



spring edition 2004

news

NORTH SYDNEY

INVESTING IN OUR CBD

Property owners and tenants in the North Sydney commercial centre are being surveyed to determine their attitudes to the CBD. The research will be used to develop strategies to promote future investment in the centre.

North Sydney Council voted unanimously to contribute \$15,000 to the research project, which is being conducted jointly with the Property Council of Australia. The research is expected to be complete by October.

North Sydney Mayor Genia McCaffery said she was pleased the Council and property industry were working together to ensure North Sydney remains a commercial centre of choice for the business community.

"Our feedback from tenants in the CBD is that it works well for people," the Mayor said. "It is convenient for transport, has good facilities and is more personal than the Sydney CBD. This survey will ensure we also fully understand the sentiment of the investment community.

"North Sydney was affected by the dot-com bust and we recognise we have to compete with cheaper industrial estates on the outskirts of Sydney. However, North Sydney offers different benefits, including a great location and facilities which make us attractive to businesses and their employees."

Mayor McCaffery said Council had been developing strategies for the CBD for the past few years. Key milestones include:

- 2001 – planning controls developed to allow another 250,000 sq metres of development in the CBD. These were approved by the State Government in 2003.
- 2002 – work started on strategy for upgrading public space. A working group to oversee its implementation was established this year.
- 2003 - landmark agreement with State Government to upgrade North Sydney station, using some developer contributions. Tenders have been called for the station design.
- 2004 – work started on two new developments, which will provide an additional 38,000 sq metres of floor space

2020 Vision

What should North Sydney be like in the year 2020? You are invited to have your say in the coming weeks when the North Sydney Strategy, Council's blueprint for future planning, is reviewed.

People who live, work and study in North Sydney will be asked to look ahead 15 years and say what they want the area to be like. Council's consultant will contact individuals and organisations for structured input, and opportunities to comment will be advertised in the *Mosman Daily* and on Council's website.

For more information please phone 9936 8181.

STOP PRESS

Extended hours planned for Customer Service Centre
see page 2



Contents

Page

News (including 'From the Mayor')	2
Environment	3
Feature: Spring in your step	4, 5
Community	6
Precincts	7
Calendar	8

FROM THE MAYOR



The Premier's recent comments about the North Sydney and Parramatta CBDs created a flurry of media interest and for a few days my phone rang hot with journalists wanting to know which CBD was the largest and what the future held for North Sydney.

I would not have thought twice about this if, as a Council, we had been silent on the subject. However, the opposite is true. In the past few years we have contacted the media on numerous occasions to let them know about our strategies and planning controls for the CBD. Without an apparent conflict to report, the issues went largely unreported. That's how it's been for many of Council's achievements over the past four years. You've probably noticed the changes in your immediate area, but may not be aware of the myriad of other things Council has done.

How's this for a CV? Council has:

- redeveloped the North Sydney Olympic Pool to include an indoor pool, spa, sauna and gym;
- built a four-court indoor sports centre suitable for a range of sports;
- developed planning controls that better protect residential areas yet allow for growth in some areas, including commercial centres;
- built a fabulous new park on the old BP site on the Waverton Peninsula (opening soon) and upgraded Bradfield Park north;

- refurbished Mount St, Cremorne and Gum Nut Plazas and Ernest Place, installing some amazing public art;
- upgraded nine playgrounds and established 61 community gardening sites
- led the way in environmental projects, making changes to Council's own operations and supporting projects to reduce energy use and reduce pollution in Sydney Harbour

And we did it all while remaining debt free. There is so much more I could say about all of these projects and they're just the few that spring to mind. For every large project, we also undertake numerous small ones such as improving traffic flow or creating a new street garden. Not momentous perhaps – but constant changes that improve the quality of life in the North Sydney area.

You'll probably never read or hear of most of these in the media - it's hard to sell good news - but the improvements are happening all the time. And that is good news.

