

WAVERLEY NEWS

Summer 2023



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Find your Ward Councillor at waverley.nsw.gov.au/councillors or scan here.



Message from the Mayor

Welcome to our summer edition of Waverley News, Waverley Council's guide to the best events, experiences and local offerings to enjoy this festive season.

For many in our community, 2023 has been a year of highs and lows and finding cause to celebrate when there is so much going on in the world may seem difficult. My hope for the future is that we continue to come together as the wonderful community we are, and to support each other during this challenging period in world affairs. As we come to the end of year, it is timely to reflect on the need for peace, and to act with kindness, compassion, and

understanding as we bring in another new year and look to a more peaceful and brighter future.

To spark joy this season, Waverley Council's events calendar is jam-packed with fun and affordable experiences for the whole family including Carols by the Sea (13 December), Sunset Cinema at Bondi (until 23 December), New Years Eve at Dudley Page Reserve (31 December), The Listies comedy show at Bondi Pavilion (3-13 January) and Flickerfest (19-28 January). Our Dawn Service of Reflection on 26 January acknowledges the resilience and survival of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their continuous connection to Country and culture. Please join us at Bondi Beach at sunrise for this very special event.



The Sydney Gays and Lesbian Mardi Gras Festival (16 February to 3 March) makes its triumphant return to Waverley with the Bondi Beach Party: Mardi Gras edition on Saturday 24 February from 2pm–10pm. Expect incredible dance and music acts in a welcoming, inclusive and celebratory atmosphere. Waverley Council is proud to be collaborating with Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras to offer this event.

Waverley is synonymous with sun, surf and sand, and your safety at our famous beaches is paramount. We're again joining forces with our friends at neighbouring Randwick City Council to reduce the record number of drownings in Australia by encouraging people to "Float to Survive". Float to Survive promotes floating as the best chance of survival for swimmers who get into trouble in the water, in conjunction with the "Swim Between the Flags" message. Waverley's three beaches Bondi, Tamarama and Bronte are patrolled 365 days a year and our summer patrol hours are 6am to 7pm. Remember, the most important rule to follow is: No flags = no swim. If in doubt, please speak to a lifeguard.

We have delivered several key infrastructure projects this year including the Bondi Junction Cycleway and Streetscape Upgrade, Glenayr Avenue Streetscape Upgrade and our

beautiful new Waverley Park Playground, complete with a rocket ship and space control tower! I would like to thank the community for engaging with us on these projects and providing feedback through our Have Your Say website.

We have continued to play a major role in some landmark events including Sydney WorldPride, Sculpture by the Sea, City2Surf and our very own Festival of the Winds at Bondi Beach.

Our organisation lives by the values of care, respect, integrity, innovation and collaboration, and providing quality customer service is at the heart of everything that we do. This year, we launched online bookings for clean-up collections, eRates and live web chat to make our services more convenient for the community.

We hope that you continue to enjoy our services, facilities and programs and respect our outdoor public places for the enjoyment of all.

From all of Waverley: have a safe, peaceful and happy festive season, and a wonderful 2024.

Paula Masselos
Mayor of Waverley

Make the most of the sun, surf and sand this summer, safely!

Going to the beach is an iconic Aussie pastime. Your safety is our priority, so we've broken down the information you need to know when heading to the beach this summer.

Swim between the red and yellow flags

It's a mantra and a must. The red and yellow flags indicate areas that are patrolled by lifeguards so staying between them will ensure you're being looked out for.

Know how to spot a rip

Rips are the number one hazard on Australian beaches. They are fast-flowing currents that quickly drag water away from the shore. Here's how you can spot them:

- Water is discoloured near the shore – rips often drag large amounts of sand from the shore so if you see sandy water stay clear
- Fewer breaking waves – if you see gaps of calm water between waves, this can be a tell-tale sign that there is a rip

What to do if you get caught in a rip

- Float and go with the flow of the water
- Control your breathing
- Don't try to swim against the current
- Raise an arm or call out for help

Don't forget to



Slip



Slop



Slap



Seek



Slide



What's happening in the Lawson Ward



Update on Charing Cross Streetscape Upgrade

Charing Cross is one of Waverley's oldest shopping districts and Council is planning on upgrading the area to make it more vibrant, accessible and sustainable for the community to enjoy.

In November, we gathered community feedback on the detailed design plans and Review of Environmental Factors (REF) for the project. We received a range of excellent suggestions from residents and business owners, and this feedback will be taken into consideration for the final design where feasible.



To stay up to date with the latest news on the upgrade, scan here for more info.

Proposal to upgrade Bronte Ocean Pool

In 2017, Waverley Council adopted the Bronte Park and Beach Plan of Management (Bronte PoM) to help guide how this community land is used, managed and improved for future generations to enjoy.

