

Waverley News



The ripple effect of community
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Waverley Council acknowledges the Bidiagal, Birrabirragal and Gadigal people, who traditionally occupied the Sydney Coast. We also would like to acknowledge Aboriginal Elders both past and present.

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Mayor's column



Steven Lewis
Mayor

Waverley's new Mayor outlines his top priorities for the term

I am honoured to have been elected Mayor at the last meeting of Council.

My promise is to work tirelessly to make Waverley an even better place to live, work and visit, and I have several priorities for my two-year term ahead.

The first is to pause the implementation of the Bondi Junction Master Plan to revisit the concerns of residents. I will consult residents, businesses and stakeholders to make the Master Plan more robust and reflective of our community needs.

Secondly, I intend to review proposals for the Council Chambers building. An asset as important as this cannot and should not be left vacant, nor should it be pulled down without fully funded alternatives. There are many possible community uses, and these need to be considered as a matter of urgency.

Thirdly, I intend to ensure there is transparency, accountability and openness in all the work we do.

Finally, I will use the upcoming State Election to lobby the government and opposition to commit funding for the upgrade of the Bondi Junction train station and bus interchange. If residents of Waverley are being asked to shoulder their share of the burden of greater density, they must have a transportation hub that is fit for purpose.

I look forward to working with my fellow Councillors to deliver the best outcomes for Waverley.

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FEATURE

The ripple effect of community

In the days after the terror attack, Bondi artist Beck Feiner turned her grief into moving depictions of the resolve of her beloved community, in a bid to process her shock.



The heroics of first responders. A record number of blood donations. An awe-inspiring paddle-out of hundreds of surfers.

Those powerful scenes featured in her collection of striking works, which she shared on Instagram as they were completed. Each quickly went viral.

“I made the illustrations as a very personal response, without really thinking about where they might go,” Beck said.

“I think they resonated because so many people were feeling the same things, and perhaps the images gave them a way to express emotions that were difficult to put into words.”

Beck was recently selected to paint a mural on the iconic Bondi Sea Wall, speaking to the community’s recovery and resilience. Her piece, titled *Ripple Love Effect*, is a tribute to the paddle-out, of which she was a part.

“Being there and experiencing it firsthand was incredibly powerful and healing. There was such a strong sense of community and of people holding each other through the grief.

“That experience became the inspiration for the artwork. In the mural, the circle of people in the water creates heart-shaped ripples that move out across the ocean.

Update

Council recently carried out specialist remediation works on a section of the Bondi Sea Wall to address cracks, defects, corrosion and long-term damage. This required a full surface restoration. Thank you to the community for your patience while this important work was completed.

“For me, those ripples represent the way an act of kindness, love or compassion can spread far beyond the person who begins it.”



UPDATE

A new icon by the beach

Works are progressing on the redevelopment of the Bronte Surf Life Saving Club, with the new state-of-the-art community facility due to open in mid-2027.

Some of Waverley's Councillors recently toured the construction site and met with project managers to hear about the completion of level one and the start of work on the roof deck.

As well as providing a new home for one of Australia's oldest surf life saving institutions, the project will significantly boost public amenity and beach safety.

It will feature enhanced life-guard operational facilities, lifesaving infrastructure and more inclusive spaces for the thousands of volunteers, members and beachgoers who visit each year.

Bronte Surf Life Saving Club President Basil Scaffidi said: "We are really excited about completing the project and delivering a building that will house Waverley's professional lifeguards and park staff and our surf lifesaving club."

Other infrastructure improvements stemming from the development include a new promenade, sea wall, footpaths and a turning circle roadway.

The building will also feature new facilities for Council's open space maintenance and cleansing services teams, who work across Bronte Beach and Bronte Park.

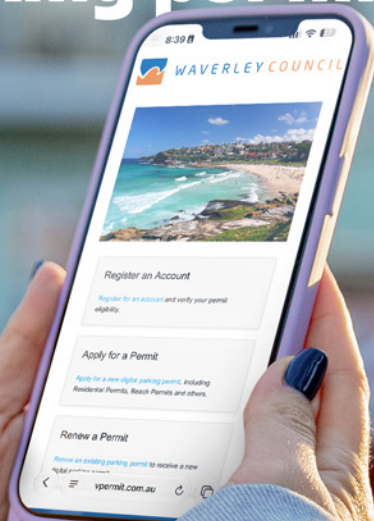
The old clubhouse, which was demolished in late 2025, was well past its use-by date.

Update

Wild weather and dangerous seas repeatedly delayed the pump and pump house at Bronte Pool upgrades.

To ensure the pool remains open during the busy summer months, Council has postponed the works until Autumn 2027. An update will be provided in the New Year.

