

WILLOUGHBY CITY NEWS



Making better places

Placemaking is at the centre of Council's *Draft Public Spaces and Recreation Strategy* as the city welcomes another 13,000 residents over the coming years.



Willoughby City has 455 hectares of public spaces including parks, playgrounds, waterfronts, and sports grounds, and they're becoming increasingly important to the community. The *Draft Public Spaces and Recreation*

Strategy guides the planning and management of these spaces.

The Draft Strategy outlines a new approach of placemaking which helps identify opportunities to reimagine public spaces in partnership with the community, with the aim to increase recreational opportunities, and deliver spaces that respond to community needs.

A recent *Paint the Playground* activation at Bales Park playground, offered children (pictured left) the opportunity to paint a newly installed tunnel. The activation was conceived as part of

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improvement works for the playground which is due for completion this financial year. Notwithstanding positive feedback from the community on the new upgrades, the tunnel space remained under-used. Sydney-based artist Jeanette Kavanagh (pictured above), with 20 local children successfully painted the tunnel, creating a sense of pride and belonging. A positive start to placemaking.

MAYOR'S COLUMN



This year we had two recipients awarded the *2024 Willoughby Citizen of the Year*. One of the recipients was Grant Berthold, who generously contributed his time to and is the driving force behind Willoughby Park Run. Grant also volunteers with the SES and actively seeks opportunities to bring the community together, and facilitates inclusiveness by encouraging participants of all abilities. The second recipient John Jung Eun Noh, has held the vital role of Group Coordinator of the MOSAIC Men's Group since 2013, guiding the Men's Group on a journey of growth, friendship, and cultural exchange. I was thrilled to present these awards at Willoughby Council's Australia Day celebrations earlier this year.



March is all about celebrating our most valuable community members – our Seniors. Our Seniors Festival includes events and activities for everyone, including those with limited mobility or budgets. The range of activities and events demonstrates our region's diverse community, and the active involvement of many wonderful community groups and

organisations that help run events. I look forward to seeing our seniors at one or many of these fantastic events.

We are incredibly proud to be presenting our Sustainable Building Practices series of webinars. Sustainable building practices not only contribute to environmental preservation but also bolster the resilience, efficiency, and longevity of homes. This initiative, for prospective builders and renovators, stems from an increased demand in our community to be more informed on what they can do to create homes that are resilient and responsible. Information on the remaining three webinars can be found on page 4

The Year of the Dragon festival was a chance to celebrate our culturally rich and inclusive community, read about Celebration Day on page 7. I wish all a year of good health and good fortune.

Cr Tanya Taylor
Mayor, Willoughby City Council

SRV UPDATE

Council submitted an application for a 15% rate increase, to apply from 1 July 2024, with the NSW Government's Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART).



The rate increase application followed an extensive community engagement process. Residents can review this process on haveyoursaywilloughby.com.au. The application to IPART including forms, attachments and supporting documents can be reviewed on Council's website.

ACTIVE TRAVEL THIS MARCH

Mark 22 March in your calendar and join thousands of students across Australia in embracing active travel for National Ride2School Day.



Leave the car at home and discover the joy of pedalling, scooting, or strolling to school, all while contributing to a healthier and happier community. Encourage your family to participate and experience the benefits of active travel.



Lucian Chappell, *Cherish the lost child within* (detail), 2023, photomedia

SMART EXPRESSIONS

An exhibition offering a captivating glimpse into the vibrant imaginations and diverse perspectives of the next generation of artists.

The student artworks selected from the 2023 NSW Higher School Certificate exam in visual arts demonstrate a rich tapestry of creativity as they explore a variety of themes and mediums.

Art enthusiasts will have the opportunity to witness the artistic evolution and expression of students from the following participating schools; Bradfield Senior College, Chatswood High School, Glenside Rudolf Steiner School, Mercy Catholic College, St Pius X College and Willoughby Girls High School.

Willoughby Mayor Tanya Taylor expressed how important it was to be celebrating the works of the students which are a product of numerous months of experimentation, refinement, and sheer hard work. "We are thrilled to provide a platform for these aspiring artists to share their unique perspectives and engage with the community through their art." The exhibition is open until 24 March at Art Space on the Concourse, Chatswood.



THE SENIORS FESTIVAL 2024

Continuing throughout March, this year's theme is 'Reach Beyond'. This festival provides a wonderful opportunity for older residents to come together, celebrate and connect. Council is pleased to deliver an exciting program of over 35 events which offer older community members a chance to learn new skills, have fun, make friends and connections. See the program at willoughby.nsw.gov.au



PROJECT ROUNDUP

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.

