

RANDWICK SCENE

DRLC turns 10

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why it feels like home**

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Randwick City Council services

Phone the Call Centre on **1300 722 542** for enquiries about:

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- building and planning
- community info
- council events
- council meetings
- development applications
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- garbage services
- 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

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Cover image:
Nicole has been an employee of Randwick City Council for 30 years. She's part of the DRLC community. Photo: Mark Bond.

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From the Mayor **Philipa Veitch**

Merry Christmas and welcome to summer!

It's wonderful to be able to bring you the summer 2023/24 edition of Randwick SCENE magazine.

I was very humbled to be elected Mayor in October and I'm getting on with the job of continuing to provide you with all the great services, facilities and events that residents expect from Randwick Council.

Have a read on page 5 to learn a little more about me.

After a scorching Northern Hemisphere summer we're all bracing for a hot dry summer ahead. For our rural areas this means increasing threats of bushfire, drought and challenges for livestock.

For us, more people are expected to visit our beaches this summer so Randwick Council is putting on more Lifeguard patrols at Malabar Beach and for the first time in history at Little Bay Beach. Check our story on pages 8-9 to learn more about this new service.

If you're looking for a unique Christmas gift, check out the Best Gift Market at Coogee Beach or the Blak Markets at Bare Island both on Sunday 3 December.

Our award-winning Environmental Levy is coming to an end next year. Find out more on pages 10-11 about the extensive sustainability improvements this project has delivered over the past 20 years and what continuing it will mean for you.

And if you're looking for a unique walk to do this summer, check out the Yarra Bay Loop walk on pages 12-13 as part of our new feature on Randwick's best urban walks.

I hope you all have a safe, happy and joyous Christmas and festive season, and wishing you peace and happiness for the New Year ahead in 2024.

Philipa Veitch
Mayor of Randwick



FREE EVENT

New Year's Eve Coogee Beach 9pm

COOGEE SPARKLES 2023

Visit our website for details and updates.
randwick.gov.au/sparkles

news in brief

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

randwick.nsw.gov.au/enews

Plans to reinvigorate Randwick Town Centre

Plans to encourage new sustainable commercial, retail and residential development at Randwick town centre will soon be on public exhibition for community comment.

The plans aim to create a new public domain, greater heritage protection and an economically viable commercial centre.

The proposed changes, supported by Councillors, include modest height increases, changes to floor space ratios and an affordable housing levy. The plans will be on exhibition following Gateway approval from the NSW Department of Planning. Keep an eye on our website for updates.



1000th Sustainability Rebate awarded!

One thousand property owners have taken part in Council's Sustainability Rebate program, saving over \$1 million on energy and water costs per year and about 6,000 tonnes of greenhouse gases.

The rebates provide property owners with financial help installing energy and water-saving devices, ranging from rooftop solar to hot water systems, EV chargers, and induction cooktops.

Randwick Council is one of the few councils in Australia offering these rebates, which ease the upfront cost of installing the equipment. Residents can then enjoy the long-term savings after the initial set-up.

Maroubra local Richard Lissenden said the rebate from Council convinced him to install a battery along with his solar system.

"We had considered installing a battery but discounted it because of the costs. The rebate program was ultimately the single factor that tipped us in favour of purchasing one," said Richard.



Christmas at the races

Celebrate Christmas at the races with the Randwick Christmas Festival at Royal Randwick Racecourse on Friday 1 December, 1.30pm - 6.30pm. Enjoy twilight racing and plenty of free family fun, including pony rides and a petting zoo, amusement rides, kids' entertainment and a special appearance from Santa. Supported by Randwick City Council. Entry is free.



SUSTAINABILITY REBATES

Unlock savings on:

- ✓ Hot water systems
- ✓ Rainwater tanks
- ✓ Induction cooktops
- ✓ Pool pumps
- ✓ Lighting
- ✓ Insulation
- ✓ Solar health checks
- ✓ Solar batteries
- ✓ Rooftop solar
- ✓ Energy assessments
- ✓ Electric vehicle chargers
- ✓ WaterFix®

Would you like to learn more about our sustainability rebates program? Scan the QR code to find out more.



Culture and Christmas gifts at Blak Markets

Authentic and affordable Aboriginal artworks, homewares and jewellery will be on offer at this year's Blak Markets Christmas Festival.

The market will include native plants, bush foods and bush herbs, Indigenous-inspired food, live performances, and an interactive kid's session. All of the profits go back into Aboriginal communities. A great day out and perfect place to find some unique gifts.

Bare Island La Perouse | Sunday 3 December, 10am-3pm

Find the latest program updates here: <https://blakmarkets.com.au>

Green light to investigate new hub in Kingsford

A new community hub that includes retail, commercial, residential and community development, as well as new offices for Randwick Council administration staff, could be built in the heart of Kingsford town centre.

The Council-owned site on Rainbow St was identified as a suitable location and aligned to the Kensington to Kingsford Development Control Plan.

Randwick Councillors resolved at their October meeting to commence a feasibility study into the development, to be located at 1-11 Rainbow Street in Kingsford. The study will include the use of the site, including community use options and affordable housing.

In the meantime, some immediate work will be done at the Council's current building to extend its use while the study is underway.

Chinese and Australian Landscapes: Mei Zhao's Works

The work of Chinese-born Sydney artist Mei Zhao will be on display at La Perouse Museum until the end of January 2024. Her work highlights the influence of early Chinese settlers on the Australian landscape and the heritage-listed Chinese market gardens at La Perouse, and uses paint, mixed media and installation. The result is dynamic installations of mapped landscapes based on intertwined colours, forms and patterns. Mei's work draws on her personal migrant experience and is inspired by Chinese landscape painting, Indigenous art, and abstract expressionism.

