

# INNER WEST

News

March



Left to right: Inner West Mayor Darcy Byrne, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Minister for Indigenous Australians Linda Burney with community members at the Voice to Parliament community barbecue.

## Inner West Voice is heard

The Inner West community braved sweltering conditions to turn out in their hundreds at a community barbecue in Petersham Park to back the Voice to Parliament referendum due later this year.

Over one thousand people heard the Prime Minister urge the community to take this historic step to have First Nations people acknowledged in the Australian Constitution and to give them a say in matters which affect them.

The crowd also heard from the Minister for Indigenous Australians Linda Burney and Aunty Pat Anderson, one of the authors of the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

She told the crowd that now is the time for Australia to take the next step in the reconciliation process.

Inner West Mayor Darcy Byrne was overwhelmed at the turnout.

"The people of the inner west are ready to participate in this moment," Councillor Byrne said.

"Our inner west community is setting an example for how local communities across the country can get involved in the referendum."

This event was part of Council's civic education program aiming to build grassroots awareness in the community about the Uluru Statement from the Heart, the referendum process, and the proposed amendment to the Constitution.





## Leichhardt Oval ready for footy

The eighth wonder of the world, our iconic Leichhardt Oval has been spruced up for the football season with an investment by Council of \$1.2 million. Spectators will have the benefit of two renovated toilet blocks at the northern and eastern ends of the ground, while a new viewing platform on the northern side has also been completed.

In addition, field-of-play drainage has been upgraded to prevent puddles. All this as a rejuvenated Wests Tigers under coaches Tim Sheens and Benji Marshall continue their resurgence.



## New app makes parking easier

Paying at a parking meter in the Inner West just got easier with a new smartphone app which will even alert you when your meter needs topping up to help you to avoid a fine.

Council has signed up to the State Government's Park'nPay app which will enable drivers to operate all parking meters in Leichhardt, Rozelle, Balmain, Newtown and Enmore.

Just download the app to an iPhone or Android.

By following the easy instructions drivers will be able to pay for the meter without ever having to physically touch it.

You can top up the meter remotely when the app alerts you that it's about to run out. Then a digital receipt will be sent to your email.

Get the app today. It's that easy.



## Mayors get behind Voice to Parliament

Forty four mayors from seven states and territories have responded to the request from inner west council to undertake civic education in their communities.

Inner West Mayor Darcy Byrne said local government has a crucial role to play.

"While some politicians are seeking to create division in the media we believe that public awareness about this historic referendum will be built from the grassroots up. It's why we have recruited 1,300 of our citizens to go out into their communities to help educate people about the

fundamental importance of the Voice to Parliament."

He said it was encouraging that 43 other mayors from across the continent, representing urban, regional and remote communities, have come together to commit to informing and educating communities and starting conversations in suburbs and towns throughout Australia.

From the Heart campaigner Thomas Mayo said, "It's fantastic to see this support from so many councils around the country.

"It is local community support that will drive a successful referendum campaign, so ensuring communities are properly informed about the proposal is vital. We look forward to the opportunity of partnering with councils on this initiative", he said.



## Newtown's Pride Square launched in blaze of song and dance

Newtown kicked off WorldPride with Prime Minister Anthony Albanese launching Pride Square on Saturday 11 February.

Amid a chorus of cheers at a packed Pride Square, Mr Albanese unveiled a progress flag beacon and paid tribute to the original Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras protestors of 1978.

"We need to celebrate our diversity, not just tolerate it, because our diversity is what gives our society strength," the Prime Minister said.

Mayor Darcy Byrne said the Inner

West had always been the beating heart and soul of the long struggle for civil rights and equality in Australia.

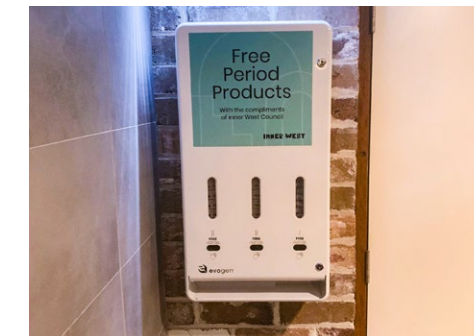
"The renaming of Pride Square is an act of recognition and respect for those pioneers," he said.

Former Matildas vice-captain Moya Dodd, ParaMatilda Nicole Christodoulou, Trans Pride Australia President Anna Pye, and CEO of BlaQ Aboriginal Corporation Shane Sturgis delivered powerful messages on a day celebrating diversity and resilience.

