

WILLOUGHBY CITY NEWS



Celebrating 30 years of MOSAIC

Fostering diversity and unity in Willoughby City

In 1993, a visionary grassroots initiative emerged in response to the influx of new migrants settling on the Lower North Shore. Known as MOSAIC (Multicultural One-Stop Assistance Information Centre), this remarkable institution has been an unwavering source of support and inclusivity in Willoughby City for three decades.



MOSAIC's journey has been one of adaptability and expansion. What began as a response to the immediate needs of our diverse community has evolved into a multifaceted resource. The Centre now offers an array of services, from language classes and leisure activities to culturally-oriented social groups. Its commitment to inclusivity shines through in the provision of information and referral services, cultural celebrations and school holiday programs for children.

With over 50 regular activities, MOSAIC draws participants from every corner of the community. In the year 2022 alone, it welcomed an impressive 13,868 attendees,

reflecting its enduring significance in the lives of our residents. As we celebrate 30 years of MOSAIC, we applaud its dedication to fostering inclusivity and providing a safe, welcoming space for all.



What's inside

Page 3

Year of the Dragon
Lunar New Year celebrations are back

Page 4

Iconic Lane Cove River
Natural area management in our bushland

Page 5

Reducing Fuel loads
Minimising bushfire risk across our LGA

Page 7

Beat the Heat
Stay safe and cool this summer

MAYOR'S COLUMN



As we close out the year I'd like to reflect on how I have been consistently moved by the energy, enthusiasm and kindness of our community.

Our devoted bushland volunteers together with our Bushland Management Team have continued to play a vital role in safeguarding and rejuvenating the ecological integrity of our natural environment.

The dedication of our MOSAIC volunteers contributes to the success of our award winning centre and the essential services it provides to our culturally and linguistically diverse community. It was so wonderful to celebrate 30 years of MOSAIC in 2023.

This year, the Council has also been advocating on behalf of the community on significant local issues largely managed by other tiers of government. These include the pressing issue of tree protection, the potential relocation of SBS, an upgrade to our bus interchange and an increase in bus services, as well as the pending closure of our local Australia Post offices.

Council has been working with Fire and Rescue NSW to reduce fuel load in our bushland areas as well as a campaign to raise awareness amongst our community to Beat the Heat over the coming months and stay safe.



In other news, the Council adopted the *Night Time Economy Strategy* which sets out a key leadership role for Council, working with the local business community to maintain and grow a prosperous and vibrant local economy.

Lastly, I am very excited about our Chatswood Year of the Dragon Festival in February, a fun filled

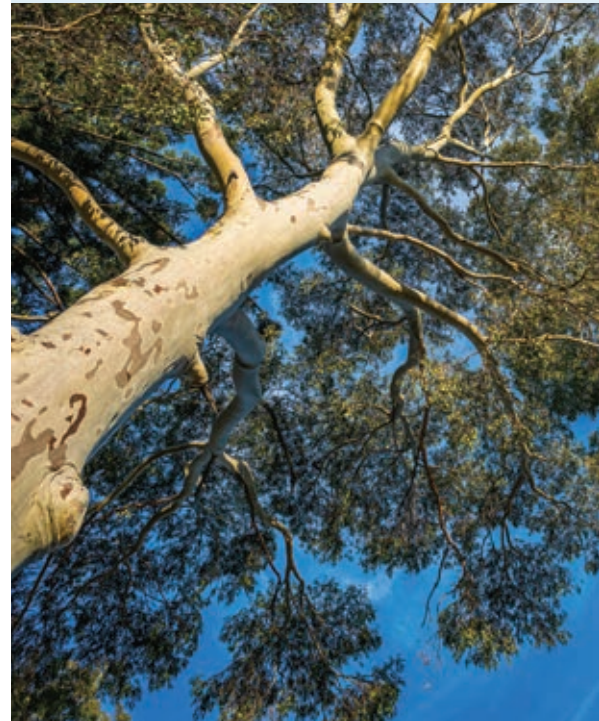
showcase celebrating our city's multicultural heritage and commitment to fostering unity. More information on the festival is available on page 3.

