

WILLOUGHBY CITY NEWS



Recycled plastic rulers delight local school students

School children from two local primary schools participated in real-life recycling and circular economy lessons, after plastic waste they collected at home was turned into rulers thanks to a Council sustainability education program.

Teachers at Our Lady of Dolours and Castle Cove primary schools were handed over-ready lesson plans

developed by the Council, to introduce pupils to solutions to the plastic waste problem.



"The information slides created by the Council and the practical session were fantastic ways for our students to see that recycling is just one aspect of how we can reduce waste", one teacher said. The program culminated with an incursion where plastic recycling specialists, Defy Design visited the schools to demonstrate the

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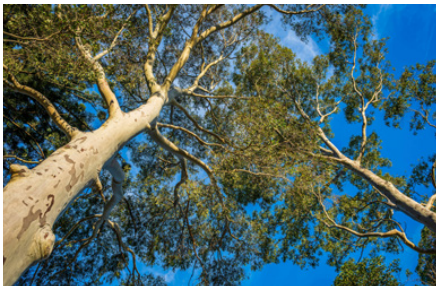


recycling process and present each child with their own school ruler.

MAYOR'S COLUMN



With winter upon us, the cooler weather is a great time to enjoy our parks and bushland reserves. Residents have many opportunities to discover what's around us, including visiting our recently-launched Tree Trails in Hallstrom Park and the surrounding area. You'll spot tags on some of the trees which include information on the role each tree plays in supporting the local environment, by controlling erosion and cleaning the air we breathe. Or why not get the blood pumping by making use of our Active Travel routes by walking, scooting or riding to school? Whatever you choose, take a moment to look up at the trees above you and consider how important it is that we protect them.



In important council news, our application to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) for a special rate variation

was approved on 14 May 2024. IPART's decision means rates will increase by 15% for 2024-25. Residents supported a rate rise when consulted in 2023, and the additional income will enable us to maintain essential services while investing \$2 million in public area maintenance and the urban tree canopy. As part of this outcome Council will look to make additional savings by raising new non-rate revenue and reviewing our operational efficiency.

Alongside these developments Council will continue to work hard on behalf of all residents by engaging key agencies on issues including improvements to our bus services, protection of clinical space at Royal North Shore Hospital, and responding constructively to the latest affordable housing and planning reforms announced by the NSW Government.

And finally, many thanks to everyone who responded to the public exhibition on our *Long-Term Financial Plan 2024-2034 and Operational Plan 2024-25*, which has now concluded. As in every year, we have to balance new investment with financial sustainability and your views make a genuine difference to how we plan and prioritise our work. The plan contains many projects for the community to be excited about, and I look forward to seeing them come to fruition.

Cr Tanya Taylor
Mayor, Willoughby City Council

NAREMBURN BOOK LOCKER RELOCATION

The Naremburn book locker is set to move to the exciting new public space being created at the Naremburn local shops.

First introduced as a pilot project at Naremburn Community Centre in 2022, the locker aims to increase access to library services. The relocation to a more central location is expected to be welcomed by busy book lovers.



POLICY AND STRATEGY

Council continues to produce policies, strategies and plans that guide our current work and deliver outcomes to the community.

Council recently prepared a draft *Media Policy* to help inform and direct Council practices around media management. This policy has been developed in line with best practice and the model policies prepared by the Office of Local Government. Feedback was sought throughout the month of May.

The *Draft Volunteer Strategy 2024 - 2028* has been prepared and placed on public exhibition during the month of May. This strategy offers a framework to guide volunteering at Willoughby Council. A report is scheduled for the June Council meeting.



COME AND TRY CHATSWOOD CBD FOR YOUR NEXT NIGHT OUT!

With increasing numbers of businesses open from 6pm to midnight, Chatswood is fast becoming the destination of choice for residents looking for an entertaining evening.

Long regarded as the cultural heart of Northern Sydney thanks to its family-friendly atmosphere and convenient transport links, Chatswood's day-time offerings are already immensely popular. Residents can now enjoy an even greater range of experiences thanks to the growing number of cafes, shops, restaurants and licensed venues with evening trading hours, including the familiar Mall Market, which from July will be open weekly on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 9am to 9pm.

Alongside increasing the CBD's appeal for residents and visitors alike, the rapidly developing night time economy is bringing significant community benefits thanks to increased trade, more local jobs, and easier to access after-hours services. In 2023 there were more than 5 million transactions in the Chatswood CBD at night totalling \$368.1 million, of which \$157.7 million was spent on dining and entertainment.

The dining options on offer feature the very best of global cuisine, reflecting Chatswood's cosmopolitan population, while fans of music and drama can enjoy the many live entertainment venues including The Concourse Theatre, Concert Hall and Lounge, and the Zenith Theatre.

Willoughby City Mayor Tanya Taylor says: "Years ago there were only a few venues open in Chatswood at night. That's now

changed, and on an average week night we have more than 150 businesses open after 6pm, and more than 70 businesses open after 9pm. Whether you're after great food or a drink with friends and family, there are so many places to choose from. Chatswood's diverse local economy is part of what makes our area unique and special, so it's great to see increasing numbers of local businesses staying open for longer."