## Period product vending machines prove popular

Inner West Council recently installed the final three machines bringing to ten the number of machines throughout the inner west.

Their locations are: Ashfield Library, Balmain Library, Marrickville Library, Marrickville Youth Centre, Addison Rd Community Centre, Summer Hill Community Centre, Newtown Neighbourhood Centre, Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre, Annette Kellerman Aquatic Centre and Ashfield Aquatic Centre.



Initially the plan was to refill them with pads and tampons every two weeks but their popularity means that they are being refilled every week.

Council believes period products are not luxury items and should be accessible in bathrooms like soap and towels.

## Food recycling coming to every home

Inner West Council will soon provide a food recycling service to every home across our local government area.

We have already extended food recycling to all residential apartments, now we are making the service universal for all residents.

Eliminating organic material from landfill is massively important for reducing our community's carbon emissions. Food waste that rots in landfill releases methane into the atmosphere contributing directly to climate change.

We know that our community is committed to sustainability and this new food recycling service will be a practical way that we can all contribute to reducing carbon emissions.

We have signed a contract to provide the service beginning in October this year.

We will be engaging with local residents and community organisations to build awareness about food recycling and how you can participate in this positive scheme.



*Darcy Byrne*

Mayor, Darcy Byrne  
Inner West Council



# Giant swampland emerges in Marrickville

Inner West artist's *Through the Trees* emerges after two-year COVID delay

Inner West artist Helen Proctor has realised her dream of creating a giant artwork for the Marrickville Metro in partnership with Inner West Council's Perfect Match Street Art program.

Helen was commissioned in 2019 but could not return from Amsterdam to begin the project because of the pandemic.

The artwork, *Through the Trees*, represents the flora and fauna which inhabited the Gumbramorra swamplands of the Cooks River.

"The concept for the mural is based on the native surroundings, the underwater channels that run throughout the Inner West, the gumtrees, flora and fauna, and it's my abstract depiction of that," said Proctor.

"Just seeing artwork in everyday life makes it a more exciting thing. It's like being immersed in a huge gallery space or museum almost, just by going to do your shopping."

The artwork has been made possible through the Marrickville Metro Public Art and Creative Programs initiative, a partnership between Inner West Council and Marrickville Metro that has resulted in the commissioning of 38 artists to deliver an extraordinary and diverse public art experience.

Visit Marrickville Metro to see *Through the Trees* and many more amazing creations.



Vincenzo

## Verge mowing

Our team of mowers like Vincenzo have been out braving the humidity and mowing the footpath verges throughout the local government area.

The unseasonably high rainfall over the past few months combined with the recent hot weather have been a perfect recipe for fast grass growth.

Most councils don't mow footpath verges but at Inner West Council we believe it's something we should do as a service to our community.



## School zones to be patrolled

Cars dangerously parked near school zones can put the lives of our children at risk.

Our parking officers regularly patrol school zones at drop off and pick up times to ensure the safety of our kids.

It's important that people park safely and legally around our inner west schools.

## Calling keen photographers

The Urban Photography Competition is part of the Built Environment Awards which is an annual event to celebrate our understanding of the Inner West built heritage.

The photography component is open to amateur and professional photographers alike, to capture the heritage attributes of our local built environment in the Inner West.

There are three categories: primary school category, secondary school category and the open category with winners receiving a cash prize.

Applications are open from 1 April to 30 June 2023.

For more information go to [innerwest.nsw.gov.au/Built](http://innerwest.nsw.gov.au/Built)



## Food organics to become compost

Council's food recycling initiative (Food and Garden Organics) is now in its final stages of development before our community will be able to reap its benefits!

This initiative will turn food waste generated by Inner West residents into compost to be used on agricultural land.

This week saw the confirmation of a processing contractor to undertake this task - meaning this exciting approach to sustainable living is right around the corner for all our residents!

Expect to see more information about these new services in the coming months.



## New customer service charter

Inner West Council is launching a new customer service charter to make the organisation more accountable to you. Council is running workshops to engage with the community and hear your feedback so we can better our customer service approach. These workshops will be:

- ▶ Monday 13 March, 6-7:30 PM at Ashfield Civic Centre
- ▶ Tuesday 14 March, 6-7:30 PM at Marrickville Library
- ▶ Wednesday 15 March, 6-7:30 PM at Haberfield Library
- ▶ Monday 20 March, 6-7:30 PM at Balmain Town Hall
- ▶ Tuesday 21 March, 6-7:30 PM at Petersham Service Centre

Go to [yoursay.innerwest.nsw.gov.au](http://yoursay.innerwest.nsw.gov.au) to register your interest.





