



spring edition 2005

news

NORTH SYDNEY

DIY DA searches

Gone are the days of having to phone or visit Council to find out what's happening with a development application (DA). You can now track details of development applications received since August on Council's website at www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au

External architectural plans, building reports and decisions can all now be viewed from home from your computer. A DA can be searched by the property address, DA number or date.

General Manager Penny Holloway said the new software was part of Council's commitment to open government and access. "Understandably, people take a great deal of interest in DAs, especially if it involves their own or a neighbour's property.

"The new DA tracking system is a convenient and fast way of finding out how the DA is progressing. It should also free up staff time, resulting in a faster turnaround of applications."

Although the ability to make on-line submissions has been available for some time, access to DA tracking will make it easier for people to do this too.

SUSTAINABLE sydney forum

NSW Sustainability Commissioner Peter Newman will head a panel of speakers at a public water and energy forum on Tuesday 13 September. Professor Newman will provide an overview of the issues facing Sydney when planning sustainable infrastructure.

The forum will be chaired by journalist Quentin Dempster, who currently presents the ABC current affairs program *Stateline*. Quentin will moderate the question time after the presentations.

North Sydney Mayor Genia McCaffery said the forum would provide residents with an opportunity to learn about infrastructure options for Sydney in the coming decades.

"The State Government's metropolitan strategy has thankfully put planning Sydney high on the public agenda, but somehow the discussion has remained largely in the area of development and, to some extent, transport.

"With climate change and an ongoing drought, it is clear to us all that Sydney needs to plan its energy and water supplies too. The decisions made now will have a huge impact on our quality of life in the future. I believe it is important that our community gets the opportunity to learn about the options and actively participate in the decision making."

Mayor McCaffery said Professor Newman was an entertaining speaker who had the knack of explaining environmental issues in plain English. "We are very fortunate that he is able to attend the forum. I hope that people will come, listen, ask questions then get involved in setting environmentally sustainable directions for Sydney."

The forum, which will examine other water and energy options such as recycled water and wind and solar-generated power, will be held in the Hutley Hall, 200 Miller Street, North Sydney on Tuesday 13 September, starting at 7.30pm. Entry is free. To assist with catering for supper, please let us know you will be coming by phoning 9936 8100 or emailing council@northsydney.nsw.gov.au



"The eye of a social realist and the heart of a true colourist, combine in this work to make a bold and original statement." That was the view of North Sydney Art Prize judge Patrick Carroll, who awarded the Waterfront Prize to Jane Bennett for her work, The Window Washers, pictured.

This year's Art Prize attracted almost 200 entries from all over metropolitan Sydney; entrants were aged from three to 88 years. A new category was included in this year's competition, thanks to the generosity of local resident Marjorie Lansdell-Wilson, who sponsored prizes for a non-professional male and female aged over 65 years.

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FROM THE MAYOR



In the frantic pace of the 21st century, many of us don't feel we have time to participate in government. Between work and family commitments, we are often struggling to find even a little personal time, without shouldering responsibility for the wider community.

Yet I am convinced it is time we got more involved. Why do I feel strongly about this? Last year the State Government announced the Metropolitan Strategy as a way to move forward on important planning and infrastructure issues for Sydney.

While it got off to a flying start, it is now clear that the strategy will not deliver on its promise if the people of Sydney don't help to shape and own it. Sydney is facing some hard decisions. If we are to have a sustainable future, we need to consider changes to our lifestyle.

It will be political suicide for governments, from either side of politics, to make some of the hard decisions about infrastructure that are needed, unless we, the community, keep the debate open, make informed choices and support change.

North Sydney has a proud tradition of participation – since the legendary Ted Mack reformed the Council in the early 1980s, we have operated on the principles of open government and consultation. Yet many of the people who helped establish this culture are no longer in North Sydney, and people new to the area don't necessarily know North Sydney's history.

And so the Council plans to work hard to get you involved. We are going to create opportunities, such as the water and energy forum (see page 1) to keep people informed and involved in decisions that will have far-reaching effects on us. We are going to work with our precinct groups, so that they remain a vibrant mechanism for giving our community a voice.

