

RANDWICK **SCENE**

Pollution solutions

Meet the people cleaning up our environment

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**Randwick City Council
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Web: randwick.nsw.gov.au
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Lionel Bowen Library, Maroubra: 9093 6400
Malabar Community Library: 9093 6120
Margaret Martin Library, Randwick: 9093 6100
Des Renford Leisure Centre: 9093 6300
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- council meetings
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- graffiti removal
- green waste
- illegal dumping
- halls for hire
- waste service
- on-call clean ups
- parking
- open space hire
- precinct meetings
- parks and beaches
- rates
- trees
- roads

Randwick SCENE Magazine is written and produced by Randwick Council's Communications Team: Joshua Hay, Chelsea Hunter, Jillian Lewis and Carmen Rotolo. Design by Carlen Peddie, Gemma Elliott and Gavin Tso. Our goal is to inform you about Council's activities and to celebrate together, this wonderful place we call Randwick City.

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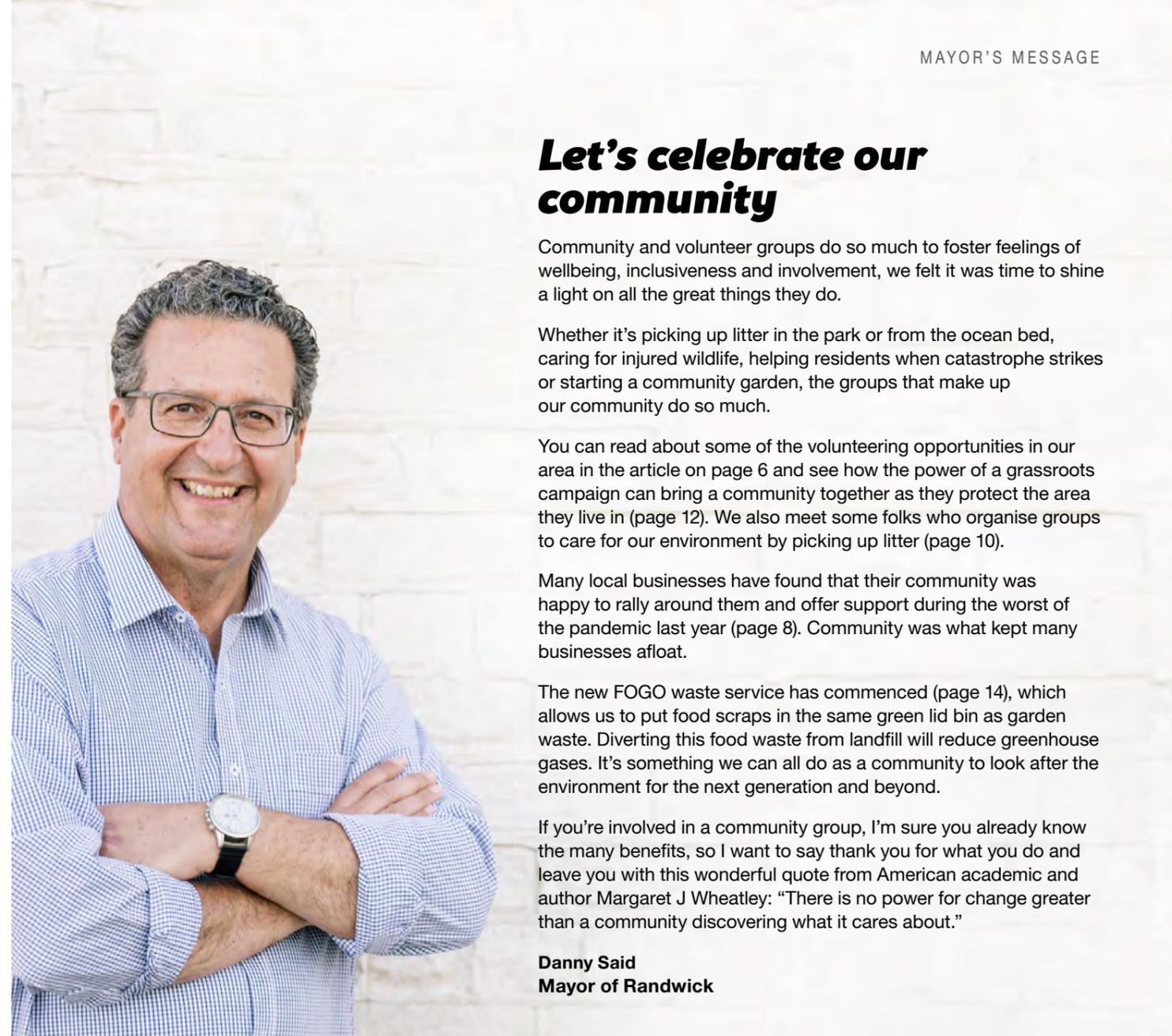
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Let's celebrate our community

Community and volunteer groups do so much to foster feelings of wellbeing, inclusiveness and involvement, we felt it was time to shine a light on all the great things they do.