Artarmon Streetscape Upgrade

Works resumed on 8 January this year and include the continuation of footpath widening, paving, drainage and roadworks, construction of the retaining wall and terrace seating area. Broughton Street has been closed to traffic and variable message signs are in place directing traffic south one way through Hampden Lane. Work has also commenced on the amenities block, station side of Hampden Road.

Once the current stage is complete, the next stages will include installation of traffic signals at the corner of Hampden and Broughton Road, construction of terrace seating and footpath curb extensions and blisters at the Village Green. The project is on schedule and is proposed to be completed by mid-2024. To receive updates on this project scan the QR code.



Edward Street and Penshurst Street South Streetscape Improvement Project

This street corridor improvement project will encompass street greening, traffic calming improvements to make the corridor safer, cooler, and more inviting for the community. After conducting two community workshops last year, more than two thirds of respondents supported this project.

In January this year, Council commenced working with external consultants on the design process. The process is expected to run for the next four months before planned community workshops expected around mid 2024. Council will be promoting the workshops in advance to allow the community to participate. Scan the QR code register.



Naremburn Streetscape Upgrade

An exciting new public space is being created for the Naremburn community to enjoy! The Naremburn local centre streetscape upgrade will be commencing construction within the next few months. This streetscape upgrade to Naremburn's local business centre is jointly funded by Council and the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications through its Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program (LRCI). This upgrade will provide easier access for pedestrians, cyclists, and bus passengers, enhance facilities for the public to improve and extend visitation time and create higher economic activity to support our local businesses.

Key Features include:

- Adding more public space with new seating and shade
- Adding landscaping and planting
- Changing to one-way traffic through Quiamong Street with separate south-bound cycle lane
- Installing additional bike racks
- Creating extra parking on the South side of Rohan Street



Scan the QR code to register for project updates.

NEW WEBINAR SERIES: INTRODUCTION TO SUSTAINABLE BUILDING

FREE

Willoughby City Council is proud to present 'Introduction to Sustainable Building', a series of webinars to guide home builders and renovators on resilient design, sustainable building materials and water efficiency.

This Willoughby City Council initiative, for prospective builders and renovators, stems from an increased demand in our community to be more informed on what they can do to create homes that are resilient and responsible. The series is presented by sustainable design experts Renew and the three remaining webinars will cover: selecting sustainable building materials, incorporating greenery and water efficiency and selecting the right team of professionals.

Visit www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au/Environment/Events to register for a webinar.



EMBRACE CLEAN ENERGY

Residents and business owners can begin their journey to a cleaner and healthier future through electrification and solar initiatives offered by Council.

Chatswood resident Brian Peck (pictured right) was motivated to electrify his 48-unit apartment building as part of his commitment to living a greener lifestyle. His electrification journey has seen him install an induction cooktop (pictured right) for his apartment, but it's his collaborative efforts with his building's Owners Corporation that is the most impressive. He spearheaded two major capital works: a 30kW rooftop solar PV system to supply much of the electricity required for the common areas, and an industrial electric heat pump for all residents' hot water (pictured right).

Visit www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au/Campaigns/Lets-electrify to understand the benefits and different actions that can be taken. Resources are available online to help make the transition, these include; electrify everything guides and cost saving calculator.

Explore the unique opportunity residents have to access a solar bulk buy program. Choose from solar-only, solar and battery systems, or battery-only options. To take advantage of this offer visit www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au/Solar-Bulk-Buy



WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS FOR YOU?



Healthier home environment



Modern electric appliances are cheaper to run



Lower greenhouse gas emissions which helps mitigate climate change

EVENTS



EMPORER

SATURDAY 20 APRIL | 7PM

SUNDAY 21 APRIL | 2PM

THE CONCOURSE CONCERT HALL, CHATSWOOD
\$35 - \$75

Hear this iconic work in the hands of rising star Australian pianist Winnie Su, who joins conductor Luke Spicer and the Willoughby Symphony Orchestra for an unmissable night of music. Be there for the unveiling of a brand new work by the winner the of the Willoughby Symphony Orchestra's Young Composer Award for 2024 alongside Gustav Holst's *A Somerset Rhapsody* and Ralph Vaughan Williams' exquisite *Benedicite*, sung by the scintillating Willoughby Symphony Choir. Visit www.theconcourse.com.au to book.



WILLOUGHBY SENIORS ART EXHIBITION

1 - 28 MARCH | DOUGHERTY COMMUNITY CENTRE, CHATSWOOD | FREE

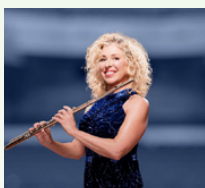
This exhibition comprises works created by Willoughby older adults who have discovered creating art later in life as another form of expression or meditation. Introducing works from local artists such as Jennifer Goh and students attending MOSAIC's painting classes. We thank them for their contribution and celebrate the joy and sense of connection that creativity may bring to our lives. This is a 2024 Willoughby City Council Seniors Festival event. Artwork: By Jennifer Goh.