**The Bayview Gallery
La Perouse Museum
1542 Anzac Parade, La Perouse
10 September 2023 –
28 January 2024**



Meet Mayor Philipa Veitch

Randwick local Philipa Veitch has been elected Mayor by fellow Councillors, becoming Randwick's third Greens mayor and fourth female Mayor in Randwick's 164-year history.

Mayor Veitch is a visual artist and teacher and is focused on social justice, climate change, housing, and the arts.

"Cost of living pressures are significant at the moment, and Councils can play a role in providing housing and helping those most in need. I'm a strong advocate for public and accessible housing," said Mayor Veitch.

Given Randwick City locals care strongly about the environment, Mayor Veitch plans on continuing the Council's strong sustainability program.

"Randwick has a proud history of delivering substantial environmental improvements with our award-winning Sustaining our City program, which has been running for 20 years. I will be working to continue our efforts in reducing energy and water consumption, keeping waterways and beaches clean, and increasing green spaces and tree canopy."

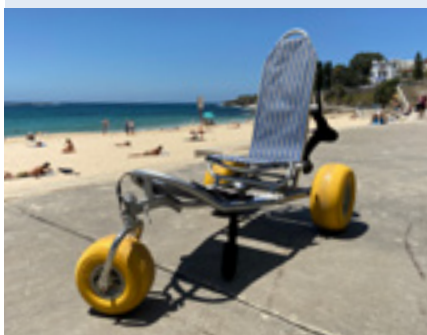
news in brief

Free wheelchair hire for a day at the beach

Everyone can enjoy a day at the beach with wheelchairs available to borrow at Clovelly, Coogee and Maroubra.

"This is part of our inclusive Randwick strategy. To ensure access to our open spaces and our beaches and our coastal areas is available to everyone," said Public Safety Coordinator Duncan Scott.

To arrange a wheelchair, email us at council@randwick.nsw.gov.au so our Lifeguards can prepare the wheelchair for your visit. If you find yourself at the beach without having emailed ahead, have a chat with our Lifeguards and they'll do their best to provide you with a wheelchair if there's one available.



Holiday alcohol restrictions are back

Alcohol will be prohibited at beachside parks around Clovelly, Maroubra, Malabar, Phillip Bay and Yarra Bay over this year's Christmas and New Year period and Australia Day. The restrictions have been implemented for a number of years to increase safety and reduce anti-social behaviour. Alcohol is already permanently prohibited at all Randwick City beaches.

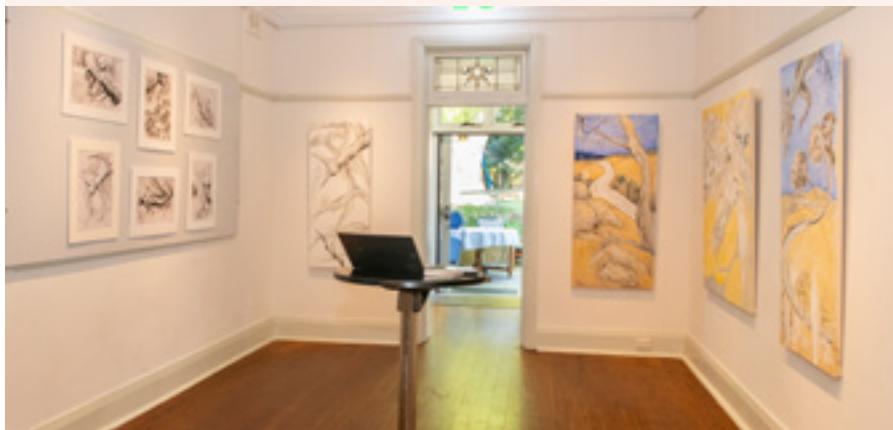


Spaces available for creative artists

We want to hear from Randwick creatives - artists, performers or writers, looking for studio, exhibition and performance space. Council is making our heritage and civic buildings available to develop, explore and showcase new works so cultural experiences are more accessible for the whole community.

A range of creative spaces and additional financial support are available through the Community Investment Program.

Express your interest or contact the team at Arts@randwick.nsw.gov.au or 1300 722 542.



Extra support for Randwick's homeless

Randwick Council is supporting a national emergency management response for dealing with the impact of extreme weather on people who are homeless.

To make this happen, all levels of government have agreed to work together in developing coordinated action plans. The initiative emerged from this year's Homeless Memorial Service and will see Randwick Council working with other departments of government and community agencies to develop the plan.

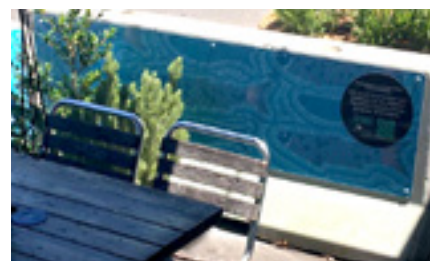
More alfresco dining

Locals could soon have more places to enjoy a drink or a bite to eat outdoors, with Council stepping up efforts to encourage businesses to offer more alfresco dining.

Council is making it easier for businesses to temporarily use adjacent on-street parking spaces for outdoor dining as part of a trial to create ten new outdoor areas.

"This provides a solution for our community's craving for more alfresco on-road dining spaces," said Councillor Philipa Veitch, Mayor of Randwick.

Each approved space will be decorated with the work of leading local artists. Businesses can now register by an Expression of Interest form until all available allocations are filled via the Alfresco page on the Council website or at business@randwick.nsw.gov.au



Up the Wicks!

