



# Lights out!

Can you do without electric lights for one hour between 7.30pm and 8.30pm on Saturday 31 March 2007?

That's the challenge being set for all North Sydney residents and businesses as part of the inaugural Earth Hour. North Sydney Council – along with Parramatta and the City of Sydney – has volunteered to be a guinea pig for the event, which asks residents and business owners to do without electric lights and, if possible, other appliances for one hour on 31 March.

Mayor Genia McCaffery said residents and businesses wishing to be involved in Earth Hour are being asked to log their participation on the website [www.earthhour.org](http://www.earthhour.org) so that accurate data can be obtained to measure the difference being made to greenhouse gas emissions. Registered participants will receive a free info pack with tips to reduce power use and greenhouse gas emissions.

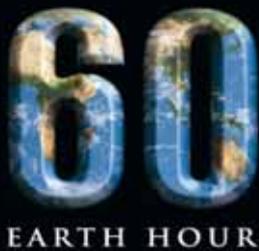
“The idea has caught on quickly and residents across Sydney are now expressing interest in getting involved,” Cr McCaffery said. “In my role as President of the Local Government Association I have written to all Sydney mayors asking them to support Earth Hour.

“If we achieve the target of cutting power use by just 5% during Earth Hour, it will be the equivalent of taking 75,000 cars off the road.”

Apart from participating in Earth Hour, residents and businesses can also do some other simple energy saving things to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. These include turning appliances off at the power point when they are not being used.

Appliances which are left turned on at the power point can add around 5% to the average power bill. Switching to Green Power, which uses solar, wind and other renewable energy sources, is another way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

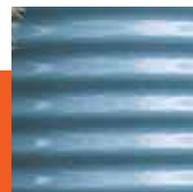
Cr McCaffery said she was hopeful that North Sydney households and businesses would rise to the Earth Hour challenge. “Global warming and climate change is one of the most serious threats facing our world. Any action we can take at a local level will help reduce this threat. I hope Earth Hour will be a first step towards changing our community attitudes to energy use.”



## Stop Press

Free Energy Forum - 17 April

ABC *Stateline* presenter Quentin Dempster will chair an energy forum at the Hutley Hall, 200 Miller St, North Sydney from 6.30pm to 9pm on Tuesday 17 April. Bookings essential - phone 9936 8100



# From the Mayor



If you've turned to this column without reading our front page story on Earth Hour, then can I urge you to go back and do so.

Council is fully behind the Earth Hour initiative, but we can't make a real difference without your support. So please, make a commitment now to turn off your lights on 31 March between 7.30pm and 8.30pm and write yourself a reminder in your diary.

It may seem like an insignificant thing to do in the face of the environmental challenge before us. But I promise you, every individual step towards reducing energy use contributes to a much larger change in community attitudes.

Many people tell me they are quite willing to make changes to the way they live, but they're too busy to think about it. When you turn off your lights on 31 March, I urge you to spend some time identifying what other small changes you and your household could make to reduce your energy use. Don't be put off by extreme examples of environmentally friendly living – just look for ideas that you feel comfortable with.