North Sydney is fortunate to have many intelligent and talented people who can help find creative solutions to the issues we face as a community. I urge you to think about the decisions that are being made at all levels of government and to make time to have your say.

There is a saying that people get the quality of government they deserve. As a resident of North Sydney, I think we deserve the best. Let's make it happen.

On a sadder note, the wild winds in Sydney had a tragic consequence in Crows Nest recently with a street tree falling on one of our resident's car. Please be assured that we are reviewing our processes and street tree management. And yes, we will be asking you to have your say.

Genia McCaffery
Mayor

DIRECT DEMOCRACY contacting your councillors

If you are concerned about any issue in North Sydney, you may either write to the Council or contact a councillor directly. While it may be most helpful to contact your ward councillor for any issue in your immediate area, you are welcome to contact any of the councillors about any issue.

We've included contact details here, however, you'll find more information on our website at www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au

Go to council, then click on the mayor and councillors button.

To check which ward you are in, you can phone Council on 9936 8100 or click on the maps link in the quick links on the right hand side of our home page. Then select the ward boundaries map. You can zoom in on each ward, right down to street level, by using the zoom buttons beneath the map.

North Sydney Mayor	Cremorne Ward	Tunks Ward	Victoria Ward	Wollstonecraft Ward
Genia McCaffery Home: 9955 1560 Council: 9936 8100	Richard Pearson Work: 9929 3068 rpp@walkerdouglas.com	Paul Oglesby Home: 9954 3968 Mobile: 0411 213 043 oglpau@northsydney.nsw.gov.au	Jilly Gibson Home: 9964 9262 jillygibson@hotmail.com	Trent Zimmerman Home: 9460 1175 Mobile: 0419 690 617 trentzimmerman@hotmail.com
	Sarah Burke Mobile: 0403 551 153 bursar@northsydney.nsw.gov.au	Veronique Marchandau Home: 9955 3348 marver2060@yahoo.com.au	Michel Reymond Home: 9955 4330	Evan Predavec Home: 9922 3260 preeva@northsydney.nsw.gov.au
	Craig Carland Deputy Mayor Home: (02) 9953 4834 ccarland@bigpond.net.au	Patrick Conaghan Work: 9976 0215 patrickconaghan@bigpond.com	Virginia Bevan Home: 9956 8201	Nicholas Ritten Home: 9955 2576 nickritten@gmail.com

NORTH SYDNEY COUNCIL

200 Miller Street North Sydney NSW 2060

telephone 9936 8100

email council@northsydney.nsw.gov.au

PO Box 12 North Sydney NSW 2059

facsimile 9936 8177

website www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au

ADOPT A PLOT

Community Bushcare project Adopt a Plot is off to a great start, with more than 30 people from Cremorne Point registering interest in the project. Residents who have adopted an area of bushland will give three hours each month to work with a qualified bush regenerator, removing weeds and planting local native species on their plot. Other adopters have given a donation towards a bush regenerator working on their plot for four hours a month over the next year.

The project is the initiative of the Cremorne Point Bushcare groups, under the leadership of Trevor and Lerida Harrison, with support from Council and funding from the Australian Government Envirofund.

Bushcare Officer Megan Hughes said she was delighted that the majority of residents were opting to work with a trained bushland regenerator. "When you work alongside someone who knows and understands the bush, you build knowledge and skills that can't be taught in a better way.

"I'm also pleased that groups of neighbouring residents are wanting to adopt adjacent areas of bushland. Our aim over the next 12 months is to improve biodiversity for the future and rehabilitate habitat for native birds and animals. If we can regenerate corridors of bushland, we will get a better outcome in the long-term.

"However, residents who walk through the bushland at the Point shouldn't look for immediate results as we won't be pulling out weeds all at once. Some stands of weeds, such as lantana,



provide habitat for small birds so volunteers will be removing the weeds from their plots progressively as sufficient native species grow to provide habitat."

A STEPPING STONE to regenerated bushland

The before and after photos of this bushland at Primrose Park don't quite tell the full story. While the photo (left) looks lush and green, the area is in fact weed-ridden and badly degraded.

The photo (right) shows the slope after Council's bushland management team had completed sandstone capping. While the area now looks bare, it is at an exciting phase in its transformation to regenerated bush.

