



Tell us what you think about the Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre upgrade

Inside

- ▶ More EV chargers
- ▶ Festive giving ideas
- ▶ Planning New Year's Eve

Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre upgrade

Have your say on the design for the \$55 million Leichhardt Pool upgrade

Inner West Council has released the final designs for the \$55 million renovation of the Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre, the biggest upgrade ever undertaken of an Inner West pool.

With the Olympic and diving pools both having reached the end of their lifecycle, Council is undertaking a complete renovation of the aquatic centre that will secure its future for another 50 years to come.

Combined with the upcoming \$40 million renovation of Leichhardt Oval, located next door to the Aquatic Centre, this will create a Leichhardt sport and recreation precinct that the Inner

West community will enjoy for generations to come.

The renovation of the pool will be undertaken in two stages.

Stage 1 works on the centre have already been approved, with works to commence in April 2025.

Stage 2 of the project is the largest section of the upgrade, budgeted to cost \$45 million, and is now on public exhibition.

These works will deliver new facilities, including:

- ▶ A new heated 50m Olympic pool
- ▶ A new multi-use 25m pool with a moveable floor that can be used for water polo, learn to swim,

aquarobics and other activities

- ▶ Storage, lifeguard and first aid rooms
- ▶ Spectator seating
- ▶ Improved landscaped areas for recreation including BBQs and picnic areas
- ▶ An accessibility lift.

Following public exhibition and community input the final designs will be reported to Council for adoption in March 2025 with works scheduled to commence in early 2026.

For further information about the project, and how to have your say, scan the QR code:



Don't miss the wonderful celebration in Pioneer Park, Leichhardt



Carols on Norton

Catch up with the locals at Carols on Norton in Pioneers Memorial Park on Sunday 15 December at 7pm.

Council has supported this iconic festive event for many years. Accompanied by the beautiful Tinsel Orchestra, this free outdoor event is presented

by the Inner West Council and the Leichhardt Espresso Chorus.

Did someone say Candy Cane Choir? There's a song for everyone as children from the inner west's Candy Cane Choir, formed especially for this event, join in.

This magical live event presents uplifting music to celebrate the season, including old favourites and new Australian compositions, under the baton of the new Conductor and Artistic Director, Aija Draguns.

Expect a magical feast of music, singing and laughter. Pack a sunset picnic, meet the neighbours and make new friends.

This is one community celebration to mark in your calendar.

Date: Sunday 15 December

Time: 7pm

Free! Bring a run or chair and a picnic – and there are plenty of options for great food along Norton Street.



Six new Special Entertainment Precincts (SEPs)

Council has been given the green light from the state government to proceed with its planning proposal to establish SEPs in Balmain, Dulwich Hill, Leichhardt, Rozelle and Marrickville.

These new areas will build on the success of Enmore Road and offer more opportunities for performers and local businesses. Public consultation will start in the new year.



Creative Town Halls a success

The conversion of Inner West Council's seven town halls to free arts venues is going gangbusters with over 1,100 bookings in the first three months of the program.

Launched this year, the Creative Town Halls program saw all seven Inner West town halls converted into arts venues, available for free for exhibition, rehearsal and live performance.

Since the pilot program was first initiated in May 2023 there has been a 260 per cent increase in the use of town halls for arts and cultural events.

The next step in the Creative Town Halls program will see the opening of the basement of Marrickville Town Hall as a live music venue in 2025. Watch this space!





Council is working to reduce soft plastics waste

Inner West leading the way in soft plastic pollution reduction

Inner West Council is again taking the lead on waste and resource recovery by working to reduce soft plastic pollution.

The newly elected council voted to continue expanding the successful plastic recycling program in the Inner West to reach even more residents, honouring our commitment to reduce waste and encourage a circular economy.

As part of this newly adopted motion, Council will look at its current procurement practices to include recycled plastics in road bases, play equipment and other purposes.