As part of the PoM, we are proposing to upgrade Bronte Ocean Pool so that it can better sustain extreme weather events such as storms in the years ahead.

The proposed upgrade will focus on improving the pool lining, pumphouse and stairs in two stages. Thank you to everyone who provided feedback on the proposal. We are now in the process of reviewing submissions and will update the community on next steps in early 2024.

What's happening in the Hunter Ward



Pedestrian crossing in Dover Heights

New and improved pedestrian crossing in Dover Heights

Earlier this month, we carried out repair works to a pedestrian crossing at the intersection of Military Road and Blake Street in Dover Heights. To improve pedestrian safety, the works involved intersection repairs, new line markings and upgrades to asphalt.

Update on Williams Park coastal fencing project

The installation of new coastal fencing at Williams Park is almost complete!

In accordance with the Williams Park and Hugh Bamford Plan of Management, we're installing new coastal fencing to improve safety for walkers in the area adjacent to the Bondi Golf and Diggers Club.

The fence is expected to be fully completed by the end of the year, just in time for the summer holidays in January.

What's happening in the Bondi Ward



Artist's impression of Curlew Street streetscape upgrade

Curlew Street streetscape upgrade

Curlew Street is an important community hub in Bondi, marking the entrance to Bondi Beach and the broader Waverley LGA.

We're excited to announce that starting in March 2024, we will be upgrading the street to create a more inviting and vibrant space for the community to enjoy, while also making it safer for pedestrians, bike riders and other road users.

The upgrade is expected to take approximately one year to complete.

Hall Street improvements

For many years, the end of Hall Street at Old South Head Road has been blocked off to traffic with bollards.

To help improve pedestrian safety and beautify the streetscape, we're planning on formalising the existing closure by constructing a cul de sac, continuous footpaths and planting new trees.

Works are expected to start in April 2024.

What's happening in the Waverley Ward



Rocket ship touches down at Waverley Park

The Waverley Park Upgrade has been a massive project for Council throughout 2023. We're thrilled to announce that the park has reopened this December with new slides, swings and play areas including:

- Nature and adventure play
- Musical play
- Water play
- Toddler play
- Climbing ropes for teens
- Active play areas with inclusive options

Last but certainly not least, we've also installed a new rocket ship to replicate the playground's original rocket that was installed during the 1960s.

The old rocket is remembered fondly by generations of families and we're proud to be bringing it back for future generations to enjoy.

The design was informed by community feedback collected across two rounds of consultation and achieves Waverley's vision to upgrade the park to a district level play space catering to all visitors.

Waverley Council's commitment to quality customer service

In October, Waverley Council launched its new Customer Service Charter.

This charter is our promise to you in providing quality service by:

- Understanding your needs and communicating clearly in return
- Answering enquiries in a timely manner and resolving enquiries as soon as possible
- Giving timeframes for requests that need more investigation
- Providing the tools to help you interact with us easily
- Offering innovative and flexible service
- Respecting and protecting your privacy
- Being friendly, courteous and respectful, always
- Creating an inclusive environment and celebrating our diversity



What else happened in 2023



Handled more than **52,000 calls**



Served more than **17,000 community members** at our Customer Service Centre



Introduced a new **live web chat**



NEW!

Created a new **online booking system** for clean-up collections

A peek inside Waverley Library

Nestled in the heart of our community, Waverley Library is not just a repository of books but a vibrant hub offering an array of services catering to all age groups and interests. Let's take a stroll through the wonderland of knowledge and entertainment that Waverley Library unfolds for its customers.

Convenience of a 24/7 library

With around-the-clock availability for downloadable eBooks and magazines, as well as seven-day extended opening hours, Waverley Library ensures you can access services when you need them. The building is a short walk from the public transport hub of Bondi Junction

and also offers free 2-hour parking in the basement car park.

Diverse collections for every taste

Waverley Library Collections are a treasure trove for book enthusiasts. From gripping fiction to insightful non-fiction and captivating graphic novels, there's something for everyone. Print magazines, DVDs, and CDs spanning various genres complement the extensive book selection. The Library's also introduced "Read Now" titles monthly, along with Book Club Kits and an exciting addition – loans for Playstation 5 and Nintendo Switch games.



Multicultural and inclusive

Celebrating diversity, Waverley Library boasts a rich collection of multicultural books in languages ranging from Arabic to Vietnamese. Specialised dyslexic font books ensure inclusivity. Accessible e-collections, including Borrow Box and Libby, further enhance the reading experience, making literature available to all.

Engaging children's collections

The children's collection promises an enriching experience for young minds. From picture books to DVDs, the offerings are designed to foster a love for learning. Maker Kits with robotics and circuits add an interactive touch, while e-resources like LOTE4 Kids and National Geographic cater to educational needs. The young adult collection includes novels, graphic novels, and study guides.

