



# BEACHES & THE COAST, the 60s

## YEAR

## EVENT

1960

Sculptor Lyall Randolph places two fibreglass and concrete mermaid statues on top of a rock at the Ben Buckler headland at North Bondi which quickly becomes renamed 'Mermaid Rock' by the locals. The 'Bondi Mermaids', as they become known, soon become a Sydney landmark.

The last Bondi Beach tram 'shoots through' on 18 February, ending a service which began in 1884 and which gave rise to the Australian saying 'shot through like a Bondi tram' (meaning something which is very fast).

Council works with the Local Government Association to promote an anti-litter campaign. Two litter bins are installed at the south end of Bondi Beach. Council requests more bins to be made available at the earliest date possible and installed behind Bondi, Bronte and Tamarama beaches.

1962

Council spends £14,500 on improvements to Bronte Beach and £12,500 is spent to improve road conditions and other amenities in close proximity to Bondi Beach, including a major painting scheme along the beachfront.

The lessee of the Bondi Baths requested his rent of £6 per week be reduced to £4 per week as attendance at Bondi Baths for the previous year had dropped by 30,000.

- 1964 The coldest Christmas Day in 25 years sees the temperature fall to below 18 degrees Celsius. A photo in a Sydney newspaper shows one lone person on Bondi Beach on Christmas Day.
- A Bondi Beach Christmas and New Year's Eve Festival is held at Bondi Beach. It is advertised as '14 days and nights of non-stop free entertainment from Saturday 19 December to Saturday 2 January. Entertainment: marching girls, band concerts, championship Racing Cars on display, Carnival and Fun of the Fair, contest to win a brand new 'push bike' or a large Christmas ham by guessing the number of festival lights'.
- A monster carnival with attractions and play equipment 'for young and old' is held at Bondi Beach behind the Bondi Surf Club over Christmas and New Year. Promoters of the Carnival give a substantial donation towards fundraising efforts to build a club room for pensioners at Bondi.
- 1965 A memorial to famous Waverley Council Lifeguard Stan McDonald is opened at Bondi Beach and a large number of former Lifeguards (then called Beach Inspectors) attend. They blow their whistles in tribute to McDonald and all past colleagues. McDonald was often called 'the King of Bondi'.
- 1966 They're a Weird Mob, a film by renowned British director Michael Powell, is made and released. It contains a key scene on Bondi Beach which includes real Lifesavers and a Council Lifeguard, also a scene showing the changing sheds at the back of Bondi Pavilion.
- 1968 The Daily Mirror newspaper describes Bondi as 'the unbeautiful seedy, tatty, vulgar, tawdry, bad taste, shabby, run down, full of undesirable people.'

# BEACHES & THE COAST, the 70s

## YEAR

## EVENT

1972

The Bondi beachfront area is described as ‘sub-standard’ by Council and the NSW State government. The Bondi Beach Study Plan is released. It calls for a complete reappraisal of the Bondi Beach area and for the total reshaping of the park, its facilities and the whole beachfront including Campbell Parade and Gould Street.

Recommendations include:

- A complete re-landscaping of the beachfront and Bondi Park, releasing an additional 20 acres of public open space
- Provision of community and recreation facilities ‘in an endeavour to extend the summer activities throughout the year’
- Establishment of a building form or style which complements the beach and park and which will symbolise Bondi Beach throughout the world
- A complete redevelopment in a 46-acre area bounded by Sir Thomas Mitchell Road, Gould Street, Ramsgate Avenue and the ocean
- Move Bondi Beach Public School
- Build an underground car park for 3,000 cars
- Campbell Parade and Queen Elizabeth Drive to be eliminated. Clear stretch of beach and parkland would sweep up from the ocean to beyond what is now Campbell Parade.