Council is committed to working with all levels of government and industry to deliver ongoing solutions for soft plastic recycling and will seek to trial textile recycling in the Inner West as well.



Spread the festive cheer

Festive giving

It's the season for giving, so here are some ways you can spread the love to our local community.

Wishing Tree Appeal and Gift Wrapping: Every year the Rev Bill Crews Foundation has their Wishing Tree at Ashfield Mall. Until 20 December, you can take a gift to the Wishing Tree or make a donation here:



Twenty10 Hamper Appeal: Supporting LGBTQIA+ community with hamper donations. More details here:



Gunawirra: Supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders with their toy and book drive. More details here:



Mayor's Message

Revitalising our town halls

Our Creative Town Halls program is going gangbusters.

Launched this year, we transformed these historic spaces into free, vibrant hubs for exhibitions, rehearsals and live events.

And it's worked. We've seen a 260% increase in the use of our 7 town halls. We've had over 1,100 bookings in the first three months alone.

As a result our town halls are bursting with new artistic activity every week and being used by more of the community than ever before.

This is all part of our plan to make the Inner West even more of a hub for arts and music lovers across Sydney.

We are also converting the basement of Marrickville Town Hall into a permanent live music venue in 2025.

With the NSW Government's vibrancy reforms coming online and Marrickville Road being designated a Purple Flag district and Special Entertainment Precinct, now is the time to get this work done.

I wish everyone a happy and healthy festive season.



Darcy Byrne

Mayor, Darcy Byrne
Inner West Council



Leichhardt Oval No. 2 new amenities

Exciting news for Balmain rugby clubs!

Council has just opened the new \$1.4m amenities building and clubhouse at Leichhardt Oval No. 2.

The new building includes much needed accessible changerooms and toilets, baby change facilities, a new canteen, and a storage area and viewing platform.

This means the local clubs such as Balmain Rugby, Balmain Junior Rugby and Balmain District Junior Rugby League get to use this fantastic new facility every week.



Council revamps rainwater tank scheme for greater access!

Inner West Council is championing rainwater conservation with an upgraded Rainwater Tank Incentive Scheme! The revamped program prioritises accessibility, offering online engagement and in-person, quarterly workshops at the Inner West Sustainability Hub in Summer Hill to teach residents how to install rainwater tanks at home. Home inspections are no longer required; instead, residents can submit photos and certifications from

licensed tradespeople.

With ambitious annual quotas set for participation, Council continues to advocate for widespread rainwater harvesting by offering generous rebates to eligible residents. Look forward to exciting expansions, including rainwater connections to laundries and toilets!

For more information, scan this QR code:



Inner West turns on EV chargers

In November, Inner West Council turned on the first of 138 public, electric vehicle charging stations to be rolled out across the Inner West.

The roll-out, to be completed by April 2025, will result in the Inner West community having better access to public electric vehicle charging infrastructure than any community in NSW.

The new chargers range from seven kilowatts to 75 kilowatts and will include pole-mounted, pedestal and "kiosk" EV chargers,

to be installed on kerbsides and in public council car parks.

All 138 chargers will be installed over the next 6 months and will be open to the public 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The roll-out has been made possible by grant funding from the NSW Government. Council was successful in applying for three separate grants through a variety of providers.

This project will make the Inner West the easiest place in the nation to use an electric vehicle.

For more information, scan this QR code:



New Year's Eve!

With eight official vantage points, Inner Westies are spoilt for choice when it comes to deciding where to watch the fireworks on New Year's Eve.



With Inner West being one of the few councils to offer free, unticketed access to our harbourside parks, here's our guide to the best, free spots to enjoy the spectacular fireworks.

Note the opening times if you want to get there early to nab a front row seat.