The crushed sandstone, which has been poured over the hillside, will help control the flow of stormwater from the suburban catchment above. Since Australian native plants are adapted to nutrient-poor soil, and Sydney plants are adapted to sandstone-derived free-draining soil, the pure crushed sandstone is a perfect new base for bushland restoration.

As the bush is regenerated, it is expected to become good habitat for native animals. The local area is known for its bird life and for Eastern Water Dragons that frequent the nearby Willoughby Falls at Grafton Street. The project was completed with funding from the Environmental Levy.



MEET DALE AND RACHEL two echos in a pod

The new buzz word on the streets of North Sydney is pods. Not groups of whales, but parking locations for shared cars.

Council has allocated on-street parking for car share vehicles in Kirribilli and McMahons Point. Carshare company GoGet is taking up the opportunity to provide residents with a range of vehicles, available on demand and on a pay-as-you-go basis. The first cars allocated to North Sydney are Toyota Echos, affectionately named Dale and Rachel.

Residents who join the scheme will be able to book a car via phone or internet, for as little as half an hour or as long as several days. Medium- to high-density areas are ideal for the scheme, as residents can have access to a car just a few minutes from their home.

Traffic engineer Cathy Edwards-Davis said independent studies have shown that each shared car replaces seven privately owned vehicles.

"Between 1996 and 2003 the population of North Sydney increased by more than 6000 people. At the same time, the proportion of people owning cars also increased, putting pressure on on-street parking.

"By reducing the number of privately owned vehicles, we hope to free up on-street parking and land available for other modes of transport. Residents who join a car sharing scheme save on the capital costs of owning a car. They also help the environment because they will be driving newer fuel-efficient vehicles."

For more information phone 1300 769 389 or visit www.goget.com.au

WHAT'S HAPPENING

PRIDE OF PLACE for our heritage treasures



An oar shaving tool from the family of Sydney's first ferryman Billy Blue, and swimming medals from local woman Joan Thomas, who represented Australia in the 1938 Empire Games at the then newly opened North Sydney Olympic Pool, are just a few of the local historic delights now housed permanently at North Sydney's new Heritage Centre.

The opening of the Centre in late July, attended by more than 150 guests, marked the completion of 18 months of major renovations

to Stanton Library. Along with the Heritage Centre, on the first floor, the library now has a new conference room, a new children's and young adults' area and improved offices.

North Sydney Mayor Genia McCaffery said the Heritage Centre is a huge asset for North Sydney. "It is very satisfying to know that we have created a purpose-built home for our historical collections that will allow them to be extended, used and treasured by future generations. In this era of constant change, I believe it is more important than ever to record our heritage. As a community we are stronger and can make better decisions when we understand our past."

Those wanting to delve into North Sydney's history won't be disappointed. The David Earle Local Studies Collection comprises comprehensive research 'vertical files', picture collections, books, reports, videos and family history databases. The Merle Coppell Oral History Collection has more than 300 interviews relating to the local area. The North Sydney Council Archives include rate and valuation books, building registers, correspondence files, minute books, and maps and plans useful for research into particular buildings and sites as well as North Sydney generally.

Another exciting feature of the Centre is the exhibition space. "I'm sure that people who come to the Heritage Centre to do research will enjoy working in the midst of historical exhibitions, rather than being tucked away in a dark corner," said Cr McCaffery.

