

COUNCIL HISTORY AND SERVICES: some highlights

Local Government elections during this period were held in: 1962, 1965, 1968, 1971, 1974, 1977, 1979, 1980, 1983, 1987, 1991, 1995, 1999, 2004, 2007 and 2008.

1962. During work on the Council Chambers the Council holds meetings and uses the Bondi Pavilion as the Council headquarters.

1975-1976. Council Chambers acquires its current appearance when extensive alterations and additions are made. A third floor is added in the 1980s.

1983. First female Mayor of Waverley elected, Councillor Carolyn Markham. In 1987 *The Sun* newspaper describes her as the 'Iron Maiden of the Eastern Suburbs' in a clear reference to Margaret Thatcher's description as 'the Iron Maiden'.

1993-1994. A new *Local Government Act (1993)* was passed and Council was involved in actively implementing this. Changes include: introduction of an Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) management plan, reflecting changes in Australian society. Council met the challenge and went beyond what was required under the Act adopting a policy granting unpaid leave to non-Christian and Aboriginal staff so that they could fulfil their religious and cultural obligations. Numerous ethnic community groups and human rights organisation praise Council.

1994-1995. Five-year capital works program Re-Building Waverley, as spelt out in 1994 management plan, is ahead of schedule. Achievements include the removal of stormwater drains from Bondi Beach and Bondi Junction. Future programs include construction of a new Waverley Library in Bondi Junction and a childcare centre in Clementson Park.

1996. Waverley was one of the first councils in NSW to introduce a precinct system. In 1997 Council had 14 precincts consisting of between 1,000-4,500 households. Precincts meet on average every two months.

1996-1997. Council implements a new organisation structure with a smaller more efficient number of Council departments. This leaner structure allows Council to achieve its efficiency targets and in some areas exceed them.

1996-1997. Capital works: Campbell Parade first stage upgrades, repairing, rendering and painting of the Bondi Pavilion façade and the marketing of two commercial spaces in the Pavilion. The construction of the Waverley Child Care Centre in Clementson Park is completed, replacing a 50 y.o. building

1997. Waverley Council at the forefront of environmental management in local government. A 12 month trial on the use of compressed natural gas (CMG) for heavy vehicles commences with two CMG-powered garbage trucks, chosen as a measure to address air pollution. All Council passenger vehicles have been converted to LPG by the Engineering Department in keeping with Council's Local Air Quality Management Plan.

1997. Over 300 staff trained in customer service. In the 1997 customer satisfaction survey conducted by Council over 90 per cent of participants reported staff as being helpful, competent and meeting or exceeding their expectations.

1997. Council Standing Committees: Community Services, Health & Amenities, Finance & Corporate Planning, Environment, Planning, Housing and Public Works, Ethics. Other committees: Waterloo Process Plant (joint) Committee, Surf Life Saving Club Committee, Waverley Disability Access Committee, Waverley Housing Strategies Committee, Industrial Committee, Waverley Traffic Committee, Staff Consultative Committee, Local Ethnic Affairs Policy Statement Committee.

1998-1999. Council's new Customer Service Call Centre opens.

1999-2000. Council's call centre dealt with approximately 130,000 calls. Council's website continued to receive a high volume of traffic with the site significantly enhanced to provide a wide variety of information to its residents.

1999-2000. Highlights: the development of a draft Traffic and Transport Policy, finalisation of the Waverley Traffic and Transport Study, improved parking enforcement in the Bondi Beach area, completed traffic management schemes in Military Road and York Road.

1999-2000. Council was in a sound financial position with an increase in assets of \$1.2 million and assets exceeding liabilities by \$12.5 million. During the year Council leased the old Library premises in Ebley Street Bondi Junction to Officeworks, sold over \$90,000 in property and successfully leased the Dolphin Room at the Bondi Pavilion. All of these contributed substantial funds for Council's capital works program.

1999-2000. Council IT staff were commended for their commitment and innovation in preparing Council's computer systems which might have been affected by Y2K. In the end no systems were affected.

1999-2000. Council received a New Directions Award for Industrial Relations. The introduction of a new performance assessment system which is linked, for the first time, to Council's Management Plan.

2001. The first inquiry into Sydney council boundaries in more than 25 years recommends halving the number of inner city and eastern suburb councils by 2003. A six-month State government inquiry into merging local government areas, known as the Sproats Inquiry after its head Professor Kevin Sproats, proposes to merge Waverley, Woollahra and most of Randwick into one 'super council' known as the Beaches Council with a population of 200,000.

Council rejects this proposal voting unanimously to oppose any amalgamations with any other council. It states that Waverley would be considerably worse off, as Waverley's financial position is significantly stronger than either Woollahra's or Randwick's. No Councils are forced to amalgamate and all reject the recommendations of the enquiry.

2002. Handover of most parking powers from the State government to local Councils. More cars are looking for parking every day than there are parking spaces available. Council implements initiatives such as residential parking schemes and timed parking areas.

2004-2005. Council develops a 12-year strategic plan for the Waverley area called Waverley Together. It is the most ambitious ever undertaken and is characterised by high levels of community involvement in its creation.

2005. Organisational restructure of Council with new divisions: Corporate and Technical services, Planning and Environmental Services, Public Works and Services and Recreation, Customer and Community Services. A new customer request system called ServiceDesk is introduced.

2006. New parking meters, which print out receipts for vehicle owners to put inside their windscreens, are introduced. 262 of these meters are installed at Bondi and Bronte Beaches and Bondi Junction. This will free up 15 per cent more parking spaces as the new meters remove the need for line marked spaces. They are environmentally friendly because they are solar and battery powered. The new meters are controlled remotely from a single location and allow Council to change parking times and rates when necessary.

2006. Council parking officers issue 10,274 fines in July this year, almost half for parking in an expired meter and most of the others for disobeying a No Stopping sign. Other highly fined traffic offences: stopping in bus zones, disobeying No Standing signs and parking longer than permitted in residential areas. 110,000 fines issued in the past financial year.

Fines and meter revenue amount to a value of almost \$10 million. Council states that the aim of parking regulations is safety, not money. Beaches and parks are overwhelmed by millions of visitors per year, particularly Bondi with its international reputation. Meters are necessary to create more parking opportunities, Council explains, because without parking meters Bondi and Bronte would be parked out all day.

2007-2008. Council reaps \$11 million from 107,950 infringements.