Whether it's picking up litter in the park or from the ocean bed, caring for injured wildlife, helping residents when catastrophe strikes or starting a community garden, the groups that make up our community do so much.

You can read about some of the volunteering opportunities in our area in the article on page 6 and see how the power of a grassroots campaign can bring a community together as they protect the area they live in (page 12). We also meet some folks who organise groups to care for our environment by picking up litter (page 10).

Many local businesses have found that their community was happy to rally around them and offer support during the worst of the pandemic last year (page 8). Community was what kept many businesses afloat.

The new FOGO waste service has commenced (page 14), which allows us to put food scraps in the same green lid bin as garden waste. Diverting this food waste from landfill will reduce greenhouse gases. It's something we can all do as a community to look after the environment for the next generation and beyond.

If you're involved in a community group, I'm sure you already know the many benefits, so I want to say thank you for what you do and leave you with this wonderful quote from American academic and author Margaret J Wheatley: "There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about."

**Danny Said
Mayor of Randwick**



**DON'T LET
LITTER
LINGER**

One small action will keep our environment clean.
Can't see a bin? Take it with you.

news in brief

Sign up to eNews for your weekly fix of Randwick Council news, projects, events and more.

randwick.nsw.gov.au/enews

DAs lodged online only

Development Applications in Randwick City need to be lodged online through the NSW Planning Portal as of 1 January 2021. The change affects all Development Applications, Construction Certificates, appointments of a Principal Certifier, Occupation Certificates, Subdivision Certificates and Complying Development Certificates. Private Certifiers will also be required to submit their certificates through the Portal. The only applications that can be accepted via Council's own online lodgement portal are pre-lodgement applications and tree permit applications. Residents can also access the portal to track DAs near them. planningportal.nsw.gov.au

Banksia Award Finalist

Randwick City Council has been named a finalist in the Government category of the prestigious Banksia Sustainability Awards this year for its sustainability achievements and initiatives to protect and conserve Randwick City's environment. These awards take into consideration all of our efforts and initiatives over the past 2 years to reduce energy, save potable water, bring down greenhouse emissions, increase our waste recovery and conserve our natural environment.



New outdoor gym opens in Coogee

A new outdoor gym is now open for the public to use in Neptune Park Coogee located along the Coastal Walkway between Grant Reserve and the Trenery Reserve dog park. The gym features a variety of equipment catering for all fitness levels including an aerobic cycle, elliptical trainer, pull up bar, leg raises and sit up bench. Council is also planting 3,000 low-lying native plants in the park to help create a haven for native birds and wildlife.



Australia Day honours for local heroes

Matraville resident **Mark Halcro** has received Randwick City Council's Australia Day Community Service Award for his efforts to save lives during the 2019 south coast bushfires. When bushfires ravaged the little community of Lake Conjola in December 2019, many were forced to evacuate and seek shelter from the flames on the beach or in the water. Mark, who was holidaying in the area with his family, showed enormous bravery and selflessness in helping rescue a number of people stranded in the water. This included Rabbits legend Bob McCarthy and his wife Judy as well as the family of another NRL legend Ron Coote – his wife Robyn and daughter Natalie. **Brenna Harding** was awarded the Australia Day Community Service

Youth Award for her work advocating for same-sex parented families. At 12 years of age, she spoke at the same-sex adoption enquiry at NSW Parliament House. In 2015 she founded Moonlight Feminists, whose purpose was to empower young women to be change-makers in their environment. **Professor Mark Ferson** and his team of unsung heroes at South Eastern Sydney Health were awarded the Australia Day Mayor's Award for their work at the forefront of controlling cases during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Australia Day Community Service Group Award went to the **Randwick Offshore Rescue Boat Crew** for their 24/7 voluntary work preventing aquatic related injuries and drownings along the Randwick City coastline.