Randwick Rugby or the 'Galloping Greens' as they are affectionately known, is a Coogee institution. We caught up with the 2023 premiership winning club to find out what makes the Wicks tick.

It's not unusual for hordes of people to be seen walking towards Coogee Oval on a sunny Saturday afternoon during rugby season. The crowd, draped in green and white gather to cheer on their mighty Galloping Greens.

Since forming in 1882, the Randwick District Rugby Union Football Club, has been an integral part of the local community.

"We are a community club - we proudly represent the district and we're part of it," says Mark Harrison, the club's General Manager, who was a former Wicks player himself.

"We've got a mixture of international players and part-timers who just play for love. Regardless of their individual motivation, everyone plays together under the same jersey - there's a real element of mateship and a strong community focus."

It's that community feel that's evident when a home game is on. True believers attend every game, some supporting every grade as they play throughout the day.

"We've got about 400 season ticket holders. We have life members, ex-players and local rugby fans of all ages and gender," says Mark. "There are regulars who sit in the same place every week. They know they'll see their mates - it's a tad like the pub in the TV series 'Cheers' - everyone has their spot and knows each other's name. Some like the beach side, some the halfway mark, and others prefer the stands. Some just like standing around on the concourse."

As for kids? They tend to run wild around the oval and kick a ball on the field during halftime. Some collect cans and take them to the Return-and-Earn to make their pocket money for the week. Many of them are local juniors who love coming to watch their idols play.

Season 2023, was an exceptional year for the Galloping Greens who took home the 100th edition of the Shute Shield. It was the club's first premiership in 20 years.



"After a long drought it was a fantastic year for our club, with Stephen Hoiles the Head Coach of First Grade and Morgan Turinui, the Club Coach who are both local juniors and both played together in our last First Grade premiership winning team in 2004 driving the rugby program," says Mark.

The victory was especially sweet for Stephen and his family, who have a long history with the club.

"Steve played as a kid for the Coogee Seahorses, went through all our junior rep pathways, into our Colts, then our First Grade teams. He played Super Rugby for the Brumbies and Waratahs, and the Wallabies. He travelled overseas to coach, then came back to Randwick this year," says Mark.

His dad Alan was also a former premiership winning player, so the Hoiles family have myrtle green running in their blood.

The victories didn't stop with the Shute Shield, with Randwick taking home the overall Club Championship, too.

"All seven of our teams in grade and colts made the semi-finals - the only club to do so in the competition, with both the Third and Fourth Grade teams also winning their respective titles.

"We're a community club first and foremost. We have teams from Under 6s to First Grade and the Randwick Junior Academy is proving to be a successful way of nurturing players as they grow and evolve into great rugby players," says Mark. Plus, there's a growing women's team with the Randwick Magic girls coming through.

Locals such as Joel Ellis, Zac Carr and Christian Poidevin, all started in the Junior Academy and worked their way through to First Grade, playing in the premiership team this year.

After such a great year, what's next on the cards?

"Aside from defending our men's crowns, with around 80 girls in our juniors, the club is working hard to develop a really strong senior women's squad. In general, we're the local team and want the community to continue to be proud to support us on and off the field," says Mark.



Lifeguards for Little Bay and Malabar

As our beaches grow in popularity with visitors arriving from all over Sydney, prioritising safety is number one.

Our community was heartbroken in January 2022 when Hasti Masoumi lost her husband and 10-year-old son to a rock fishing accident at Little Bay. It was just a month later, that Simon Nellist, a regular swimmer to the area sadly died due to a shark attack nearby. Sadly in the past two years, six people in total have died at Little Bay and Malabar Beaches.

This year for the first time, Lifeguards will be located at two of Randwick City's usually unpatrolled beaches in Malabar and Little Bay, as a new measure to boost safety for the community from 1 December to 28 February.

"We want summer to be a time of fun, where people get outdoors and enjoy our beautiful beaches," said Councillor Philipa Veitch, Mayor of Randwick.

Malabar Beach will have a flagged area and two Lifeguards equipped with a rescue board and jet ski. Little Bay Beach will have one Lifeguard with backup from regular jet ski water patrols from Malabar. The water patrols will also include regular visits to Yarra Bay Beach and Frenchmans Bay Beach.

Lifeguards closely monitor water conditions and safety and, most importantly, provide immediate response in emergencies.

"We've got some of Australia's most beautiful beaches on our doorstep and we receive a lot of visitors over summer. Putting Lifeguards at additional beaches will help to prevent drownings, water-related injuries, and accidents," said Mayor Veitch.

Supervisor of Beach Lifeguards, Peter Halcro, has been in the job for 40 years. He said the number of beach visitors has increased significantly, particularly in the Malabar and Little Bay areas.

"There weren't nearly as many people at the beaches in the past as there are now. My career spans over 40 years,

so I've encountered many serious incidents. Having Lifeguards at these beaches is a good thing for residents and visitors," said Peter.

Lifeguards are trained in lifesaving and first aid techniques, providing immediate CPR when necessary. Their swift response during medical emergencies or accidents can save lives and improve the chance of recovery.

Since January 2022, six people have died from water-related incidents at these beaches. Randwick Council Lifeguards responded to over 128 major incidents in the last financial year alone.



Randwick Council veteran Lifeguards Brad Rope and Luke Twitchings are among the team to be patrolling Little Bay for the first time this summer.

Rock fishing 'shock signs' are a tragic reminder of the dangers of rock fishing.



"We want summer to be a time of fun, where people get outdoors and enjoy our beautiful beaches," said Councillor Philipa Veitch, Mayor of Randwick.

