop in the no stopping and clearway zones?"

"For the record, we measure our success by the lack of complaints we get about illegally parked cars. If no one is complaining then we know we're doing a good job."

## Parking fines – the facts

North Sydney Council employs 19 Parking Services Officers dedicated to parking management.

A total of 72,873 fines were issued in the 2006/07 financial year.

Of these:

- 31,929 were for not paying at a meter
- 19,076 were for parking for longer than allowed
- 11,094 were for breaches of other road rules or signage such as stopping in a no-stopping zone or across a pedestrian crossing

More than half of all calls to Council's Rangers Department are about illegal parking, eg residents calling because someone has parked illegally across their driveway, effectively parking them in.

## Shop owners convicted of assault

Two North Sydney shop owners have been convicted of assaulting a Council environmental health officer during a routine food safety inspection at their North Sydney convenience store. The couple were ordered to pay \$5,500 in fines and \$70 each in court costs.

One of the shop owners was also ordered to pay damages of \$522 and serve a 12-month good behaviour bond after damaging a digital camera during the assault.

The incident occurred when the Council officer sought access to a food storeroom during a food safety inspection.

Council's Environmental Health Officers carry out regular inspections of food premises to ensure that they meet standards for food handling and storage.

# Discover Nutcote - our local treasure



Being domestically challenged is not just a 21st century phenomenon, as visitors to Nutcote, the home of beloved children's author and artist May Gibbs, will discover.

Nutcote Trust Board member Stewart Reed says a telling sign of May Gibbs' dislike of housework can be found near the quaint wooden ice chest in the corridor just outside her tiny no-frills kitchen.

"The floor boards throughout the house are jarrah, which lasts forever. However, just next to the ice chest two boards have been replaced. May had holes drilled in the original floorboards which meant that she didn't have to empty the drip tray but put in pipes to let the water drain away. She often was so engrossed in her work that she forgot to eat, so her housekeeper would prepare a meal and put an alarm clock beside May's easel. When the alarm went off it was time for May to get the meal out of the oven."

Nutcote, on Wallaringa Avenue, Neutral Bay, was built for May and her husband, James Ossoli Kelly, in 1925 by acclaimed Sydney architect B J Waterhouse. Nutcote is a charming harbourside Mediterranean-style cottage with stuccoed yellow walls, blue/green window shutters and a gorgeous English garden, dotted with labels such as 'Snapdragons Old Dragons' and 'Wisteria Hysteria'.

Mr Reed says the labels reflect the "May speak" for which the artist was well known. "For example she called the telephone the 'tell-you-phone'."

Both May's house and garden have been lovingly restored to just the way they would have been in the



1930s. The restoration was assisted greatly by photographs in the *Australian Home Beautiful* magazine of 1926 and oral histories from family and friends.

Stewart Reed loves the 'quirky' architectural features of Nutcote. "We believe that May had a lot of influence over the design." He points to the built-ins in the bedrooms. "They would have been unheard of in those days. There are some wonderful little cupboards, a great servery hatch between the kitchen and dining room, and I love the contrast between the Mediterranean exterior and the arts and crafts feel inside."

When she died in November 1969, she left the house to UNICEF, which was unable to hold property, so the house and contents were auctioned off in 1970. Subsequent buyers wanted to demolish the cottage and develop the site, but a group of

concerned relatives and friends rallied to save Nutcote.

They formed the May Gibbs Foundation and succeeded in getting a permanent conservation order to protect part of Nutcote and having it placed on the Register of the National Estate. In 1990, North Sydney Council responded to the support generated by the Foundation and the local community and bought the property. Nutcote is currently on lease to the Nutcote Trust and in 1994 it was opened as a historic house museum.





Photograph by David Flanagan

## May's Birthday Party

After celebrating May's 130th anniversary in 2007, Nutcote is hosting May's 131st birthday party on Sunday 20 January 2008.