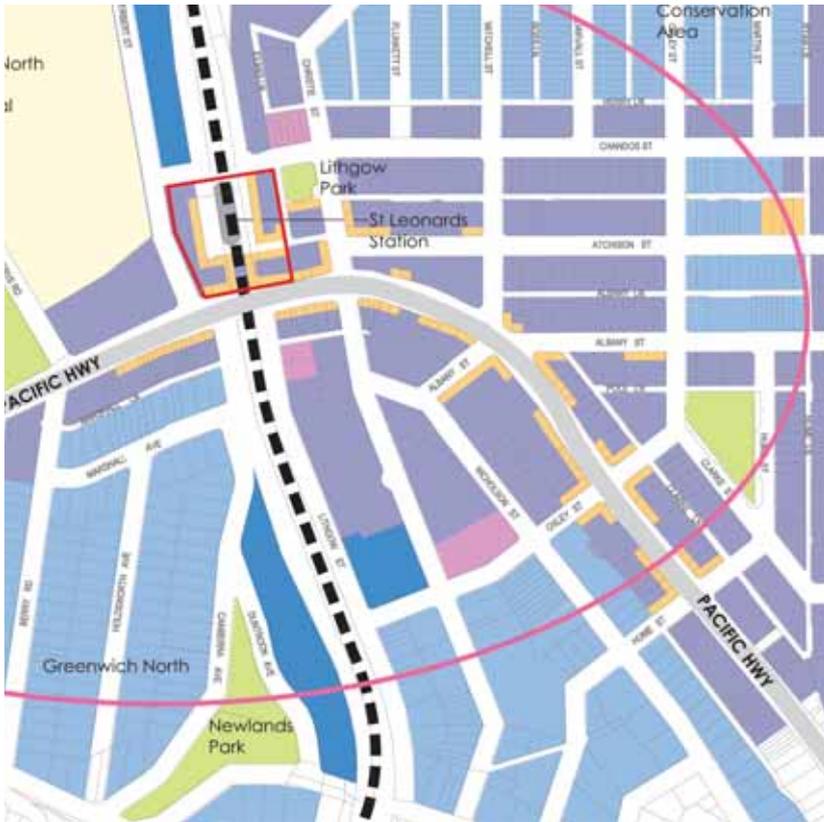
I hope you find the example of the Crows Nest Centre (page 9) as inspirational as I do. The Centre joined Council's sustainable businesses program and were delighted to discover that with a few small changes to the way they operate, they could save \$1000 on their energy bill each month!

As this issue was going to the printers, we had confirmation that the ABC TV presenter Quentin Dempster would chair an energy forum for us on 17 April. The forum will explore the advantages and disadvantages of different forms of energy generation. Quentin chaired a water and energy forum for us a few years ago, which was a huge success and I'm sure this will be the same. The forum is free, but bookings are essential so get in early to secure a place.

Finally, this issue also includes details of our customer satisfaction survey, which we conducted late last year. The survey found that *North Sydney News* is one of the main ways our community gets its news about Council. We get very positive feedback about the newsletter, but many people did find its size hard to manage. We listened to you and so this year we have changed to a smaller format. I hope you like it.

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# St Leonards on highway to growth



A 20-year plan to turn St Leonards into a vibrant urban centre has been adopted by Council. The St Leonards Strategy, developed in conjunction with Willoughby and Lane Cove Councils and the NSW Department of Planning, recognises the suburb's importance as an employment and transport hub for northern Sydney.

The strategy aims to strengthen St Leonards' role as a major economic centre, create a sense of place and public amenity, and provide better planning coordination between the three Councils.

For North Sydney Council, the most significant change proposed for St Leonards is to rezone parts of the Pacific Highway, Chandos and Christie Streets from mixed use to commercial. This change is in line with the agreed State Government target for 8000 extra jobs to be located in St Leonards by 2031.

Senior strategic planner David Parsell said the areas to be rezoned were underdeveloped and

could accommodate further commercial growth without negative impacts on adjoining buildings, adding that "current height controls for these areas won't be changed by the strategy".

Mr Parsell said the St Leonards Strategy would also address issues such as poor pedestrian access. "One of the major problems has been the divisive effect of the Pacific Highway and the railway line on the suburb as a whole," he said.

"The Strategy proposes solutions such as a pedestrian and bike path network linking major buildings such as the TAFE college and the Royal North Shore Hospital to the railway station."

To achieve a unified look and feel for St Leonards, the strategy also recommends Willoughby and Lane Cove Councils adopt the streetscape standards of North Sydney. These standards would encompass street furniture, paving and also tree plantings.

For more information visit [www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/council/majorprojects](http://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/council/majorprojects)

St Leonards will become more unified under a new strategy for its future development.



# Graythwaite fights for survival



The battle to save this historic estate has moved to the Supreme Court.