Randwick Council Lifeguard Services

Coogee Beach
Patrolled every day
7am – 7pm (during summer)

Maroubra Beach
Patrolled every day
7am – 7pm (during summer)

Clovelly Beach
Patrolled Sept-April
8.30am – 6pm

NEW SERVICE

Malabar Beach
Patrolled Dec-Feb
9am – 5pm

Little Bay Beach
Patrolled Dec-Feb
9am – 5pm

Yarra and Frenchmans Bay Beaches
Jet ski patrols Dec-Feb

Rock fishing safety tips

Rock fishing is a dangerous sport. More people have died rock fishing in the Randwick LGA than anywhere else in Australia.

- You must be able to swim.
- Wear non-slip footwear, such as cleats.
- Wear a lifejacket.
- Fish with a friend.
- Check the conditions.
- Watch the water for 20 minutes before fishing.
- Develop your skills. You cannot learn to fish from social media alone.
- First timers should go out with an experienced rock fisher or a professional fishing guide.
- If you're unsure of your skill level, choose to fish somewhere safer like a beach or off a jetty wharf.

Randwick Lifeguards beach safety tips

- ✓ Only swim at patrolled beaches
- ✓ If there are red and yellow flags at the beach, always swim between them.
- ✓ Do not swim directly after a meal or if under the influence of alcohol.
- ✓ Do not panic if caught in a current/rip. Raise one arm into the air to signal for Lifeguard assistance. Float until help arrives.
- ✓ Do not swim if unsure of surf conditions. Always seek the advice of a Lifeguard or lifesaver.
- ✓ For any water-related emergency, ring 000 and ask for help.

Angel rings are located at high risk rock fishing locations providing a rescue aid to assist rock fishers.



Sustaining our City for the next 20 years

For 20 years, ratepayers in Randwick City have been single-handedly making a world of difference to our local environment. For just \$1.95 a week from your rates, 12km of new Coastal Walkway has been built, streetlights and buildings are 100% solar powered and water pollution at our beaches has gone down. Now the question is to continue or not continue...

What do you remember of 2004?

For some the year may be poignant – an anniversary, a commencement of a job or a life milestone. For others it may be a bit of a blur, another year.

For Randwick Council, 2004 was particularly memorable – a coming of age year so to speak. That's how Council's Manager Sustainability Peter Maganov remembers it.

"I recall starting work for Randwick in 2004 – and there was a real positive vibe and energy about the place.

"Previously sustainability was seen as a nice thing to do, but not essential. The levy changed this. It gave us the financial capacity to embrace sustainability and it encouraged Council staff to factor environmental considerations and improvements into everything," recalls Maganov.

And it wasn't long before the community started seeing the benefits. Of note, Council's projects on water reuse – both conserving water and recycling water – remain highly regarded in the industry.

Currently some 25 parks and playing fields across Randwick City are irrigated with treated stormwater, borewater and wastewater systems.

These capture, treatment and re-use systems are saving Council in the order of 350 million to 450 million litres of potable water each year – that's about \$1.1M in water costs.

In fact the entire parkland foreshores of Coogee Beach and Maroubra Beach are watering with 100% recycled stormwater. It's one of the reasons the Environmental Levy program has received 74 awards in its 20-year history.

Randwick Mayor Philipa Veitch agrees with Maganov's assessment.

"I think it's sometimes easy to forget how far we've come as a City in 20 years," says Mayor Veitch.

"Sustainability was not always seen as essential let alone important. But now it's the underlying principle for so many of our projects.

"I recall 2004 quite vividly. It was the year my husband and I made the decision to settle in Maroubra and raise our family here.

"Over 20 years I've witnessed first-hand as a local resident, and now as a Councillor and Mayor what this Council has been able to achieve to address climate change – reducing energy consumption and water use and increasing tree planting.

"With the levy due to expire on 30 June 2024, we have a choice to make – continue paying what we've always paid for 20 years and keep delivering for our environment, or cease the levy. This would mean many projects won't happen, will be reduced in scope or delayed."

PROPOSED PROJECTS

COASTAL

Coastal walkway
Connecting with our marine environment

CLIMATE & RESILIENCE

Sustainability rebates
Helping households save energy and water

FOOD

Communal gardens
Growing our community together

COASTAL

Gross pollutant traps (GPTs)
Keeping our beaches clean

BIODIVERSITY & HABITAT

Creating more green spaces and revitalised creeks
Supporting our natural environment

"Sustainability was not always seen as essential let alone important. But now it's the underlying principle for so many of our projects."

Randwick Councillors met on 24 October 2023 and resolved to seek community feedback on continuing the levy.

From 7 November to 19 December residents and ratepayers have the opportunity to have their say on whether they think the levy should continue.

If you're a ratepayer, you'll receive an information pack in the mail with a survey to provide your feedback.

Continuing the levy means Council will continue investing in a range of sustainability improvements. This includes completing the Coastal Walkway and finalising the missing sections at South Coogee, Lurline Bay and between Malabar and Cape Banks.

Council is also planning to install more Gross Pollution Traps to keep beaches clean, build a whale watching and education platform, continue providing sustainability rebates, investing in public EV charging and helping households switch from gas to electric.

South Coogee coastal walkway.



Mayor Veitch acknowledges the cost on ratepayers given many households are facing rising cost of living pressures.

"I understand and feel for families who are struggling.

"But I fear that the cost of not taking action will be far worse an outcome. Much more work is needed to protect our beaches, reduce energy consumption, green our city and address climate change.

"For around 28c a day or \$1.95 a week, I believe continuing our Environmental Levy is the right thing to do for our residents and families, now and into the future," Mayor Veitch said.

