

WILLOUGHBY CITY NEWS



Family Fun

It's a world of fun when the Chatswood Family Festival on The Concourse returns this January.

Bop till you drop at a funky silent disco with glowing headphones playing family-friendly favourites. Sit back, relax and enjoy family movies celebrating



Australian film on the Urban Screen including Blinky Bill, Bran Nue Dae, Red Dog and Paper Planes each Friday evening from 6pm.

Theatre performances include Storytime Ballet: *Coppélia*, The Gruffalo's Child and the Willoughby Symphony's Mini Maestros: Musical Opposites. Roll up, roll up for circus skills workshops or learn to code. Drop in to art and craft activities where you can contribute to a giant collaborative painting – *My Australia*.

Chatswood Library has a host of activities including their popular Summer Reading

What's inside

Page 3

Chatswood Year of the Pig
This summer immerse yourself in the Lunar New Year festivities.

Page 4

Seniors Festival
25 free or specially discounted events for seniors in February.

Page 6

Eco round-up
Willoughby's received a gold star for sustainability.

Page 8

Live at Lunch
Popular lunchtime concert series returns to The Concourse.

Club and LEGO® Fun.
It's on from January 3 - 27.
Find out more at **willoughby.nsw.gov.au**



MAYOR'S COLUMN



This summer we have a packed program of events and activities reflecting the diversity of our community. From the Chatswood Family Festival in January to the Willoughby Seniors Festival in February and the Chatswood Year of the Pig Festival, there's something for everyone. It's been wonderful to attend all of our Festive Season events including launching the Festive Flags and Carols in Willoughby Park.



As we look back on the past year's achievements, we know that we approach the year ahead in a position of financial stability, having delivered a number of important projects. You can read more highlights in the Annual Report 2017/18 available on Council's website.

As Mayor some of my highlights are the opportunities I receive to get out and about to meet community groups. It's a pleasure to learn more about the people who make Willoughby unique. This year I've met Scouts, charities, sports groups, multicultural groups, churches, artists and musicians to name but a few.

In 2018 we welcomed 468 new Australian citizens at 11 citizenship ceremonies. These are such joyous occasions and I look forward to welcoming more new citizens at the Australia Day ceremony. All are welcome to share this special day and stay for a free Aussie BBQ.

I'd like to thank the 600 plus volunteers who generously give their time. From supporting the elderly to Bushcare, multicultural services, the libraries and events, our fantastic volunteers have given over 24,000 hours of community service. I also acknowledge my fellow Councillors for the work they do for the community and the many Council employees who do so much behind the scenes. Thank you.

I hope to see you enjoying our city's fabulous events, activities and open spaces over the summer months and wish you all a great festive season and happy new year.

Cr Gail Giles-Gidney
Mayor, Willoughby City Council

FIT AND FLEXIBLE

Want to get fit but reluctant to sign up for a year of payments?



Willoughby Leisure Centre now offers flexible membership which allows you to use all of its features, including gym, spa, sauna, group fitness classes, free crèche and free parking – without being locked into a contract! Book a tour to see what's on offer. To find out more visit www.willoughbyleisure.com.au.

CUTTING EMISSIONS AND COSTS

Willoughby City Council joined 17 other NSW councils to sign a landmark agreement that will see 20% of Council's retail electricity from renewable sources from 1 July 2019.



Procuring 20% renewables allows Willoughby City Council to fix its costs until 2030 and reduces its reliance on standard grid power. The electricity supply agreement will save over 1,800 tonnes of CO₂-e every year and about \$37,000 over three years in reduced electricity costs.



Enjoy the spectacular Lion Dance performances this Lunar New Year.

CHATSWOOD YEAR OF THE PIG FESTIVAL

This summer immerse yourself in the sensational New Year festivities of Asia without leaving Sydney.

For the first time, Chatswood is hosting a three-week cultural celebration, Chatswood Year of the Pig Festival from January 29 to February 19. The event will bring Sydney into the New Year in style – with luck, prosperity and good health, celebrating the rich cultural diversity of the area.

The Golden Market, a traditional end-of-year food and fashion market, and the Lunar New Year Twilight Parade, a traditional Chinese New Year street parade, will be major allures of the Festival. Other highlights include the Taste of Asia Food Tours, guided journeys eating Asian delicacies at local food hot spots, and Flicks for Piglets, free screenings of Chinese and English films for families. Chinese New Year Celebration Day and the Chinese New Year Art Exhibition will also be visitor attractions.