It has been a busy time in the lead-up to the end of year. I hope that you enjoy a break over the festive season and I look forward to working with the Willoughby community in 2024.

Cr Tanya Taylor
Mayor, Willoughby City Council

PROTECTING OUR TREES

Council is addressing the pressing issue of tree protection by lobbying for stricter penalties for related offences.



A motion was put forward to the Local Government NSW conference urging the state government to conduct a comprehensive review of the legislative framework for tree protection and increased penalties and deterrents for the destruction of trees in NSW. These may include elevated fines and the possibility of custodial sentences to dissuade individuals from engaging in destructive tree-related activities and promote environmental conservation.

The proposed review also aims to identify opportunities to better coordinate tree protection efforts, improve education and awareness campaigns and encourage stronger community support for these initiatives.

For more information on the environmental impact of illegal tree removal and to learn more about the recent large-scale tree vandalism site at Castle Cove, please visit www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au/Campaigns/Our-largest-tree-vandalism-site



LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS WELCOME THE YEAR OF THE DRAGON

The Chatswood Year of the Dragon Festival, from 1 to 25 February.

Chatswood will transform into a bustling hub of excitement and celebration starting with the majestic dragon sculpture emerging from the reflection pool at The Concourse throughout February.

Kick off Lunar New Year festivities on Saturday 3 February with Celebration Day, outdoor entertainment and street stalls culminating with a spectacular Lantern Parade along Victoria Avenue. Visit Art Space at The Concourse featuring *Passage of Night*; *Luminary Rising*, on exhibition throughout the festival.

Immerse yourself into the world of journalist Jane Hutcheon at her show *Lost in Shanghai* (more detail on page 7), laugh out loud at our Lunar New Year Comedy Gala featuring Netflix comedy sensation Jason Leong (pictured right) and bring the family for a free outdoor concert *Symphony in the Park – East Meets West* at Chatswood Oval (pictured right).



Discover culinary delights from around the world at The Golden Market every Thursday and Friday from 9am – 9pm and Saturday 3 February. Experience Lunar New Year delicacies at Festival Eats by SBS, and look out for the Festival Eats stickers.

For more information go to visitchatswood.com.au/LNY



ICONIC LANE COVE RIVER AND STUNNING BUSHLAND SURROUNDS

The reserve network along the Lane Cove River's foreshore, from Fullers Road and the Lane Cove National Park in the north, to Mowbray Park and Epping Road in the south, preserves significant ecological value featuring stunning sandstone outcrops, mangrove areas and diverse plant communities.

Walking tracks along the river foreshore are continually upgraded to enable the community to enjoy the river and associated wildlife. Council staff, alongside dedicated bushcare volunteers and community groups, play a vital role in the natural area management safeguarding and rejuvenating the ecological integrity of the river and its adjacent areas.

Boardwalks closest to Chatswood Rotary Memorial Athletics Field provide access to a pontoon for launching kayaks. The river is a major tributary of Sydney Harbour and keen paddlers often enjoy longer trips beyond Willoughby. Guided bushwalks are a great way to explore the area and our free Willoughby Walks app provides additional information to learn more about our local natural environment.

Pictured above: Lane Cove River seen from the pedestrian walkway linking Willoughby and Ryde Councils, which is part of the Great North Walk. Pictured right: Recent work in the area has seen the planting of numerous trees, shrubs and ground covers, the installation of bush furniture using recycled local timber and a goanna play structure.



PURR-FECTLY RESPECTFUL RESERVES

In a reminder to our feline-loving community, Council emphasises its longstanding policy of no cats in public reserves.



Cats pose a threat to native animals and their habitats and their presence in these areas can have detrimental effects on the ecosystem. Keeping our feline friends at home ensures their safety as well as our wildlife.

THANK YOU BUSHCARE VOLUNTEERS

Council is proud to present the 2024 Bushland Calendar, showcasing the natural beauty of our local area.