Council is continuing the battle to save the historic Graythwaite estate, with a hearing listed in the Supreme Court later this month.

At the heart of the battle is the future use of the estate, which was originally gifted to the public by the Dibbs family for use as a convalescent home. The deed of transfer signed by Thomas Dibbs in 1915 speaks of his wish for Graythwaite to be used “for our sick and wounded soldiers and sailors, and when not required for that purpose, as a convalescent home in perpetuity for distressed citizens of the British Empire, regardless of sect or creed”.

NSW Health has owned Graythwaite since 1980 when it took over the estate and grounds from the International Red Cross. Currently, a third of the estate is used as respite care and a hospital for elderly dementia patients, with the Graythwaite mansion in disuse.

The State Government is now attempting to sell off the estate for development, but Council, along with members of the Dibbs family

and the Friends of Graythwaite, is fighting any sell-off.

At the hearing in March, a date is expected to be set for the Court to begin considering arguments by NSW Health that the Graythwaite deed of trust should be broken, as the trust can no longer be fulfilled at Graythwaite.

Mayor Genia McCaffery said North Sydney had a long history of fighting to retain important land in public ownership and the Council would not back down in its efforts to save Graythwaite. “If NSW Health sells part of the estate for development as proposed, they will not only be breaking a deed of trust, but also denying us the chance to retain one of North Sydney’s most important heritage items.”

Graythwaite is located between Edward and Union Streets, North Sydney with the entrance to the public at 50 Union Street. For more information about the battle to save the site and the Friends of Graythwaite visit

[www.graythwaite.org.au](http://www.graythwaite.org.au)



# Business satisfaction up

Satisfaction with Council's services remains high, with 87% of residents and 77% of business people expressing satisfaction with Council overall in our customer survey late last year.

Satisfaction levels among business people jumped significantly from 61% in 2004 to 77% in 2006. Resident satisfaction with the cleanliness of roads increased from 72% to 77%, while dissatisfaction with the maintenance of malls and plazas decreased from 12% to just 7%.

General Manager Penny Holloway said the results reflected the work Council had put into these areas since the 2004 survey.

"We've worked hard to connect better with business people on issues that are important to them, such as the future of the CBD. We have also allocated more money to street cleaning so I'm pleased our efforts have been noticed and appreciated by residents."

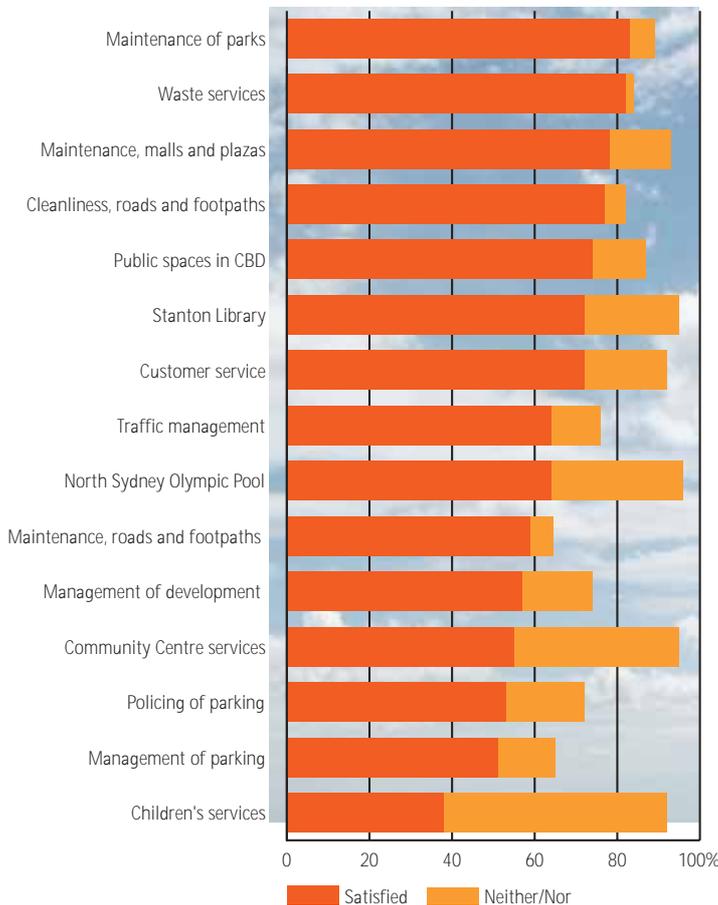
However, both residents and business owners believe the Council needs to do more to maintain roads and footpaths and to manage parking.

