



Wildlife protection proposal

Five significant bushland areas in the North Sydney Council area may soon be declared Wildlife Protection Areas, which would make them off-limits to cats.

Council is seeking public comment on the proposal, which covers Tunks and Primrose Parks in Cammeray, Smoothery Park/Gore Cove and Badangi Reserves in Wollstonecraft and Balls Head Reserve in Waverton.

Wildlife Protection Areas are already operating successfully in the Willoughby, Ku-ring-gai, Hornsby, Ryde, Manly, Warringah and Pittwater council areas.

Bushland Management Coordinator Gareth Debney said that in other northern Sydney councils, the wildlife protection areas, operating in conjunction with fox baiting, had resulted in native animals such as Swamp Wallabies returning to the bushland. In contrast, North Sydney's bushland has fewer native animals because there is still significant predation by feral and domestic cats.

"Council's wildlife watch program has identified 114 native species including birds, reptiles, amphibians and insects. This is a remarkable level of diversity given the limited amount of habitat and the level of degradation from weeds, dumped green waste and uncontrolled stormwater.

"Some of the native species at risk from cat predation are the superb fairy wren, the white-browed scrub wren and the spotted pardalote. Reducing predation in our larger bushland areas will give these birds a better chance of survival."

If Wildlife Protection Areas are introduced in North Sydney, people living near those areas will need to keep their cats out of the bushland reserves. Owners of cats that are repeatedly found in a reserve may face fines of up to \$880.

North Sydney Mayor Genia McCaffery said the Council recognised that wildlife protection areas would mean some residents living near reserves would need to make changes to the way they manage their cats. "There is a wide range of products and strategies available to help cats adjust to smaller territories.

"There are strong ecological arguments for keeping cats out of reserves, but Council wants to gauge community opinion before we make any decision. I encourage people to write to Council so that we can fully understand community views and concerns."

At risk from predation: spotted pardalote (top), white-browed scrub wren (above left) and superb fairy wren.

Photos courtesy of Peter Smith

Verge mowing to return

Verge mowing will return to North Sydney in the coming months. At its meeting on 1 February, Council resolved unanimously to tender a verge mowing contract across the North Sydney Council area. It also resolved to seek quotes for a one-off mow while the details of the tender are

being finalised. Council resolved that the cost of any mowing in this financial year would be funded from investment revenue.

Mayor Genia McCaffery said that the verge mowing service was one of many budget cuts made for the 2009/10 financial year. "However, our community has made it clear they believe verge mowing is a priority, so Council has agreed to reinstate mowing which will reduce funds available for other projects."

From the Mayor



Thirty years ago, someone being interviewed for television news was given several minutes to make a point. Today, the average length of comment is just eight seconds.

Not surprisingly, this has led to the clever “grab” that summarises a viewpoint in just a few words – the wittier, the better. The grab has significantly added to the entertainment value of our news, but at what cost?

Issues that will define our community and our city for decades to come are being condensed into just a couple of sentences. That’s barely enough information to explain the issue, let alone make an informed judgement about it.

In recent days I have been responding to accusations that local councils are stockpiling millions in developer levies while still seeking rate rises. As always, the explanation for this is complex. For starters, developer levies go towards capital projects. Councils need rate rises to meet the cost of recurrent expenditure such as maintenance.

The accounts look healthy because we need to save for large infrastructure projects. Although the State Government allows some flexibility in internal borrowing of funds, there is little point in advancing one project if it moves another equally important project back for more than a decade. In short, there

are strict laws governing how developer levies are collected and spent and they can’t be explained in eight seconds.

Planning doesn’t condense to a few sentences either. Over the past few years, the State Government has made it clear that it fully supports growth and development for Sydney.

Council has made representations to the State Government over the proposed marina at Berrys Bay, which breaches both the Masterplan guidelines and the development controls. I don’t want to pre-empt the result of those submissions.

But I am concerned that Councils are being made to look “against” development, and by default against the economic health of NSW, when we seek adherence to Masterplans, or building height plane controls or environmental impact statements – all the things that allow us to create safe, livable environments.

Government is not black and white. It is a subtle spectrum of grey. As a community, if we want to preserve the things we value, we’re going to have to come to terms with complexity and look behind the condensed messages. If we don’t, we’ll condemn our discussions of public policy to the smartest, funniest and shortest summaries someone can write.

