



Inner West Mayor Darcy Byrne addressing the Rozelle Interchange public meeting

Standing up for our community against Westconnex impacts

For years our whole Inner West community has endured massive impacts from Westconnex construction.

Now with the opening of the Rozelle Interchange and Parklands we are having to fight hard to protect our community from traffic chaos and asbestos contamination.

For over a decade our community warned the previous NSW Government of the traffic chaos that would occur when Westconnex was completed.

In December, when the Rozelle Interchange opened, that's exactly what we saw, with unprecedented congestion on Victoria Road,

the City-West Link and the ANZAC Bridge.

Worse still, in January significant asbestos contamination was discovered at the newly opened Rozelle Parklands.

"We were promised nirvana when the Rozelle Interchange opened, but all we've been left with is a tunnel to a traffic jam and an asbestos mess in the Rozelle Parklands," Mayor Darcy Byrne said.

"We are taking strong action to mobilise our community and demand that these unacceptable impacts are fixed."

See inside for more information.

Lewis Herman Reserve opening

Named after Ashfield's longest serving and much-loved Mayor, Lewis Herman Reserve was opened by Prime Minister Anthony Albanese on December 4 last year.

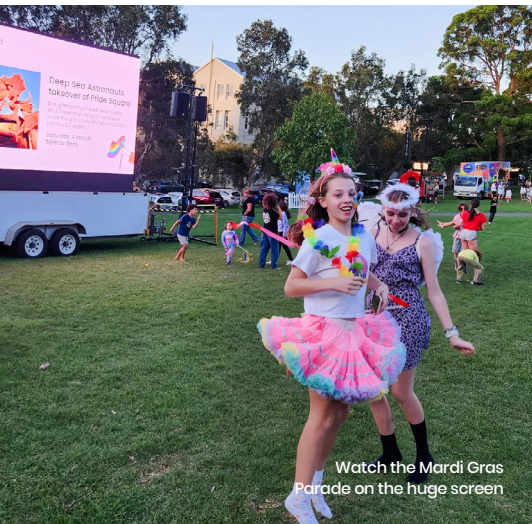
It was a spirited event with Mayor Darcy Byrne, Minister for Transport Jo Haylen, MP for Heffron and Minister for Local Government Ron Hoenig and Lewis Herman's son David celebrating the legacy of Mayor Herman.

It's a special place as it's also Australia's first purpose-built dementia park. Mobility for people with dementia is a major issue and the design of the new reserve has wide paths, providing access to areas of interest for those using walking frames and in wheelchairs.

It's a genuinely multi-generational recreation space and features a new playground, youth space, adventure play area, picnic and passive recreation facilities including shelters and BBQ for the whole community to enjoy.



Pictured left to right: Mayor Darcy Byrne, Cllr Mark Drury, The Hon. Ron Hoenig, Minister for Local Government, Cllr D'Arienzo, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, David Herman, The Hon. Jo Haylen, Minister for Transport



Watch the Mardi Gras Parade on the huge screen

Mardi Gras screening

After the success of last year's screening of the Mardi Gras parade in family friendly Camperdown Memorial Rest Park, expect this night out to be even bigger and better this year.

Plan your evening and enjoy the free, huge live screen bringing you all the fabulous action of Oxford St but in a gorgeous park setting while enjoying a sit-down picnic with the locals. Food will also be available at the venue and families are encouraged. Other Pride related activities will be available to entertain, particularly for the kids.

Where: Camperdown Memorial Rest Park

When: March 2, sundown

Rozelle parklands asbestos update

In December our long fight for additional funding to complete the Rozelle Parklands was concluded successfully with the NSW Government agreeing to provide an additional \$20 million to improve the park over time.

So it was frustrating for our whole community to discover in January that asbestos contamination was found in the mulch used in the Parklands as well as other landscaped areas near Victoria Road.

Council took immediate action to demand the mess be cleaned up, including:

- ▶ Thorough and urgent testing of the entire Parklands for asbestos contamination.
- ▶ The complete removal of all potentially contaminated material from the Parklands. Transport for NSW has now agreed to this and the clean up is being carried out.
- ▶ A thorough investigation of how this contamination could possibly have occurred and for the contractors or suppliers responsible to be held to account.