To plan your next night out head to [visit chatswood.com.au](https://www.visit chatswood.com.au)





SECURING WILLOUGHBY'S FUTURE

Willoughby City Council welcomes the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) decision to support its 15% rate increase application.

This outcome enables Council to strengthen its budget position and boost its capacity to absorb future financial shocks. It also ensures Council can continue providing the highly-valued services that ratepayers expect, while allocating new investment to public area maintenance and urban canopy management.

The proposed increase received high levels of community support when exhibited to ratepayers in 2023, and Council will now follow through with the commitments made to improve operational efficiency as part of the overall package.

Further detailed information about the benefits, and impacts, of this rate increase is available as part of Council's SRV application at www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au/Council/Public-notices/Councils-Special-Rate-Variation-application-to-the-NSW-Government.



COUNCIL'S FINANCIAL PLANNING

From 30 April to 27 May 2024 Willoughby City Council invited community feedback on its annual planning and financial documents, crucial for delivering quality services to the community.



The draft *Operational Plan 2024-25* allocates \$39.1 million to 187 projects and capital works, and includes ongoing services and programs to provide a range of benefits to the community, plans to carry out service reviews and business improvement, \$2 million for outdoor area maintenance, and how we will report on progress and performance indicators. The draft *Operational Plan 2024-25* outlines the annual Budget and Revenue Policy, which this year contains a 15% rate rise as detailed above.

The *Fees and Charges 2024-25* outlines service charges to support the budget whereas the *Long-Term Financial Plan 2024-2034* details a 10-year plan. Council will consider submission issues and recommendations at its meeting on 24 June 2024. To view any of these documents please visit www.haveyoursaywilloughby.com.au

PROJECT ROUND-UP

A snapshot of completed and upcoming community upgrades

Visit www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au/Residents/Current-works-and-projects for updates on Council's major projects.

Naremburn Streetscape upgrade

Construction on the exciting new public space being created for the Naremburn community commenced in April. One-way north bound traffic changes have been in place since 9 April, and the dedicated south bound cycle way and re-configured parking on Rohan Street have been completed. Demolition and in ground services works on the outdoor dining platform area is now the focus.

Urban greening of Endeavour Street, Chatswood

As part of Council's water sensitive urban design (WSUD) program, a raingarden (pictured right) has been installed at the western end of Endeavour Street, which will reduce the pollutant load that enters our downstream environments. The filter system includes a blend of hair recovered from hair dressing salons through Sustainable Salons and rice husks (diverted from landfill) which trap pollutants and provide nutrients to the plants.

As well as the raingarden, regular garden beds and trees are being installed in three other locations on Endeavour Street as part of Council's efforts to improve waterway health and enhance the urban canopy.

Thomson Oval upgrade

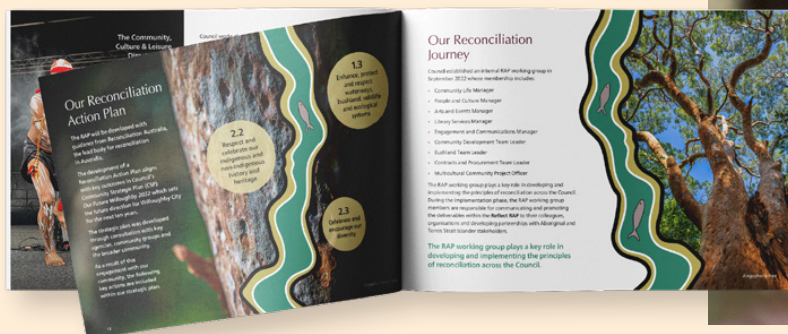
As part of Council's ongoing commitment to creating recreation spaces for all, funding was allocated in the 2023 -24 budget for the renewal of the synthetic playing surface and construction of spectator seating at Thomson Oval. Works include renewal of the existing synthetic surface, construction of a perimeter synthetic jogging track, landscape improvements to the sports ground, provision of a goal storage area, installation of a retractable net and spectator seating. Construction is underway and is set for completion mid-year.



RAP ENDORSEMENT

Willoughby City Council's first Reconciliation Action Plan has been formally endorsed by the peak national reconciliation body, Reconciliation Australia, paving the way for its implementation and further work in the future.

The views of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and local residents from across the Willoughby local government area were sought during an extensive consultation process with community groups and staff, resulting in a set of recommendations that will strengthen relationships and work towards reconciliation.



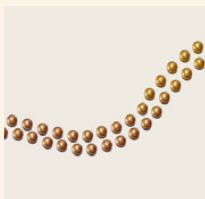
EVENTS



LIVE AT LUNCH GERSHWIN: THE GLAMOUR OF THE SAX

WEDNESDAY, 26 JUNE 2024 | 12PM - 1PM
THE CONCOURSE CONCERT HALL, CHATSWOOD
\$41.50 - \$82.50

The electrifying Australian saxophone quartet Nexus returns to Live at Lunch with their ingenious interpretations of Gershwin. Joined by Jane Rutter who pays tribute to Josephine Baker, Audrey Hepburn and Gertrude Lawrence with hits from best-selling ABC Classic album *Embraceable You: Jane Rutter plays the Gershwin Songbook*. Repertoire includes *Cuban Overture*, *An American in Paris*, *Summertime*, *Rhapsody in Blue*, *It Ain't Necessarily So*, *Fascinatin' Rhythm* and other best loved compositions by Gershwin. Visit theconcourse.com.au to book.