Cost: \$60 million. Time to complete: Changes would take 10 years

1973

Period parking restrictions introduced in Campbell Parade both on the kerb side and the land formerly occupied by the old tram tracks. The Parking Advisory Committee is formed. The former tram track area is

- 1973 cont            marked and paved by Waverley Council to provide beach parking; this had been used for some time by long-term parkers/campers. Council notes with concern that the number of these long-term parkers is increasing.
- At the front of Bondi Pavilion a row of flag poles on the promenade display a series of flags of the world, sometimes described as 'international flags'.
- 1976                In November, beaches at South Bondi, Bronte, Tamarama and other popular Eastern Suburbs surfing spots are closed due to sewage pollution and heavy surf. Waverley Council's Chief Lifeguard closes Bronte Beach stating that the sewerage polluting the water has come from the North Bondi Ocean Outfall and that this happens whenever a north-easterly is blowing.
- 1978                ABC's youth radio station, Double Jay Rock 1540, write to Council proposing a rock concert on New Year's Eve on the Bondi Beach foreshore promenade adjacent to Bondi Pavilion. Council supports this concept, but it doesn't go ahead.
- 1979                Beach cleaning by Council is done daily at Bondi and Bronte, five days per week at Tamarama including Saturday and Sunday. All cleaning is manual as Council states that no mechanical cleaning equipment has found to be successful. The labour is: Bondi (six men, eight hours per day, and seven days per week) Bronte (four men, eight hours per day, and seven days per week) and Tamarama (one man, five days per week).
- Council notes that the problem of litter on beaches and adjacent parklands is continuing to escalate and that considerable time is involved to clean Waverley's three beaches.

# BEACHES & THE COAST, the 80s

## YEAR

## EVENT

1980

A mural for Bondi Pavilion's inside courtyard is commissioned by Council and funded by NSW State government. The mural is painted by the Public Art Squad, a group of artists who encourage community involvement in their projects. For the Bondi Pavilion, mural students from local high schools and members of community groups helped workshop ideas beforehand and then painted sections of the mural. They decide to incorporate Bondi Beach motifs from the 1920s period, but use references to current events. Wildly successful it was once described as 'Sydney's most photographed wall'. Project time: 6 weeks. Mural size: 125m x 5m. Directed by Rodney Monk with Wayne Hutchings and Kristeen Amitzball.

Bondi Beach is now the most popular tourist destination in NSW, outside the Sydney CBD. With visitor numbers skyrocketing from the early 1980s onwards, Bondi becomes the 10th most visited place in Australia. Issues for Council: illegal backpacker accommodation, anti-social behaviour, lack of surf safety awareness by visitors, wear and tear on the roads and rubbish collection. Christmas and New Year's Eve parties had become by the early 1990s, according to Council, 'full scale catastrophes'. Clean up costs rocket.

1981

New Year's Eve celebration dance is held in the Bondi Pavilion inner courtyard. This is a Council event with financial assistance from the State government. Music: Australian bush music, then rockabilly.

1984

Council builds 14 outdoor fitness stations along the coast walk between North Bondi Beach and Bronte Baths. Council announces, 'A combination

- 1984 cont of exercises at the stations and jogging/running creates a sound basis for physical fitness’.
- 1985-1986 Council commissions the Bondi Beach Park and Environs Study which is done by the Department of Environment and Planning. It considered the Bondi Beach Commercial and Residential Area Study (BBCRAS) which investigated the suitability of existing development controls, the role of the area as a tourist and recreation centre, the role and nature of the commercial centres within the study area, housing issues, traffic problems, urban design including the retention of items of environmental heritage importance. There are a total of 102 recommendations.
- 1986, 1988 and 1991 Over these three years the protection of the seawall at Bondi Beach and a stabilisation of the promenade are undertaken. The project, costing \$1.3 million, is jointly funded by Waverley Council and the NSW State government.
- 1987 The NSW State government sets up a task force to look at Bondi Beach’s future.
- Council appoints its first Tourist Promotions Officer, wanting Bondi to maintain its position as Australia’s best known beach. Irish tourists now call Bondi ‘County Bondi’ because of the number of Irish there particularly over Christmas and New Year. The backpacker Christmas Mass at St. Patrick’s Church, Bondi Beach becomes a well known Sydney media story.
- 40-50 tourist coach visits per day to Bondi Beach; Council recommends six coach parking bays along Queen Elizabeth Drive.
- Sewage pollution replaces sharks as the number one danger to swimmers and surfers at Bondi Beach.
- Council releases the Regional Environmental Plan no. 14, Eastern Beaches. The Plan essentially limits the scale of commercial/residential developments along the sea board, but promotes the upgrading and development of facilities for recreation and tourism and requires plans of management for parks and reserves to protect and manage open space on a regional basis. The underlying objective of the plan was to recognise the significance of the Eastern Suburbs beaches, the coastline and to encourage sensible development.
- 1988 Following representations by Council and local politicians, grants for a Bondi beachfront redevelopment is planned. Up to \$7 million is to be spent.