Applying for daily visitor parking permits is EasyAs



Apply for and self-manage
your visitor parking
permits *all online.*



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"I decided it would be nice to go along with my daughter and have a connection with older people," Philippa recalled.

she encourages other new mums to pick up some tools and get involved.

"It's a great way to take part in a mindful activity. Being a mum can be stressful, and you can feel stuck in the house. Having something to go along to that has no pressure is great."

VOLUNTEERING

A mums' group with a difference

Some mums and bubs groups catch up at a cafe while others find a cosy spot at the local library, but this one hangs out amid historic headstones in a cemetery.

Philippa Butt was out for a walk with her newborn baby one morning when she spotted some keen volunteer gardeners tending to the grounds of Waverley Cemetery.

The group was part of a volunteer program that originated in 2023, which brings locals together each week to weed, plant and propagate while getting fit and making new friends.

She then recruited two fellow new mums to join her, and the green-thumbed trio now enjoys meeting each Wednesday morning to socialise and spend time outdoors.

Waverley Cemetery is often described as one of the most beautiful in the world and for the past 139 years, it has served as the final resting place for more than 90,000 people.

Philippa has found the opportunity to give back and make community connections incredibly rewarding.

"It's the cross-generational benefit. Meeting people of different ages, otherwise I would not have the opportunity to meet. I love seeing other people get joy from my daughter. They see her smile and have a cuddle."

For Philippa, the consistent routine has brought a lot of satisfaction, and

Ways to volunteer in Waverley

Gardening at Waverley Cemetery

Transform the cemetery into a place of beauty through digging, weeding and the planting of hardy coastal natives.

Repair Café

Provide free repairs across a range of categories, rescuing all manner of things from landfill.

Bushcare

Join groups restoring important remaining pockets of native bushland along the coast. Volunteers meet regularly in various locations across Waverley.

Arts and Culture for everyone at the Pav

As the weather warms, the calendar of live performances, art and ideas at Bondi Pavilion is heating up too. This is just a taste of what's on offer at our beloved venue, where culture meets the sea.



Leigh Sales and Gwen Blake: The Holiday Kitchen

29 October

Come along for a joyful celebration of food, conversation and connection as acclaimed journalist Leigh Sales and award-winning entrepreneur Gwen Blake launch their cookbook and share their philosophy for feeding the people they love.



Bondi Books & Ideas Weekend

20-22 November

This exciting new event brings together an inspiring and entertaining mix of authors, subject matter experts and raconteurs for a celebration of books, ideas and community. Hear from your favourite authors, discover emerging voices and share in the joy of storytelling.

BONDI PAVILION



100 Women100 Stories

29 November

Brought to life by six award-winning female composers, this moving choral work transforms the real words of women across Australia into a powerful musical celebration. From its Sydney Town Hall premiere to audiences nationwide, it has inspired tears and joy. Lend your voice or watch from the audience as you experience this extraordinary performance.

Nib Literary Award 2026

19 November

Rub shoulders with prize-winning authors and local bibliophiles as we announce the 2026 recipient of the \$40,000 Nib Literary Award and toast a quarter century of rewarding remarkable research-based storytelling!





THE B ND FEEL ING



To mark the arrival of warmer weather and longer days, Council has been pulling out the stops to remind everyone that Bondi is more than just a place - it's a feeling.



And we're making sure there are even more chances to enjoy spring and summer, with an incredible array of parties, festivals and events to enjoy.

In October, the Glenayr Street Party is back and bigger than ever, bringing the heart of Bondi alive with a vibrant community celebration.

The beach will be pumping with party vibes every Sunday throughout October and November, as Summer Sounds blends live music, fashion and beachside culture right on our iconic coastline.

Then, people of all ages are invited to put on their boogie shoes and bust out their best moves to celebrate Bondi at a special dance party on 7 November.

From 20 to 22 November, the beach will transform into a hub of creativity, conversation and connection for the Bondi Books and Ideas Weekend at the Pav. This exciting new event brings together an inspiring and entertaining mix of authors, subject matter experts and raconteurs for a celebration of books, ideas and community.

Also kicking off in November is our new Bondi Outdoor Cinema, giving everyone the chance to settle in under the stars and watch a curated selection of films in one of Sydney's most iconic coastal settings – with free popcorn thrown in!

We'll be diving into the festive spirit during December, with our beloved Carols by the Sea and iconic Bondi Christmas Markets sure to have everyone feeling merry and bright.

And finally, we farewell 2026 in style with Sydney's biggest and best New Year's Eve celebration, right on Bondi Beach.