Asbestos removal could take months

Rozelle Interchange

A tsunami of traffic

When the Rozelle Interchange opened in December local residents experienced extraordinary delays in getting in and out of their suburbs including extraordinary delays in the morning peak.

Council took immediate action convening a public meeting at Balmain Town Hall and demanding that Transport for NSW front up to hear directly from affected local residents.

During the reprieve in traffic volumes over the school holidays Council has been acting to ramp up the pressure on the transport agency and Transurban, owners of Westconnex, to fix this mess.

I have established a panel of local citizens with expertise in transport, traffic and engineering to provide scrutiny of the mitigations being proposed.

Council's demands also include:

- ▶ Immediate, real-time disclosure of the traffic data and travel times for Victoria Road, the City West Link and the ANZAC Bridge.
- ▶ A review of the lane configurations on Victoria Road and the City West Link.
- ▶ Funding for public domain improvements and traffic infrastructure on Victoria Road that was left out of the Budget by the previous Government to be made available.



Darcy Byrne

Mayor, Darcy Byrne
Inner West Council



Auntie Deb Lennis, Janelle Scott, Chair, Council Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee, Clr Drury and Clr D'Arienzo at the sod-turning

New Aboriginal memorial

Following very positive public engagement earlier in 2023, Inner West Council is creating an Aboriginal Survival Memorial in Yeo Park in Ashfield.

Breathe, by Indigenous artists Nicole Monks and Maddison Gibbs, features 246 hand carved and inscribed sandstone boulders, which have been engraved and will be carefully placed to act as portals to ancient stories.

The contemplative artwork celebrates the proud story of First Nations peoples in overcoming colonisation, dispossession and injustice.

The memorial is due to be complete by January 2024.

Memorials will also be created in Illoura Reserve, East Balmain in 2024 and Kendrick Park, Tempe, in 2025.

The bat tunnel

The Greenway works continue with the aim of joining up the Cooks River to the Parramatta River at Iron Cove as one continuous nature corridor for the whole community to enjoy.

The latest work is the construction of the Longport Street Tunnel. This will be a pedestrian and cycle tunnel that will link Cadigal Reserve in Summer Hill with the light rail at Lewisham West. This area will boast new paths and parklands upon completion. The new Longport Street Tunnel is also designed to be microbat-friendly to preserve precious local wildlife. Stay tuned for more updates on this biodiversity and active travel corridor.

Check the QR code for more info.





Customer service stalls are back

Last year we improved customer service with our 'Sydney-first' offering of a new mobile customer service team.

After a short break over the festive season, they are back at public locations every day such as libraries, shopping centres, main streets and train stations to offer locals direct and easy-to-access customer service assistance.

The teams are out and about Monday to Saturdays on a weekly basis. Check out the online schedule so you don't miss them.

Check the QR code for details.



Active Inner West - join up for 2024

Thinking of joining a sporting club this year? Check out our new Active Inner West Map.

With over a hundred community sports clubs in the Inner West, this map helps pinpoint clubs and their contact details near you. There's something for everyone and at every stage of life and fitness level from croquet, ultimate frisbee, roller derby and cricket, football, basketball to lawn bowls and rugby union.

It's all aimed to encourage healthy lifestyles and reduce barriers to participation through readily accessible and available information.



Working hard for the community

Hard-working Council staff have been out and about keeping our streets tidy this summer.

The recent rain, heat and humidity have delivered peak growing conditions with lawns and verges needing more attention.

Council has increased verge maintenance by delivering a faster 20 working day cycle from October to March. So give a wave to the verge mowing team when you see them.

Check the QR code for the mowing schedule.



Increased verge mowing



Mayor Darcy Byrne with the players of the future

Lambert Park upgrade

Inner West Council is investing \$2 million to upgrade Lambert Park with a new, all-weather playing surface.