- 1 Elkington Park: Opens 8am
- 2 Birchgrove Park: Opens 8am
- 3 Yurulbin Park: Opens 8am

- 4 Mort Bay Park: Opens 8am
- 5 Simmons Point: Opens 10am
- 6 Lookes Avenue Reserve: Opens 8am
- 7 Thornton Park: Opens 3.30pm
- 8 Illoura Reserve: Opens 8am

For more info and road closure updates, QR code here:



1905-1910 Leichhardt Sea Bath
-Photographs by J.G Parks

History highlight

Leichhardt Pool history

The original Leichhardt swimming pool was in the Parramatta River on the foreshore of Leichhardt Park. Between 1905 and 1910, tidal baths were established with an entrance fee of 2 shillings.

The Leichhardt Council Baths operated until the 1950s, when the quality of the water in the Parramatta River declined.

With the success of the Melbourne Olympic Games, local councils were keen to have modern pools in their municipalities.

On 10 December 1960 the Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre complex officially opened, joining the 32 pools built between 1945 and 1972 in Sydney.

The 1994 upgrade included the addition of a children's wading pool with a playful mushroom sculpture and this will be retained in the new version of the much-loved Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre.



A great big thank you from Inner West Council

A huge thanks to all residents for their support since October 2023 for our food recycling program.

In that time, we have collectively saved 17,547 tonnes of food waste from landfill. We have prevented 36,848 tonnes of CO₂ emissions and taken the equivalent of 20,787 passenger cars off the road.

How we can help with festive season waste collection

We want to make sure your festive season is fun and stress-free.

If you have family, friends or unexpected guests, don't forget you can book an additional garbage collection when you need it. But be sure to plan ahead as the system cannot accept bookings

made in the same week as your usual collection timetable. In the meantime, check out our handy food recycling tips and tricks.

Scan this QR code to book an extra collection:



For extra help

Get in touch with our Food Recycling Waste Busters who can offer a free, tailored consultation to help you out with managing your recycling and waste reduction.

You can contact the Waste Busters with any other questions or feedback at wastebusters@innerwest.nsw.gov.au or by calling 02 9392 5303.



Summer tips for food recycling
















- ▶ If you have room, freeze your bones, prawn shells and dairy until bin night.
- ▶ Store your benchtop bin away from direct sunlight
- ▶ Sprinkle bicarb on the benchtop and the outdoor bin to absorb liquids
- ▶ Cover your scraps with newspaper, mouldy bread or spent coffee grounds
- ▶ Stock up on bin liners for the season and keep them somewhere cool
- ▶ Make sure your benchtop bin is airtight (old Tupperware, biscuit barrels or ice-cream tubs work well)
- ▶ Store your wheelie bin in the shade if you can
- ▶ Use leaves, branches and grass clippings to line the bottom of your bin – this will help aerate your food scraps
- ▶ Consider using a bin tag to keep your bin safe from pests when the weather is warm

What goes in my food recycling bin?

- ▶ Fruit and vegetable peels and scraps
- ▶ Meat, chicken and fish (including all bones)
- ▶ Seafood (including crabs, prawns, oysters, clams and mussels)
- ▶ Dairy products (cheese, yoghurt etc.)
- ▶ Bread, pasta, rice and cereal
- ▶ Tea bags and coffee grounds
- ▶ Eggs and eggshells
- ▶ Out of date food (processed or fresh)
- ▶ Expired takeaway
- ▶ Grass and leaves
- ▶ Twigs, small branches (no logs or branches longer than 100cm or wider than 10cm in diameter, tree bark)
- ▶ Flowers, garden weeds and garden prunings