This celebration is an annual event that features Scottish Terriers in memory of those raised by May and her husband at Nutcote. Due to their distinctive shape, May liked to draw them for her comic strips and later books. Enjoy seeing these unusual little dogs bring Nutcote to life with their presence.

There will be a birthday cake cutting ceremony, a display of May's 'Scotty' art and various activities as well as tours of the harbourside house.

Normal admission charges apply.

## Nutcote Needs You!

If you're interested in volunteering, Nutcote would love to hear from you. Volunteers are needed to take guided tours around May's house, serve in the tea rooms and shop, or work in the garden. If you can give four hours or more a month, please send an email to [volco@maygibbs.com.au](mailto:volco@maygibbs.com.au)

## Inspired by May

To celebrate the 130th anniversary of May Gibbs' birth this year, Stanton Library, in conjunction with Nutcote, Bookbinding Exhibitions Australia and the Australian Textile Arts & Surface Design Association (ATASDA), is holding a special exhibition *Inspired by May*, which will display several items that have never been in the public domain before.

Exhibition co-curator Sue Shaw says that along with originals of May Gibbs' early artwork, scrapbooks and a range of her postcards, posters and calendars, samples of May's hair kept from her childhood will be on display.

"The exhibition looks at May's early influences and art, her life in Neutral Bay and the inspiration she has been to many other artists."

The exhibition also showcases contemporary artworks including bookcovers and textiles that have been created by others but inspired by her work.

The exhibition, with a focus on bookbinding, opened last month and will run until 1 February. The textiles will be on exhibition from 15 February to 4 May 2008.

Stewart Reed, who is co-curating the exhibition, said it would reveal the breadth of May's work; many people were aware only of her children's books and illustrations. "People call May the Mother of Gumnuts, but I also call her the Mother of Merchandising – she created comic strips, postcards, posters, portraits, caricatures and paintings.

"The thing I love most about her work is that she took the bush and made it come alive for children."

A sparkling new edition of *Snugglepie and Cuddlepot* has been published for the 130th anniversary celebrations. Each story has been printed in a slightly different colour, all the illustrations are in colour and the book includes a comprehensive account of May Gibbs.

The new book, along with numerous cards, tea towels and other May Gibbs memorabilia, is available from the fabulous shop at the entrance to Nutcote. And underneath the shop are tea rooms where the tables are topped with fresh flowers from the garden. If you haven't visited Nutcote yet, treat yourself over the summer holidays.

Nutcote is open Wednesday to Sunday from 11am to 3pm and is situated at 5 Wallaringa Avenue, Neutral Bay. Admission charges for house tours: adults \$8, children \$3, concessions \$5 and family tickets \$17.

# News

## Aboriginal History

North Sydney residents' support for reconciliation between non-indigenous and Aboriginal people goes back as far as the 1870s, according to a recently released publication.

Council historian Ian Hoskins said he was surprised, when researching material for *Aboriginal North Sydney*, to come across a letter to the *Sydney Morning Herald* in November 1878, from a Blues Point resident, suggesting that Goat Island be returned to indigenous people. E. Dowling wrote: "Considering the vast territory which has been wrested from these poor people without any compensation, ... it would be a graceful act to allow them the privilege of pointing to one of these small islands at the entrance to the metropolis as still their own."

Dr Hoskins said by that time North Sydney was becoming quite developed and privately owned. "But here's someone from the community expressing an offer of reconciliation."

*Aboriginal North Sydney* builds on a guide to Aboriginal history and culture written by Dr Hoskins' predecessor Margaret Park.

"One of the things I wanted to do with this book was to establish an Aboriginal presence in North Sydney from go to whoa. Throughout the 19th century, for example, there were Cammeraygal people in North Sydney. They were camping here, hunting possums, then later some worked here as servants on the Holtermann estate."

The book explores the initial interaction between the Cammeraygal people and the British, which was not always hostile. "The cultures were completely different, but friendships formed and there were points of commonality as human beings."