1988 cont

The residents of Bondi Beach see it as a 'prime target' for developers wanting to build international hotels on its foreshores. As tourism to the area escalates the development of Bondi Beach increasingly becomes a sensitive and controversial issue. Tension between old time residents and people dubbed 'new Bondi' escalates in many small localised incidents. Plans for Bondi to be 'the Gold Coast of Sydney' horrify local residents.

The NSW Premier announces that the State government would set an upper height limit of 15 metres for the Bondi beachfront area. The decision is taken following representation from the local State member and concerns that Bondi's unique character and heritage is being threatened. 'The height limit set for Bondi is designed to encourage restoration of older buildings and environmentally sensitive new development.'

1989

Council receives legal advice that it has a duty of care for people swimming at its beaches in dangerous conditions and where the Council knows that these are dangerous either environmentally (via pollution of the ocean) and geologically (via surf conditions).

On Good Friday, over 100,000 revellers packed Bondi Beach to listen to a five-hour concert, headlined by Dragon and Cold Chisel, called 'Turn Back the Tide'. More than 20 bands played at the event which raised \$100,000. The money was used to support campaigns pressuring the NSW State Government to permanently shut the North Bondi Ocean Outfall. Following the demonstration/concert, the Coastal Councils Group was formed by the Mayor of Waverley. Council printed a 'Clean Ocean Water' leaflet, which was distributed to every household.

# BEACHES & THE COAST, the 90s

YEAR	EVENT
1990	Council threatens legal action against the Water Board over the ongoing problem of sewage overflow into Council's stormwater which then empties into the ocean. This is a breach of the Clean Waters Act.
1990-1994	Christmas Day on Bondi Beach rapidly gathers momentum, becoming an established annual event. Crowd estimates: 25,000-30,000 most of who congregate on the sand and promenade in the middle of the beach. Trucks park in Queen Elizabeth Drive with powerful sound systems set up on the back and project dance music over the beach. In 1993, a live band also performs on the back of one of the trucks.
1991	<p>The NSW State government says it has a 'vision for Bondi Beach', describing the beach as 'tawdry'. The government threatens to take control of Bondi Beach from Waverley Council and make it part of a 'regional state government plan'. Council responds that this 'totally disregarded the enormous care and concern Council had demonstrated over the years' for the beach. Council has a Plan of Management for Bondi Beach and Bondi Pavilion which had been jointly funded by Waverley Council and Department of Planning.</p> <p>The NSW Tourism Minister threatens that he could 'with the stroke of a pen' take direct control of Bondi Beach, stating that the beach needs some 'Mediterranean magic'. A public clash between the Council and the State government begins. Council states that the joint sea wall stabilisation project at Bondi Beach is a perfect example of how the two bodies can co-operate.</p>

1992

The NSW State government consultants suggest sweeping changes for Bondi Beach, Bondi Pavilion and the immediate surrounds which are costed at \$11.6 million. Waverley Council counters with a proposal for improvements which will cost less than \$1 million. A local paper runs with a front cover headline: 'Bondi Beach, the battle begins'. The Mayor and the NSW Minister for Tourism and State Development clash over how to revitalise the beach. Council states that 'changes have to be done slowly and sensitively'. The Minister recommends that Bondi Beach be jointly managed between the State government and Council, a suggestion which provokes outrage both within Council and by local residents.

60 tourist coach visits per day to Bondi Beach. Council proposes a \$20 per bus environmental levy.

Police estimate 5,000 revellers turn up to celebrate Christmas Day on Bondi Beach, where there was heavy drinking and the celebrants are described as 'English backpackers'. Wet weather kept numbers down as approximately double that number, 10,000, celebrated on Christmas Day on the beach in 1991.

Bondi Beach is proposed to be listed on the Register of the National Estate. The beach goes onto the Register's Interim List.

A report about the upgrading of Campbell Parade is under threat unless Council can get the State and Federal governments to contribute funding. The centrepiece of the plan is the removal of the central parking lot down the middle of Campbell Parade, on the site of the old tram tracks, and the addition of a new roundabout on the corner of Lamrock Avenue and Campbell Parade. The plan was drawn up after two years of consultations and the setting up of the Campbell Parade Review Working Party.