REMBRANDT of luna park

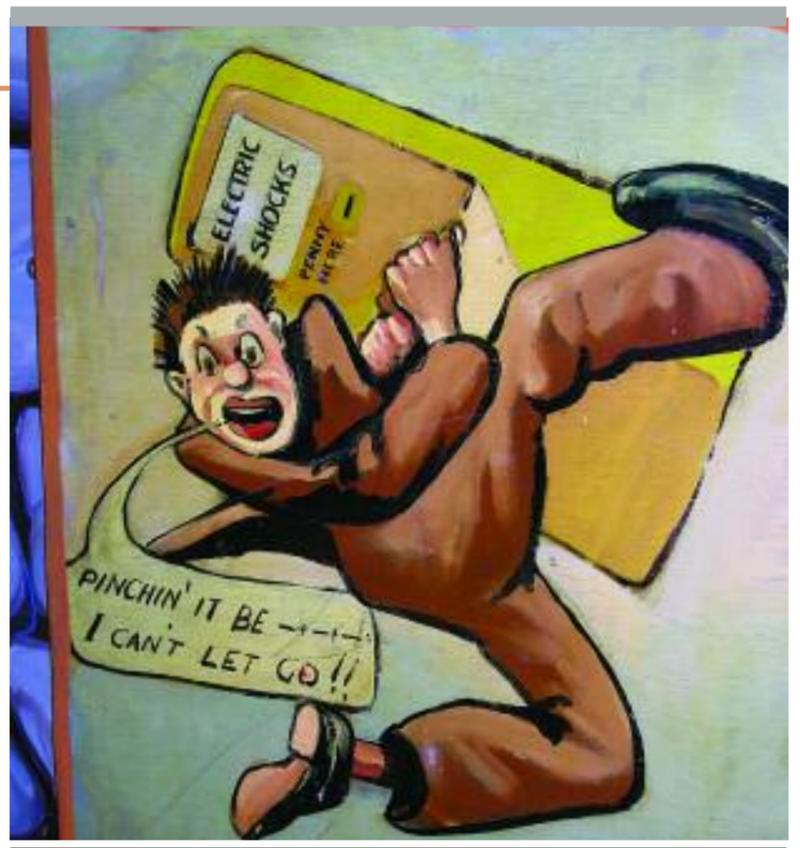
A lighter side of North Sydney's history – the work of Luna Park's famous comic artist Arthur Barton – is on show at the new Heritage Centre.

Rembrandt of Luna Park: The Art of Arthur Barton celebrates the 70th anniversary of Luna Park and showcases the work of Barton, who was employed as Luna Park's resident artist in 1935 when the park was being built – by many of the same people who had just finished building that other Sydney icon, the Harbour Bridge.

The exhibition was opened at the launch of the Heritage Centre by Radio National broadcaster Dr Alan Saunders.

As well as Barton's unpublished cartoons and comics, the exhibition brings together new research on his life, work and legacy and features original paintings from Luna Park, family photographs, Luna Park memorabilia and a newly completed portrait of Arthur by Luna Park's current resident artist Ashley Taylor.

Rembrandt of Luna Park runs at the Heritage Centre, on the first floor of Stanton Library, 234 Miller Street, until 4 December. Opening hours are Monday to Friday 9am-6pm, and weekends 10am-5pm. Entry is free.



AT STANTON

a lunchtime
literary
feast



MUSICAL CHAIRS continue at stanton

The Stanton Library renovations are complete but a number of sections will have temporary homes until the new North Sydney Community Centre is up and running.

The 30-year-old Community Centre building was demolished in July to make way for brand new premises, due to be completed next March. In the meantime, the Centre is operating out of the lower ground floor of Stanton Library.

The Children's Library, temporarily housed on the new top floor of

Stanton, will move to its permanent base on the lower ground floor when the new community centre is in operation.

Early Education Inc., also temporarily based on the top floor of Stanton, will move next year into upgraded premises in Cunningham St, next door to the new Community Centre.

At this time, Stanton Library technical services staff, relocated temporarily to offices in James Place, will return to the library building where they will be based on the top floor.

Budding authors, bookworms and bibliophiles have plenty of opportunities to indulge their interests with the Writers at Stanton program.

A joint initiative of Stanton Library and the Constant Reader Bookshop, the program brings a range of writers regularly to North Sydney. The author talks are followed by question time, light refreshments and book signing.

September's writers include Australian fantasy author Garth Nix, internationally renowned for his *Old Kingdom* trilogy and his *Keys to the Kingdom* series. The Sydney-based writer will introduce his new book *Across the Wall* on Tuesday 6 September at 1pm in Stanton Library.

Acclaimed journalist and author Gerald Stone talks about his new book, *1932*, at Stanton Library on Tuesday 13 September at 1pm. As his book shows, 1932 was an electrifying year in Australia's history: the Sydney Harbour Bridge opened by surprise with the slashing sword of Captain Francis de Groot; the birth of the Australian Broadcasting Commission; the mysterious death of the beloved race horse Phar Lap; the controversial dismissal of NSW Premier Jack Lang; and the start of cricket's infamous Bodyline series.