He was also surprised to discover the local connection to famous Aboriginal land rights campaigner Eddie Koiki Mabo. During the historic hearings in the High Court of Australia in the 1980s, Eddie Mabo would break his regular train trips, between Townsville and Melbourne, at North Sydney where he would stay at the Ernest Street home of fellow activist and writer Roberta Sykes. Sykes used her small flat as a meeting place for activists and Mabo was one of a number of Aboriginal campaigners who visited.

Dr Hoskins says the booklet provides some context to many of Council's cultural policies and initiatives. "It helps explain why we fly the Aboriginal flag, why we sponsored the Walk for Reconciliation across the harbour bridge in May 2000 and why Council had a Sorry Book."

Copies of *Aboriginal North Sydney* are on sale, at \$5 each, from Stanton Library.



## Coal Loader Update

While the detailed designs for the Coal Loader on the Waverton Peninsular have been prepared, two community groups have been busy planning aspects of the site.

A community design group has been working closely with Council to develop a detailed layout for the Sustainability Centre, which will include meeting areas, a resource/research room and display areas with the latest in sustainable technologies.

A second group of volunteers has been working to set up the community allotment gardens. Work will begin soon on an associated community nursery/plant propagation area.

A development application for the proposed works, which are expected to cost about \$10 million, was lodged with Council in September. At the time of writing, the DA had not been determined.

The work will be undertaken progressively. It is anticipated initial work will focus on refurbishing the adaptive re-use precinct buildings, including the proposed SES headquarters in the former powerhouse building and the Sustainability Centre in the former caretaker's residence.

For more information or to get involved in any of the current projects, please contact the following Council officers:

- sustainability centre/community design group - Fiona Shadbolt, 9936 8467
- community allotment gardens - Ralph Forinash, 9936 8248
- community nursery/propagation area - Megan Hughes, 9936 8258
- overall project - David Banbury, 9936 8205.

## Money down the drain – thankfully

A major overhaul of North Sydney's drains has begun, using funds from the five-year infrastructure levy. More than one third of the \$1.6 million annual levy funding will be spent on repairing blocked and damaged drains across the North Sydney local government area.

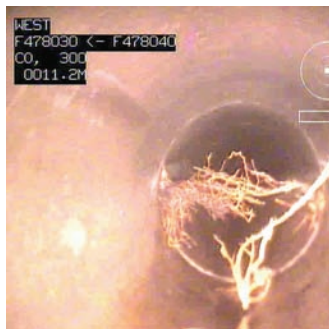
Engineering Infrastructure Manager Jon Higlett said a CCTV investigation of a random sample of North Sydney's drains indicated up to 25% would need significant clearing, repair or replacement.

"We found a number of different defects including pipe joints that had been displaced, pipes that were blocked by silt and debris or tree roots, and pipes that had been crushed or cracked.

"All of these can affect the capacity and performance of our drainage system. For instance, blocked pipes can lead to nuisance flooding, while leaking pipes can saturate the surrounding soil, potentially causing problems with nearby buildings.

"Our first priority is to repair or replace badly damaged pipes we have identified, however, we will also continue further CCTV inspections and clean out pipes as required."

Several other infrastructure projects have been scheduled for this financial year, including repairs to local roads, bus shelters, fencing and lighting. Funding has also been allocated to new capital works, including seats, fences, retaining walls and seawalls.



## The first water

St Leonards Park and North Sydney Oval are now being irrigated by recycled stormwater. The innovative irrigation system uses stormwater collected in a gross pollutant trap, which is then filtered and treated for use on the grass. The second stage of the project, the construction of a dam on the corner of Cammeray Golf course, will begin shortly.

Mayor Genia McCaffery said the project was an outstanding example of what could be achieved when Council worked with community organisations and other levels of government.

"This project began in 2002, when the Cammeray Golf Club asked us for help in developing an irrigation system for the links. At the time, I don't think any of us imagined that so much of NSW would be in such prolonged drought.