Mayor	Genia McCaffery	H: 9955 1560	W: 9936 8113	mayor@northsydney.nsw.gov.au
Cremorne Ward	Sarah Burke	M: 0403 551 153		sarah.burke@northsydney.nsw.gov.au
	Craig Carland	H: 9953 4834		ccarland@bigpond.net.au
	Richard Pearson	H: 9953 5766	M: 0405 193 555	rrp@walkerdouglas.com
Tunks Ward	Stephen Barbour	M: 0411 105 760		stephen.barbour@northsydney.nsw.gov.au
	Véronique Marchandau	H: 9955 3348	M: 0414 683 185	marver2060@gmail.com
	Caroline Raymond	M: 0412 754 860		ceraymondau@gmail.com
Victoria Ward	Jillian Christie	H: 9955 2489	M: 0412 995 858	jillian.christie@northsydney.nsw.gov.au
	Jilly Gibson		M: 0412 456 842	jillygibson@hotmail.com
	Michel Reymond	H: 9955 4330		
Wollstonecraft Ward	Zoë Baker	M: 0438 857 547		zoe.baker@northsydney.nsw.gov.au
	Andrew Robjohns (Deputy Mayor)	H: 9438 4258	M: 0428 187 047	andrew_robjohns@yahoo.com
	Trent Zimmerman	H: 9460 1175	M: 0419 690 617	trentzimmerman@hotmail.com

Your rates at work



Work is almost complete on a recycled stormwater system at Forsyth and Primrose Parks which will allow the parks to be irrigated using stormwater collected in the Cammeray Golf Course Dam.

As part of the works, more than 2.8km of pipes have been laid from the dam to Primrose and Forsyth Parks. In addition, three 200,000 litre

tanks were constructed at Forsyth Park to store recycled stormwater. Primrose Park will be irrigated directly from the dam without the need for holding tanks.

The works, which are supported by the NSW Government's Climate Change Fund, are part of Council's stormwater re-use scheme. When it's completed, all major playing

fields and parks will be irrigated using stormwater, saving up to 90,000 kilolitres of drinking water each year. The first stage of the scheme provided recycled stormwater to St Leonards Park, North Sydney and Bon Andrews Ovals.

The second stage included the construction of a dam on Cammeray Golf Course, which irrigates the golf course, Cammeray soccer oval and croquet lawns. The next and final stage will be to provide recycled stormwater for irrigating Tunks Park.

Program reduces graffiti

Graffiti on private property has been reduced by 38 per cent in the North Sydney local government area, thanks to Council's free graffiti removal program.

The program, which has been running for three years, allows residents to have graffiti removed from their property within three days if they join the scheme.

A total of 36,204 square metres of graffiti has been removed since 2006, which includes 9,780 square metres from private properties. Key to the success of the program is the fast removal of the graffiti, which discourages further vandalism.

Importantly, while the number of private properties involved has increased, the cost of removing graffiti from both Council and private properties has fallen by 10 per cent.

If you would like to sign up to the graffiti removal program, please call Council on 9936 8100 or visit www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au



Step into sustainability

More than 300 people turned out to the Starlight Cinema on 9 February for a free movie screening of the *Age of Stupid*.

The free screening was the launch event for Footprints - a program designed to help people in their 20s and 30s reduce their ecological footprint. The Footprints group meets regularly to work together to bring their footprint down to size.

Upcoming Footprints events include an Eat Well session at the North Sydney Produce Market (17 April) and a Sustainable Homes session at Mosman Art Gallery (13 May).

Footprints is supported by Mosman, North Sydney and Willoughby Councils. For information: www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/footprints

Bushland track upgrades

The main walking tracks in Balls Head Reserve, Primrose Park and Gore Cove Reserve have received much-needed upgrades with the help of grant funding from the State Government. Council has engaged specialist bushland track builders to stabilise existing tracks and, where appropriate, construct new tracks.

When it opens later this year, the Coal Loader to Balls Head Link Track will become one of the most iconic harbour walks in Sydney. The track will traverse the historic Coal Loader site, passing through one of the huge tunnels that are under the Coal Loader platform, before entering Balls Head Reserve and following the western foreshore.



Sculpture's chilling message



Photo courtesy of Kenji Ogawa

Visitors to Blues Point Reserve were sent a strong message about climate change late last year, with the appearance of an ice sculpture depicting an ice penguin family and paper origami penguins standing on an iceberg covered with snow.