1993

Bondi Beach and surrounds is added to the Register of the National Estate administered by the Australian Heritage Commission. This listing deems that Bondi is of national significance to all of Australia. The listing includes the beach, Bondi Surf Bathers' Life Saving Club, Bondi Park, the promenades, cliffs, ocean from Ben Buckler (to the north) to Mackenzie's Point (to the south).

1994

The poor condition of the existing buildings at Bondi Baths mean that they do not comply with Federal and State legislation. Waverley Council decides to demolish the old buildings and to rebuild a purpose designed facility for the public and the six swimming clubs who regularly use the baths. A structural refurbishment of one pool is done and improvements to both the pools and the surrounds are completed. As the pools

1994 cont

themselves are listed on the Register of the National Estate they are left in their present form.

A new \$15 million five-year Council plan is, in essence, 'less is more'. The plan retains and restores what's already there, but with a \$12 million remake of Campbell Parade and a \$3.1 million facelift for the park areas and Bondi Pavilion. Community consultations are widely held. The centrepiece is the removal of the old tram corridor down the middle of Campbell Parade, which still exists despite no trams running since 1960. This area is currently used as a makeshift car park and replacing it will be a two to four metre wide landscaped median strip.

Campbell Parade's footpath will be widened to between 10-12 metres. There will be a series of new bus shelters, without advertising (the current bus shelters all had advertising). Along the perimeter of the park between Campbell Parade and the beach will be a large-scale replanting of Norfolk Island pines. Only three mature pine trees remained from a 1920s planting program.

1994-1995

Council lobbies for significant funding contributions from the State and Federal Government for upgrades to Campbell Parade arguing it is the gateway to the world famous Bondi Beach.

1995

Massive stormwater drains which ran across Bondi Beach funnelling stormwater into the ocean were removed. The drains had been in place for over 70 years. The two main stormwater drainage pipes had been described as delivering a cocktail of pollution straight onto the beach, including sewage overflow and other rubbish. These were replaced by a diversion system directing stormwater run-off into the main headland outfalls. The pollution problem will now become the problem of Sydney Water, which manages the stormwater mains discharging near Bondi's headlands.

The removal of the stormwater pipes alone made a vast difference to the quality of the beach. After solid rain, the stormwater became highly polluted caused by heavy rains flushing tonnes of garbage down the pipes. The stormwater pipes themselves posed a physical danger and a threat to public health. Children frequently played in the pools of effluent left on the beach. The smelly water was colloquially known as 'Hogan's Hole' (after Mayor Thomas Hogan) or 'the Polio Pit'.

Aggressive drunken revellers mar Christmas Day on Bondi Beach. Lifeguards report being overwhelmed with 146 surf rescues, mainly due to drunken people entering the surf. The trouble begins in the late afternoon when cool weather moves approximately 20,000 backpackers off the beach and onto Queen Elizabeth Drive blocking the

1994 cont

road. Aggressive young people (described as 'male youths from the Western suburbs') arrive in cars and clash with backpackers. Violence erupts and police attempts to move the crowd saw it turn on them, throwing bottles and trashing police cars. The event is described across the Sydney media as a 'riot'. In the cleanup Council removes 30 tonnes of litter at a cost of \$20,000. For weeks afterwards, broken glass is reported in the sand.

A melee on Bondi Beach and violent aggressive behaviour continues throughout the entire evening. A similar 'outside group' to that identified as being involved in the Christmas Day riots again comes back to the beach. Violent clashes occur. By 11.30pm the crowd in Bondi Park is estimated at 15,000 and growing, peaking at 2.00am at 20,000. Again the crowd turns on the police and they declare Bondi Park a no-go area for five hours. Reported crimes: three serious stabbings, including a 17 year old surf life saver from the Bondi Surf Bathers' Lifesaving Club, one rape, 46 other trauma injuries requiring ambulance assistance, 23 arrests associated with throwing missiles at police, assault and street offences.

The Christmas Day and New Year's Eve events attract widespread and international negative media coverage with Bondi Beach being portrayed as a dangerous area. The costs of the two riots are estimated by the State government to have cost \$370,000. The beach is trashed with 30 tonnes of litter and broken glass left behind. Almost 750 locals petition the NSW Premier to intervene because there is a perceived lack of action after the violence.