"We will look at how we can spend more on roads and footpaths in the coming budget," Ms Holloway said. "Parking is a more complex issue – 40% of dissatisfied residents think that parking is under-policed, while 49% of dissatisfied businesses think it is over-policed."

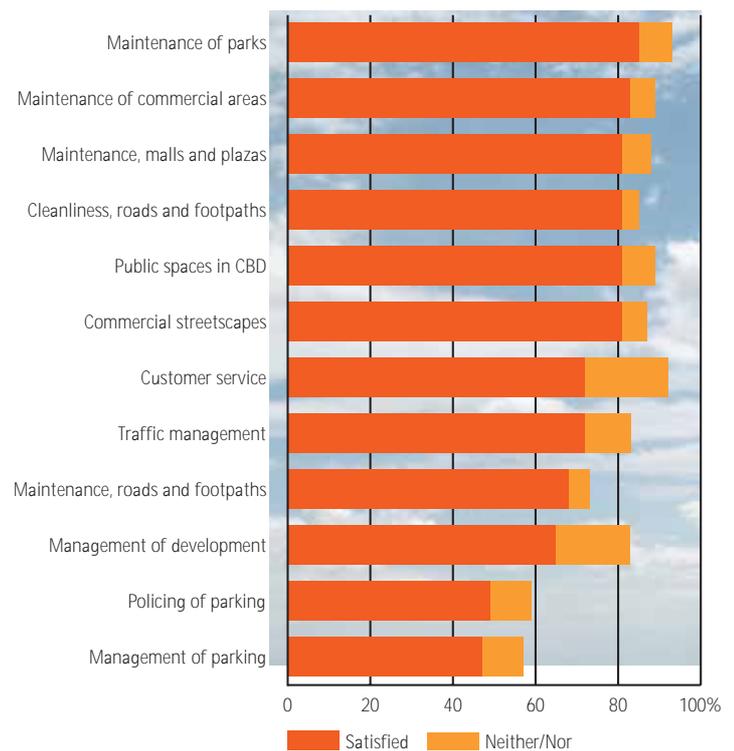
Maintaining roads and footpaths and parks and reserves remained a priority for residents in 2006, however, they placed higher priority on children's services than in 2004. Businesses also placed high priority on maintaining roads and footpaths, as well as the management of parking.

The survey, which was conducted by an independent market research company, involved 400 residents and 200 businesses selected randomly. The full report is on Council's website.

Resident satisfaction



Business satisfaction



# Spanning the harbour and the years – our Bridge turns 75



The Sydney Harbour Bridge will celebrate its 75th birthday on Sunday 18 March and Sydneysiders are being invited to join the celebrations hosted by the NSW Government, North Sydney and the City of Sydney.

Topping the list of events will be an historic north-south walk across the Bridge on Sunday 18 March from 10am, starting at Bradfield Park in Milsons Point. The event will recreate the walk by Sydneysiders, when the bridge was officially opened to excited onlookers in 1932.

NSW Premier Morris Iemma said the walk would give Sydneysiders “a chance to say Happy Birthday to the Bridge from all of us”.