"We are thankful for the funding contributions from the Golf Club, the RTA, the Department of Environment and Climate Change, and the NSW Environmental Trust which have supplemented Council's environmental levy and section 94 developer contributions to make this possible."

*Photo: General Manager Penny Holloway and Cammeray Golf Club President Max Reynolds switch on the system.*

## New Pre-School

A new two-day a week preschool service is being offered at McMahons Point Community Centre from Monday 21 January 2008.

McMahons Point Occasional Child Care Centre president MaryAnn Beregi said the preschool would run on Mondays and Tuesdays. It will have four 12-week terms, breaking only for four weeks over Christmas/New Year.

She said the service, which will replace the occasional child care service on those days, was a response to a demand from local parents for more preschool places.

For more information about enrolments, you can visit [www.mpoccci.com.au](http://www.mpoccci.com.au), email [info@mpoccci.com.au](mailto:info@mpoccci.com.au) or phone 9956 6209.

# What's on in North Sydney in Summer

## Arts/Music/Literature

Now until 19 Dec *Black & Light* photographic exhibition, Wed & Sun 1pm-4pm, Don Bank Museum, 6 Napier Street: **9936 8400**

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Now until 14 May *Inspired by May* – an exhibition celebrating the 130th anniversary of May Gibbs' birthday, Stanton Library: **9936 8400**

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February until April *The Modernists*, Royal Art Society of NSW exhibition Wed & Sun 1pm-4pm, Don Bank Museum, 6 Napier Street, North Sydney

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February Shakespeare in the park, check Council website for dates and venue.

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## Community events

3-24 Dec Christmas entertainment, 12pm-2pm Monday - Friday, Mount Street Plaza: **9936 8585**

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7 Dec North Sydney Community Carols at the Noodle Market, Civic Park: **9936 8187**

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16 Dec Christmas Carols, Green Park, organised by Naremburn Cammeray Anglican Church: **9906 7110**

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26 Jan Australia Day celebration, Celtic Festival, Bradfield Park, 9am-5pm, **9936 8187**

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26 Jan Australia Day Family Fun Day 11.30am-2.30pm, North Sydney Olympic Pool, **9955 2309**

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## Starlight Cinema

Starlight Cinema will return to our beautiful and much-loved North Sydney Oval for a six-week season of entertaining films. At the time of writing, the film program was still being finalised, however, Starlight's Jill Keyte hinted that as Family Flick Fridays were always popular with local residents, *Ratatouille* is likely to be one of first films on the schedule. Starlight Cinema offers a wide range of films to suit all tastes. Visit [www.starlightcinema.com.au](http://www.starlightcinema.com.au) for program details.

## Markets

2nd Sat every month  
North Sydney Markets, Civic Park, Miller Street, North Sydney **9922 2286**

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3rd Sat every month  
Northside Produce Market, Civic Park, Miller Street, North Sydney **9922 2299**

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3rd Sat every month  
Crows Nest Markets, 2 Ernest Place, Crows Nest **0412 210 084**

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4th Sat every month  
Kirribilli Markets, Burton Street Tunnel and Bradfield Park, Milsons Point **9922 4428**

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2nd Sun every month  
Kirribilli Art & Design Markets, Burton Street Tunnel, Milsons Point **9922 4428**

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Every Friday 5pm-10pm  
Noodle Market, Civic Park, during daylight saving: **0412 335 660**

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## Cremorne Point walking tour

Janet Fish, from the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust (and Bushcare volunteer), will lead a free walking tour of Cremorne Point on Monday 14 January. This tour will provide a fascinating insight into the Point's history. Bring water, hat and sunscreen, money for a coffee stop and wear sensible walking shoes.

The tour leaves promptly at 9am from the northern end of Kareela Road and is a two-hour return trip. Bookings are essential. Phone Megan Hughes on 9936 8258.