After lobbying by Council, a \$3 million funding boost by the State government is added to Council's existing \$4 million fund for the upgrade to Campbell Parade. The State government and Waverley Council also mount a joint approach to the Federal government to match funds for the full restoration of Campbell Parade claiming the street and Bondi Beach itself have national and international significance. The final project cost is estimated to be \$13 million. Council agrees to take responsibility for the future maintenance of Campbell Parade.

1995-1996

Information on water conditions and temperature are displayed daily for the public at Bondi Beach. New playground equipment is installed in Biddigal Reserve, North Bondi.

1996

Council estimates between 430,000 and 645,000 international travellers visit Bondi Beach each year and the number of domestic tourists to the area could be as high as 1.5 million annually.

Bondi Beach Community Safety Action Plan is created. It's an across

1996 cont

government approach and involves collaborations between Council, the police, Sydney Transport Authority, State government, Tourism NSW and is supported by residents, local business and Sydney media. The NSW Council on Crime Prevention supported it with a grant of \$150,000 to assist in the Plan's implementation.

Christmas Day and New Year's Eve events are held at Bondi Beach and are carefully policed and organised following the Bondi Beach Community Safety Action Plan. Deemed an overwhelming success with no injuries and a low number of arrests, Lifeguards report drunkenness is contained on the beach and there is no extra cost to Council for waste management in Bondi Park. The crowd is described as happy and well-behaved. The New Year's Eve concert on Bondi Beach is called 'the biggest beach party in the world' and 'a hallmark event for backpacker tourism'. Police describe the Bondi Beach Community Safety Action Plan and its success as 'community based policing at its most effective'. Bondi is declared 'reclaimed' for the whole community.

A proposal for a four-storey unit block, 18 metres in height and with 50 units, less than 100 metres from Bondi Beach is turned down by the Land and Environment Court. Council said the decision sent a message to developers that high-rise buildings were unacceptable near the beach.

1996-1997

Bondi Beach events: Fringe Festival, (first) Sculpture by the Sea, Sea Theatre Festival. At Bondi Pavilion: Flickerfest, International Short Film Festival, The South American Festival and Festival of the Winds. At the Bondi Pavilion Community Cultural Centre: Musician in Residence project for pre-schoolers and other children, 'Edge of the World Choir' the Pavilion's multicultural children's choir and the Cubby House Band, formed with young local musicians to provide music for young children produce their own CD. Over 100 regular weekly classes/workshops are held in the Pavilion.

Bondi Pavilion starts work on a five-year \$2 million maintenance program. Conservation plan for the Pavilion developed by heritage consultants is completed and provides the basis for the plan of management upgrade.

Tamarama Park is the only one of Waverley's four major reserves – Bondi, Bronte, Tamarama and Waverley Parks – which does not have a plan of management. Council sets out to address this.

Improved street cleaning at Bondi Beach sees cleaning now done daily.

1997

Proposal for an underground rail link from Bondi Junction to Bondi Beach. Council is concerned about the impact on the environment, an increase

1997 cont

in development pressure and social problems, and encourages residents to examine the Environmental Impact Statement which is going on public exhibition.

A stormwater treatment tank to collect contaminated road water and recycle it for watering gardens is trialled at Bondi Beach. The tank prevents contaminated water polluting the ocean by filtering rainwater run-off through a purification sand system. Stormwater runoff causes 80 per cent of pollution in the waterways and forces many beaches to close following heavy rains. Waverley is the first council to use this treatment for beach protection.

Bondi Baths, Bronte Baths and Wally Weekes Pool are all given National Trust Heritage Listing.

A new system to deal with stormwater at Bondi Beach goes on trial; this is intended to improve the quality of water at the beaches.

Completion of a conservation plan for Bondi Park and Bondi Pavilion, the introduction of Development Control Plans for Bondi Junction and Heritage Conservation. A large scale Bondi Basin Traffic Study commenced to address increasing concerns from residents about traffic congestion.

The Campbell Parade upgrade proposes the street be transformed into a 'beachside boulevard' costing \$7 million. The media describe the street as 'Shambles Parade'. Council explains a key aim was to make Campbell Parade more pedestrian friendly for locals and visitors. It states 'the upgrade is part of Council's strategy for preparing Bondi for the increased tourism in the lead up to the 2000 Olympics...the new Bondi Beach rail link will also tie in with the upgrade.'