To register for the walk, participants must log onto the official website at [www.ourbridge.com.au](http://www.ourbridge.com.au) and indicate what time they are planning to walk across. The Bridge will be closed to all vehicles on the day from 5am to 10pm. Alternative routes to the city for

motorists are available on the RTA transport line 132 701. For full details of road closures visit [www.rta.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au)

Following the walk, the public are invited to party on at the Rocks and Darling Harbour.

As part of the celebrations, a new heritage walk, through Bradfield Park North at Milsons Point, will be opened on 17 March.

The walk features a series of interpretive signs along the path from the heritage rockery garden at the northern end of the park near Lavender Street, through to Milsons Point Station just below the bridge. The signs tell the story of various aspects of the area’s progressive development starting with Indigenous occupation of the area; early European settlement; the resumption and demolition of the many properties for construction of the Harbour Bridge; and the creation of Bradfield Park from the remaining land.





## Events

Other events being held to celebrate the Sydney Harbour Bridge's 75th anniversary include:

**Sydney Harbour Bridge walking tour, 9 & 11 March, 10am-12.30pm**

Join North Sydney Council and the City of Sydney's historians Ian Hoskins and Lisa Murray on a free National Trust Heritage Festival walking tour. Each tour will explore the history, landscape and stories of the land resumptions that took place to make way for the construction of the Bridge. The tour will begin in Lang Park in the City, move along Cumberland Street in the Rocks before crossing the Bridge to explore resumed land around Alfred Street, Milsons Point. Participants can then enjoy refreshments at one of the many cafes in Kirribilli. Wear sunscreen, a hat and sturdy shoes and bring water to drink; there are some steps to climb.  
Bookings essential: 9936 8400.

**Sydney Harbour Air Show & Water Display  
Sunday 18 March, all day**

Be entertained by a coordinated display of air and sea power, from tall ships to defence force vessels, plus flyovers of historic and modern airplanes. An anniversary sailing regatta will also take place on the day and local boat owners are encouraged to participate. Visit [www.maritime.nsw.gov.au](http://www.maritime.nsw.gov.au) for more details on how to join in and the best vantage points.

**Indigenous Smoking Ceremony,  
Sunday 18 March at 7pm  
Sydney Harbour Bridge**

Directed by leading Indigenous artist Stephen Page, this traditional smoking ceremony will take place along the length of the Bridge. Drums containing eucalyptus leaves will be lit at sunset by community elders and children to honour the past spirits of the land.

**Entertainment elsewhere,  
Sunday 18 March, all day**

Following your historic walk across the Bridge, head down to Darling Harbour and the Rocks for lunch or dinner and enjoy free entertainment while you relax. Other venues for Bridge celebrations include Walsh Bay, Observatory Hill and the Museum of Sydney. Visit [www.ourbridge.com.au](http://www.ourbridge.com.au) for full details.

**Exhibition, Stanton Library Heritage Centre, 23 March – 31 October**

The Centre will host a film and exhibition *The Shifting of Old North Sydney*. The film shows how the building of the Bridge affected local people and led to the creation of icons such as Luna Park and the North Sydney Olympic Pool. Highlights include interviews with residents who remember old North Sydney and accounts from people who lost their homes to make way for the Bridge. The exhibition features maps, photographs and objects. Enquiries: 9936 8400.



# Installing a rainwater tank – what you need to know

With no sign of an end to the current drought, now is a good time to install a water tank on your property.

Sydney Water is currently offering a rebate of up to \$800 to any resident installing a rainwater tank. Rainwater is not recommended for drinking, but is ideal for flushing toilets, washing machines and for outdoor use.

The size of the rebate depends on the capacity of the tank and whether you have it hooked up for use in the toilet or the washing machine. If you decide to go the whole way, you'll need to contact Sydney Water for some plumbing advice and use a licensed plumber to connect the tank. Even if you install a rainwater tank that's only used for watering your garden, the savings are significant.

Council is currently reviewing its controls for installing a water tank. If your residence is a heritage item, or you live in a conservation zone, you will need Council consent. Contact our Customer Service Centre on 9936 8100 for advice.