Genia McCaffery
Mayor

NEWS in brief

Mary Booth Boardwalk

A DA has been submitted to construct a steel boardwalk at Mary Booth Reserve on the Kirribilli foreshore. Pedestrians currently hop across stones and duck under branches when making their way from Waruda Street to the Captain Henry Waterhouse Reserve. The current pathway, which gets slippery when wet, will be replaced by two sections of boardwalk, linked by sandstone seating platforms.



Gen X and Y go green

North Sydney, Willoughby City and Lane Cove Councils are running a sustainability program for generations X and Y. The program will deal with sustainable living solutions to common lifestyle activities such as cooking, shopping, home renovation, health, beauty and travel. Proposed activities include pub eco-trivia, a green singles night and an organic cooking class.

Planning for recreation

Council is undertaking a Recreation Needs Study to guide the planning and management of recreation services and facilities over the next five to 10 years. The community and sporting groups are being consulted about the appropriateness of the current facilities and whether the needs of all groups within the community are being met.

Bird's eye view online

Aerial photographs can now be viewed on the Property Map of Council's eServices web site. The interactive property map contains a vast amount of information including zoning, contours, parks and electoral ward boundaries. Access to the maps is free; no registration or log in is required.

Extended customer service hours

Council is planning a three-month trial of extended hours in the Customer Service Centre. The Centre's opening hours will be extended to 7pm each Monday. The starting date for the trial will be advertised in the *Mosman Daily* and on our website www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au once it is determined.

NORTH SYDNEY COUNCIL

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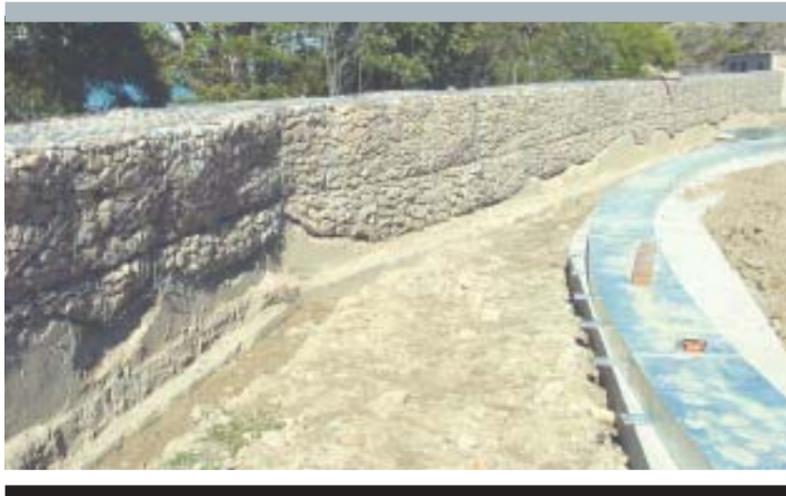
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FROGS AND FOOTINGS

The gabion wall, below, follows the contours of old footings on the former BP site at Larkin Street, Waverton. The new park currently being constructed on the site follows the natural topography and incorporates industrial remnants in the design. Although only partially complete, frogs, birds and other wildlife already call the new park home.



The northern viewing platform, right, has spectacular views of the city skyline.



Bushcare loses two special volunteers

North Sydney's Bushcare groups are mourning the loss of two long-term volunteers. Bryce Mortlock was a pioneer of the bush care movement. In the 1950s he and his wife Peggy lobbied the Council to stop clearing the bushland fronting Long Bay. Over the following decades he worked tirelessly to weed and preserve the bush in the reserve near his home. A distinguished architect and planner, Bryce took a key role in establishing and coordinating the Vernon St Bushcare group.

Heidi Flury was a member of the Balls Head and Smoothey Park Bushcare groups and also helped out on the Graythwaite Streets Alive site. She regularly walked from her home in Kirribilli to the Balls Head site, weeding along the way. Heidi will be remembered by her Bushcare friends for her support of indigenous people and her sincerity and zest for life.

National Tree Day 2004



The chosen media site, Waverton Park buzzed with celebrities and volunteers on National Tree Day. More than 3,500 trees, shrubs and grasses were planted before volunteers joined in a celebratory BBQ.