The Federal member for Vaucluse calls for Council to be 'sacked' from control of Bondi Beach, Bondi Park and all buildings from Campbell Parade to the water line, including Bondi Pavilion and Bondi Baths and be handed to a Heritage Trust to manage. Council hits back strongly condemning the call. A public meeting of residents overwhelmingly supports Council and urges retention of local planning controls over Bondi Beach.

Development at Bondi Beach is limited to a height of 12.5 metres according to a new Development Control Plan from Council which sets the guidelines for the future development of the beach and surrounding areas. Council states 'it is imperative that growth be controlled in a way which enhances the existing qualities and sense of place which gives Bondi its unique character.'

- 1997 cont A National Trust survey identified 14 local ocean and harbour pools as being of significant heritage value including: Bronte Baths, Bondi Baths and the Wally Weekes Pool.
- 1998 Council is awarded \$250,000 NSW Government funding to install an innovative stormwater infiltration system at Bondi Beach.
- In a shocking day in December two people die on Waverley's beaches, one at Bondi and one at Bronte. There is a second death at Bondi Beach a couple of days later.
- The National Heritage Trust launches a \$2 million package to protect 15 coastal sites in NSW, including Bondi Beach. Three anti-pollution traps will be built around Bondi to stop rubbish and sediment flowing into the sea from stormwater drains. Traps are located at North Bondi, Ben Buckler and Hunter Park.
- Bondi Beach wins a Federal Government grant to clean up its stormwater drains. \$185,000 is to be spent on installing pollution traps on three stormwater outlets at the beach.
- 1998-1999 Over summer, Lifeguards undertook the highest number of rescues on record at Waverley's three beaches. During the year, Lifeguards provided community education on safe beach use and surf swimming.
- Christmas and NYE at Bondi. Order is maintained and major events and activities were celebrated without incident or major complaint.
- 1999 \$250,000 is spent by Council on the upgrading of Bronte Baths. The Baths are closed for three months and re-opens on Evelyn Whillier's 81st birthday. Whillier, a former Olympian, is a familiar sight at the baths each morning where she swims at 5.00am.
- 1999 mid  
2000 Construction activity associated with the Olympic Beach Volleyball Stadium is affecting the beach and the Pavilion, causing disruption to normal Pavilion activity. The Community Cultural Centre is relocated for a significant part of 2000 and major festivals reorganised.
- 1999-2000 New Year's Eve. The first Mobile Home dance party is held at Bondi Beach. Council supports the managed event describing it as one which 'pays for itself and avoids dysfunctional behaviour.' It is dubbed 'the party of the century'. However a bleak southerly gale blows and the mood is described as 'subdued' with the 15,000 revellers 'sandblasted' by fierce winds.

1999-2000  
cont

Council commissions a comprehensive review of the Lifeguard service. Management consultants examine the structure of the service to determine if changes could be made to further improve operational efficiency while maintaining its standards.



# BEACHES & THE COAST, the 00s

## YEAR EVENT

2000

The Bondi to Bronte coast walk is described by tourism operators as an 'essential Sydney experience'. Prior to the late 1980s the coast walk was mainly used by locals, but after this date it starts to attract the attention of tourism bodies.

Council is furious that a Land and Environment Court decision, to grant consent to a five-storey 25 unit development at Bondi, goes ahead after it had been rejected by Council. The site contains low rise cottages and a kindergarten all of which will be demolished.

Beaches are declared alcohol free zones during the summer season, with no smoking on any Waverley beaches. Free re-useable water bottles are given out after a litter analysis shows a large number of disposable plastic water bottles in the waste stream.

2001

Organisers of the Mobile Home New Year's Eve dance party organise a week of events at Bondi including a Christmas Day party and another, A Sunburnt Christmas, which starts at noon on 25 December. It attracts 15,000 revellers and occupies a large section of the beach.

On 13 May, Bondi Beach receives its first vice-regal visitor in its history when the Governor of NSW opens a Surf Gymkhana. The event is held as part of Australia's Centenary of Federation celebrations. Australian and Aboriginal flags are raised simultaneously to demonstrate Waverley's commitment to reconciliation. Events include a street march down Campbell Parade, the showing of historic films in Bondi Pavilion, the re-enactment of an old reel-and-rope surf rescue and an afternoon concert featuring surf music legends The Atlantics.

