

INNER WEST

A Very Inner West Christmas

News | December



Caring and carols for Christmas

The spirit of Christmas is alive and well in the Inner West.

Hundreds of volunteers will help feed thousands of hungry Sydneysiders at The Rev. Bill Crews Foundation in Ashfield this Christmas.

"It would be easy to think the world looks pretty gloomy, but I see hope and optimism in the eyes of all our volunteers", Rev. Crews said.

"The selfless dedication of those volunteers enables thousands of people to rejoice in the spirit of Christmas - people who would otherwise go without. Indeed, hundreds of volunteers are packing Christmas hampers for those in need, while even more will help prepare Christmas lunch and serve meals on Christmas Day."

Meanwhile the Leichhardt Espresso Chorus is inviting everyone to pack a picnic and converge on Marrickville Town Hall for traditional Christmas carols on the 17 and 18 of December. For details see page 8.



Top: Volunteer, Helen Fotiadis serves Christmas lunch at The Rev. Bill Crews Foundation in Ashfield.

Above: Members of the Leichhardt Espresso Chorus take a picnic break during rehearsals.

ROZELLE PARKLANDS PLAN

Key sports facilities fail to make the cut

Michael Koziol
City editor

The state government ditched several key elements of the Rozelle Parklands project recommended by its own expert working group, including an all-weather sporting field, tennis courts and street parking, leading to accusations the in-



Rozelle parkland stripped of key sporting amenities

It has been revealed that large parts of the sporting and community facilities promised for the Rozelle Parklands were secretly cut from the plans the Government announced last week.

An all-weather sporting field, public toilets, public car parking and two multi-purpose sports courts were all deleted from the final design without the government disclosing the cuts.

Inner West Mayor Darcy Byrne says the decision is a cruel sleight of hand by the State Government.

"Our community has been relying on this project after a couple of years of disruption to their lives from WestConnex construction and now the Government is short-changing us again," Mr Byrne said.

"Not only is the Government under-funding the project, they are stripping it of vital sporting infrastructure.

"Providing a substandard park was never part of the plan.

"We've been warning for years that the Government was under funding the park promised in compensation for WestConnex construction impacts.

"At first there was no funding allocated to build the park, just a requirement for the road-builder to install a grass covering over the interchange.

"We eventually forced \$15m out of the Government but it has been clear all along that what they promised would cost closer to \$30m.

Top: The Sydney Morning Herald

Free period products to be provided by Council



Free feminine hygiene products will be made available this month in the female and unisex bathrooms of multiple Council-owned facilities across the Inner West.