# What's On Inner West

Discover local events or submit a listing [innerwest.nsw.gov.au/WhatsOn](http://innerwest.nsw.gov.au/WhatsOn)  
Subscribe to our regular eNewsletters [innerwest.nsw.gov.au/Newsletters](http://innerwest.nsw.gov.au/Newsletters)



## Next Local Matters Forum and Customer Service Stall

### Local Matters Forum

Stanmore/Damun ward  
Newtown Town Hall, Newtown  
Tuesday 28 March, 6-7.30pm

For more information visit  
[innerwest.nsw.gov.au/CommunityEngagement](http://innerwest.nsw.gov.au/CommunityEngagement)

### Customer Service Stall

Hippo Park, Lilyfield,  
Saturday 18 March,  
9.30am - 1.30pm

## All ability sports

It's an exciting time to explore accessible sports in the inner west.

On Thursday 9 March at 5.15pm, Inner West Special Olympics launches a weekly Bocce program at the Petersham Bowling Club. This free event invites people with an intellectual disability of all ages to have fun, be healthy and make friends.

Register for the Bocce launch party by emailing Tony at [nsw.chair@specialolympics.com.au](mailto:nsw.chair@specialolympics.com.au).

On 15 March between 10am and 1pm, PCYC Marrickville is hosting Activate Inclusion Day, where children with a disability aged 5-18 can explore a range of eight sports in an inclusive environment.

On 18 March between 12-4pm, Ashfield Aquatic Centre is holding

its inaugural Accessibility Open Day, open to families and their carers and those with accessible needs. Come and enjoy a free recreational swim.



## Inner West to host major film festival

Inner West Council has partnered with seasoned film festival directors Dov Kornits and Greg Dolgopolov to bring you the Inner West Film Fest, a proud celebration of the area's rich artisan culture.

From 31 March to 2 April, a selection of venues across Sydney's Inner West will play host to a dazzling array of Australian movie premieres, short film screenings, special events, and filmmaker talks.

The Inner West Film Fest is a celebration of diversity and inclusivity and is expertly curated to show the world of film what the Inner West has to offer.



## Ombudsman here to help

Did you know that the Internal Ombudsman Shared Service (IOSS) is an independent service to help you resolve concerns with Council?

More information about the service can be found in the IOSS's Annual Report for 2021-22 and is available here: [innerwest.nsw.gov.au/IOSS](http://innerwest.nsw.gov.au/IOSS)

The report highlights the work the service has conducted across the three member councils of

Inner West, City of Parramatta, and Cumberland City.

The IOSS is an independent ear responding to complaints and is a service for the community. If you would like some advice or want to discuss a complaint, feel free to give us a call on (02) 8757 9044 or email us at [internalombudsman@innerwest.nsw.gov.au](mailto:internalombudsman@innerwest.nsw.gov.au)

More details about the service is available on Council's website: [innerwest.nsw.gov.au/IOSS](http://innerwest.nsw.gov.au/IOSS)

## Your Councillors

Find your ward - [innerwest.nsw.gov.au/WardMap](http://innerwest.nsw.gov.au/WardMap)

Balmain Ward  
Balucdarri (Leather Jacket)



Mayor Darcy Byrne (LAB)  
[darcy.byrne@innerwest.nsw.gov.au](mailto:darcy.byrne@innerwest.nsw.gov.au)  
02 9335 2157



Councillor Kobi Shetty (GRN)  
[kobi.shetty@innerwest.nsw.gov.au](mailto:kobi.shetty@innerwest.nsw.gov.au)  
0417 427 654



Councillor John Stamolis (IND)  
[john.stamolis@innerwest.nsw.gov.au](mailto: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](mailto:liz.atkins@innerwest.nsw.gov.au)  
0407 239 951



Councillor Chloe Smith (LAB)  
[chloe.smith@innerwest.nsw.gov.au](mailto:chloe.smith@innerwest.nsw.gov.au)  
0412 985 935