The last upgrade to the field was 10 years ago and it's been very well used but it's time for an update. Lambert Park is famously home to Australia's most historic football club, APIA. Since 1954, keen young players and the famous APIA Leichhardt Tigers have run out onto the hallowed ground. With APIA growing to 21 teams it's more important than ever that the ground is world-class.

The sporting ground upgrade will use a new infill that provides a cooler playing surface than rubber infield sporting grounds. The players will love it.

The Council is committed to building a healthier Inner West with record investment in our pools, parks, playgrounds and sporting grounds.

Mark your diary for Seniors Festival



Seniors Festival

The official State Government festival dates are 11 - 24 March and Inner West will be holding a range of free events and workshops to celebrate the Seniors community. There's an author's talk with journalist and author Wendy Harmer and a Beatles Singalong at Ashfield Town Hall and a Chinese paper-cutting workshop with artist Tianli Zu and drama workshops and performance.

When: Tuesday 11 March and the week commencing 18 March.



Go green at the Inner West Sustainability Hub

Sustainability Hub

Step into the beating heart of eco-conscious living at the Council's Inner West Sustainability Hub at 7 Prospect St Summer Hill.

Unleash your green potential with the Green Living Centre, The Bower, The Village Project's 'Re Place', and Dress for Success. Dive into workshops, monthly trash markets, bike tune-ups, thrift shopping events, and much more!

In 2023, Council repurposed the

old Summer Hill Depot into the Inner West Sustainability Hub. The community hub is focused on environmental and humanitarian initiatives. Visit, engage, and be part of a greener future—your journey to a sustainable lifestyle starts here!

Be sure to keep up with the happenings of the Inner West Sustainability Hub on Council's webpage.



The Inner West Council values inclusivity

Trans and queer voices

It's the LGBTQI+ community's close work with Council that helps deliver the inclusive culture of which Inner Westies are rightly proud.

Erin Spencer, trans and gender diverse advocate and co-founder of Sock Drawer Heroes, says "The collaboration between trans and gender diverse (TGD) activists and the Council is vital in making sure that events being held, spaces being built and days of significance being recognised are done in a way that is respectful, inclusive and builds trust."

Jesse Hooley, a 78er and transgender activist adds "Transgender activists from Pride in Protest and Rainbow Rights Coalition are grateful for Council's support of self-identification legislation, swim night and TDOR. We urge Council to support our agenda, concerning 'no barriers to transition' and action for secure employment, housing and gender affirming health care."



Marrickville Fashion Frenzy, presented by Dress For Success

Get ready for a style extravaganza at Fashion Frenzy Sydney, March 15 & 16, 2024, at Marrickville Town Hall. Dive into pre-loved treasures starting at \$5 per item! Partake in guilt-free sustainable shopping to elevate your wardrobe, while supporting the amazing work of Dress For Success!

Tickets on sale February 23, 2024.

Scan the QR Code for more information



School safety

With school just back, Inner West Council Parking Services will be working with over 80 schools within the LGA to support the safety of our kids at the start of the new school year.

Key points to consider when dropping off children at school include:

- ▶ Always take care in 40km school zones
- ▶ Follow all parking signs – these help keep your child safe as possible
- ▶ Park responsibly even if that means you have to walk further to the school gate
- ▶ No Parking means drivers must not leave a vehicle unattended and not be over 3 meters from the vehicle for 2 minutes
- ▶ No stopping in a bus zone even if dropping off passengers
- ▶ Never double park – it is illegal and puts children at risk
- ▶ Always park and turn legally around schools and avoid dangerous manoeuvres like U-turns and three-point turns
- ▶ Always give way to pedestrians, especially when entering and leaving driveways
- ▶ Drop the kids off and pick them up on the school side of the road in your school's designated drop-off and pick-up area. Calling out to them from across the road is dangerous because they may run to you without checking traffic
- ▶ It's safest for the kids to get out of the car on the kerb side of the road to be away from passing traffic
















Scan the QR Code for more information.



Balmain Town Hall

The Town and Country Journal reported on the opening of the new Balmain Town Hall on August 25, 1888 and described the main hall as "well filled by a large and fashionable audience." Flags stretched across the street and a brass band performed.