The project was developed by Japanese-born ice sculptor Kenji Ogawa, who now lives in Australia and Michi Sawatari, a restaurateur from Yokohama who also has a background in ice sculpting.

The sculpture raised awareness of Antarctica's melting ice caps and the threat global warming poses to wildlife, in particular Antarctica's penguin colonies.

ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES REVEALED

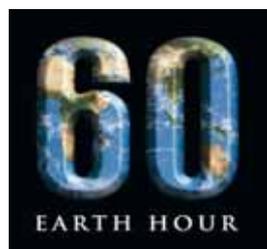
Community attitudes to North Sydney's environment will be revealed in a special exhibition at the North Sydney Heritage Centre in Stanton Library. *A Natural History of North Sydney*, which runs from 14 May to 30 September, marks the United Nations' declaration of the International Year of Biodiversity in 2010 by exploring the historical and current state of North Sydney's environment.

The exhibition will include results of a survey conducted by Council in partnership with the University of Sydney to find out how people value their local environment. The survey explored attitudes to a range of environmental issues including trees, parks, bushland and harbour seawalls.

Earth hour, every hour

Switch off your lights and non-essential appliances at 8.30pm on Saturday 27 March and join millions of people around the world in Earth Hour 2010. The theme for this year is 'earth hour, every hour'.

Turning lights and electrical appliances off around the home is one of the simple ways to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions that are causing climate change. Visit www.earthhour.org.au to register for Earth Hour 2010 and to measure your ecological footprint.



Friendships blossom among the veges

Community spirit is flourishing along with the herbs, beans and carrots in North Sydney's community gardens



Two community vegetable gardens have been established in the North Sydney local government area. Now in its second year, the community garden at the Coal Loader in Waverton has recently been expanded, thanks to a \$1000 grant from the Open Garden Scheme.

The team used the money to buy soil, mulch and plants for an extensive mandala garden which they constructed with recycled footpath pavers. The small raised garden beds are easily accessible and maximise the productive area in each garden bed.

Between eight and 12 residents meet each Wednesday morning to care for their garden and harvest the organic herbs and vegetables. While the gardening is relaxing and the take-home veges a lovely bonus, all agree that the friendships

formed have made the project worthwhile.

“The gardening is very satisfying,” says team member Claire Hanley from McMahons Point. “But the social interaction has definitely been the best part of it.”

Established nine months ago by local residents, the Milson Community garden (MCG) in Milson Park has received a groundswell of support from the wider community.

The medieval-style garden is planted with a range of heirloom vegetables. Wander through the garden, with its high planter boxes bursting with life, and you will find heirloom varieties such as purple beans, French heirloom carrots (in purple, orange, yellow and white) and Hungarian heart tomatoes, to name a few.

The garden is planted in organic soil and the gardeners use an organic fertiliser, Bokashi juice – a Japanese composting system, where fruit and vegetables are fermented in a closed environment using a mix of rice bran, molasses and effective micro-organisms.

The garden community has also flourished, from its original group of 15 to 20 volunteers, to now involve around 80 people. Carole Baker, MCG Operations Coordinator, says the garden acts as a “social glue” for many in the community.

“We have people coming to the garden who have passed each other on the street for many years. The garden acts as a jump-off point for conversations as they can talk about what’s happening in the garden.

“For me personally it is balm for the soul and food for the spirit. This is echoed by many people [involved with the garden].”



About Streets Alive

Streets Alive projects range from individuals helping to choose and maintain the plants outside their property or in a nearby garden bed, through to teams of residents designing and constructing gardens on unused railway land.

Coordinator Ralph Forinash says

whether the projects are simple or complex, the participants all share a love of gardening and a desire to make North Sydney's public spaces beautiful.

If you would like to make-over a small area of public space near you or join a team of residents maintaining a larger reserve or community vegetable garden, please contact Ralph on 9936 8248.

Rare plant appears



Fishbones (or *Lomandra Obliqua*) - a species of plant rare in North Sydney's Bushland - has regenerated following an ecological burn-off in Smoothey Park/Gore Cove Reserve. Fire triggers the germination of plant seeds that accumulate in leaf litter and the upper soil layers in healthy bushland.

"The appearance of *Lomandra Obliqua* is very exciting and confirms the resilience of our native plants and their ability to bounce back after years of neglect," said Gareth Debney, Council's Bushland Management Coordinator.