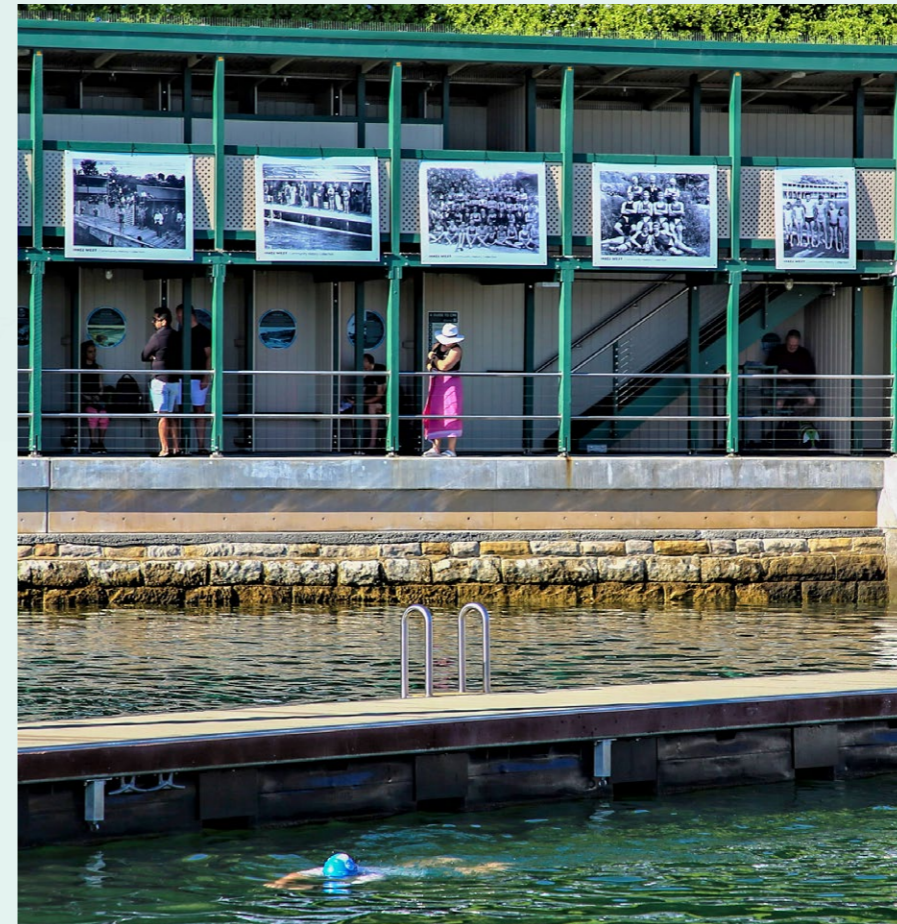
The custom-made dispensers will give patrons an option from a range of products, all of which are complimentary. This Inner West Council initiative demonstrates a strong commitment to the health and welfare of menstruating people and Council's support for the accessibility of these necessary products.



Petersham Oval upgrades unveiled

Local cricketing heritage was recognised at the recent unveiling of the \$1.8 million upgrade at Petersham Oval.

Crowds gathered to see the Randwick-Petersham Cricket Club in action and to recognise past cricketing greats with the opening of the Dudley Seddon Memorial Grandstand and the Hughes Family Long Room. It was also a chance to acknowledge local cricket trailblazer, Mollie Flaherty, in a mural by local artist Kelly Wallwork.



Where are they now?

Some of our community history collection photos were on display at the recent Dawn Fraser Baths' heritage day.

Last year we saved Dawny's Baths through an award-winning heritage restoration.

Our local history team is always on the lookout for any images or stories you may have of our local history so they can be preserved and shared for future generations.

If you have photographs, flyers or stories to share please email history@innerwest.nsw.gov.au or phone Amie Zar on 9392 5817

To see our collection of historic Dawn Fraser Baths photographs, you can view the catalogue here: www.innerwest.nsw.gov.au/DFBHeritage

Supporting the *Raise The Age* campaign

Inner West Council recently resolved to add its full weight behind the campaign to raise the age of criminal responsibility in Australia. Currently, children as young as 10 can be arrested by police, charged with an offence, brought before court and sent to prison.

Council will be calling upon NSW and federal parliaments to raise the age of criminal responsibility to

at least 14 years old and invest in community-led solutions.

More information can be found at raisetheage.org.au/campaign



Pedestrianising main streets on the way

Recent festivals across the Inner West have demonstrated how hungry local people are to make use of public spaces for community activity.

After the long isolation of the pandemic, Inner West citizens have flocked to the Norton Street Festa, the St. Anmore Festival and the Marrickville Music Festival.

We will keep curating and supporting events like these, but we also want main streets to be pedestrianised more regularly throughout the Inner West.

We are now working on a plan to allow bi-monthly or quarterly closures of main streets for community activity where that is supported by local residents and businesses.

We have proposed to the NSW Government that there be a pilot in the Inner West of Sydney of reduced red tape and cost for street closures to allow this to happen.

Our aim is to launch this program in 2023. Watch this space.