The calendar features stunning photography and information about our bushland reserves. We extend our sincerest thanks to the volunteers who work in Willoughby's bushland, parks, creek lines and on street verges as part of Council's Bushcare program. Their dedication to preserving our local environment is inspiring. Look out for the 2024 Bushland Calendar at Council's Customer Service Centre.

REDUCING FUEL LOADS ON PUBLIC LANDS

A multifaceted approach to mitigate bush fire risk is being implemented by Council together with Fire and Rescue NSW.



Works encompass fuel load reduction via controlled burns and a combination of manual and mechanical interventions including the maintenance of fire breaks encircling residential and community assets to bolster resilience against potential bushfires.

Information on proposed schedules for controlled burns and access to the Bush Fire Prone Land Map is available on Council's website. Local households are given advance notice via letterbox notifications of schedules burns subject to change depending upon weather conditions and available resources.

If you have safety concerns, the Rural Fire Service website offers valuable guidance on home preparedness. Additionally, the Australian Red Cross Get Prepared App is a valuable resource for disaster preparedness, response, and recovery.



EVENTS



LOST IN SHANGHAI

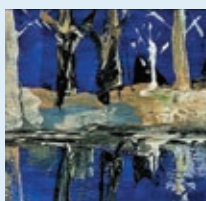
16 FEBRUARY | 7PM

THE CONCOURSE, CIVIC PAVILION CHATSWOOD

\$45 - \$50

Throughout her adventurous journalism career, one story has intrigued Jane Hutcheon more than any other: the story of her mother Beatrice's turbulent childhood in pre-Communist Shanghai. It's the tale of an ordinary Eurasian family in extraordinary times, set against a backdrop of fading colonial opulence and looming war.

Visit www.theconcourse.com.au to book.



CONNECT, COLLABORATE, CELEBRATE ART EXHIBITION 2023

1 - 15 DECEMBER | 9AM - 5PM | DOUGHERTY COMMUNITY CENTRE, CHATSWOOD | FREE

For the fifth consecutive year, Council is showcasing the artistic works of people living with disability, experiencing social isolation or at risk or marginalisation. Celebrating International Day of People with Disability 2023, this competition and exhibition provides a platform for artists of all abilities to promote themselves and expand their creative talent.

Image: Jessica Madden, *Lakeside reflections*, 2021, acrylic on paper



URBANUS

6 - 17 DECEMBER | ART SPACE ON THE CONCOURSE | FREE

A group exhibition exploring the urban landscape, presented by Open Bite Printmakers. In this exhibition, all manner of urban vistas combine with whimsy, social commentary, environmental concern, history, questions and challenges. The central installation in this exhibition is a large wall of prints and printed sculptures which forms a comprehensive collection of techniques, concepts and philosophies revolving around notions of the urban environment. It is a strong and thought-provoking work, powerful in its size and its black and white colour scheme.

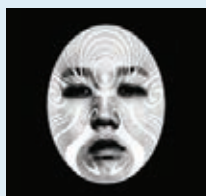
Image: Yuri Shimmyo, *Martin Place deconstruction*, detail, reduction lino cut



WILLOUGHBY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: AN EVENING WITH JAMES BOND

3 AND 4 FEBRUARY | THE CONCOURSE CONCERT HALL, CHATSWOOD | \$45 - \$99

Nobody does it better than the Willoughby Symphony Orchestra as they launch their 2024 season with a thrilling night of spycraft and suspense. Join Chief Conductor and Artistic Director Dr Nicholas Milton AM and the WSO in a celebration of themes from the iconic James Bond films from the late 1960s to the 21st century. Relive the adventures of the world's greatest spy in this electrifying musical experience featuring classics like *Goldfinger*, *Diamonds are Forever* and *Moonraker* through to modern masterpieces like Adele's *Skyfall* and Billie Eilish's *No Time to Die*. Visit www.theconcourse.com.au to book tickets.