2002

The Council's innovative Bronte Catchment Project, which uses community participation and education to reduce stormwater pollution, is a joint winner of the NSW government Stormwater Management Award.

Bondi Beach receives two highly commended awards at the Clean Beach Challenge Awards. The categories are Overall Cleanest Beach and Friendly Beach.

A much smaller New Year's Eve event is planned for Bondi Beach. Called the Love Party it has a crowd limit of 3,000 and is held in Bondi Pavilion. The Pavilion also hosts a Christmas day dance party, A Sunburnt Christmas.

The Cliff Walk (the Federation Cliff Walk) opens. A 3 km walk funded to celebrate Australia's centenary of Federation. From the Woollahra Council end it goes through Watsons Bay, Vaucluse, and Dover Heights to North Bondi where it joins the Bondi-Clovelly coastal walk. Funding is made available for the creation of the walk from local, State and Federal government in order to make the coastline more accessible.

The State government creates an aquatic reserve from Bronte to Coogee. This zone extends to 100 metres offshore and allows for recreational fishing, but bans taking intertidal invertebrates such as oysters, mussels, crabs and pipis.

2003

Christmas Day, Bondi Beach. The beach is said to be 'swimming in rubbish' after the equivalent to 20 skip bins of rubbish is left. Crowds are estimated to be 40,000 people, the highest in a decade.

The Mobile Home New Year's Eve dance party is simulcast on Triple J, so that parties around the country can tune in to the music being played on Bondi Beach. The party is sold out in advance. Council sets up a hotline number for residents to contact Council if noise levels from the event is too high. More than 10,000 people attend and are described as a 'human tidal wave hitting Bondi from across the world, around the city and down the road.'

Council refuses permission for QANTAS to film an advertisement in its I Still Call Australia Home campaign at Bronte Baths as the area, now attracting five million visitors per year, did not need international publicity nor an enforced three-day closure of the pool for shooting the commercial.

Bondi Beach becomes a 'dry zone', with an alcohol-free zone extending from the beach to surrounding streets. Council introduces a new

- 2003 cont campaign My Bondi Summer with three elements: education on having fun (but being safe) over summer, the promotion of licensed managed events and the regulation of beachside alcohol-free zones.
- 2004 Council extends the alcohol ban from Bondi to all Waverley beaches.
- Resident complaints escalate about personal trainers, fitness groups and boot camps using Waverley's parks and beaches for early morning classes. Council fears parks and beaches are taken over by commercial operators operating 'a chain of outdoor gyms'.
- Council establishes two Heroes' Walks made up of a series of public artworks and commemorative rondels set into the footpath behind Bondi and Bronte beaches. These recognise outstanding contributions to the Waverley community by local people who have died. The first person honoured in the Bondi Heroes' Walk is Waverley Council Lifeguard Stan McDonald who served on the beach from 1912 to 1933.
- The first rondel in the Bronte Heroes' Walk recognises Evelyn Whillier, a former 1936 Olympian, who gave swimming lessons at Bronte Baths and taught two generations of locals to swim. Council dedicates the rondels to 'allow us to formally acknowledge these locals and ensure that the social history of the area is accessible to future generations.'
- 2005 New surf safety, visitor and regulatory signage for the beach, park and coastal walk is created including environmental themed and interpretative signs along the coastal zone.
- Council votes to ban cameras in Council-run changing rooms explaining that this is necessary to give Lifeguards and Council rangers the power to intervene if children were being inappropriately photographed.
- A Councillor requests that the Australian flag be flown at Bondi Pavilion, as no Australian flag is flying there.
- 2005-2006 A proposal to stage a large-scale New Year's Eve dance party on Bondi Beach is supported by Council. A Shore Thing dance party starts on New Year's Eve on Bondi Beach and attracts 15,000 participants. The promoter hires the Bondi Pavilion and a portion of the beach is fenced off for the event. Council announces that 'people will be on beach anyhow, having a managed event is to make sure we can control what goes on there.' Council also runs a family-orientated event at Dudley Page Reserve.
- 2006 Council announces that the Australian, Aboriginal, New South Wales and Torres Strait Island flags will be flown on the existing poles along Campbell Parade and at Bondi Beach for Australia Day. Council voted to

2006 cont

overturn its controversial decision not to fly the Australian flag at Bondi Pavilion after community outrage from locals, the RSL, ethnic groups and the local branch of the Labor Party.