On Tuesday 20 September at 1pm, Australian author and journalist Malcolm Knox will introduce his new book, *Secrets of the Jury Room*, an utterly gripping look into the black box of criminal justice in Australia. According to the publishers, Malcolm Knox's recent experience of a long jury trial caused him to find chillingly apposite an old legal adage: you'd love to be in front of a jury if you'd committed a crime, but hate to be in front of one when you hadn't.

Afghani refugee and Australian mother Mahboba Rawi introduces her inspiring and extraordinary autobiography, *Mahboba's Promise*, on Thursday 22 September at 1pm. An Afghani refugee who found a new life in Australia only to lose her beloved son in a tragic drowning accident, Mahboba is the driving force behind Mahboba's Promise, a groundbreaking aid organisation that delivers food, shelter, medical attention, education - and hope - to hundreds of children and women whose lives have been destroyed by war in her native Afghanistan.

NEW GALLERY opens

Local artist Steven Laki was one of the first artists to exhibit in Council's new gallery space, which is located next to Primrose Park Art & Craft Centre, in Matora Lane (off Young Street), Cremorne.

Steven, whose genre is mainly portrait and figurative work, sold nine of approximately 40 artworks exhibited. Although he has exhibited at other local galleries, he says the advantage of the Primrose Park venue is the affordability of the space and the free parking, which is available on site.

Steven started drawing and painting at an early age, studying art with various teachers in Budapest until his studies were interrupted by compulsory military service. Since arriving in Australia in 1969, he has painted on a part-time basis until two years ago, when he relinquished a business career to continue his art full time.

Council has agreed to operate the gallery on a 12-month trial basis. The gallery is 17 metres by 7.2 metres, has a hanging system, lighting, toilet and kitchen facilities and parking. Bookings are accepted for a maximum of six days; the cost of hire is \$20 per day.

Stanton Library staff member Sandy Shilansky will hold an exhibition in the space from Sunday 25 September until Friday 30

September. For further information or to book the gallery, phone 9936 8200.

Vibrant village shopping strips and corner cafes are highly valued by North Sydney residents. So it was no surprise that residents, Bay Precinct members, local shopkeepers and members of the Cammeray Streetscape Committee turned out to celebrate the new



streetscaping at the Green Park village shops in Cammeray.

The shopping strip was given a smart new look with paving, lighting and topiary planting. The outdoor dining alcove has already become a popular place for local residents to enjoy a coffee. The nearby Lambert Street park was also upgraded, a pram ramp and new footpath creating easier access through the park.

NEWS in brief



Bike for Your Breakfast

Cyclists can enjoy a free breakfast later this month as part of North Sydney Council's celebrations of Bike Week. NSW Bike week runs from Saturday 17 September to Sunday 25 September. North Sydney's bike breakfast will be held on Friday 23 September from 7am at the base of the Harbour Bridge cycleway stairs. Breakfast is free for anyone riding a bike.

In a Safe Place

North Sydney and Mosman Councils, in conjunction with a number of other community organisations, have recently launched the Safe Place program. The program involves more than 20 local businesses and service organisations, offering to provide a safe place for gay, lesbian,

bisexual and transgender (GLBT) people who are feeling threatened. These organisations, identified by a pink triangle sticker on a door or window facing the street, support GLBT people by calling the police, comforting the individual or simply providing a space for someone to wait until they feel safe.

Wanted: Your Thoughts on Foreshore Access

Council is seeking public comment on a new strategy for access to North Sydney's foreshore. The strategy identifies all existing reserves, potential access points, barriers to access and ways to extend continuous access along the foreshore. The strategy can be viewed on Council's website www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au or at the Customer Service Centre and Stanton Library. Comments will be received until 5pm, Thursday 15 September 2005.