PASSAGE OF NIGHT; LUMINARY RISING

1 - 25 FEBRUARY | ART SPACE ON THE CONCOURSE AND THE CONCOURSE OUTDOOR AREA | FREE

Examining the significance of the moon and how it is reflected across cultures. This exhibition explores diverse historical, cultural and religious relationships to the moon, extending the Lunar New Year celebration to other cultures. Its mutable and transformational nature has made the moon a source of mystery, a meaningful symbol and a unifying force that brings communities together. Image: Meng-Yu Yan, *Faces of the Moon (Full Moon)*, detail, 2023, digital photography

SUBSCRIBE



to our fortnightly e-newsletter at www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au to find out what's on in Willoughby.



Chatswood NSW



Chatswood_NSW

ARTARMON STREETSCAPE UPGRADE

Hampden Road Project Update



The recent transformation of Artarmon Village Green has been a highlight with works including the reinstallation of the sandstone kerb, new concrete gutter, paving, street furniture, feature walls, and shared path completed. Fresh topsoil has been prepared for mass planting which will be commencing soon.

On the retail side of Hampden Road, footpath widening and paving has been installed south of Jersey Road to Broughton Road, the re-grading of Hampden Road is being undertaken and infrastructure for pedestrian lighting, including electrical pits and conduits, has been laid out to ensure a well-lit and safe environment for all.

Ongoing works include more paving, electrical and drainage, construction of retaining wall and terrace seating area as well as progress on the Village Green, shared paths, and kerb extensions that promise a more pedestrian-friendly Artarmon.

HELP RETURN LOST TROLLEYS

Did you know you can report abandoned trolleys?

With your help abandoned trolleys can be returned. Please contact:

- Woolworths, BIG W, Dan Murphy's on 1800 641 497 or trolleytracker.com.au
- Coles on 1800 876 553 or coles.com.au
- Aldi at help.aldi.com.au

BEAT THE HEAT

As the scorching summer months approach, Council is urging residents to be prepared and stay cool.

With heatwaves and sweltering temperatures hitting New South Wales, it's crucial to take precautions to help safeguard the health and well-being of friends, neighbours and loved ones.

Here are some tips to beat the heat:

- **Hydrate wisely:** Drink plenty of water. Avoid sugary beverages and alcohol as they can lead to dehydration.
- **Seek shade:** When outdoors, find shade under trees or use umbrellas. Avoid being in the sun during the hottest parts of the day between 10am - 4pm.
- **Dress:** Wear loose, light-coloured clothing to allow your body to breathe.
- **Home cooling:** Cover your windows with blinds or curtains to block out the sun during the day.
- **Cool indoor activities:** If you cannot stay cool at home, visit local air-conditioned community centres, libraries, or shopping centres to escape the heat.
- **Stay informed:** Pay attention to weather forecasts. Be aware of the signs of heat-related illnesses and check on vulnerable neighbours, especially the elderly and young children.
- **Consider animals:** Domestic and wild animals can be affected by the heat and similar to people require water, shade and rest. Leave bowls of water out in shady areas for any native wildlife that may be nearby.

FREE HANDHELD BEAT THE HEAT FAN

Grab a free fan from Council's Customer Service Centre or reception at the Dougherty Community Centre.



For more information on how to protect yourself and your loved ones from the dangers of extreme heat, search for **Resilient Willoughby** at willoughby.nsw.gov.au

BUILDING SITE COMPLIANCE FOR A BETTER ENVIRONMENT



Council recently intensified their scrutiny of building sites under the 'Get the Site Right' campaign.

The move is in response to upcoming construction industry reforms mandated by the NSW Government that require developers and builders to implement and uphold top-notch erosion and sediment controls on their sites. The proposed changes aim to enhance legislation, elevate standards in design, construction and maintenance, and bolster protection for consumers and workers.

The 'Get the Site Right' campaign is a collaborative effort among various organisations and local councils, aimed at improving stormwater quality and reducing pollutants to enhance water quality and the overall enjoyment of waterways. Members of the public are encouraged to report pollution incidents, including inadequate sediment control, to council or the EPA's 24/7 Environment Line at 131 555.

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MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS

Council is made up of 13 Councillors including a popularly-elected Mayor. Councillors represent one of the four wards that make up Willoughby, while the Mayor represents all the wards.

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