Councillor Pauline Lockie (IND)  
[pauline.lockie@innerwest.nsw.gov.au](mailto:pauline.lockie@innerwest.nsw.gov.au)  
0434 690 544

Ashfield Ward  
Djarrawung (Maggie)



Councillor Dylan Griffiths (GRN)  
[dylan.griffiths@innerwest.nsw.gov.au](mailto:dylan.griffiths@innerwest.nsw.gov.au)



Councillor Mark Drury (LAB)  
[mark.drury@innerwest.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mark.drury@innerwest.nsw.gov.au)  
0448 722 942



Councillor Jessica D'Arienza (LAB)  
[jessica.darienzo@innerwest.nsw.gov.au](mailto:jessica.darienzo@innerwest.nsw.gov.au)  
0408 505 622

Leichhardt Ward  
Gulgaya (Gross Tree)



Councillor Marghanita Da Cruz (GRN)  
[marghanita.da.cruz@innerwest.nsw.gov.au](mailto:marghanita.da.cruz@innerwest.nsw.gov.au)  
0490 788 943



Deputy Mayor Philippa Scott (LAB)  
[philippa.scott@innerwest.nsw.gov.au](mailto:philippa.scott@innerwest.nsw.gov.au)  
0412 935 713



Councillor Timothy Stephens (LAB)  
[timothy.stephens@innerwest.nsw.gov.au](mailto:timothy.stephens@innerwest.nsw.gov.au)  
0418 474 248

Marrickville Ward  
Mitjuburi (Lillypilly)



Councillor Mat Howard (LAB)  
[mat.howard@innerwest.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mat.howard@innerwest.nsw.gov.au)  
0412 645 115



Councillor Justine Langford (GRN)  
[justine.langford@innerwest.nsw.gov.au](mailto:justine.langford@innerwest.nsw.gov.au)  
0481 452 283



Councillor Zoi Tsardoulis (LAB)  
[zoi.tsardoulis@innerwest.nsw.gov.au](mailto:zoi.tsardoulis@innerwest.nsw.gov.au)

## Contact us

[innerwest.nsw.gov.au](http://innerwest.nsw.gov.au)

Phone: 02 9392 5000 | Email: [council@innerwest.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@innerwest.nsw.gov.au)

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**Waste and recycling**  
[innerwest.nsw.gov.au/Waste](http://innerwest.nsw.gov.au/Waste)

**Libraries 9392 5588**  
[innerwest.nsw.gov.au/Libraries](http://innerwest.nsw.gov.au/Libraries)  
[library@innerwest.nsw.gov.au](mailto: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](http://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





# Uluru Statement from the Heart

Our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tribes were the first sovereign Nations of the Australian continent and its adjacent islands, and possessed it under our own laws and customs. This our ancestors did, according to the reckoning of our culture, from the Creation, according to the common law from 'time immemorial', and according to science more than 60,000 years ago.

This sovereignty is a spiritual notion: the ancestral tie between the land, or 'mother nature', and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who were born therefrom, remain attached thereto, and must one day return thither to be united with our ancestors. This link is the basis of the ownership of the soil, or better, of sovereignty. It has never been ceded or extinguished, and co-exists with the sovereignty of the Crown.

How could it be otherwise? That peoples possessed a land for sixty millennia and this sacred link disappears from world history in merely the last two hundred years?

With substantive constitutional change and structural reform, we believe this ancient sovereignty can shine through as a fuller expression of Australia's nationhood.

Proportionally, we are the most incarcerated people on the planet. We are not an innately criminal people. Our children are alienated from their families at unprecedented rates. This cannot be because

we have no love for them. And our youth languish in detention in obscene numbers. They should be our hope for the future.

These dimensions of our crisis tell plainly the structural nature of our problem. This is the torment of our powerlessness.

We seek constitutional reforms to empower our people and take a rightful place in our own country. When we have power over our destiny our children will flourish. They will walk in two worlds and their culture will be a gift to their country.

We call for the establishment of a First Nations Voice enshrined in the Constitution.

Makarrata is the culmination of our agenda: the coming together after a struggle. It captures our aspirations for a fair and truthful relationship with the people of Australia and a better future for our children based on justice and self-determination.

We seek a Makarrata Commission to supervise a process of agreement-making between governments and First Nations and truth-telling about our history.

In 1967 we were counted, in 2017 we seek to be heard. We leave base camp and start our trek across this vast country. We invite you to walk with us in a movement of the Australian people for a better future.