Designed by the then Mayor of Balmain, E.H. Buchanan, it took thirteen months from plans to opening. Its original cupola on the tower seems to have been blown off in a mighty storm in 1931 and despite attempts to have it replaced this was never realised. The original plans included a grand "banqueting room" as it was called, the main hall with its soaring and decorative ceiling, a stage and space for up to 1000 people. 3000 books had already been collected for the public library. The original view from the tower was famous: country, the harbour and the Parramatta and Lane Cove rivers offered a celebrated vista for all.

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Stanmore Ward Damun (Port Jackson Fig)	 Councillor Liz Atkins (GRN) liz.atkins@innerwest.nsw.gov.au 0407 239 951	 Deputy Mayor 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 (Magpie)	 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 Gulgadya (Grass Tree)	 Councillor Marghanita Da Cruz (GRN) marghanita.da.cruz@innerwest.nsw.gov.au 0490 788 943	 Councillor 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 Mialjuburi (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

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Libraries 9392 5588

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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
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Customer Service Stalls and Local Matters Forum

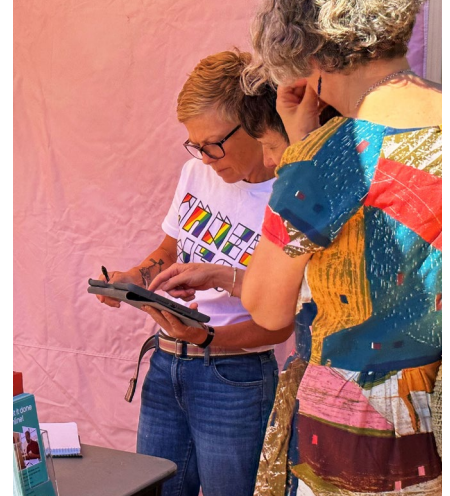
The next Customer Service Stall is on Tuesday 20 February in Leichhardt MarketPlace from 9.30am to 5.30pm.

Check the QR code for other mobile customer service timings. You can also have your voice heard by getting along to your Local Matters Forum.

Come along and have your local matters related questions discussed at the face-to-face meeting.

Ashfield -Djarrawunang residents can take part in their next Local Matters Forum on Tuesday 27th February at Ashfield Service Centre (Activity Rooms 1 & 2).

Scan the QR code to find local customer service activities.



Join the fun at Summer Hill Social this year

Summer Hill Social

March 2024 will see the return of the Summer Hill Festival after a five year break. The Summer Hill Social will see a communal table set up along Lackey St with seating for everyone who wants to pull up a chair and feast with friends and family.

There'll be a big focus on excellent food from the many local restaurants in the Summer Hill main street and finding a spot at the table to enjoy a meal and chat with locals. Or bring your own food and join in the convivial atmosphere that will extend into a long, lovely afternoon. Come and experience Summer Hill at its very best.

Where: Lackey and Smith Streets, Summer Hill

When: Sunday 10 March 11am – 5pm

Jazz in the Park

Fancy seeing the 2023 ARIA award winners The Vampires for free? Under the natural green canopy of trees in a beautiful park? Jazz in the Park returns to Gladstone Park in Balmain this year with an outstanding line-up for music lovers. Local composer Jeremy Rose will be celebrating the 15th anniversary of Earshift Records with the award winning trumpeter Nick Garbett. There will also be extraordinary performances by Sweet Tooth, Obba Layé and the Asphodel Trio.

Where: Gladstone Park, Balmain

When: Saturday 16 March, 2-6pm



The Vampires are playing Jazz in the Park



Local artists create new ways of seeing Lunar New Year

Lunar New Year Lights

In an exciting extension of our Lunar New year celebrations, local artists Steffie Yee, Melissa Mai and Grace Chen will bring their own visions of Lunar New Year to the walls of Ashfield Town Hall, inspired by their cultural heritage and childhood memories of family celebrations. And don't miss our annual Lunar New Year community celebration at Ashfield Town Hall on March 2 from 12-3pm.

When: February 16- 22 from 8.30-11pm

Where: Ashfield Town Hall