FOGO is here!

Randwick City Council wishes to thank every household for embracing the new Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) recycling service. New green lid FOGO bins have been delivered to each household along with handy kitchen caddies and compostable caddy liners. By separating food waste and putting it in the FOGO bin, you are diverting waste from landfill, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and also creating an important resource that is turned into compost and used on farms and parks. If you are having any issues with your bins or just want some tips on how to FOGO, visit our website or email fogo@randwick.nsw.gov.au.

Matraville's Purcell Park reopens

Purcell Park in Matraville was officially reopened just before Christmas, almost 12 months after it closed to enable remediation works and a new irrigation system to be installed. The works involved capping the existing soil, installation of membrane fabric and infill of fresh soil and new turf to ensure historic asbestos-containing materials within the soil were safely contained. The innovative irrigation system draws recycled water from the nearby Opal paper mill which is then stored within underground tanks to irrigate the park. Maintaining healthy grass coverage is an important part of the remediation works.



Street tree count underway

Teams of tree experts are currently inspecting and collecting data on each of the estimated 15,000 street trees located in Randwick City. The comprehensive street tree survey, which is the first of its kind, will result in an interactive map that will help Council better manage street trees. The count will reveal important information such as tree height, canopy coverage, health, species and opportunities for future plantings. Council is aiming for 40% tree canopy coverage across Council managed land by 2040. The count is expected to be complete by the end of June.

New synthetic sports field under construction

Work is underway on a new synthetic sports field at Pioneers Park in Malabar on Anzac Parade. The popular park is divided into an upper and lower area with AFL and cricket played on the upper level while the lower is primarily used for rugby league. Work is taking place on the lower fields to create a new synthetic playing field and a new natural grass field. Synthetic fields are increasing in popularity as they can be used year-round in all weather conditions and require less maintenance. Work is due to be complete by the end of the year.

Infringement notices now posted

Infringement notices for parking, companion animal, building and environmental offences are being posted rather than being left on car windshields or handed to the recipient. Under the new 'print and post' system, from 3 February 2021 Council Rangers will upload details of the offence and relevant images to Revenue NSW who then create and post the infringement notice to the recipient within 2-3 working days. The letter details how recipients can access further information, including photos, via the Revenue NSW website. Since July 2020 Randwick City staff experienced 28 serious incidents of verbal or physical assault while performing Ranger duties.



Coogee Beach's rainbow walkway

Coogee Beach's rainbow walkway was unveiled with colourful fanfare by Randwick Mayor Danny Said, Mardi Gras CEO Albert Kruger, Destination NSW CEO Steve Cox and drag artists on Saturday 20 February in support of the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras. The event was opened and closed with performances by Sydney drag royalty Charisma Belle, Carmen Geddit and Hannah Conda, and was MC'd by Julie McCrossin, a Mardi Gras 78er, who was one of the marchers in the original Sydney Mardi Gras. The vibrant 47-metre long rainbow, which follows the curve of the Coogee steps, was painted in support of diversity, inclusivity and equality with the local LGBTQI+ community.

The value of our volunteers

Levi Garry with first aid kit in hand.

Looking for a little mood lift after the challenges of 2020? Look no further than the members of your local community who support the people, animals and environment of Randwick City. Chelsea Hunter gives thanks for these great people.

Here's something that will make your heart swell with pride: more than 30% of Australians aged over 15 participate in some form of volunteer work at least once per fortnight for one or more organisations. These volunteers provide a substantial benefit for our community by donating their time, skills or expertise for the benefit of others.

Research by Dr Lisel O'Dwyer from Flinders University has calculated that volunteering contributes a whopping \$290 billion to the Australian economy each year. These figures take into account not just lives

saved by surf life savers, volunteer firefighters or first aid practitioners, but also the financial worth of the positive feelings experienced by those who have been assisted.

Volunteering also supports the health and wellbeing of volunteers too, by providing them with a personal sense of satisfaction and happiness

Volunteering also supports the health and wellbeing of volunteers too, by providing them with a personal sense of satisfaction and happiness, according to a study by the Australian Institute of Health and Wellbeing.

Volunteers can be seen across all areas of our community. Thousands of lifesavers give up their time to protect swimmers and save lives at our beaches. Volunteers at the Sydney Children's Hospital in Randwick distribute toys and lift the spirits of ill and injured kids and their families during hospital

stays. Every week volunteers gather at green spaces to pull weeds and rehabilitate native vegetation as part of Council's bushcare program.