Darcy Byrne

Darcy Byrne,
Inner West Mayor



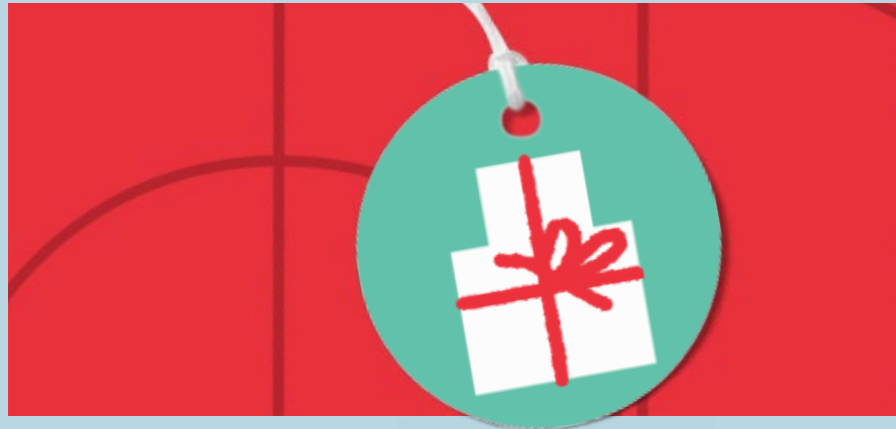
The view from Birchgrove Park, Balmain

Where to watch the New Year's eve fireworks

The inner west boasts some of the best vantage points to watch Sydney's New Year's firework display, as home to the most iconic views of the Harbour.

Birchgrove Park, Illoura Reserve and Thornton Park are among many of Council's well-maintained parklands that serve as a fantastic, family-friendly spot to spend the evening. Council will assist the celebrations by

providing adequate public amenities, to ensure the comfort and security of park goers. Be sure to keep up to date with the latest COVID safety measures from NSW to ensure your celebrations are in line with latest NSW Health regulations. These foreshore sites are alcohol free zones and will be best accessed by public transport due to NYE traffic arrangements implemented around the Balmain peninsular.



Tips for a low-waste Christmas

Hailed as 'the most wonderful time of the year', Christmas can also be the most wasteful. Consider reducing your waste this festive season by:

- ▶ Making your own decorations and reusable crackers
- ▶ Gifting local experiences, not things – tickets for shows, workshops, events, restaurant vouchers or charity donations in someone's name
- ▶ Buying second-hand or making a gift
- ▶ Giving native plants and seeds as presents

- ▶ Suggesting a Secret Santa to cut down on the number of gifts
- ▶ Choosing alternatives for wrapping paper – t-shirts, fabric off-cuts or reusable fabric gift bags.