In 2000, just 84 native species were recorded in Smoothey Park/Gore Cove Reserve. By 2007, there were 131 species, and more are expected to be identified when a comprehensive flora survey is completed later this year. As well as its increasing plant diversity, the reserve is home to 73 species of birds, three mammals, seven reptiles and one frog.

The reserve is just one of the areas to benefit from professional bushland regeneration funded by the Environmental Levy. The professional work is complemented by the Smoothey Park Bushcare Group, a team of 15 dedicated volunteers who work two Saturday mornings each month in the reserve. Together, they contribute more than 1350 hours of bush regeneration each year. For information about our Bushcare groups, or to join, phone 9936 8258.



CJ's Elite reduced its energy use through Council's Green Business Program

Building on success

Council is seeking State Government approval to extend the environmental levy for a further five years and to increase it to an average of \$50 per year per ratepayer. In the 2008 community poll, held in conjunction with the local government elections, a majority of residents voted to support an increase in the levy to assist residents, businesses, schools and Council to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

The Environmental Levy is broadly used to support bushland, water management and greenhouse gas reduction initiatives. Over the next five years, Council is proposing a range of projects that will:

- increase biodiversity, create wildlife corridors and improve our bushwalking track network
- improve the water quality of local creeks and bays
- reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions from buildings, transport and food waste.

A full list of the proposed projects and their cost over five years is on Council's website. Here are some of the highlights of the program.

Wildlife corridors

We will extend the wildlife corridors that link our existing bushland reserves. Wildlife corridors increase habitat and food sources and allow native fauna to move between bushland reserves.

Plant propagation

We will be developing a provenance seed bank and community nursery to propagate native plants. Provenance seed is seed that is collected from healthy bushland remnants. Using local plants helps maintain the health of local flora and increases the success of regeneration projects.

Community programs

We will work with our community to improve sustainable transport options, create community gardens, sustainable businesses and sustainable schools, and provide free education workshops for residents.

Urban Forest

We'll continue to get more power lines bundled across the North Sydney area. Bundling cables reduces the ugly pruning of street trees, improves the cooling and cleansing effects of tree canopies and reduces wildlife fatalities.

Cogeneration

We will introduce co-generation plants at the Council Chambers, library and pool. Co-generation plants simultaneously produce electricity and heating from a single heat source (usually natural gas) and create enough low-emission energy to export some back to the power grid.





Something to crow about

Now in its fifteenth year, the Crows Nest Mainstreet program has been a model for the regeneration of village centres across Sydney. During those years, the levy has been used to upgrade the public areas, improve pedestrian access, increase parking and create the popular outdoor dining areas in Willoughby Road and Ernest Street.

With the support of the Crows Nest Mainstreet Committee, Council is now seeking to extend the levy for another five-year term.

President of Crows Nest Mainstreet Stephen Blaxland said the program had created a village character for Crows Nest which was highly valued by both residents and businesses.

“The capital works and the community events that are supported by Mainstreet have made Crows Nest a pleasant place to live and work. It’s not just a place to shop, it is a community place where people feel comfortable.”

Council has supported the Crows Nest Mainstreet Committee in the development of a five-year strategic plan. Some of the highlights of the plan include:

- upgrading Ernest Place to enhance its role as the village green. A new covered stage will allow the area to be used for more music and performance-based events
- working to protect and improve the Pacific Highway so that it operates as an attractive gateway to North Sydney
- supporting the upgrade of the Alexander St carpark to provide more parking for shoppers and commercial visitors
- improving the signage throughout Crows Nest to unite and increase awareness of the whole precinct
- introducing business award and business-to-business loyalty programs and supporting



businesses with advice on signage, presentation and consumer trends

- continuing the community-building events, such as the Crows Nest Fair, Light Up Christmas program and weekly organic market.

General Manager Penny Holloway said the Crows Nest Mainstreet program had delivered more than infrastructure to Crows Nest. “Council has progressively upgraded Crows Nest’s infrastructure, but village centres require more than attractive public space to be successful.

“The Crows Nest Mainstreet program has allowed Council, property owners, business owners and residents to work together to create a vibrant village centre that works commercially and socially for the community.”

Copies of the Crows Nest Mainstreet Strategic Plan can be viewed on Council’s website www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au

Service recognised

Two Council employees have recently celebrated 40 years of service to the community. Johnny Pitt spent more than 20 years working on parks and gardens and for many years was responsible for a spectacular display of perennials along Miller Street. In the 1990s, he transferred to St Leonards Park and North Sydney Oval. Johnny received a special commemorative drawing from the children at Grandstand Kindergarten to mark the occasion.