Coogee WIRES volunteer Kay De Bry has looked after hundreds of sick and injured native animals since joining WIRES in 2013. It started from a childhood passion, with Kay catching tadpoles or caterpillars to watch them grow and transform.

"Living in several different rural areas as a child we were always finding injured or orphaned animals," she says. "We would bring them home and sometimes even hide them in our bedroom because our mother objected to having animals in the house. When I retired I wanted to give back in some way and caring for wildlife was the obvious choice."

Volunteering is widely recognised as playing a significant role in building social cohesion and social connection – two of the factors that help to alleviate loneliness, according to a report by Pro Bono Australia.

Volunteer opportunities near you

Catholic Healthcare are looking for volunteers to visit a resident one-on-one, and looking for volunteers with specific skills or interests that match the interests of the residents.

Ted Noffs Foundation, which helps disadvantaged youths, are looking for volunteers to help in the Op Shop, to run the eBay Op Shop, or people with graphic design, social media or marketing skills.

Volunteer websites

dosomethingnearyou.com.au
govolunteer.com.au
volunteering.nsw.gov.au

Last year, when we were all feeling the effects of a lockdown, Alice Lee raised funds and donated her pocket money to donate 3,000 surgical face masks to local aged care centres, a local community transport centre and the various table tennis organisations where she volunteers. (Alice is also a star sportswoman, winning several state and national table tennis titles.)

"A mask can save one life," says Alice, who also participates in the Salvation Army's annual Door Knock appeal. "I do it because I want to help other people. Giving builds trust in our community and we can help each other to improve everybody's life."

The NSW State Emergency Service (SES) is a volunteer-based state-wide emergency and rescue service dedicated to saving lives and protecting the community. SES volunteers come from all walks of life, bringing with them many different skills, interests and backgrounds. Levi Garry joined in 2015. When he's not at work, you can find him at the local NSW SES headquarters in Maroubra, or out and about in the area responding to a storm or flash flooding callout.

"As a volunteer at NSW SES, I've been able to help our community with emergency temporary repairs for storm

and water damage. It's especially rewarding to be able to help the more vulnerable members of our community," he says. This includes climbing into the roof space of an elderly resident's to fix a water leak that had been keeping them awake, or covering a blown out skylight to stop torrential rain from flooding a family's lounge room.

There are a variety of call outs a NSW SES volunteer can be expected to make, all of which comes with support and training. "Volunteering is exceptionally rewarding," says Levi. "I've made lifelong friends who I'd otherwise not have met, and I've gained a variety of skills and been provided with an array of nationally recognised training along the way."

There are many great reasons to volunteer, aside from giving back to your community. Studies have shown it's good for your health and it improves future employability. You can also gain new skills, empower others and support a cause you believe in.

"I would love to see more volunteers join WIRES because they will meet a lot of beautiful people and animals," says Kay. "We are always in need of extra help, even if people can't care for animals they can help with our aviary or picking up injured animals."

"The real value of volunteering is difficult to measure," says Dr O'Dwyer. "Volunteers tend to be fitter, healthier and have greater social connections. And people who experience the benefits of volunteering have a better quality of life."



Kay de Bry with one of the animals in her care. Photo by Luke de Bry

These agencies would love your help

Community focussed

Holdsworth Community
 Junction Neighbourhood Centre
 Koolora Community Centre
 Randwick City Library
 Randwick City Precincts
 Soroptimists International
 Randwick and Eastern Suburbs
 South Eastern
 Community Connect
 Windgap Foundation

Environment

Friends of Malabar Headland
 Randwick City Council
 Bushcare groups
 WIRES East Branch

For older folk

Find a Grandparent
 Little Bay Coast Centre
 for Seniors



For younger folk

Surf Life Saving Clubs
 Kids Giving Back
 The Come In Youth
 Resource Centre

Multicultural Services

Sydney Multicultural
 Community Services

General

Amnesty International
 Australian Red Cross
 Australian Red Cross
 Young Parents Program
 Eastern Beaches LAC –
 Volunteers in Policing Program
 Rotary Club of Maroubra and
 Rotary Club of Randwick
 St John Ambulance Australia

Lessons learned

How local businesses evolved, grew and learned to lean on the community during COVID-19



Tim Hughes had to adapt quickly when the NSW Government imposed restrictions on cafes.