In other areas, you do not need to lodge a development application to install a rainwater tank as long as it complies with State Government guidelines (SEPP 4:16). These guidelines cover a wide range of issues such as the

tank's location on your land, excavation, the source of water and tank features.

For instance, the tank must:

- \* be structurally sound and installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions
- \* have a first-flush device, that causes initial run-off to bypass the tank to reduce pollutants
- \* be enclosed, and any inlet screened or filtered.



When installing the tank, you must ensure that:

- \* you do not excavate or fill more than one metre from the existing ground level
- \* the tank does not rest on the footing of any building or other structure, including a retaining wall
- \* any overflow is directed into an existing stormwater system

You can find a link to the full guidelines from Council's website at [www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/development/factsheets](http://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/development/factsheets)

If you phone for an appointment, Council staff will talk to you about your proposed tank location and explain any guidelines that aren't clear.

Some key points to remember are:

- A minimum tank size of 5000 litres is best
- If connecting the tank to an outdoor irrigation system, install a filter to stop algae and debris blocking the system
- Once installed, try and use the rainwater tank daily to reduce run-off and increase storage capacity.

Another water and money-saving incentive to consider is Sydney Water's \$150 rebate if you purchase a new water-efficient washing machine with a 4 or 5 star rating from an approved supplier. Compared with older models, water-efficient washing machines can save up to 21,000 litres of water a year. Contact Sydney Water on 13 20 93 to find out more.

## Sustainability rewards



*Crows Nest Community Centre venue manager Nelia Justo – cut the centre's monthly electricity bill by \$1000.*

Crows Nest Community Centre venue manager Nelia Justo got a very pleasant surprise when she opened the Centre's electricity bill late last year. It was \$1000 less than the previous month, thanks to the Centre's participation in the Sustainable Cities program.

The 12-month program, an initiative of North Sydney and Lane Cove Councils, was set up last year to help small businesses reduce greenhouse gas emissions, water and energy use.

The program encouraged businesses to carry out an audit of their water and energy use and identify ways of boosting their bottom line through cost savings.

Ms Justo said the community centre's audit showed that they could reduce their air conditioning use by turning it on only in areas that were actually being used. "We realised that we had the air conditioning on all day in meeting rooms that were used only in the evening. So we set up a trial for a month where we reduced the air conditioning wherever we could, and our electricity bill was reduced by \$1000."

The program, which has also been endorsed by the Crows Nest Chamber

of Commerce, marked the completion of its first year in February with a special prize giving.

Top award winners included the following businesses:

- Bean Drinking Café, Crows Nest - Environment Award, for outstanding achievements in reducing water, waste and energy use
- Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, Crows Nest - Cultural Award, for promoting a culture of sustainability to customers and staff
- Renegade Cycles, Lane Cove - Economic Award, for financial savings achieved through retro fitting
- Lane Cove Toy Library – Social Award, for promoting the program to local businesses

Audits of energy, waste and water savings will be finalised shortly and published by both Councils to encourage other businesses to join the program. For more information about the Sustainable Cities program in North Sydney contact 9936 8467.



# News in brief

## Paving the way

After lengthy consultation with business-owners and residents, sandstone has been selected as the material of choice to repave North Sydney CBD's footpaths.

The Council has allocated \$2 million this year towards the renewal work, already well underway at the Victoria Cross intersection. Other features of the new-look CBD are specially designed seating and tree grates

that will progressively replace existing street furniture.

To reduce visual clutter, street lighting, traffic signals and other signage will be mounted on 'multi-function' poles.

General Manager Penny Holloway said she was pleased the upgrade was finally underway. "We have been trialling different types of sandstone and ways of laying it to ensure that our new paving wears as well as it looks. I'm sure people will be delighted with the new style and feel of Victoria Cross when the work is finished."



## Website open for business

Council's website now includes a new section for small business. Council's Planning Administration Manager Melinda Roche said the new section would help small business owners, particularly those based at home, to interact more effectively with the Council.