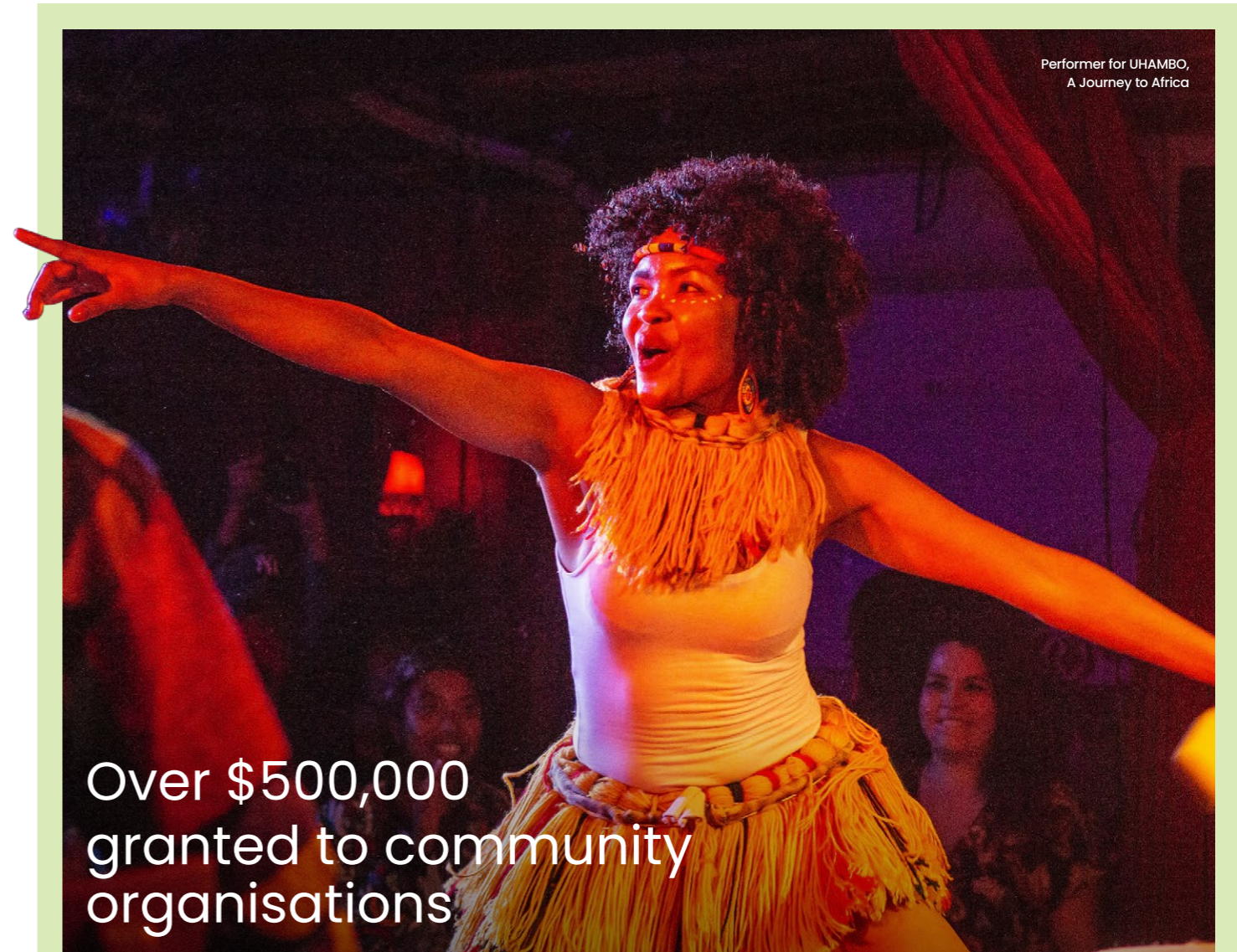
Need to dispose of your non-artificial Christmas tree? Cut and place it in your green-lid garden organics bin, or book a branches collection Council clean-up. Visit www.innerwest.nsw.gov.au/CleanUp



Darrell Jackson Gardens upgrade unveiled

One of Summer Hill's most loved recreation spots has opened to the public after an impressive upgrade. The \$1.2m project was funded by Council along with grants from Everyone Can Play NSW, Cricket NSW and Tennis NSW.

The refreshed playground features new additions requested by the community including soft-fall surface, new equipment and shade sail. There's also a natural turf junior cricket oval with a new cricket pitch, a resurfaced skate park and a resurfaced tennis court and lighting upgrade. Improvements to the paths, bioswale stormwater treatment, tree and landscape planting also featured as part of this project.



Performer for UHAMBO, A Journey to Africa

Over \$500,000 granted to community organisations

Inner West Council has awarded hundreds of thousands of dollars in grants to fund 69 different community initiatives around the Inner West over a two-year period.

Among the winners was Diversity Arts Australia, who will commission 10 new works from Asian-Australian

artists to respond to racism faced by the Asian community in the wake of COVID-19. Another deserving winner was Gladys Namokoyi for the Red Rattler Theatre, presenting a multidisciplinary performance encompassing dance and film to celebrate African culture and storytelling.