When we spoke to local business owners in Randwick City about what they learned from operating through the COVID-19 pandemic, we learned that the ability to adapt and evolve was very important. Yet it wasn't the only factor that helped businesses survive. It was the surrounding community that rallied together to support local businesses that made the difference. Here, we spoke to a variety of local businesses about their biggest lessons learned in 2020.

Listening to locals

"We were given 14 hours to change from being a dine-in café/restaurant to a take-away place," says Tim Hughes from X74 café on Bream Street in Coogee. "It was either that or close down," he explains. "I called all the staff in at 5am when NSW Health locked us down, and we devised a takeaway menu and changed our offering so we could survive," says Tim. For X74 Café, business dropped by 30% during the pandemic. Unfortunately, some of the staff had to be let go, but Tim is pleased with where they are today.

"We're a local business and that really hit home for me during this time. Before this, we were open for breakfast, lunch and

dinner, but when the pandemic hit and we had to close the doors to become takeaway only, I realised my local community are my most important customer," he says.

"We added some delicious home-cooked takeaway meals to the menu, which are available to pick up Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. They've been really popular and we're going to continue to do them into the future," says Tim.

So, what was Tim's biggest take-away from this experience? "I've realised that I need to listen to what my local customers are saying," he says. "I came from Catalina's in Rose Bay, where dinner was our main trade. But here at X47, the local community love us for coffee, breakfast, and lunch, so I've dropped the dinner service entirely," he says.

Now, in the new normal that we live in, Tim operates the café under COVID safe regulations and says he really appreciates how the local community supported X47 and continue to do so. "I have happy staff, happy customers and a really great place to come to work each day – the people that come here are just good people," he says.

Being strong together

For Aiko Shiga, adapting was the only way forward if she wanted to continue her business, Wasabi Kids, an educational show that she performs at childcare centres and schools. "At the height of the pandemic, centres and schools shut down altogether and when they re-opened they weren't accepting visitors, making my business unworkable," says Aiko.

Aiko also works at Randwick Open Care for Kids (R.O.C.K). "I was so lucky to have this job and still be able to practice and perform my show for those kids," she explains. Additionally, Aiko moved her live show onto Zoom, which was a very technical process. "I'm glad I stuck with it as now I have a fully interactive online version of my show," she explains.



Aiko Shiga created a green screen room in her home to continue her educational show for kids.

For Aiko, it was the strength of the community that got her through. "We have such an amazing community at R.O.C.K and we all look after each other - it's a sign we're a strong community," she says. "I also learned to embrace change and work with whatever conditions come my way."

Never too old to change

When COVID stopped group activities, in-person lessons for dance schools were drawn to a halt and teaching via Zoom became the norm. For Oz Tots, who focus primarily on teaching children aged 3 to 8, staying engaged with their community was vital. "Within days I had to learn how to use Zoom and turned my loungeroom into a virtual studio," says Miss Marcia, the owner of Oz Tots.

For parents of small children who were stuck at home, the outlet was vital. "The families were incredible! Initially when we started Zoom the children sat watching us, thinking we were going to entertain them. They were so surprised when they realised we could actually talk to each other! The parents patiently sat with their child and encouraged them to participate. They were supportive and grateful we tried to keep some routine in their children's lives during such a tough time," says Miss Marcia, who says as a community, everyone felt they were in it together.

"As an 18-year-old business, I realised we are never too old to evolve and grow," she says. So what was the key to their transition? "Frequent, honest, open and two-way communication with the community made a huge difference," says Miss Marcia, who still uses the Facebook Community Group they created to share videos and stories, even though they are back teaching in-person. Plus, Oz Tots wasn't afraid to try new things and experiment with new technology. "We produced our first livestream annual concert and we will continue to do so - it's a wonderful way for families to watch the concert from no matter where they are in the world."

How did COVID-19 affect your business?

We spoke to several businesses across the City to see what they learned and how they were affected.

"COVID completely wiped out my business. To get through, I designed an intimate wedding package and tailored it around restrictions. I can marry couples in their homes with a few guests or in a smaller setting like a park or garden. It has been a hard time for the couples and the wedding industry."

Kirsten Egan, Marriage Celebrant

"The local community became more appreciative of the service and support we offered. Parents were much more willing to access assistance for their children during this time. I worked a lot more online, which reduced travel costs and was an efficient way to communicate with and train tutors as well as run professional development workshops."

Phill Baldock, Director, Smallsteps-learning.com



Home-based clinics implemented new procedures.