"There are many ways in which Council has an impact on businesses. This section has been designed to cut through the red tape and make it easier for people to understand the regulations that apply to their business."

The new section takes a step-by-step approach to common issues such as footpath trading, parking, waste management and signage.

It also gives detailed advice to businesses such as hairdressers and food outlets that are subject to inspection by Council officers.

Ms Roche said the new section includes helpful information for marketing and business development, such as consumer demographics and retail sales activity in North Sydney. "For those working from home, which can be lonely at times, there are also details of networking opportunities through local chambers of commerce."

To visit the new section, log onto [www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/business](http://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/business)



**Correction** An article in the summer edition of *North Sydney News* about special caves being built into the new seawall at McMahons Point, to encourage invertebrates to grow, contained an error about the partners involved in this initiative. The project is a partnership between marine biologists from the University of Sydney and Council's engineering team. Apologies to the University of Sydney for any inconvenience caused.

## Citizens of the year

North Sydney's Citizen of the Year is Tim Hughes. Mr Hughes received the award for his pivotal role in the Save Graythwaite campaign, including coordinating the prolonged publicity campaign to keep Graythwaite in public ownership and working on the site to re-establish the estate's gardens.

Students from Cammeray Public School - Hattie Poiner, Edie Warne and Molly Simond (pictured below) - shared the Young Citizen of the Year Award in recognition of their fundraising efforts for Kids Save Whales. The girls organised guest speakers for the school and raised \$1100 for the cause.



# What's on in North Sydney in Autumn

## Seniors Week

- 11 March Actors forum presents *Memoir*, a play reading based on Sarah Bernhardt's life, at the Independent Theatre at 2pm. Tickets \$20 conc. \$15 at door from 1pm: **9300 9007**
- 
- 12 March Free internet tutorial – especially for seniors. Finding authors on the net and setting up your own literary blog: **9936 8411**
- 
- 13 March Free internet tutorial – especially for seniors. Booking holidays on the net: **9936 8411**
- 
- 13 & 15 March Aqua Aerobics at North Sydney Olympic Pool, cost \$13.20, conc. \$10 - bookings essential, from 5 March: **9936 8368**
- 
- 14 March A free tour of Stanton Library plus morning tea - especially for seniors: **9936 8411**
- 
- 14 March A free car maintenance workshop at Kirribilli Neighbourhood Centre between 10am and 12 noon especially for seniors – bookings essential: **9936 8195**
- 
- 15 March *Stories to Tell* – older residents' stories performed by the Actors Forum, Hutley Hall, North Sydney Council: **9936 8187**.  
A free internet tutorial for seniors – paying your bills on the net: **9936 8411**
- 
- 16 March Free email tutorial, especially for seniors: **9936 8411**. Also a special low-cost seniors luncheon with entertainment at the Crows Nest Centre: **9439 5122**
- 
- 23 March Free movie screening for seniors with the premiere of *Becoming Jane* the Walsh Cinema, at the Orpheum, Cremorne. A romantic story about Jane Austen starring Maggie Smith, Anne Hathaway and Julie Walters: **9936 8100**
- 

## Markets

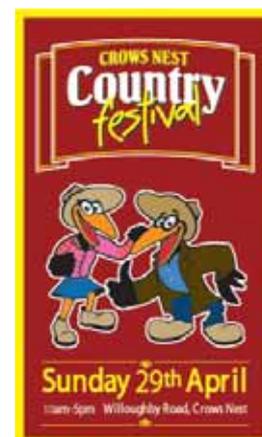
- 2nd Sat every month  
North Sydney Markets, Civic Park, Miller Street North Sydney 9922 2286
- 
- 3rd Sat every month  
Northside Produce Market, Civic Park, Miller Street North Sydney 9922 2299
- 
- 3rd Sat every month  
Crows Nest Markets, 2 Ernest Place Crows Nest 0412 210 084
- 
- 4th Sat every month  
Kirribilli Markets, Burton Street Tunnel and Bradfield Park Milsons Point 9922 4428
- 
- 2nd Sun every month  
Kirribilli Art & Design Markets, Burton Street Tunnel Milsons Point 9922 4428
- 
- Every Friday 5pm-10pm  
Noodle Market, Civic Park 0412 335 660 until daylight savings ends