HAVE YOUR SAY

To have your say on the Environmental Levy, lookout for a letter, information pack and survey arriving in the mail. You can also visit yoursay.randwick.nsw.gov.au to find out more and to make a submission.

ENVIRONMENTAL LEVY HIGHLIGHTS 2004-2024



12km

Coastal Walkway upgrades completed including Malabar Headland, Cape Banks and Randwick Environment Park boardwalk.



38

Gross Pollutant Traps installed preventing more than 300 tonnes of rubbish entering our oceans each year.



\$1.1M

The amount householders are saving on annual energy costs through Council's Sustainability Rebates program.



Moree, Hillston & Nevertire

The NSW towns where our solar power is collected to power Council buildings and streetlights with 100% renewable energy.



16

Public EV charging stations installed.



7,800

Compost bins and worm farms provided to households since 2004.



6.5 tonnes

The amount of food waste diverted from landfill through Council's Compost Revolution program.



7

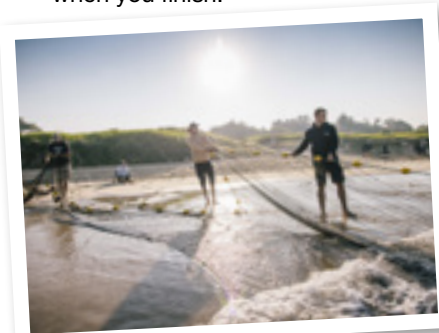
Community gardens opened.

Yarra Bay loop

It's the gritty interface between modern life, industry, natural beauty and ancient cultures. A truly unique walk dishing up surprises around each corner. Tie your shoelaces well for one of Randwick City's most interesting walking experiences.

Getting started

You can start and finish this walk at any point, but a great place to start with plenty of car parking is near the Yarra Bay Sailing Club. It's also a convenient place to grab a meal and refreshments when you finish.



Mullet run.

0km

Follow the Coastal Walkway north-west towards Bumbora Point. The path is well used by locals and the 5km Kamay Park Run is held each Saturday morning. Stunning views of Yarra

Bay abound and in the right season you may see local Aboriginal people continuing their ancient tradition of hauling in fresh mullet.

The Sucko.



1km

Continue through Bicentennial Park car park and briefly onto the footpath of Military / Simblist Road before following Prince of Wales Drive out to Molineaux Point. Consider a short detour to check out what locals call the 'sucko'. Concrete arms extending into the water provide a unique vantage point. At high tide it's deep enough to jump off.



Bunnerong Power Station.

A calm sandy beach lies where water was once sucked into an inlet tunnel to cool the coal-burning condensers of the nearby Bunnerong Power Station that operated from 1929 to 1975. It was demolished in 1987.

2km

Take a moment to ponder the fact the 2km stretch of land along Prince of Wales Drive is man-made. Opened in 1977, the project involved reclamation of 607 hectares of land, and dredging a 21-metre-deep channel for the new port. The reclaimed sand from Botany Bay was used to create Sir Joseph Banks Park foreshore reserve.

3km

At the end of Prince of Wales Drive is Molineaux Point Lookout. Before looping back, take a seat and listen. You may hear the growling barks and yelps of a seal colony that has taken up residence here. If you're lucky you could also see a container ship coming into dock. The sheer size of these ships stacked tall with multi-coloured containers is a sight to behold. It gives meaning to grandma's saying 'she's filled to the plimsoll line'.

5km

Trace your steps back, but when you see a sandy track leading to the cemetery, take this road instead.



Type: Loop
Modes: Walk / ride
Distance: 10km
Grade: Easy
Time: 2 hours 30 mins

Our rating: ★★★★★



MapMyRun



Arthur Stace.

5.5km

Don't be startled by the statue of Arthur Stace on your left. Known as 'Mr Eternity' Stace is estimated to have written the word 'eternity' in beautiful copperplate style on Sydney's streets more than half a million times over 35 years. He died in 1967 and is buried nearby.

6km

Neatly planted rows of vegetables and herbs mark the heritage listed Chinese Market Gardens. Nestled in sandy soil

between the beach and cemetery, these gardens have been in continuous use by European and then Chinese settlers for more than 150 years.

7km

Exit the cemetery and follow the shared walking/cycling path along Bunnerong Rd.

8km

Historic La Perouse is a breath-taking sight to take in. A quick detour to Bare Island or the iconic La Perouse Museum is definitely worth the trip if you have time. Before continuing the walk grab something to eat at a local shop – there's pizza, Thai, burgers and the



Bare Island.

award-winning Boatshed provides waterfront dining.

9km

Continue up Endeavour Avenue and back onto the Yarra Bay Walking Trail. The concrete path disappears and you enter the Guriwal Bush Tucker Track. Thick bushland envelopes you and it's easy to feel a connection with the land and its stories. Thoughts turn to the traditional owners whose ancestors probably walked this same path thousands of years ago.

10km

Return to Yarra Bay and relax, you've earned it!

Local tip

La Perouse is one of the few places in Sydney you can watch the sun rise and set over water. Park your car rear to kerb at the Loop, throw some pillows and blankets in the boot and watch the show.

Heritage listed Chinese Market Gardens..



Celebrating with a splash

When it comes to good fun and community, DRLC dives right in!



What's multicoloured, looks like an obstacle course and sprays water without warning...?

It's the new splash park at DRLC!

The opening of the splash park on 8 October was just in time for the centre's 10th birthday celebration. It uses surprise elements of play with sprays, cannons and dump buckets to send water in every direction and keep the kids entertained and cool.