"I closed my doors for about six weeks as I implemented COVID safety procedures at my home-based clinic. I love living and working in Maroubra. Through my clients' testimonials and word of mouth recommendations I've been able to survive COVID. I'm motivated to continue to support my community and grow my business."

Zoe Jack, Holistic Kinesiologist, Founder of Zode Kinesiology

"COVID made us realise we needed to be flexible. We stopped looking for answers on how to run our business from other people and we started fully relying on our own intuition and values. Our customers were absolute legends. They were buying gift vouchers and food hampers from us to help us stay afloat. We provide a vital meeting place for people - we love seeing the community grow and evolve."

Lenka Kriz, Director, Cat and Cow Coffee

Team Clean

About eight million tonnes of plastic enters the world's oceans every year, from litter left in parks, reserves and gutters. Lucky for us, there's some dedicated volunteer groups in Randwick City who work to put rubbish in its place: the bin. Carmen Rotolo rolls up her sleeves and gets to work.

It's easy to feel overwhelmed by the many environmental issues that exist today. We're constantly inundated with information about what's going wrong - air pollution, deforestation, waste management and climate change, just to name a few. However, a few volunteer groups in Randwick City are working to 'chip away' at these issues, making them feel less scary. Focussing their attention on our beautiful coastline, they have been organising group clean-ups, which have not only helped keep waste out of our ocean but provided a sense of belonging for so many people.

Clean Up Australia

You've probably heard of Clean Up Australia Day, but did you know you can start your own clean up group on their website, any day of the year? Clean Up Australia has evolved into an organisation that works with community, government and businesses to provide practical solutions to help us all live more sustainably. You can register as an individual, community group, business or school, and it's easy as pie. All you have to do is go through the registration process on the website and Clean Up Australia will send you a free Clean Up Kit including bags, gloves, information and promotional materials. If you'd prefer to join a pre-existing group, you can also use their website to search for clean up events near you.

cleanup.org.au

Clean Up The South

For years Jacqueline Bosscher and her dog, Anakin have been leaving Trenerry Reserve, Coogee better than they found it. On their morning walks they fill an entire bucket with rubbish, which would have otherwise ended up in our oceans. After receiving plenty of 'good on you's' from passers-by, she wondered if others might want to join her. And so it was that Clean Up The South was born in 2018 - a monthly clean up event at South Coogee. "The monthly cleans have been great during the pandemic - a time when so many of us feel isolated. It's a good reason to get out of the house and meet people in your community," says Jacqueline. Clean Up The South is especially great for kids, who continue to impress Jacqueline with their extensive knowledge. "It's amazing how much kids know about recycling these days. They're often schooling me on the best practices!" Kids also get mini gloves, buckets, and a certificate at the end of the day to mark their hard work.

 Live The Difference Now
 livethedifferencenow

livethedifferencenow.com



Jacqueline with her clean up partner, Anakin.

Sea Bees

If you spot a group of divers sifting through rubbish on the beach, it might be the Sea Bees. Their journey started in May 2020, when the APL England cargo ship lost some of its containers, sending tonnes of single-use trash into the ocean off Sydney. Local scuba divers, Corinne and Olimpia were concerned about the environmental impacts of the shipping accident and decided to unite a group of divers to help clean up the mess. "We were shocked at what we pulled out that day - packaging, utensils, fishing line and golf balls. We also spotted two huge bull rays and a turtle... that's the main motivation for us: cleaning up the home that these beautiful animals

live in," says Olimpia. Since then, they have been meeting fortnightly, and have been cleaning both in the water and on the shore, making it accessible for those who are less experienced with scuba diving or snorkelling. Olimpia says the best part of the day is post-clean, when the group behold their combined efforts with a cup of hot soup in hand. "It's not until we all stand around the huge pile of rubbish that you realise what an impact you've made. It puts the biggest smile on your face that lasts for the rest of the day."

 Sea Bees - Underwater Working Bee

 seabees.aus

underwaterbees.org



Fishing weights, hooks, straws and plastic found after a recent dive.



Olimpia, Bella and Mario from Sea Bees.

Here's what the SeaBees pulled from their most recent Malabar Beach Clean:

457 Soft Plastics	227 Hard Plastics
54 Balloons	44 Lead Sinkers
23 Cigarette Butts	22 Fishing Hooks

Back to *the* past

A proposal by one of Sydney's biggest waste disposal companies to burn their rubbish at a Matraville paper mill has locals up in arms. But as Joshua Hay discovered, the proposal has brought the local community closer together in solidarity against the plan and they have a warning for greater Sydney.