Festival goers can celebrate the flavours of the world with a journey through the delectable food hot spots in Chatswood. Labelled Sydney's newest 'Little Asia', Chatswood is home to many hidden gems to make your mouth water. Check out the Hai Di Lao restaurant in Westfield, Chao Ba Vietnamese restaurant at The Concourse and the new General Chao at the Interchange.

Brought to you by Willoughby City Council and supported by Precinct Partner General Chao, Golden Sponsors Westfield Chatswood, Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, Sydney, Mercedes Benz North Shore and cultural support from Australia-China Institute for Arts and Culture and the Chinese Cultural Centre.

For more information visit www.visitchatswood.com.au/lny2019



EVENTS



A FESTIVAL FOR SENIORS

THROUGHOUT FEBRUARY

The Willoughby Seniors Festival returns this year with 25 free or specially discounted events for seniors. The ever popular annual Variety Concert is a highlight. Join us for an afternoon of entertainment with the Royal Australian Navy Band, laughs, great company and a delicious afternoon tea. Other events include the 'Wild Friday' gardening workshop in Chatswood, food tasting tour, harbour cruise, workshop on writing your family history, health talks, exercise sessions, exhibitions, open days and more. The festival demonstrates our region's diverse community and the active involvement of the many wonderful community groups and organisations that make this event possible.



CHRISTMAS PRESENTS SORTED!

THROUGHOUT DECEMBER | CHATSWOOD MALL | FREE

This festive season, don't miss the Chatswood Mall Christmas Market featuring arts, crafts, fashion and fresh produce for unique Christmas gifts. Open 10 - 23 December, 9am - 6pm, the market also offers a delicious range of international food and live music to bring in the festive cheer. Check out the 40 fabulous winning designs of the Festive Flag competition proudly displayed on flags throughout Chatswood CBD. Children from kindergarten to year six submitted over 700 entries.



AUSTRALIA DAY

26 JANUARY | THE CONCOURSE

Join Mayor Gail Giles-Gidney and Councillors of Willoughby City in celebrating Australia Day at The Concourse. Welcome our new citizens, hear a keynote speech from our Australia Day ambassador and congratulate our Australia Day award winners, including Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year and the Community and Cultural Building Award. Enjoy performances by the Willoughby Band, local choir and a free community barbeque lunch.



FRANCE ON SHOW

30 JANUARY – 10 FEBRUARY | INCINERATOR ART SPACE | FREE

Experience the beauty of the Champagne and Provence landscapes this summer in a fascinating exhibition of artworks by Cathy Shugg. *France-Histoires* features watercolours, ink sketches and collages which speak of moments, scenes and encounters in France. These intricate landscapes and figurative works investigate the relationship between France's natural and human environments and culture, now and in the past.

SUBSCRIBE



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



ROYAL RECOGNITION

Congratulations to Willoughby year 10 student Sophia Skarparis who was awarded Young Conservationist of the Year by the Australian Geographic Society. Sophia collected 12,000 handwritten signatures to campaign for a ban on plastic bags, which was debated in NSW Parliament.

The award was presented by Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Sussex in Sydney in October.



Proposed library refurbishment

LIBRARY BOOKED FOR REVAMP


There are some exciting changes happening at Chatswood Library over the next few months, with the first major upgrade to the library in seven years.

Finishing in February, the work will include a creator space for group and collaborative work, a new quiet reading area and a dedicated local studies space to improve access to information and resources about Willoughby. Library computers will be moved into the main area to allow for better staff support. The entrance will be freshened up, with better seating and a re-designed service desk.

Chatswood Library is one of Council's most popular services with 754,126 visitors and 944,789 loans last year. Willoughby City Council libraries have the third highest circulation per capita out of 101 NSW libraries. You can keep up to date with what's happening at the library through the website, signing up to the library e-newsletter and by visiting Chatswood Library or any of our local libraries.

WHAT WE DID...

The 2017/18 Annual Report shows a sound financial position. It's been a busy year with Council delivering important projects to meet the needs and expectations of our community.

Affordable housing

 11 additional key worker dwellings being built, adding to an existing 22 homes


\$15.3m
 net operating surplus before capital revenue

Delivery of **88.5%** capital works

216
 projects valued at \$22.6m

Gore Hill Oval
\$9.5m
 To be completed early 2019

60,251m² roads were resurfaced

1,084m² of footpaths built or improved

Parking
 Timed and resident parking scheme implemented in East Artarmon and Talus Street Reserve.