Quito Degan has had a number of positions in our outdoor engineering division. He currently works in the property repairs area, with responsibility for painting, fence and street sign repairs.

Johnny and Quito have seen remarkable changes over the past four decades. Johnny witnessed the



building of North Sydney Oval and can remember when St Leonards Park had seven large gardens. Quito remembers when rickshaws were used for street cleaning and pothole repairs were undertaken using a bolster and sledge hammer.



Mayor Genia McCaffery said 40 years was a great achievement, especially for people who face the elements each day. "North Sydney is fortunate to have such dedicated employees who have contributed so much to our community."

A heart for community



North Sydney bids a fond farewell to Susan Kennett, North Sydney Community Centre Director this month, who is retiring after more than 20 years service to the North Sydney community.

Susan started at the North Sydney Community Centre in 1988. Under her leadership, it has gone from strength to strength and offers a wide range of services including playgroup, after school care and up to 100 adult recreation and interest classes. The monthly Northside Produce Market, North Sydney Market and the Changeable Art Exhibition are now popular community events.

"This amazing facility is such a hub of the community," said Susan. "It's hard to let go, but it's time. I won't lose my involvement in the community. Community is in my heart."

Council's Director of Library and Community Services Martin Ellis said that despite the immense social changes of the past two decades, Susan had ensured the centre had remained financially viable and relevant. "Thousands of people use and appreciate the centre's services each year. It is a wonderful achievement."

SCULPTURE AT SAWMILLERS

Sculptors are invited to participate in a non-acquisitive exhibition, *Sculpture at Sawmillers*, to be held from 18-19 September at Sawmillers Reserve, McMahons Point.

Sculpture at Sawmillers is a McMahons Point community initiative in conjunction with North Sydney Council. A sculpture prize of \$10,000 will be awarded to the winner and a work may be chosen to be installed in a public space in McMahons Point.

For more information visit: www.sculptureatsawmillers.squarespace.com or call 9955 5540. Entries close 30 March.

CAPITAL WORKS

Infrastructure works completed this financial year include:

- surveying and fixing almost 5km of stormwater drainage pipes
- resurfacing more than 25,000 square metres of local roads
- restoring 100 metres of sea walls around the harbour foreshore
- stabilising a rock face, including the removal of a 5-tonne boulder from Clark Road, North Sydney
- repairing a total of 2.5km of local footpaths.

NEW PLANNING FRAMEWORK

Council's community strategic plan for 2009-2020, known as 2020 Vision, has now been adopted and Council is working on supporting plans. These include a resourcing strategy, which details long-term financial planning, asset management planning and a workforce management strategy, and a four-year delivery program and annual operational plans, which show how projects and programs will be delivered during an elected Council's term in office.

The delivery program replaces Council's previous management plan. The community will have opportunities to contribute to the development of the delivery and operational plans over the coming months.

AHO TURNS 10

The Aboriginal Heritage Office (AHO) celebrates its 10th anniversary this year. The AHO, which operates as a joint partnership between eight northern Sydney councils, protects and preserves Aboriginal heritage sites in each of the partner council's areas. AHO staff conduct talks, walks and activities that increase appreciation of Aboriginal culture.

Citizen of the Year

VERA YEE

Waverton resident Vera Yee has been named Citizen of the Year for her extensive contribution to the community.

This includes involvement in Council's Bushcare and Streets Alive programs as well as volunteering for Meals on Wheels, teaching English as a second language and taking elderly people to hospital appointments.

Vera says the key is to "think global, act local".

Vera has been a Bushcare volunteer since 1996 and is involved with 10

Streets Alive sites around Cammeray, Wollstonecraft and Waverton. Her vision is to transform these sites into a viable wildlife corridor.

"I thought when I started it was a long term thing. It's not for me, but for future generations," she says.

Vera says she likes knowing she can help make a difference. "We are so lucky and I wanted to share some of that bounty.

"I find it incredibly rewarding and people are so grateful. It's not a trial, it's a joy."



Young Citizen of the Year

OLIVER GODSELL

Eighteen-year-old Oliver Godsell has been named as North Sydney's Young Citizen of the Year. Oliver's community involvement began at age 10 when he joined Mosman Scouts. He still works with the Scouts each fortnight, but has added a host of other volunteering activities along the way.