PUT A SPRING IN

A SHORE-WAY TO EXERCISE

Walking is a great way to get fit for people of all ages and Spring is a lovely time of year to walk. If you like urban scenery, you can join the Prime Minister and pound the pavements between Kirribilli and Lavender Bay.

However, if you would prefer a bushland setting, you don't have to drive to the outskirts of Sydney to find one. North Sydney has six harbour foreshore bushland walks, varying in length from 10 to 45 minutes.

Council's Harbour Foreshores Bushwalk Guide includes details of these walks, including maps and a guide to each area's history, flora and fauna, and places of interest. Please phone 9936 8100 if you would like a copy of the brochure.

If you are already a regular walker, why not combine some of the foreshore walks to create a pleasant morning or afternoon activity.

Smoothey Park to Shirley Road

Start at Smoothey Park, next to Wollstonecraft station and follow the creek line along the Gore Cove track down to Shirley Road (**45 minutes**)

This section of the walk has the most diverse habitat and wildlife in North Sydney, with some woodland, closed rainforest and mudflats. Keep your eyes peeled for some locally rare flannel flowers and the equally rare Brown Antechinus (a ground dwelling marsupial often mistaken for a mouse or rat) as well as numerous bird species.

Berry Island Reserve

When you reach the bottom of Shirley Road, turn right into Berry Island Reserve and follow the track around the island then walk back up Shirley Road to the start of the Badangi Reserve (**15 minutes**).

Berry Island has interpretive signage detailing the rich Aboriginal heritage of the island. Points of interest on the island include Aboriginal rock engravings and midden sites. The island has towering Red Gums and Red Bloodwoods with an understorey of flowering shrubs. Keep a look out for the resident pair of Masked Plovers and Welcome Swallows.

Badangi Reserve to Oyster Cove

Follow the track through Badangi Reserve to the pedestrian bridge at Wondakiah (**10 minutes**). To extend the walk, detour down the track to the Oyster Cove foreshore.

The Badangi Reserve is predominantly open forest with a small community of rare Forest Red Gums. Along the way you may see examples of remnant Hawkesbury Sandstone vegetation. Tawny Frogmouths nest along Tryon Avenue and eastern Toadlets pop-up after rain.

Badangi Reserve to Balls Head

Follow the track along the foreshore, past Wondakiah, then take the stairs to Balls Head Road. Walk down Balls Head Road and follow the track around the reserve, then walk back up Balls Head Road to Waverton Station (**60 minutes**).

When you reach Balls Head there are several different tracks you can take around the headland. The vegetation includes stands of she-oaks, Port Jackson Figs, which are an eating stop for the Grey-Headed Flying-fox, and some locally rare orchids. Balls Head is home to many species of birds including Parrots, Lorikeets, Kookaburras, Butcher Birds and migrant Cuckoos and Koels.

MAP



YOUR STEP

AQUA AEROBICS - good for everybody



Libbie Richardson sees the benefits of regular aqua aerobics exercise most clearly when she can't get to class.

"I had to have a few months off recently and the difference was painfully obvious," she says. "Aqua aerobics is marvellous exercise for strength and flexibility. You can do things in the water that you couldn't do on land."

Libbie, who is currently completing a PhD and helps out at meals-on-wheels, opts for an early class where possible so that she can get on with her other activities. "The pool is good and the classes are most enjoyable. It is an excellent start to the day."

Aqua aerobics classes are held in the indoor 25-metre pool Monday to Saturday, with a mix of morning and evening classes. There are three types of class:

- aqua - good for cardiovascular and muscle toning
- deep aqua - non-impact and suitable for all levels
- lite - low-impact and fun-oriented for beginners

Aqua aerobics classes cost \$11.50 or \$83 for 10 sessions. For more information phone the North Sydney Olympic Pool on 9955 2309.



Lane 9 Gymnasium



LANE 9 GYM a breathtaking experience

In Lane 9 gymnasium, one person's achievements are often celebrated by all.

"Lane 9 is a small gym with a personal feel and regulars do get to know one another," says Health and Fitness Coordinator Ben Haines. "When someone reaches their fitness goal or loses weight in time for their wedding, we share their sense of achievement."