Ask anybody what they love about Matraville and the answer is usually the community. It's a tight-knit area full of families, kindergartens and a vibrant town centre. "I call this area the hub of the universe. Where else would I want to live, everything is so close," says former test cricketer and TV personality Mike Whitney.

Mike grew up in Patterson Street and says he's seen the area change for the better. "It was just such a wonderful place to grow up. But what we didn't know back in those days was that we were actually living in a very toxic environment. There was an oil refinery, the Bunnerong Power Station, a papermill, a chemical factory called ICI and we didn't realise it but there were heavy pollutants in the area."

Fast forward a few decades and things are very different. The power station and old Hurley Crescent incinerator are gone, the residential population has increased significantly and governments at all levels have invested in cleaning up the area.

"But when I heard they wanted to build an incinerator in the area I couldn't believe it," says Whitney.

"Isn't it a backward step? Isn't it going back to where we were decades ago instead of moving forward?"

In 2019 waste company SUEZ teamed up with the Opal paper mill (formerly Orora) on Botany Road and lodged a proposal with the NSW Department of

Planning, Industry and Environment to build an incinerator.

Their plan is to burn 165,000 tonnes of waste a year at the Matraville paper mill trucked in from western Sydney tips to create energy to help power the mill.

The proposal is classified as State Significant meaning it has been taken out of the hands of Randwick Council and will be determined by the State Government. The plan is still current and it's suspected that SUEZ will lodge an Environmental Impact Statement to progress the application this year.

Not surprisingly, it's got Randwick Mayor Danny Said concerned. "The community here is more like a country town, everyone knows each other. Over the years the industrial nature has changed and this has helped the area's sense of community shine.

"This community does not deserve a 17-storey high stack – as high as the Sydney Opera House – belting out fumes 24/7. The community does not want it and it just does not make sense," says Mayor Said.

It's a view shared by many others in the community too, including all three levels of government representatives from Mayor Danny Said to State Member Michael Daley and Federal Member Matt Thistlethwaite.

And the community is not taking the matter lying down. A resident action group called No More Incinerators has started up and is actively opposing the plan.

The group is headed by Little Bay resident and chemical engineer Chris Hanson. Chris has spent most of his working life trying to clean up the pollution created by heavy industry at Port Botany. "I was in Noel's chemist shop at Matraville recently

Former test cricketer Mike Whitney and rugby great Russell Fairfax.



and he showed me a flyer about this incinerator plan. I took one look at it and thought 'here we go again'. We've just cleaned up the area and we're going to start all over again."

From there Chris started the No More Incinerators group and is working closely with the Matraville Precinct.

"The most important message I want to get out to people is that this is going to affect all of Randwick City, not just Matraville. Even though it is a 'modern' incinerator where things are filtered out, pollutants are still present and we're going to be exposed to them 24/7."

Chris says the incinerator will burn selected waste (what Suez calls 'processed engineered fuels') which is basically processed waste from residential kerbside clean-ups and other non-recyclable waste including plastic, tapes and straps from the paper mill.

He says when these materials are burnt, they emit dangerous dioxins into the environment which can be breathed in and enter people's bloodstream where they do not break down. Overseas studies have found that dioxins found in chicken eggs and breast milk have been linked with birth defects. And all this is being burnt just 130 metres from people's homes which has got locals upset.

Mike and Amanda Pollak who live with their two children on Australia Avenue say it's mind boggling to think the proposal could even be considered. "What I don't get is it's not just our area, it's going to affect the whole Sydney basin," says Mike.

"I'm asthmatic as well, so I can't imagine what it's going to do to me once it goes up, I am very scared," says Amanda. "Think of our kids, we don't want them growing up in this area if this is what's going to be built there."

There are approximately 5,000 people who live within one kilometre of the proposed site and over half a million people living within a 10-kilometre radius. Chris says initial modelling shows the plume emitted from the 65-metre high chimney would be blown by prevailing winds over most of greater Sydney.

Football great Russell Fairfax who also grew up in the area says he remembers as a child playing hide and seek at the paper mill on Botany Road. "My message is the people must come first. If they burn rubbish, it's going to affect the whole area and I have concerns about that because there are more people living in this area than ever before."