## The country comes to Crows Nest

Move over Tamworth! The sounds and tastes of the country are coming to North Sydney again at the third Crows Nest Country Festival on Sunday 29 April. Featuring established country music stars and upcoming performers, the free day-long festival will also have plenty of yummy produce on offer to sample and buy.

The festival will take place in Willoughby Road, Crows Nest, kicking off at 11am and finishing around 5pm. There will also be pony rides and an animal petting farm for the kids. For all enquiries contact Lauren Moore on 0416 057 993.



## Community events

3 - 18  
March

National Trust Heritage Festival. This year's theme is *Places in Context: Cultural and Natural Landscapes* with walks and talks by Stanton Library staff: **9936 8400**

6 March

Free seminar for parents of young learner drivers at Hutley Hall, North Sydney Council: **9936 8100**

9 March

International Women's Day luncheon at the Crows Nest Centre: **9439 5122**

12 March

Bill Coppel Young Writers Awards open for entries: **9936 8400**  
(Presentation of awards on 6 June).

16 March  
& 4 May

*Walking With Cameras* a free event with walking and photography through the Creating Wellbeing program: **9938 8411**

18 March

75th Anniversary of the Sydney Harbour Bridge. Various activities, including a communal walk across the Bridge: **1300 884 899** or [www.ourbridge.com.au](http://www.ourbridge.com.au)

21 March

Harmony Day and migrant information exhibition at the Crows Nest Centre: **9936 8195**

23 March -  
31 Oct

*They're shifting old North Sydney* - an exhibition at Stanton Library exploring the impact of the building of the Sydney Harbour Bridge on the local community: **9936 8400**

30 March -  
1 April

Silent Film Festival. The Walsh Cinema, Cremorne Orpheum. Classics of early cinema starring Charlie Chaplin, Buster Keaton, Laurel and Hardy and more with guest compere David Stratton: **9252 5265** or visit [www.ozsilentfilmfestival.com.au](http://www.ozsilentfilmfestival.com.au)

5 April

Easter luncheon and hat parade at the Crows Nest Centre: **9439 5122**

13 April  
& 18 May

*Potting With Pim* - potting through the Creating Wellbeing program at North Sydney Community Centre: **9936 8411**

14-22  
April

National Youth Week, including the Shoreshocked Festival in St Leonards Park on 14 April: **9936 8190**

22 April

ANZAC Memorial Service at the Anzac Club, North Sydney from 2.30pm: **9923 1942**

27 April

ANZAC Day Remembrance Luncheon at the Crows Nest Centre: **9439 5122**

29 April

Crows Nest Country Festival in Willoughby Road 11am-5pm. Bringing the sounds and tastes of the country to North Sydney: **9439 8220** or **0416 057 993**

15-20 May

Meet Tibetan monks at Hutley Hall: **9936 8187**

24 May -  
7 July

The Guringai Festival, a celebration of the culture of Indigenous people in northern Sydney. Full details of events published in May: **9936 8411**

1 June

Write a message for Reconciliation and place it on our *Tree of Hope*. Free Indigenous entertainment. Civic Park, North Sydney: **9936 8411**

## Calling young writers!

Stanton Library is now seeking entries from budding young writers and poets aged 11 to 18 years for our ever-popular Bill Coppel Young Writers Awards. Organiser Yasmin Greenhalgh from Stanton Library said young writers should submit one poem or a short story of not more than 750 words. Prizes are valued at over \$2000.

The closing date for entries is 4 May. Entry forms can be downloaded from the Council's website at [www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au](http://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au) from 12 March. Phone 9936 8449 for more details.