\$3.54m
 Sportsgrounds and lighting upgrades



Willoughby Leisure Centre changeroom refurbishment

\$1.42 million

9 parks and playgrounds upgraded

\$865,000





Our vision for a sustainable and livable Willoughby City Council area

ECO ROUND-UP

Sustainability Action Plan report card

Willoughby received a gold star for sustainability. In 2017/18 the number of volunteers with Bushcare rose from 289 to 295. 507 people attended workshops on how to care for the natural environment – 80% more than the previous year. Council supports over 130 community gardeners, four community gardens on Council land and two on verges.

8,700 people attended council-run sustainability education events and workshops with 94% of people saying they were satisfied with the events. Residents reduced their waste-to-landfill by 33kg per person. The number of incidents of illegal dumping reported to Council reduced from 792 to 682.

Council will be calling on the community to give its feedback on the next ten year Sustainability Action Plan, *Our Green City Plan 2018* in early 2019.

Recycling audit – how did we do?

We randomly inspected 1,500 recycling bins and found that plastic bags, soft plastics (glad wrap, food wrappers), bagged recycling, tissues, napkins and textiles (clothes and shoes) are the main items mistakenly being put in recycling bins. Remember – if in doubt, leave it out!

New! Free mattress pick up service

In 2019 Council will offer residents a new free mattress collection and recycling service. Mattresses will be collected and taken to a recycling facility where they will be dismantled and recycled by social enterprise Soft Landing.

www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au

Eco pets



Furry friends can now get a slice of the composting action with a pet waste composting system. Diverting pet waste away from landfill and back into the soil reduces the use of plastic bags. Willoughby City Council residents

receive a special discount – buy now at the Compost Revolution website – www.compostrevolution.com.au

We're trialling new plastic-free dog waste bags in local parks. They're made from corn and are 100% biodegradable and compostable. Remember to dispose of them in the red bins! If you've tried the new bags, we'd love to hear your feedback on 9777 1000 or at email@willoughby.nsw.gov.au



BEAT THE HEAT

Summer's here which means hot weather is just around the corner.



Develop a heatwave plan to beat the heat this summer: drink plenty of water, stay in a cool place, have a cool shower, know your medications and check on friends and family. For more information on how to prepare and what to do during a heatwave visit www.health.nsw.gov.au/environment/beattheheat

LIGHTING THE WAY FOR SAVINGS

Willoughby City Council has given the green light to replacing 1,799 street lights with more cost efficient and environmentally friendly LED lights.



The new lights will save rate payers \$1 million over five years, reduce carbon emissions, provide better quality lighting and will be cheaper to maintain. Council's investment will see the project paying for itself in five years and reduce Council's exposure to higher energy prices in the future. The work will begin this financial year.

LIVE AT LUNCH

Popular lunchtime concert series **Live at Lunch** returns to **The Concourse** in 2019, with seven concerts throughout the year.

Led by legendary Australian flautist, Jane Rutter, the Live at Lunch concert series is a musical journey with special guests. Visit South America, China and India with bandeon player-pianist Danieal Rojas and Third Culture, Paris with jazz singer Hetty Kate and the West End with Peter Cousens. Pianist Gerard Willems joins Jane for some classics, opera soprano Amelia Farrugia dazzles and Aria Award winning guitarists the Grigoryan brothers also return. Purchase your tickets now at theconcourse.com.au



FREE TENNIS COURT HIRE

Council provides recreation spaces to support active and healthy lifestyles. As well as the expansive Willoughby Leisure Centre, Council also manages tennis courts and a swimming area.

Tyneside Tennis Courts in North Willoughby features five synthetic courts with free access throughout summer from 5pm - 7pm on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays and 9.30am - 11.30am on Sundays. Book online at bookacourt.tennis.com.au

Other Council facilities include Castle Cove's Willis Recreation and Sports Centre offering tennis and futsal courts and the Northbridge Baths set within the stunning Sydney Harbour foreshore. A number of other tennis facilities are available across Willoughby including at Talus Street Reserve. Get out and about this summer and visit some of these fantastic facilities.



MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS

Council is made up of twelve Councillors and the Mayor. Councillors represent one of the four Wards that make up Willoughby, while the Mayor represents all the Wards.

To contact the Mayor or Councillors go to www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au/about-council/mayor--councillors/



Phone: (02) 9777 1000
31 Victor Street, Chatswood 2067
PO Box 57, Chatswood 2057
email@willoughby.nsw.gov.au
@WilloughbyCityCouncil
@WilloughbyCity
@WilloughbyCity

www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au