Inaugural Urban Design Awards

The best of North Sydney's buildings and architecture will be celebrated in the inaugural North Sydney Urban Design awards, to be held later this year. The awards recognise excellence, foster community awareness of the built environment and inspire better building for the future. They will be open to architects, designers, builders, clients and North Sydney residents. Categories will include new residential properties, residential alterations and additions, commercial / mixed use / public buildings, heritage design, environmental sustainable design, landscape design, and the people's choice awards. A panel of three independent, well-qualified and prominent professionals will judge the competition, which will be held every two years. More details and nomination forms will be posted on Council's website www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au

PRECINCT TELLS its story

Opportunities for getting involved in issues close to your home, business, or place of work or study, are revealed in a brochure to be launched this month by Stanton Precinct.

Precinct chairperson Barbara Noden says the brochure, written by Peter Groenwegen, Diane Fischer and Ellen Ryan, introduces Stanton Precinct to the community. "Many people have no idea of how going to a precinct meeting can make a difference," said Barbara, pictured with Diane Fischer (centre) and Ellen Ryan (right).

Ellen Ryan says the precinct committee saw a need for a tool to communicate with local people about what precincts were, how they worked, and the "things in the precinct area that need to be cherished and safeguarded. And that's why we chose the brochure."

She says one of the best things about precincts is the continuous interaction with Council "that enables us to be actively involved in the decision making processes. We are really lucky to be part of North Sydney Council's open government system."

Diane Fischer, a self-described "refugee" from another area on the lower North Shore "where we were never blest with a precinct," says precincts give communities an immediate connection to Council. "And we're also able to engender activities and address issues." Examples include Stanton's historical photographic project, and the North Sydney CBD liquor accord.

Diane says she lived in Stanton Precinct for years but thought she was too busy to be involved in the precinct. "Now I'm an addict."

Everyone in the Stanton Precinct community is welcome to attend the launch of the Stanton brochure on Saturday 10 September at 1pm, at the Ridge Street Lookout, St Leonards Park, North Sydney.



TRIBUTE to north sydney



Inner city living comes with its own frustrations – such as finding a park in crowded streets – but according to Milson Precinct member Don Jenkins the rewards far outweigh any disadvantages

We, who are lucky enough to live in North Sydney, are village people. Wherever you live in this area, you are likely to know your neighbours, people in the shops and those who take part in community activities. For empty nesters from places such as the Upper North Shore, this is a contrast. There, with high fences and locked gates, knowing your neighbours is an exception rather than the rule.

Some people retire up the coast, some down the coast, and some to the Gold Coast. We have seen these places and recognise their beauty. But we also value our friends in Sydney. In North Sydney we are so close to our neighbours we cannot ignore each other – but this is not an

invasion of privacy. We never lack friends or just someone to say hello to.

We have joined our precinct committee – they are very approachable and most professional. We learn our neighbours' views and have a say on local issues such as traffic, parking, development applications and civic services. It's most interesting to be part of the decision making process. Council listens to North Sydney people. They may not always agree, but we know they hear our collective voice.

So here we are – enjoying the lifestyle, the harbour, parks, walks, heritage architecture and all the services we need for a happy future. We eat at the Noodle Market with neighbours, take the ferry to Circular Quay, walk to The Rocks and go to the Dendy. Our Shih Tzu is no longer content with just any walk – he prefers to join the café society in Blues Point for brunch. We do love North Sydney.

NEW LIFE for inactive precincts

The North Sydney Council area has 24 precincts within its borders. While precincts have been a defining part of Council's history, inevitably they have not all operated all the time.

At present there are three inactive precincts – Brightmore and Harrison on the eastern edge of the Council area bordering Military Rd and Anderson Precinct on the eastern side of the freeway opposite the CBD.

Council wants to work with local communities to reactivate these precincts. Residents in the Anderson Precinct have scheduled a meeting in late August to gauge community support for the reactivation of the Precinct. With the right community spirit, Anderson Precinct should be up and running again by the time *North Sydney News* goes to print.

This leaves Brightmore and Harrison Precincts still to be reactivated. Council will provide any assistance necessary to help local communities in those areas to get their precincts going again. If you live, work or own property in either of these areas and are interested in getting your community more actively involved in consultation and community activities, we'd like to hear from you. For more information on reactivating a precinct, or precincts generally, please phone 9936 8100.