IT services: bringing learning to fingertips

Our IT services bridge the gap between technology and education. Borrow iPads for educational apps, delve into eBooks and eAudio, and explore film streaming. Remote access to databases ensures academic resources are available wherever you are, making learning convenient for tech enthusiasts at all levels.



Vibrant adult events and programs

The library is not just a quiet reading space; it's alive with community events and activities. From Sketchflash and collage making to monthly film screenings and the quirky Bad Movie Club, there's something for every interest. Virtual reality experiences, digital literacy programs, and book clubs like the Men's Book Club and Queer Reads foster a sense of community.

Enriching children's events and programs

Waverley Library's events and programs for children cater to the little ones, introducing them to the joy of reading from a tender age. Interactive emergent literacy programs, afterschool activities, and weekend programs ensure that learning is always a fun and engaging experience.



Step into the world of Waverley Library, where every page turns into a new adventure!

What's on this summer



New Year's Eve at Dudley Page Reserve

Celebrate the start of 2024 with one of the best views Sydney has to offer! With live DJs, food stalls and a licensed bar on hand, bring your family and friends down to Dover Heights and enjoy the spectacular views of Sydney Harbour. Spaces are limited so head to our website to book tickets before they sell out.



Summerama

Get ready to dive into Summerama this January with an epic lineup of activities to connect you to nature! From bird-watching adventures through to rockpool explorations, we've got something for all ages to enjoy.



Bondi Story Room

Take a step back in time by visiting Bondi Story Room at the Pav. The Story Room is an interactive digital exhibition which shares the history of notable people, places and events of Bondi's past.



Love the Coast photography competition

Calling all local photographers! Enter your images into Waverley's Love the Coast photography competition for the chance to win cash prizes and have your work exhibited at Bondi Pavilion and the Waverley Library Galleries. Entries close on Monday 15 January 2024 so get snapping now!



Bondi Pavilion

The Pav is gearing up for its busiest summer yet with theatre shows, art exhibitions, music and more this January. Visit their website to see the full calendar of events and book your tickets! Bondi Pavilion is a proud partner venue of the Sydney Festival.

Summer School Holidays Program

We've got an incredible lineup of fun-filled, family-friendly activities to keep the kids entertained during the summer holidays. Here's what we're offering throughout January.

Bondi Pavilion

As a partner venue of Sydney Festival, watch the Pav come alive with a huge lineup of shows on offer including the award-winning *Listies* who have toured the world performing for kidults (aka kids and their adults) with silly songs, zany sketches and classic clownings.

Waverley Library

If you're looking for something more educational, look no further than Waverley Library with a variety of author talks, workshops, and craft activities on offer.



Places fill up fast so be quick and scan here to sign up.

Margaret Whitlam Recreation Centre

Kids can't sit still? We've got you covered with dedicated sports coaches swinging by to keep kids active and entertained.

Waverley Woollahra Art School (WWAS)

If your child has more of a creative flair, WWAS is where they'll thrive with a range of workshops on offer to explore different art mediums, learn new skills and make new friends.



Discover new hobbies and passions through volunteering

We hosted our first volunteer expo at the Pav this September which gave the community an opportunity to learn more about what volunteering is like in Waverley.



More than 25 organisations were represented at the event to provide residents with the opportunity to ask questions, hear firsthand stories of what inspires someone to volunteer, and find out what roles are available locally.

Across the country, nearly six million Australians volunteer annually. Remarkably, over 16% of

Waverley's residents dedicate time to volunteering each year, which is higher than the national average.

If you didn't get a chance to attend this year's expo but are keen to learn more or get involved, you haven't missed out! Council runs a number of volunteer programs so whether you're a nature enthusiast, bookworm, history lover, avid gardener, advocate for social inclusion, or just looking to get out and meet new people, there really is something for everyone.



To find out more about what's on offer, scan the QR code or email connected@waverley.nsw.gov.au to find out more.

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 **Customer Service Centre**

55 Spring St, Bondi Junction,
NSW 2022

9am–5pm, Monday to Friday

 **Bondi Pavilion Welcome Centre**

Queen Elizabeth Drive,
Bondi Beach NSW 2026

10am–4pm, Monday to Sunday



Want more info about a story?
Scan the QR codes below.



Bondi Pavilion



Bondi Story Room



Love the Coast



New Year's Eve



Summer Safety



Summerama



Switch to e-Rates

Help save paper by registering to receive your rates notice by email. Scan the QR code to register today to view and pay your rates online. It's that easy!

Waverley Council acknowledges the Bidjigal, Birrabirragal and Gadigal people who traditionally occupied the Sydney Coast and we pay our respects to Elders past, present and future.