Last year Oliver arranged an exhibition of Aboriginal Art, *Landscapes of the Dreaming*, providing an opportunity for young indigenous artists to showcase their work. He has worked with children as part of the Red Cross' Good Start Breakfast Club and has turned his hobby for photography into helping others, by producing a set of greeting

cards to raise more than \$1000 for the program. Among his other fundraising activities Oliver helped to plan and organise a junior disco to raise money for a Cambodian charity.

He says other young people who would like to volunteer should look for something they are interested in and talk to their school about ways to get involved. "It's not so hard to become involved and there are a lot of worthwhile projects out there."

Community Event of the Year

MONTE SANT' ANGELO MERCY COLLEGE

The Community Event of the Year was awarded to Monte Sant' Angelo Mercy College, North Sydney for developing a program to work and learn from the Aboriginal communities of the Central Desert.

In September last year, the school hosted a visit from 10 Mititjulu, Imanpa and Docker River women and their children. The visit provided opportunities for Monte students and their families to view and buy Central Desert Artworks

and to experience ceremony in song and dance. The following day, the visitors participated in the school's Mercy Day liturgy.

In October, 12 Monte students flew to central Australia for a reciprocal visit. The program provided wonderful opportunities for intercultural communication and the possibility of a longer-term relationship between the school and the Central Desert communities.

The award was accepted by the principal Catherine Alcock.



Eggstra Fun

Plateau Precinct is hosting its third annual Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday 28 March 2010 at 3pm in Green Park (on Cammeray Rd, opposite golf course). There will be a sausage sizzle, jumping castle and the Easter Bilby will lead the charge on the egg hunt.

The egg hunt is a great opportunity for people to get to know their neighbours. Plateau Precinct welcomes all residents of the precinct, their friends and other precincts to attend. For more information, phone 9936 8463.



What's in a name?

Council's precincts were named after significant historical figures, streets, geographical features and landmarks. This issue we continue with names from the area...



Lavender Bay

Named after George Lavender, an officer in charge of the Phoenix, which was moored in the bay to house convicts. He married Billy Blue's daughter, Susannah.



Milson

Named after James Milson (1778-1866), and his descendents, who were early pioneers of the area.

Plateau

Cammeray plateau is a central geographical feature of this precinct area.



Registry

Named after the Cammeray Motor Registry office that was once a feature of the area.



Stanton

Named after James Street Stanton, mayor of North Sydney from 1937 to 1939 and a keen supporter of the free library movement.



Union

Named after the street that bisects the precinct area. The name appears in directories as early as 1875, but there is no record of which union it commemorates.

Waverton

Named after Waverton house, one of the first established homes of the area, built circa 1845.



Willoughby Bay

The name Willoughby was first used by Sir Thomas Mitchell, possibly in honour of his close friend, Sir James Willoughby Gordon.



Wollstonecraft

Named after the pioneer merchant and pastoralist Edward Wollstonecraft, who took possession of a 524-acre grant here shortly after his arrival in 1819.

For more information on the history of names in North Sydney visit our website.

What's on in North Sydney this Autumn

Guringai Festival

The Guringai Festival celebrates its 10th anniversary this year. North Sydney's events include a performance by Lillian Crombie in Stanton Library on 26 May, 1pm to 2pm. Lillian who most recently starred as Bandy Legs in the Baz Luhrmann film *Australia*, will perform songs and Dreamtime dances.

The North Sydney Community Centre playgroup will celebrate indigenous culture on 9 June, from 10am to 12.30pm. Bibi Barba will lead an art workshop, and the Koomurri Aboriginal Music and Dance Group will lead an education program with musical stories and dance. For information phone 9922 2299.



*Painting by
Bibi Barba*

Children can learn about traditional Aboriginal basket weaving at Stanton Library on 6 July, 2pm to 3.30pm. Bookings are essential, phone 9936 8400. The full program of events across northern Sydney will be available in May. Phone 9936 8187.

Community events

22-26 Mar Seniors Week, free activities **9936 8187**

26 March Harmony and Migrant Information Day, 11am-1pm, Crows Nest Centre, 2 Ernest Place, Crows Nest

9-24 April National Trust Heritage Festival Week, The Making of our Nation. For related events contact Stanton Library **9936 8400**

10-18 April National Youth Week, events/activities to be confirmed **9936 8190**

14 April Sport development workshop: Sponsorship, fundraising and grants 6.30pm-9pm. \$10. Bookings essential **131 302**.