Randwick Mayor Philpa Veitch said the completion of the area's first-ever splash park means the kids will be able to cool off easily over what is predicted to be a hot summer.

"It's part of our continued effort to deliver upgraded open space facilities for our community," said Mayor Veitch.

The design includes shaded seating areas for parents and carers and prioritises saving water, with up to 95% of used water being recovered.

The splash park is one of many activities on offer at DRLC, which encourages locals to lead healthy and active lives.

The DRLC team has been welcoming locals for decades - teaching kids to swim across generations, providing childcare so parents can fit in some exercise and offering a gym program for teens. There's even a Coffee Club, a group of early-morning swimmers who meet for a coffee and a chat.

Downtime for parents

Crèche Team Leader, local grandmum and 31-year veteran of the centre, Nicole Johnstone, said simple things

like a vegie patch for the kids to learn to grow food and the worm farm, makes the place feel like home.

"It's not just the service they get; it's the experience that keeps people coming back for more. In fact, we find the kids are crying when they are going home!

"It's the love and care we give each child that comes through our door, whether it's their first or one-hundredth visit. Each time they're made to feel welcome and given as much attention as they need.



Nicole Johnstone is a much-loved member of the DRLC team.



Personal trainers (left to right) Samantha Gilchrist and Javier Aguerrea Zaratiegui.



LEISURE SCENE

"We're all mums and grandmas, and we all love our jobs. We love these kids as much as the parents do," said Nicole.

Nicole said the crèche offered parents peace of mind their kids were well looked after while they took some downtime, which didn't have to involve exercise.

"You don't even have to use the gym to use the crèche; you can just lay in the sun."

Something for everyone

Another of the many dedicated employees at the centre, swim instructor Dale Roberts, said the wide range of activities across age groups creates a welcoming feel.

"The gym classes cater for a wide range of people; you don't have to walk into a gym and think, 'I hope I look my best this morning'," said Dale, whose two sons also work at the centre.

"It's very much a local community."

Dale said the splash park was a great addition to the centre, encouraging play for play's sake.

DRLC swim instructor Dale Roberts.



"I really like it. The pool is often all about learning to swim, so it's nice to see something the kids can do purely for aqua play."

While admitting she did not eat the chips often, Dale agreed they were part of the unique pulling power of the centre.

"You didn't hear this from me, but I know some parents will do anything to get their kids to swim," she joked. The hot chips at DRLC have a reputation that precedes them, with many adamant they're the best hot chips for miles!

"As well as the dome pool, the splash park is now another great reason to come to the pool." Pick up some hot chips while you're there!

Where is it?

Des Renford Leisure Centre
126-146R Robey Street, Maroubra

Surprising facts about DRLC

- 1) Bring your own food and enjoy a picnic around the outdoor pool - there's plenty of grassed areas to throw a rug.
- 2) An inflatable obstacle course is set up over the school holidays and is available with ticket entry.
- 3) You can use the crèche without going to the gym, to meet a friend for a swim or enjoy the sunshine.
- 4) Indoor and outdoor pools are heated to different temperatures to keep everyone happy.
- 5) There's special after-school fitness classes for teenagers.
- 6) Join the gym anytime with no lock-in gym contracts.
- 7) Tipped by locals as serving the best hot chips in Sydney!



Shipwrecks to marauders

Even with its colourful history, one thing is consistent – the laid-back beach vibe lives on. By Georgina Keep, Local Studies Librarian

In 1909, long before the McKeon Street Plaza redevelopment, Randwick Council was waxing lyrical about the natural beauty of the Maroubra Beach precinct. This is how Council described the area in its first published history.

Approaching Maroubra for the first time the tourist is influenced to wonderment by the sight spread out before him....

A far-[flung] beach, on which thunderous waves continuously beat, buttressed headlands, whitened intermittently by foaming seas, here fresh from Nature's hand is embellished grandeur, spacious solitude.

Maroubra Surf Lifesaving Club with lightning bolts emblazoned on their uniforms, 1959. Courtesy Randwick City Library



Long before colonisation, our local First Nations people recognised, managed and celebrated the natural beauty of the area. A ceremonial meeting ground was at the centre of the Bay, with the northern and the southern ends of the beach being used for cultural fishing, with remnant stone tools and engravings, first recorded by the Europeans in the 1890s.

What's in a name?

The name 'Maroubra' is something we should seek guidance on from our local elders. European settlers believed the word meant, 'place of thunder' or 'lightning' – this has been reinforced by the early uniforms of the Maroubra SLSC, emblazoned with a lightning bolt. The translation does carry some acceptance with members of the local Indigenous community. And as locals know, it is an apt description of the Maroubra micro-climate.

The swampy ground behind the beach was part of a rich source of fresh water pre-European settlement. Colonial settler Humphrey McKeon, from whom the main street takes its name, established a large wool scouring business utilising this water table. The



Maroubra Beach Subdivision 1918, Courtesy Randwick City Library

land was leased to him for 99 years, he died in July 1882.

In her will in 1905, Humphrey McKeon's wife, Ann, mentions, 'that land 'The Woolwash' on which is a weatherboard cottage.' Then, in 1915, the Sands Sydney Street Directory, lists Frederick McKeon - as living on McKeon Street in 'Rose Cottage'. It is hard to say if this is the same cottage, but the family resided in Maroubra Bay long enough to see the main street named after their patriarch. Council's rates records lists 'McKeon Street' for the first time in 1910.

McKeon Street was advertised for urban subdivision in the Maroubra Bay Estate subdivision plan of 1918.