Ben says the personal atmosphere means first-timers don't have to feel intimidated. "There is always an instructor on duty so when people visit for the first time we show them around and show them how to use the equipment."

Lane 9 regulars are an eclectic mix of people of all ages. They range in fitness from serious athletes who compete in triathlons and marathons, through to everyday people just looking to keep active.

Peak hours in Lane 9 are 6am to 7am and from 6.30pm to 7.30pm in the evening when many of the exercise classes such as pilates, pump and boxercise are held.

"Pump is definitely the most popular class because it is fun and interactive," says Ben. "The classes include resistance work to build muscle tone, but it's all done to music so many people find it far more motivational than a session in the weights room."

Although entry to Lane 9 includes use of the 50m and 25m pools, Ben says most gym users prefer a coffee over a swim after their workout. "The majority of people are either pool people or gym people," he says. "People choose the type of exercise that suits them. If someone is thinking of starting an exercise program and they're not sure what would suit, why not come to the Olympic Pool and try a few things out."

Lane 9 is open Monday to Friday, 5.30am to 9pm and Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays, 7am to 7pm.

Take the plunge

If you are interested in kick-starting your Spring into Summer fitness campaign the North Sydney Olympic Pool is offering a special 10-day tempter package for our readers.

This offer costs \$20 and will be available up until 30 September 2004 (terms and conditions apply).

For more information contact the Pool reception on 9955 2309.

BUSINESS BUZZ

Cammeray Chamber of Commerce is working closely with Council to achieve their goals writes Chamber Secretary Rene Ismail

Cammeray Chamber of Commerce would like to thank the Councillors and all the staff at North Sydney Council for their continuous interest in Cammeray and its development. We have recently seen upgrades that have been appreciated by the Cammeray community.

The paving along Miller St is new and the Fig trees add to the beauty and nature of the area. The rubbish bins are excellent; the Chamber knows how hard you worked to design them. The crossing at Raleigh Plaza on Miller St is used by hundreds of locals every day.

Cammeray Chamber of Commerce has been concerned about the amount of graffiti in the area. Thank you Council for sending someone every day to erase what it can. We hope to keep this good relationship with Council and make everyone want to visit this well-kept northern suburb for all it has to offer.



North Sydney Chamber of Commerce has a new home, writes Chamber Manager Julie Kennedy

Until recently, the potential of the North Sydney Chamber was inhibited by the fact that it did not have an office, and was consequently operated from the homes of members. The Chamber runs on the smell of an oily rag, so the idea of renting commercial premises was not tenable.

When the Chamber was approached by the Northern Sydney Institute of TAFE to explore ways that TAFE could better integrate with the local business community, a wonderful partnership was born. TAFE has provided the Chamber with a small office in the administration building of its main campus at St Leonards.

TAFE and the Chamber are now exploring other ways in which they can work together. The students are getting qualifications in a wide range of areas including event management and computer and business studies and they are required to complete projects and work experience. How much better if they can undertake a real project with a real company rather than doing a fictional one?

The Chamber hopes to open job opportunities for students by facilitating interaction with local businesses - and to support the members of the Chamber to find some of the brightest new graduates as employees. This arrangement holds great potential for the North Sydney area.

How do you get involved? Well, the Chamber needs to fill its four desks at St Leonards with volunteers, students and local business representatives who are interested in working together. If you, or anyone you know, would be interested in registering your interest to participate in future projects - either as a local business or as a student - please contact the Chamber of Commerce on 9958 5595 or email admin@northsydneychamber.com.au

STORYTIME QUILTS

Four colourful new quilts showcasing preschool children's artwork are now in use at Stanton Library storytime for preschoolers, thanks to the efforts of the Mosman Night Owls quilting group and donations from local fabric stores Patchwork and Primitives and Tempo Interiors.

"I was borrowing a design book from Stanton Library and mentioned quilting to the librarian on duty," recalls quilter Jennie Hartmann. "She just happened to be looking for quilters and we got involved.