Australia's most famous stretch of sand will play host to elrow Bondi Beach XXL – a 15,000-person ticketed festival. Adjacent to the main event will be the Locals Lawn, a free family zone featuring roaming entertainment, food trucks and an early fireworks display.

There is so much to love about our vibrant home by the sea, and we're excited to celebrate and embrace that unbeatable Bondi feeling.

MORE NEWS

Bondi Junction SEP

Efforts are progressing to transform Bondi Junction into one of Sydney's premier nightlife destinations.

Council has established a working group to support the planning and trial of a Special Entertainment Precinct (SEP).

An SEP would support a thriving, safe and diverse night-time economy by giving the area greater flexibility for live music and entertainment, as well as extended trading hours.

The working group is made up of business owners, community stakeholders and residents, who will spend several months developing, researching and making plans for the SEP.

The formal trial of the SEP is expected to begin in mid-2027 and last for around 12 months. After the trial, Council will review feedback and decide whether to make the precinct permanent.

This initiative is a long-term investment in improving nighttime vibrancy in Bondi Junction and ensuring it continues to grow as an

active economic and cultural hub with thriving businesses and high-quality entertainment.

Game changing EV charging solution

One-in-20 cars in Sydney's eastern suburbs are now electric, and research shows motorists prefer to charge at home due to convenience and cost.

But 60 per cent of residents live in apartments and 40 per cent rent their home, so driving an EV is sometimes seen as impossible or too big a hassle.

Installing EV charging infrastructure in apartment carparks can be complex, from high costs to strata red tape and tricky electrical systems. Thankfully, the rise of 'Smart Plug' technology means living in a unit is no longer a dealbreaker for would-be EV drivers.

Local resident Mark Salmon recently had Smart Plugs installed in his 1960s apartment complex and described them as "the sensible solution".

"They make EV charging possible for those in units," Mr Salmon said. "It's a game-changing, simple and affordable approach that removes one of the major barriers to EV ownership."

Through the Regional Environment Program, established by Waverley, Randwick and Woollahra Councils in 2007, residents in the east can get free on-site assessments, independent quotation reviews and even help with strata by-laws.

Fifty apartment complexes have taken up the offer so far.

Smart Plug technology makes at-home charging more affordable for unit residents, while offering smart features such as app-based billing and internet-connected scheduling. It can also be integrated with constrained electrical circuits, meaning no expensive upgrades.

Find out how your building can take advantage:

WORKS UPDATE

Making Waverley even better

Council is committed to investing in ways to make our community an even better place to live, work and visit. These are some of the projects recently finished, nearing completion or about to begin.



North Bondi Bus Terminus

This important transport and village centre needs revitalising. Designs for an upgrade have been finalised following consultation and Council is now tendering for a construction partner. Works are set to commence in early 2027 and include

improved roads, footpaths and pedestrian crossings, plus new landscaping.



Fingleton Reserve upgrades

Council has upgraded a number of parks and playgrounds in recent years, and Fingleton Reserve is the latest. These works provide new play experiences, catering to a range of age groups through active, imaginative, social and free play. They also make the most of the natural environment. The project also included upgrades to amenity and accessibility.



New fitness facilities

Two projects promoting free, outdoor and communal fitness are now complete. The Tamarama

fitness station has been overhauled, with new equipment and landscaping. In Waverley Park, a new dedicated intergenerational fitness station has been installed allowing people of all ages and abilities to make use of the space.



Rose Bay Shops

After extensive consultation, detailed designs are now being prepared for a streetscape upgrade to improve amenity, accessibility and economic vitality. Works are expected to begin soon and include improved footpaths, a raised pedestrian crossing, additional parking spaces, up to 12 new trees and clearer line markings.



Each year, Council offers the community many opportunities to share their feedback on everything from major projects and long-term plans to infrastructure upgrades and services improvements.