Long-time local Gary Leafe has lived on the same street his whole life which is just metres from the proposed incinerator. "When the Bunnerong Power Station was torn down 30 years ago, I thought the suburb was going forward, now I'm starting to wonder if the suburb is going backwards.

At least with the power station you knew what they were burning, it was coal, with this, we don't even know what's going to be burnt here, how can that be good?"

What can you do about it?
Visit nomoreincinerators.com and get involved in the community campaign.



The Pollak family from Matraville live just metres from the proposed incinerator.

It's go time for FOGO

Every household in Randwick City has received their new red, yellow and green bins plus their kitchen caddy and compostable bags, which means that FOGO is ready to go-go!

For the past eight years Randwick Council has been sending the contents of the red lid bin to an alternative treatment facility where much of the organic food matter was extracted and used for agricultural purposes. This meant we could significantly reduce what was being sent to landfill.

However, the Environmental Protection Agency put a permanent stop to that in 2019 because of concerns about contamination in the organic products being generated. So unfortunately, the contents of your red rubbish bin have recently been going to landfill.

This cost Council more to dispose of your waste and it cost the environment dearly. The new FOGO service will take food and garden waste directly to a facility that will turn it into compost. Because it is separated at the source – your green lid bin – it is less likely to be contaminated with non-compostable waste. It is also cheaper to take this waste to the composting facility than to landfill.

FOGO FAQs

Not sure what goes in which bin? Or when bins will be picked up? Head to our website and search for FOGO FAQs to find the answers to these questions and so many more. Still have questions? Send an email to foغو@randwick.nsw.gov.au

Where to get more kitchen caddy liners

When you run out of compostable caddy liners, you can pick up more for free from the following locations.

Lionel Bowen Library and Community Centre
669-673 Anzac Parade, Maroubra

Margaret Martin Library
Level 1, Royal Randwick Shopping Centre, Randwick

Malabar Community Library
1203 Anzac Parade, Matraville

Randwick City Council Recycling Centre
72 Perry Street, Matraville

Randwick City Council Customer Service Centre
30 Frances Street, Randwick

How to FOGO

- Put a green compostable liner into your kitchen caddy.
- Place all your food scraps into your caddy.
- When the liner is full, place it in your green lid FOGO bin.
- Place garden waste, soiled pizza boxes, used paper towels and kitty litter in the FOGO bin along with your food waste.
- Put your FOGO bin out for collection each week and start collecting your food scraps again.



What's on

March to May 2021

SAVE BIG ON ENERGY & BILLS WITH REBATES

When: Wednesday 17 March and Thursday 25 March
Time: 6.30pm
Where: Live online/Zoom
Cost: Free
Bookings required: randwick.nsw.gov.au/communitysustainable



YOUR SUSTAINABLE HOME

When: March 19 – April 2
Time: 1:30 – 2:30pm
Where: Live online/Zoom
Cost: \$5.50
Bookings required: randwick.nsw.gov.au/communitysustainable



TALKING TECH: GETTING STARTED WITH SMART HOME DEVICES

When: Thursday 25 March
Time: 3.30 – 4.30pm
Where: Live online/Zoom
Cost: Free
Bookings required: randwick.nsw.gov.au/library



SPARK IN THE PARK

(for ages 0-5 years)
When: 5 May
Time: 10am – 12pm
Where: Randwick Community Centre
Cost: Free
Bookings required: randwick.nsw.gov.au



GROW YOUR OWN FOOD FOREST

When: April 23 – June 25
Time: 1:30 – 2:30pm
Where: Live online/Zoom
Cost: \$5.50
Bookings required: randwick.nsw.gov.au



TABLE TENNIS FOR FUN

When: Every week on Friday
Time: 1 – 3 pm
Where: Lionel Bowen Library, Maroubra
Cost: Free for library members
Bookings required: randwick.nsw.gov.au/library



For more information on events visit randwick.nsw.gov.au or call 1300 722 542



La Perouse Museum

Biyala-wu Garrigarang Nura (Dreaming on Saltwater Country) by Nadeena Dixon (detail)

**FREE
ENTRY**

SHELL IT

a Boomalli exhibition
at La Perouse Museum

Contemporary and
traditional Indigenous
art honouring the shell
art traditions of La Perouse

26 March – 29 August 2021

La Perouse Museum, 1542 Anzac Pde

Opening hours

Wednesday, Friday | 10am-2pm

Saturday, Sunday | 10am-4pm