WHAT'S ON

In North Sydney in Spring

Arts/Music/Literature

Date		Enquiries
9 September	Walking with Cameras, a Creating Wellbeing Event, Kirribilli	9936 8100
11 & 12 September	Young Dramatists Page to Stage, Ensemble Theatre	9344 6543
September - 4 December	<i>Rembrandt of Luna Park: The Art of Arthur Barton</i> , Heritage Centre	9936 8400
17 - 25 September	History Week celebrations and walking tours www.historycouncilnsw.org.au	9936 8400
30 September	Expressive Art, a Creating Wellbeing Event, Kirribilli Neighbourhood Centre	9936 8100
16 October	The Marais Project Coffee Concert Series, Independent Theatre, 3pm	0412 459 155
21 October	Walking with Cameras, a Creating Wellbeing event, Kirribilli	9936 8100
19 - 20 November	Art Group Exhibition, Hutley Hall	9936 8187
11 November	Expressive Art, a Creating Wellbeing Event, Kirribilli Neighbourhood Centre	9936 8100

Community/Bushcare Events

Date		Enquiries
10 - 11 September	Boorowa Field Trip - Celebrate Biodiversity	9936 8224
13 September	Water and Energy Forum, Hutley Hall, 7.30pm	9936 8100
24 September	Native Plant Identification workshop	9936 8258
15 October	Wildlife Awareness Course, Hutley Hall	9936 8258
16 October	Crows Nest Fair, Willoughby Rd	9439 8220
22 October	North Sydney Children's Festival, Civic Park	9936 8186
23 October	Neutral Bay Fair, Rangers Rd, 9am - 4pm	0415 923 993
4 November	Noodle Market Opening Concert, Civic Park	9936 8100
5 November	Build a Frog Bog	9936 8258
6 November	Hayes Street Party, Hayes St Ferry Area	0411 105 760
19 November	Plant Propagation Workshop, Ku-ring-gai Community Nursery	9936 8258

Markets

Noodle Markets - every Friday evening, weather permitting from 5pm to 10pm during daylight saving. The market is held in Civic Park between Council Chambers and Stanton Library on Miller Street, North Sydney. The first market for this year will be on 4 November.

North Sydney Markets - second Saturday of every month in Civic Park, Miller Street, North Sydney. Enquiries: 9922 2286

Crows Nest Markets - third Saturday of every month at Crows Nest Centre, 2 Ernest Place, Crows Nest. Enquiries: 0412 210 084

Kirribilli Markets - fourth Saturday of every month, corner of Fitzroy and Albert Streets (western side of the Harbour Bridge). Enquiries: 9922 4428

HAYES STREET PARTY the success continues

The incredible success and growing popularity of the Hayes Street Precinct Street Party continues. The fifth Hayes Street Party will be held on Sunday, 6 November from 2pm to 6pm.

There will be food, drink, and free entertainment including live music, a talent quest, face painting, balloons, jumping castle, live performances including belly dancing, flamenco and modern dance demonstration, a miniature animal farm for the kids, friendly people and loads of fun for the family.

Organised by the Hayes Precinct with help from local residents, Council and businesses, this is a celebration of the local area and its community and is based around the Hayes Street Ferry area and encompassing the Hayes and Kurraba Precincts. Hayes Street, south of Lower Wycombe Road, will be closed from 1pm.

So if you are around on Sunday, 6 November and can get to the Hayes Street Ferry area after 2pm, please join us. Why stay at home when a community party is just down the road?

For more information please contact Stephen Barbour on 0411 105 760 or email Projects@barbourfilms.com.au

TROPICAL FLAVOUR for children's festival

The popular North Sydney Children's Festival returns to Civic Park, next to Stanton Library, on Saturday 22 October, from 10am to 2pm. An action-packed day of family fun and food is in store and this year's festival will take on a tropical theme. Children are invited to don their best exotic beach gear.

Entertainment includes the unique children's band Baby Cino, as well as high-energy performers Go Seek, Irish dancers, the All Star Dancers and North Sydney Girls' High Band. Maisy the Mouse will make a special appearance. Other activities include a baby animal farm, a book fair, face painting, a jumping castle, dancing and a range of stalls. The festival is free and is suitable for families with children up to 12 years of age.