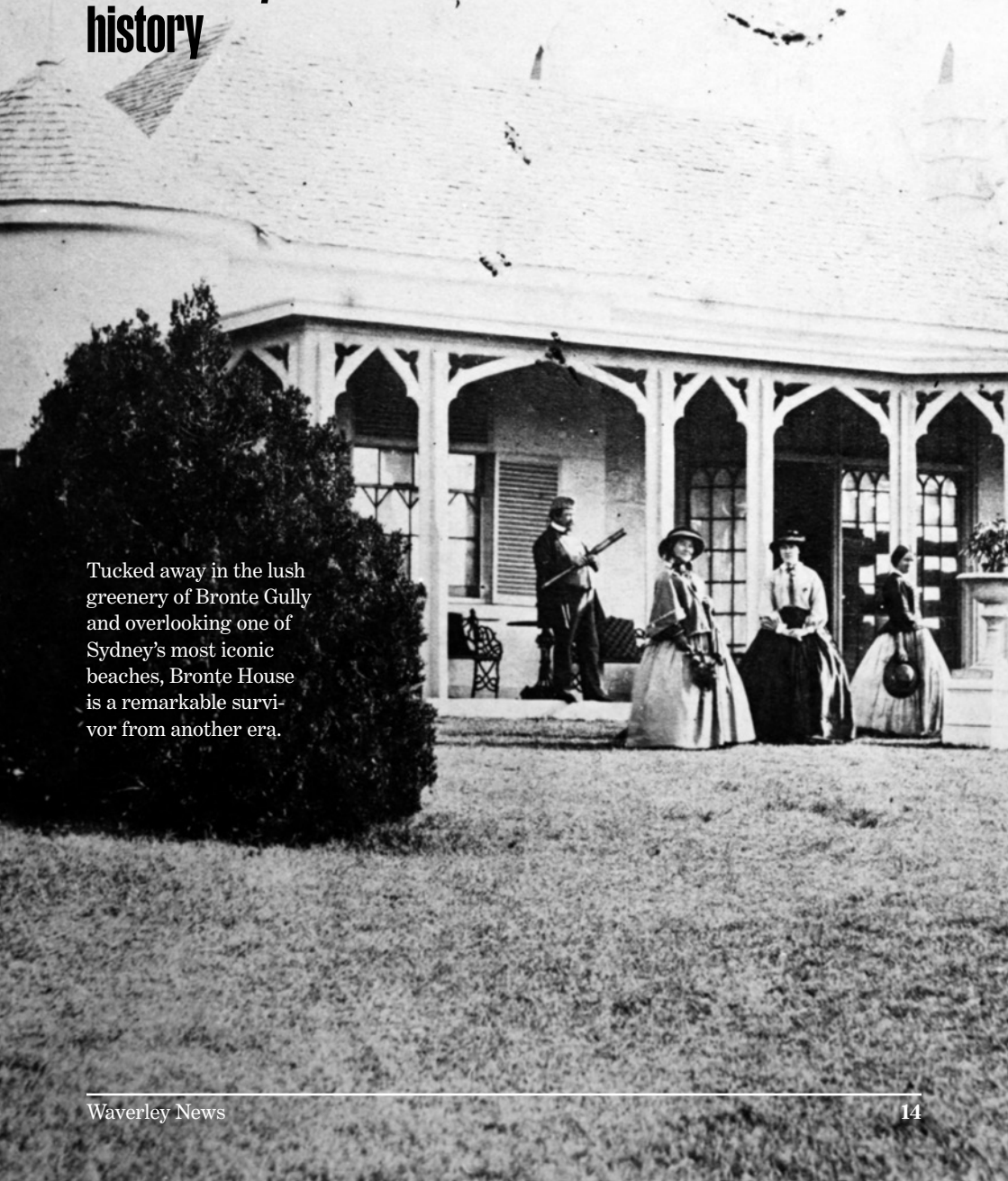
Waverley is your home and it's important you Have Your Say.

☒ **Sign up today.**

FEATURE

A beloved piece of Waverley history

Tucked away in the lush greenery of Bronte Gully and overlooking one of Sydney's most iconic beaches, Bronte House is a remarkable survivor from another era.





nurtured has been described as “a repository for rare and beautiful plants.”

Over the following decades, Bronte House passed through several hands before the Ebsworth family bought it in 1882 and retained it for more than 60 years. In 1948, they sold the house and grounds to Waverley Council, ensuring this remarkable piece of local history remained in public ownership.

It has undergone restorations and refurbishments over the years, but its unique historic character remains intact – as does its spectacular grounds.

To ensure this important public asset remains in excellent condition, Council is carrying out some external remediation works. This includes repairs to tiling on the veranda, repairs to a retaining wall, upgrades to exterior finishes and the first stage of limewash removal and reapplication.



Built in 1845, Bronte House is Waverley’s oldest-surviving residence and one of the east’s most distinctive heritage treasures. Its story began with architect William Mortimer Lewis, who purchased 42 acres at what was then known as Nelson Bay in 1836. When an economic depression forced him to sell mid-construction, barrister Robert Lowe and his wife Georgiana took over the property and completed the house.

The Lowes left an extraordinary mark. Georgiana was an accomplished artist and passionate green thumb who created an elaborate garden filled with native and exotic plants.

In 1847, Georgiana wrote in a letter to her mother-in-law: “I am in the garden all day and quite delight in cultivating our place.” That garden she so carefully



Big adventures start with little learners.



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Nurturing curiosity and community for ages 6 weeks to 5 years.

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