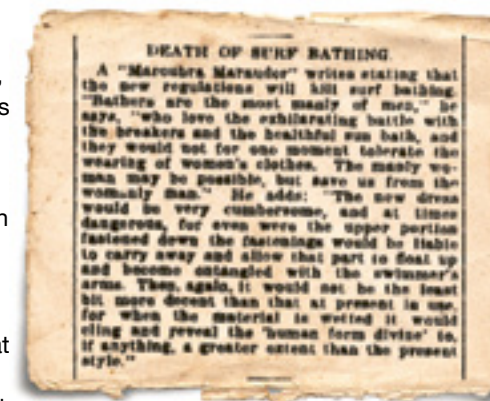
Herbert Dudley, real estate entrepreneur was the vendor of these foundational suburban street lots. By this stage,



Courtesy Randwick City Library

regarding the male bathing costumes inhibited their enjoyment of the 'wild' surf. The Marauders called for Council to erect dressing sheds,

threatening to disrobe on the sands. The debate raged in the broader Sydney coastal community in the lead up to mixed bathing at regulated hours.



Sydney Morning Herald, Tuesday 15 October 1907, page 5 via TROVE

Beachside build-up

In 1918, prospective homeowners were urged to 'snap up' beachfront lots. The sale of land around Maroubra Beach promoted the positives and remained quiet regarding the fact that land to the south of McKeon Street was declared contaminated in 1917 due to the impact of the wool scouring enterprise. A large parcel of land was reserved for Maroubra Bay PS in 1918 – the school celebrating 100 years of education this year.

The coming of the trams to Maroubra Beach in 1921 enhanced the attractiveness of the locale for 'setting up home' just before the public school opened to students in 1923. In 1926, The Maroubra Bay Hotel opened. In April 1941, at the height of WWII, Toth's purchased the hotel. Images of the pub during the twentieth century show its external appearance hasn't changed much. Only the array of vehicles show the passing of time.

Through the decades

In the 1930 edition of the Sands Sydney Street Directory, various businesses and private dwellings are listed along both sides of McKeon Street, along with a house named 'Hereward'.

he had built and opened Dudley's Emporium – on the corner of Anzac Parade and Maroubra Road. By 1918, Dudley turned his attention to the waterfront at Maroubra in the last year of WWI. Perhaps foreseeing the need for housing in post-war Sydney, Dudley boasted 'the beach allotments in this estate are the only beach frontages at Maroubra'.

It has long been thought that McKeon was the first European to settle at Maroubra Beach in 1861. But in their 2018 Randwick Historical Society newsletter Rusheen Craig asserts that it was two years earlier in September 1859 that the Sydney Morning Herald advertised a 'refreshment rooms' enterprise established by J McNeil to attract 'tourists' to the beach.

Shipwrecks bring acclaim

The shipwrecks of the clipper *Hereward*, driven ashore by a gale in 1898 and the SS *Tekapo* a year later in 1899 – put Maroubra Bay on the map. People travelled from all over the City to witness the floundering wrecks. Remnants of the vessel still lie on the ocean floor. A small cannon was recovered by divers from the *Hereward* after heavy seas in 2013 shifted sands and exposed more remains. This brass alloy canon remains in the foyer of Maroubra Seals.

The anchor of SS *Tekapo* was recovered by Greg Tannos in 1986 and is placed on the northern end of Maroubra Beach.

The 'Maroubra Marauders', roamed Maroubra Bay at the turn of the twentieth century. They were the original larrikins of the suburb. There is one account of a foiled attempt by 'marauders' to steal wool from the wool wash in 1904. But this gang's greatest known menace was directed at the strict public bathing regulations. In defiance, the Marauders posed for the cameras with tomahawks and swimwear accentuating their anatomy. At the time only men were allowed to bath during daylight hours. The Marauders asserted the ordinances

The 1950s to 1960s saw the zenith of the surf lifesaving carnival culture and its connection to the identity of the area. In 1959, when Randwick Council marked 100 years of local government, a massive surf carnival was held on Maroubra Beach to mark the occasion.

The 1960s saw Little Pattie smokin' the floorboards of the Maroubra Surf Club with her 'Stomp'n' at Maroubra' title, an iconic piece of Australian pop music and culture. At the time reticent parents and Council officials feared the stompin' craze was 'leading the local youths astray' and 'damaging the floorboards'. In August 1966, Little Pattie went on to become the youngest star to entertain the Australian troops during the Vietnam War, at the age of 17. She has become a powerful and enduring advocate for veterans' affairs in later life. A rare copy of Little Pattie's 'Stomp'n at Maroubra' record will be on display at the La Perouse Museum in 'Randwick Stories' opening March 2024.

By the 1970s and 1980s it was the Maroubra Surfboard Riders and the surfers who dominated the landscape. The La Perouse Board Riders were also surfing in Maroubra. It was not unusual for Mob to walk from La Perouse, carrying a board and then return home on foot, exhausted after a day of surfing.

The recent McKeon Street plaza by Council has seen a regeneration of the 'laid back' lifestyle that has been the appeal of Maroubra Beach for all time. Slow living at its best.

McKeon Street then and now. Top postcard Courtesy Joseph Waugh Collection, Randwick City Library



Early 20th century watercolour by Miles J Dunphy, looking out towards Maroubra Bay in January. 1910. Courtesy SLNSW



Colour sketch of Maroubra Beach, Sydney, N.S.W. January, 1910 Miles J. Dunphy.

Chinese Gardens.



MARINE & COASTAL DISCOVERY PROGRAM

BOOK NOW!

Get ready for hands-on adventure these holidays!

9-25 January 2024

Be part of the action this summer with hands-on learning experiences at amazing locations along Randwick City's spectacular coastline.