DANCE TO THE NINES – ROCK 'N' ROLL THEME

15 MARCH | DOUGHERTY COMMUNITY CENTRE, CHATSWOOD | 5.30PM - 8.30PM | \$10

An accessible evening for people 18 years old and over living with disability. Family and friends are encouraged to attend. Light refreshments will be served on arrival in our Blend Cafe. Dance to the sounds from Evergreen Music and our volunteer DJs. Two lucky door hamper prizes drawn will be drawn on the evening, the winner must be present to claim their lucky door hamper. Beverages including; water, tea and coffee, and orange juice will be available throughout the evening, as well as light refreshments including a sausage sizzle, fruit, cheese and biscuits. Three more *Dance to the Nines* events will occur throughout the year on 21 June, 6 September and 6 December, each with a different theme. Registrations are essential, visit www.willoughby.nsw.com.au to register.



LIVE AT LUNCH – HEROIC WOMEN

3 APRIL | THE CONCOURSE CONCERT HALL, CHATSWOOD | \$41.50 - \$82.50

A stellar trio of Australian women, Jane Rutter, Tamara-Anna Cislowska and Tarita Botsman, celebrate female triumphs through the lens of musical heroines. From Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade* to Roxie Hart in Kander and Ebbs' *Chicago*, Bizet's *Carmen* and many others. Drawn from composers Hildegarde Von Bingen, Puccini, Ravel, Lili Boulanger, Kats-Chernin, Chaminade and Smetana. Buy a subscription package and save, visit www.theconcourse.com.au to book.



A PLACE TO CALL HOME

24 APRIL - 5 MAY | ART SPACE ON THE CONCOURSE | FREE

Honouring the heritage and beauty of Federation homes. Celebrating NSW Heritage Month, this exhibition of hand-painted watercolours by artist Marta Madison showcases Victorian, Georgian, Edwardian, Arts and Crafts, Federation and post-war houses throughout New South Wales and Victoria. Image: Marta Madison, *Oakhurst, Cremorne*, 2023, watercolour on Arches hot press paper.

SUBSCRIBE

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



Chatswood NSW



Chatswood_NSW



DELIGHTED CROWDS SEE IN THE YEAR OF THE DRAGON

Celebration Day kicked off a vibrant start to the Chatswood Year of the Dragon Festival. The streets of Chatswood were filled with dragons and echoed with laughter during the spectacular celebrations.

On a warm day, the air thrummed with excitement as dragon and lion dancers wove through the crowd, their powerful movements bringing good fortune and prosperity. Crowds discovered culinary delights as they bustled through the marketplace, brimming with delicious dumplings, vibrant crafts, and lively performances. Throughout the day, The Concourse became a hub of cultural immersion. Traditional music filled the air, transporting audiences to distant lands, while workshops offered a chance to learn. It was a day for families to



create cherished memories, for neighbours to connect, and for everyone to experience the joy of cultural exchange.

Pictured above: A sea of red as crowds enjoyed the popular Lantern parade. Pictured left: The Concourse Outdoor Space providing the perfect stage for a packed schedule of Celebration Day performances.

MARCH INTO FITNESS

Are you ready to March into a healthier lifestyle? Join us at Willoughby Leisure Centre for 30 days of gym access for just \$30.

With our extended hours and concession rates, fitting in a workout around your busy schedule has never been easier. You can enjoy our Member Care program, including a free fitness plan and regular reviews, a range of outdoor activities, plus, our fitness studios and gym cater to diverse interests. There's something for everyone. Don't miss out on our special personal training bundles – 3 sessions for just \$145! Take the first step towards a healthier you this March. Visit willoughbyleisure.com.au

30 DAYS FOR \$30



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HOST YOUR EVENT AT A COUNCIL VENUE

Searching for a unique and versatile venue for your next event?
Council has range of venues available for hire.

Whether planning a workshop, meeting, class, or performance, Council's range of venues may suit. The Artarmon Kids Cottage Community Centre offers a large, light-filled space adjacent to a park and playground, ideal for workshops and classes. Chatswood Library's variety of hire spaces are perfect for community, commercial, and government organisations events. The Dougherty Community Centre (pictured right) is a versatile option with various rooms to accommodate different group sizes, suitable for meetings, seminars, and classes, with on-site catering available. For a truly unique experience, consider booking The Haven Amphitheatre, with its natural acoustics and rich history of hosting performances and workshops. Make the most of these fantastic facilities visit our website www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au to hire a venue.



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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