18 April Mary MacKillop Place Museum Open Day, free entry to the museum, www.marymackillopplace.org.au

18 April ANZAC Memorial Service, 2.30pm, North Sydney ANZAC Club **9923 1942**

23 April ANZAC Day Remembrance Luncheon, Crows Nest Centre **9439 5122**

3 May Sport development workshop: Recruiting and retaining volunteers, 6.30pm-9pm, \$10. Bookings essential **131 302**.

11 May Migrant Employment Expo, 9.30am-12.30pm, North Sydney Council Chambers **9936 8193**

13 May Crows Nest Centre Open Day and volunteer appreciation **9439 5122**

21 May - 11 July Guringai Festival, 10th anniversary **9936 8187**

Arts/Music/Literature

16 April Creating Wellbeing: Calligraphy North Sydney, North Sydney Community Centre 2pm-4pm (free event) **9936 8411**

26-30 April Library Information Week at Stanton Library **9936 8400**

14 May The Natural History and Parks of North Sydney, Heritage Centre, Stanton Library **9936 8400**

14 May Creating Wellbeing: Walking with Cameras around Woolloomooloo, 11am-3pm (free event) **9936 8411**

15-23 May Mosman Art Society Exhibition, Hutley Hall **9936 8187**

23 May Art Along the Boardwalk, Luna Park boardwalk, Quibaree and Clark Parks, Lavender Bay **9936 8585**

5-11 June Primrose Park studio artists' exhibition **9936 8187**

9 June Bill Coppell Young Writers' Award presentation night. Stanton Library **9936 8400**

11 June Creating Wellbeing: Potting with Pim, North Sydney Community Centre, 2pm-4pm (free event) **9936 8411**

16 July Creating Wellbeing: Potting with Pim, North Sydney Community Centre, 2pm-4pm (free event) **9936 8411**

25 July - 3 August North Sydney Art Prize, Hutley Hall. Entries close 2 July **9936 8187**

Seniors' Week

Seniors' Week, 22 to 26 March, is packed with free activities, designed to appeal to a variety of tastes and interests. Throughout the week, Stanton Library is holding computer classes on topics such as the internet, setting up an email account and social software.

Monday

22 March

Come and Try Upright and Active Class, Neutral Bay Community Centre 11.30am-12.30pm, especially for people who have difficulty with balance and stability

Japanese gift wrapping classes, Crows Nest Centre, 10am-11am

Digital radio, television and new media talk by Chris Winter from the ABC, Stanton Library, 1pm-2pm

Tuesday

23 March

Seniors Health Day, North Sydney Community Centre, 9am-2pm, Wellness and Weight Change, Staying Young and Active, Tai Chi and Qi Gong for over 50s, Brain Training and Meditation classes. Lunch provided

Art class with local artist Sandy Shilansky, Stanton Library, 2pm-4pm

Short non-denominational service, morning tea and discussion by health practitioner, Christ Church, Lavender Bay, 10.30am

Barbecue and entertainment by Spanish guitarist Carlos Alberto, Kirribilli Neighbourhood Centre, 12pm-2pm

Wednesday

24 March

Cammeray Croquet Club Open Day, 10am-12pm

Thursday

25 March

Growing Old Disgracefully concert by Seniors' Week Ambassador Warren Fahey, Stanton Library, 10am-11am

Friday

26 March

Grandparent and grandchildren biscuit decorating activity, Crows Nest Centre, 9.30am-10.30am

High Tea and performance by the Older Women's Network, Crows Nest Centre, 11am-1pm

Keep fit class, Bradfield Wellbeing Centre, 10am-11am, low-impact exercises you can do in your own home

Neutral Bay Seniors Open Day, 10am-12pm

For more information or to make a booking, please phone Narelle Spooner on **9936 8187**.

Eco events

30 March

Turning Green into Gold - 6.30pm-8.30pm, accessing rebates, solar credits, green home assessments. Bookings essential **9936 8100**

29 May

Aboriginal Heritage Walk - 9am-12pm. Book by 21 May **9936 8258**

20 June

Common weed identification for gardeners, streets alive and bushcare volunteers - 9am-1pm. Book by 11 June **9936 8258**

11 July

Native and weed look-a-likes, 9am-1pm. Learn to distinguish between valuable local native species and their weedy impersonators. Book by 2 July **9936 8258**

1 August

National Tree Day, community planting event. Information and bookings **9936 8224**



Photography by Tony Peri