"Over the past 30 years Stanton Library has built up a comprehensive collection of quilting and design books in response to requests from library members. It has been good to return the compliment by making the children's quilts."

Sixty-two painted squares have been sewn into the quilts, which are being used to create a more personal space for storytime sessions. Quilter Cecelia Clarke says the challenge was to show the squares to best advantage. "Quilts are tactile things. I hope they help the children to feel comfortable and to enjoy the reading times."

Mosman Night Owls meets for inspiration and companionship on the fourth Tuesday of each month at the Mosman Community Centre. Stanton Library storytime for preschoolers is held each Tuesday and Wednesday morning at 11am on the lower ground floor and includes stories, films and craft.

Storytime regular Angelique Ford with quilters Cecilia Clarke (left) and Jennie Hartmann



BRIDGEVIEW'S BACK



The local government elections last March has sparked new interest in local government in the Cammeray district. Bridgeview Precinct group has reformed, with more than 25 people attending its first meeting.

The drive behind the reformed group came from its two new co-chairs Gary Sargent

and Lynne Sheridan, who both independently contacted Council within the same week to discuss the possibility of reforming the group.

"The elections make you focus on local issues and the importance of participating in a democracy," says Gary. "We are lucky enough to have a precinct system in North Sydney and we should take advantage of it."

Lynne says the Council's cooperative work with the Cammeray Chamber of Commerce on Miller St has encouraged her to think about improvements for other parts of Cammeray. Cammeray shopping village is looking terrific, with the new signalised pedestrian crossing in Miller St and the various streetscape improvements (paving, plants etc). Lynne notes that: "The

unquestionable success of the Cammeray Streetscape Committee has given Precinct members the impetus to see more Streets Alive projects to improve the streetscape generally and provide increased habitat for birds and other wildlife."

The hot North Sydney issues – traffic, parking and development - will, of course, make it on to the Bridgeview agenda. However, Gary and Lynne hope the Precinct will achieve much more than discussions of these issues.

"In some ways technology has broken down communication in our society. Bridgeview Precinct will create an opportunity for people to meet their neighbours and be part of their community," says Gary.

Lynne agrees. "Since our first meeting I have seen half a dozen people I hadn't previously known walking the dog or at the shops. We intend each meeting to have a particular theme, to encourage interest in a variety of local issues. We will also be providing refreshments, so that the meetings are relaxed and encourage a feeling of 'get to know your neighbours' community spirit."

Bridgeview Precinct group meets at 7.30pm on the fourth Thursday of each month in the Cammeray Public School.

MEALS on the mail run

Defying the usual image of meal-on-wheels volunteers as being white-haired and retired, Geoff and Wendy Morgan are an energetic couple who run their own successful home-based business in Chatswood.

Yet once a week Geoff and Wendy devote one hour out of their busy schedules to dropping off meals to elderly and housebound residents in the Kirribilli area. Wendy says the couple applied to the Crows Nest Centre to be meals-on-wheels volunteers on impulse, after seeing an ad placed by the Centre in the local paper.

"Being a nutritionist, I have an interest in food anyway, so meals-on-wheels seemed to be a good fit. We've been doing it now for about four months and what amazes us both is how little time it takes. We're both really busy people so this is ideal."

Geoff says that because the meal drops are on the way to their post office box in North Sydney, he can pick up the mail after delivering the meals.

Wendy and Geoff arrive at the Centre at 10.30am one day a week, to find their meals packed and ready to be loaded into their car.

By 11.30am the meals have been delivered and the couple on their way back home.

"Because we're volunteers, we get special parking privileges which we certainly need in an area like Kirribilli," says Wendy.

Wendy and Geoff say they have both been enriched by the experience of volunteering. "Our residents are starting to get to know us now and we quite often share a bit of a laugh with them," says Geoff.

Wendy agrees. "On the face of it we are successful people, but in the past that success was always reserved for us. Now we can truly say we are doing something worthwhile for others."

If you'd like more information about becoming a meals-on-wheels volunteer, contact the Crows Nest Centre on 9439 5122 during business hours.