Let's celebrate Seniors Festival 2023 together

The 2023 Seniors Festival will be held 1-12 February.

Put the dates in your calendar and make the most of the vast range of free activities for seniors in community spaces throughout the Inner West. Try something new, meet new people and have a great time.

The full program will be available in the new year. Visit www.innerwest.nsw.gov.au/SeniorsFestival for more information.



Marrickville hits a high note

The first Marrickville Music Festival was a huge success, attracting around 30,000 people to celebrate the suburb's colourful culture in a day of free live music and entertainment.

Marrickville's main street and surrounding laneways were filled with the sounds of 58 bands and performance groups and a vast array of stallholders. Roving performers, outdoor stages and DJ tents came alive, with a local resident declaring, "Marrickville has great potential to become Sydney's independent music and cultural centre."



Verge garden consultation

Every patch of greenery in the Inner West is prized – even verges. Gardening on verges helps improve biodiversity and tackles problems such as urban heat.

We're working on a new policy for verge gardening which will help the Inner West reap its benefits while still keeping footpaths safe and accessible.

Tell us your thoughts by 23 December 2022 by visiting yoursay.innerwest.nsw.gov.au/verge-garden-policy-and-guidelines



More Inner West street parties on the way

After the success of recent street festivals such as Norton Street Festa and the St. Anmore and Marrickville Music Festivals, Council is pushing for more of these unifying cultural and community events.
















At a recent meeting, Council resolved to propose an

Inner West pilot main street pedestrianisation program to the NSW Government. This would involve bi-monthly or quarterly use of sections of main streets for events, activations and cultural activity.

Further consultation with local businesses, residents and state ministers is planned with the aim of creating more street events and reducing the cost and red tape involved.

Your Councillors

Find your ward - innerwest.nsw.gov.au/WardMap

Balmain Ward Baludarrri (Leather Jacket)	 Mayor Darcy Byrne (LAB) darcy.byrne@innerwest.nsw.gov.au 02 9335 2157	 Councillor Kobi Shetty (GRN) kobi.shetty@innerwest.nsw.gov.au 0417 427 654	 Councillor John Stamolis (IND) john.stamolis@innerwest.nsw.gov.au 0408 448 285
Stanmore Ward Damun (Port Jackson Fig)	 Councillor Liz Atkins (GRN) liz.atkins@innerwest.nsw.gov.au 0407 239 951	 Councillor Chloe Smith (LAB) chloe.smith@innerwest.nsw.gov.au 0412 985 935	 Councillor Pauline Lockie (IND) pauline.lockie@innerwest.nsw.gov.au 0434 690 544
Ashfield Ward Djarrawunang (Maggpie)	 Councillor Dylan Griffiths (GRN) dylan.griffiths@innerwest.nsw.gov.au	 Councillor Mark Drury (LAB) mark.drury@innerwest.nsw.gov.au 0448 722 942	 Councillor Jessica D'Arienzo (LAB) jessica.dariento@innerwest.nsw.gov.au 0408 505 622
Leichhardt Ward Gulgaaya (Gross Tree)	 Councillor Marghanita Da Cruz (GRN) marghanita.da.cruz@innerwest.nsw.gov.au 0490 788 943	 Deputy Mayor Philippa Scott (LAB) philippa.scott@innerwest.nsw.gov.au 0412 935 713	 Councillor Timothy Stephens (LAB) timothy.stephens@innerwest.nsw.gov.au 0418 474 248
Marrickville Ward Mijuburi (Lillypilly)	 Councillor Mat Howard (LAB) mat.howard@innerwest.nsw.gov.au 0412 645 115	 Councillor Justine Langford (GRN) justine.langford@innerwest.nsw.gov.au 0481 452 283	 Councillor Zoi Tsardoulis (LAB) zoi.tsardoulis@innerwest.nsw.gov.au

Contact us

innerwest.nsw.gov.au

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innerwest.nsw.gov.au/RecentDAs