The Bondi Bohemia Winter Festival is created to generate local business throughout the winter months when business is traditionally slow. It provides musical performances in the street and Bondi Park, children's activities, workshops in the Pavilion, a skate boarding event, gallery tours and other cultural and art events. It is a two week-long festival. This is successful and becomes an annual event.

2006-2007

A new design concept for a \$3.1 million upgrade to the eastern side of Campbell Parade at Bondi Beach is revealed. The design will provide better links between Bondi Park and the western side of Campbell Parade, which had last been upgraded in 1999. The upgrade begins in 2007 and includes the planting of Washingtonia palms down the centre of the Parade and the planting of more salt and water tolerant vegetation in Bondi Park, footpaths widened along Bondi Park, four Norfolk Island pines, kerbs and gutters rebuilt to capture stormwater runoff to irrigate Bondi Park and water trees, and improved pedestrian safety.

Council says it holds Bondi Beach in trust for the nation, saying 'in a sense we accept it because we have no choice, but it costs us a fortune to run Bondi such as raking the beach, picking up rubbish, providing a year-round Lifeguard service. We could do with more state and federal support.' The constant priority for Council is to ensure orderly management of the year-round volume of people and vehicles.

Council removes four parking meters over the winter period on Campbell Parade to assist businesses and encourage consumers to come to Bondi Beach during the winter period. Council also turns off parking meters on the fringes of the Bondi Junction CBD at night in a bit to attract more people to the area.

2008

My Bondi Summer includes Carols by the Sea, Bondi's 'Summer of Fun' a five-day family friendly event in the Pavilion forecourt and on Christmas Day a ticketed event Summer Lovin concert.

The Bronte Baths renewal project wins a Heritage Conservation Design award.

University of Sydney researchers predict that by 2100 global warming could raise sea levels by up to 88 cm, with water completely covering Bondi Beach.

2008 cont

My Bondi Summer gets a green twist: events like the Sunburnt Christmas dance party (aimed primarily at backpackers) and the New Year's Eve party, A Shore Thing, (aimed at the general public) are to be carbon neutral. An additional event is the Dudley Page Park New Year's Eve celebration (aimed at families). All beaches are declared 'dry' as in previous years and police and security strictly enforce the alcohol free zones around beaches and parks.

Council spends more than \$1 million per year to keep Bondi Beach free of rubbish. Council collects approximately 540 cubic metres of rubbish from Waverley's beaches and parks each week. Swimmers and surfers at Bronte leave behind the equivalent of 300 rubbish bins per week, with Tamarama beachgoers generating a similar amount.

Reality television program, Bondi Rescue, starring the Waverley Council Lifeguards, wins the first of many Logie awards (by 2012 the program has won four Logies) for the Most Popular Factual Program and is sold internationally. It is eventually shown in more than 50 countries worldwide.

2008-2009

More than 19,000 extra large bins of rubbish are collected from Waverley's beaches and nearby parks over the summer. Council employs additional crews and extends the clean up hours at Bondi and Bronte beaches to ensure the beaches are clean and looking great.

As a permanent legacy of Council's sesquicentenary, in 2009, Council builds the Sesquicentenary Board Walk, which skirts around Waverley Cemetery and provides a spectacular walk over the cliffs and ocean at the Waverley end of the coastal walk.

2009

Council announces that rubbish bins will not be on Bondi Beach over the summer of 2009-2010. They were removed for aesthetic and environmental reasons. Bins would overflow and people would pile rubbish around them, the wind would scatter the litter; formerly bins dotted the sand along the beach. Council is using a mechanical rake to collect garbage left behind on the sand and rubbish bins are placed along the promenade behind the beach. Bondi Beach attracts three million visitors.

2010

The Bondi Bohemia Winter Festival changes its name to the Bondi Winter Magic Festival. An extraordinary addition to the festival is an ice skating rink right on Bondi Beach called Bondi Bergstation. Hugely successful the 900 m square ice rink attracts widespread local, national and international media.

Professional surfing returns to Bondi Beach for the first time in 21 years.

2010 cont

Former world champion Barton Lynch praised the 1989 anti-sewerage outfall campaigners 'without all the protest.