X-CHANGE

13 JUNE - 14 JULY | ART SPACE ON THE CONCOURSE, CHATSWOOD | FREE

Exploring themes of de-colonisation, domesticity, and survival through art and community. *X-Change* is a new exhibition created by the Re-Right Collective (Carmen Glynn-Braun and Dennis Golding). Bringing their knowledge and experiences in public art and community events to their practice, these artists highlight the ways in which stories are approached through conversation. Image: Dennis Golding, *Going Pillin' (detail two)* 2024, epoxy resin and pigment.



PLASTIC FREE JULY MONTH OF JULY

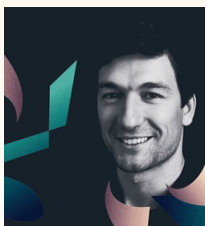
As an official Plastic Free July Council Member, we are actively supporting our community to choose to refuse single-use plastics as well as pledging to make a difference by reducing single-use plastics from meetings and events, helping cafes promote the use of reusable cups and more. Getting started can be as simple as looking for a few single-use plastics to avoid. You can register for the Plastic Free July challenge at www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au/Events/Plastic-Free-July-2024. Participants will receive weekly tips to help keep them motivated, and enjoy stories from others around the world who are reducing plastic waste.



SCHOOL HOLIDAY BUSHWALK NAIDOC WEEK

9 JULY | ROTARY ATHLETIC FIELD, WESTERN END OF MOWBRAY ROAD, LANE COVE NORTH | FREE

A bushland activity for school aged children to celebrate and appreciate NAIDOC Week. Kids can gain an understanding of what NAIDOC Week means with an Indigenous guide from Sydney bushfood farm, 'Bush to Bowl'. Explore the bushland edge of the beautiful Lane Cove River and consider its immense value for the Gai-mariagal people and other nearby clans. Appropriate only for children aged 5 and up. Please bring water, snack and hat.



WILLOUGHBY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: RHAPSODY

27 JULY AND 28 JULY | THE CONCOURSE CONCERT HALL, CHATSWOOD | \$35 - \$75

Hear the prize-winning Australian-based, Russian-born pianist perform Sergei Rachmaninov's brilliant *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini*, a glittering showpiece of astounding virtuosity, under the baton of Chief Conductor and Artistic Director Dr Nicholas Milton AM. Alongside this showstopper, WSO performs Alexander Borodin's lively *Polovtsian Dances* from *Prince Igor* and one of the 20th-century's most fascinating works, Dmitri Shostakovich's mighty Fifth Symphony, written amidst the danger and oppression of Stalin's Russia.

SUBSCRIBE



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



Chatswood NSW



Chatswood_NSW



LIBRARY HSC STUDENT SUPPORT

With the Higher School Certificate (HSC) exam period on the horizon, Chatswood Library is once again set to help students navigate the stress and pressure of final exams.

One initiative undertaken has been the redesign of spaces by Library staff in order to increase its study areas. Throughout the July school holidays, keep an eye out for additional study spaces at Chatswood Library.

The HSC is a stressful time, so the Library is hosting a series of lock-ins for students to attend as well as other initiatives of support. After closing to the public, the library will remain open exclusively for HSC students, with study space, access to computers and meeting rooms.

The first HSC lock-in is set to take place at Chatswood Library on 26 July. Students will also benefit from the tutors available to cover science, maths and English.

Students will receive additional support prior to the trial HSC exam period with a second lock-in on 2 August.

Last year over 200 students joined the lock-ins at Chatswood Library. Feedback was really positive and students expressed how much they enjoyed having a dedicated study space, just for themselves.

NEW LIVERIES FOR OUR WASTE AND RECYCLING TRUCKS

Residents may have noticed that Willoughby City Council's waste and recycling trucks are sporting new images, featuring messages on battery disposal and sustainable food packaging, as well as the swapping, repairing, and donating of unwanted items.

The designs have been implemented to give residents clear information on responsible waste management, as part of Council efforts to increase levels of understanding in the community, and a drive to avoid landfill.

For more information on household bin collections please visit www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au/Residents/Waste-and-recycling/Household-bin-services



EXPLORE WILLOUGHBY'S NATURAL HISTORY

An exhibition at Willoughby District Historical Society and Museum highlights the importance of protecting and enhancing the habitat essential for the survival of our area's natural history.

The Natural History of Willoughby: From Fungi to Flora and Fauna includes photographs, recordings and wildlife specimens from the local area. On exhibition till the end of August, visit the Museum which is open each Sunday from 1pm to 4pm. Entry cost is from \$3 - \$6, or a family entry fee of \$10.

The Willoughby District Historical Society and Museum is a not for profit organisation run by volunteers. For more information about this and other exhibitions visit www.willoughbydhs.org.au



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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