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innerwest.nsw.gov.au/Meetings

Waste and recycling
innerwest.nsw.gov.au/Waste

Libraries 9392 5588
innerwest.nsw.gov.au/Libraries
library@innerwest.nsw.gov.au

Monday – Sunday: Ashfield, Balmain, Leichhardt and Marrickville

Monday – Saturday: Dulwich Hill, Stanmore, Haberfield and St Peters/Sydenham

Aquatics
innerwest.nsw.gov.au/Aquatics

Annette Kellerman Aquatic Centre
 Marrickville

Ashfield Aquatic Centre

Dawn Fraser Baths
 Balmain

Fanny Durack Aquatic Centre
 Petersham

Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre

Waterplay Park
 Illawarra Road, Marrickville South



What's On Inner West

Discover local events or submit a listing innerwest.nsw.gov.au/WhatsOn
Subscribe to our regular eNewsletters innerwest.nsw.gov.au/Newsletters

Carols on Norton – Marrickville edition

Carols are back for 2022, this time at Marrickville Town Hall to avoid any possibility of inclement weather preventing them from occurring.

The iconic Inner West Christmas event, Carols on Norton, is celebrating its 19th year. Come along and sing with the combined forces of the Leichhardt Espresso Chorus, their terrific Tinsel Orchestra plus the children's Candy Cane Choir and guests MAXed OUT from Moorambilla Voices. They'll be led by Artistic Director Michelle Leonard OAM.

Marrickville Town Hall

7pm Saturday 17 December, 4pm Sunday 18 December

Free! Bring along some snacks and drinks.



Council's Christmas and New Year operating hours

Service centres

Our Customer Service team is here to assist you over the Christmas and New Year period at our Leichhardt Service Centre (7-15 Wetherill Street, Leichhardt).

We will be open 8:30am to 5:00pm on 28, 29 and 30 December 2022.

Ashfield and Petersham Service Centres will re-open on 3 January 2023.

Aquatic centres

Our aquatic centres and adjacent gyms will be closed on Christmas Day, but otherwise in full operation during the Christmas and New Year period with amended hours.

To see the full trading hours of all aquatic centres, go to: www.innerwest.nsw.gov.au/explore/aquatic-centres

Waste and recycling

Garbage, Recycling and Garden Organics bin services will run as usual during the Christmas and New Year period.

The Weekend Transfer Station (Moore Street, Leichhardt) and the St Peters Community Recycling Centre (Unwins Bridge Road, St Peters) will be closed on Sunday 25 December and Sunday 1 January, but open on both Saturday 24 December and Saturday 31 December. Excess cardboard that is too big for your bin can be taken to the Weekend Transfer Station free of charge.

If you're planning on moving out or doing a clean up don't forget to plan ahead and book a collection date well in advance www.innerwest.nsw.gov.au/CleanUp

Libraries

The library opening hours over the Christmas period are as follows:

Date	Ashfield Leichhardt Marrickville	Balmain Dulwich Hill (ETC) Haberfield Stanmore St Peters
Fri 23 Dec	9am-5.30pm	10am-5.30pm
Sat 24 Dec	10am-2pm	Closed
Sun 25 Dec	Closed	Closed
Mon 26 Dec	Closed	Closed
Tue 27 Dec	Closed	Closed
Wed 28 Dec	9am-5pm	Closed
Thu 29 Dec	9am-5pm	Closed
Fri 30 Dec	9am-5pm	Closed
Sat 31 Dec	10am-5pm	Closed
Sun 1 Jan	Closed	Closed
Mon 2 Jan	Closed	Closed
Tue 3 Jan	9am-7.30pm	10am-5.30pm

Full library opening details are on the library website: www.innerwest.nsw.gov.au/libraries

The libraries' JP service offerings will also change over the Christmas/New Year period. Full details can be found on Inner West Council's website: www.innerwest.nsw.gov.au