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 9392 5248	 Councillor Ismet Tastan (GRN) ismet.tastan@innerwest.nsw.gov.au 0481 192 696	 Councillor Kerrie Fergusson (LAB) kerrie.fergusson@innerwest.nsw.gov.au 0434 342 041
Stanmore Ward Damun (Port-Jackson Fig)	 Councillor Chloe Smith (LAB) chloe.smith@innerwest.nsw.gov.au 0412 985 935	 Councillor Liz Atkins (GRN) liz.atkins@innerwest.nsw.gov.au 0407 239 951	 Councillor Vicki Clay (LAB) vicki.clay@innerwest.nsw.gov.au 0481 194 585
Ashfield Ward Djarrowunang (Miegiepie)	 Councillor Jessica D'Arienzo (LAB) jessica.darienzo@innerwest.nsw.gov.au 0408 505 622	 Councillor Izabella Antoniou (GRN) izabella.antoniou@innerwest.nsw.gov.au 0481 197 286	 Councillor Jo Carlisle (LAB) jo.carlisle@innerwest.nsw.gov.au 0481 194 944
Leichhardt Ward Gulgadya (Grass Tree)	 Councillor Philippa Scott (LAB) philippa.scott@innerwest.nsw.gov.au 0412 935 713	 Councillor Andrew Blake (GRN) andrew.blake@innerwest.nsw.gov.au 0481 193 423	 Councillor Vittoria Raciti (LIB) vittoria.raciti@innerwest.nsw.gov.au 0481 193 985
Marrickville Ward Madjuburi (Lillypilly)	 Deputy Mayor Mat Howard (LAB) mathoward@innerwest.nsw.gov.au 0412 645 115	 Councillor Olivia Barlow (GRN) olivia.barlow@innerwest.nsw.gov.au 0481 200 044	 Councillor Victor Macri (IND) victor.macri@innerwest.nsw.gov.au 0481 098 903

Contact us

innerwest.nsw.gov.au

Phone: 02 9392 5000 | Email: council@innerwest.nsw.gov.au

Facebook: [/innerwestcouncil](https://www.facebook.com/innerwestcouncil) | Twitter: [/IWCouncil](https://twitter.com/IWCouncil) | Instagram: [@innerwestcouncil](https://www.instagram.com/innerwestcouncil)

Request a service

innerwest.nsw.gov.au/Request

Have your say

yoursay.innerwest.nsw.gov.au

Development applications

innerwest.nsw.gov.au/RecentDAs

Council meetings

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

For more information about what's on, visit innerwest.nsw.gov.au

Summer festivals to check out

Three free festivals for the whole family to enjoy this summer.

Goolay-yari Sounds: Music, community and sustainability activities. Saturday 14 December, 3pm-6pm, Marrickville Golf Club

Inner West Kids Fest: One for the whole family but especially for the little ones. Sunday 16 February, Enmore Park.

Lunar New Year: Lion dance launch on Wednesday 29 January, Gala on Sunday 2 February and the annual concert on Saturday 15 February, all in Ashfield. Check www.innerwest.nsw.gov.au/annual-events



Enjoy Kids Fest at Enmore Park

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 27, 30 and 31 December 2024.

Ashfield and Petersham Service Centres will re-open on 2 January 2025.

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/aquatics

Waste and recycling

FOGO, garbage and recycling 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 open on the weekends during this period. An additional red-lidded bin can be booked in via Council's website if the fortnightly collection is not enough during the Christmas period.

Excess cardboard that is too big for your bin can be taken to the Weekend Transfer Station free of charge. Consider using the branches collection on the below link for the collection of your live Christmas tree in January.

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 Balmain Leichhardt Marrickville	Balmain Dulwich Hill (ETC) Haberfield Stanmore St Peters
Mon 23 Dec	9am-5pm	Closed
Tue 24 Dec	9am-2pm	Closed
Wed 25 Dec	Closed	Closed
Thu 26 Dec	Closed	Closed
Fri 27 Dec	9am-5pm	Closed
Sat 28 Dec	10am-5pm	Closed
Sun 29 Dec	10am-5pm	Closed
Mon 30 Dec	9am-5pm	Closed
Tue 31 Dec	9am-5pm	Closed
Wed 1 Jan	Closed	Closed
Thu 2 Jan	9am-5pm	Closed
Fri 3 Jan	9am-5pm	Closed
Sat 4 Jan	10am-5pm	Closed
Sun 5 Jan	10am-5pm	Closed
Mon 6 Jan	Open as normal	Open as normal

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/JP