1300 722 542
randwick.nsw.gov.au/
marineandcoastal



CULTURE ON COUNTRY

FREE ENTRY

A celebration of local Aboriginal musicians and performers

**26 January 2023
4pm – 7pm**

La Perouse Headland
in front of the
La Perouse Museum

Find out more:
randwick.nsw.gov.au

What's on



December 2023 to February 2024

DECEMBER

HAPPY VALLEY

On until 28 January

The Bayview Gallery La Perouse Museum

UNSEEN – MY MIND'S EYE BY JORDAN ARDLER

On until 10 March

Communities Gallery, La Perouse Museum

PERMABEE – COMMUNITY GARDENING PROGRAM

Friday 8/15/22 December,
9am-12.30pm

Randwick Sustainability Hub

CHRISTMAS AT THE RACES

Friday 1 December, 12pm-6.30pm

Royal Randwick Racecourse



BLAK MARKETS

Sunday 3 December, 10am-3pm

Bare Island, La Perouse



BEST GIFT MARKETS

Sunday 3 December, 9am-6pm

Coogee Beach

MAKING MOSAIC TILES

Wednesday 13 December, 10am-12pm

Lionel Bowen Library



FLOWER POUNDING WORKSHOP: CHRISTMAS CARD EDITION

Friday 15 December, 10am-11.30am

Lionel Bowen Library



COOGEE CAROLS

Sunday 17 December,
6.30pm-8.30pm

Goldstein Reserve, Coogee

COOGEE SPARKLES

Sunday 31 December, 9pm

Goldstein Reserve, Coogee



JANUARY

SUMMER READING CLUB

15 December – 22 January

Randwick, Lionel Bowen and Malabar Libraries

SUMMER READING CLUB END PARTY

- Wednesday 24th Jan
- Lionel Bowen Library
- Information released 15 December

EXHIBITION: "X-POTENTIAL: YOUTH LIBRARY CREATIONS"

5 December – 16 January

Lionel Bowen Library

CULTURE ON COUNTRY

26 January 2024, 4pm-7pm

La Perouse Museum (La Perouse Headland)

AUSTRALIA DAY COMMUNITY EVENT

26 January 2024, 11am-2pm

Kensington Park, Kensington

CREATING GRAPHIC NOVELS WITH STEPHEN KOK (12-18 YEARS)

Monday 17 January, 2pm-3pm

Margaret Martin Library

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS/ CITIZENSHIP CEREMONIES

Friday 26 January

Prince Henry Centre, Little Bay

MARINE AND COASTAL PROGRAM

Tuesday 9 – 23 January

FEBRUARY

BELOW SEA LEVEL - GLENN DUFFUS IN THE BAYVIEW

3 February to 28 April 2024

Bayview Gallery, La Perouse Museum

BOOKCHAT

Wednesday 7 February, 2pm-3pm

Margaret Martin Library



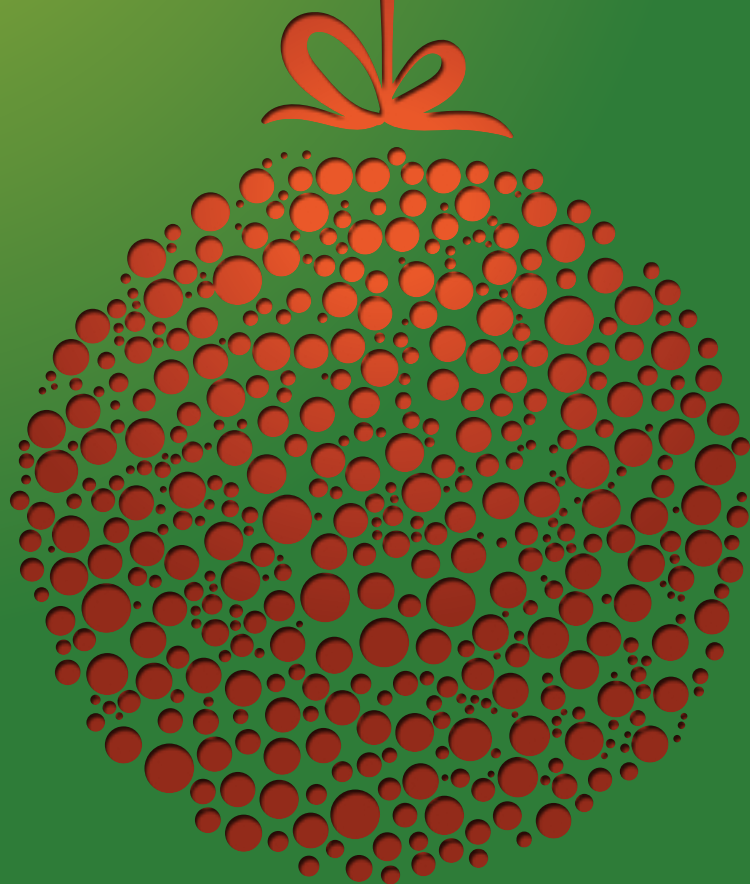
ART WITH YOUR PHONE

Saturday 10 – Sunday 11 February
10am-1pm

Randwick Sustainability Hub

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

FREE EVENTS



CAROLS ACROSS RANDWICK CITY

COOGEE CAROLS

Sunday 17 December

6.30pm – 8.30pm

Goldstein Reserve

Coogee



*These events are produced
by community organisations,
with support of Randwick
City Council*

SOUTH MAROUBRA CHRISTMAS PARTY

Saturday 2 December

2pm – 5pm

South Maroubra Village Green

MATRAVILLE CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Saturday 9 December

5.30pm – 9pm

Barwon Park, Matraville

CLOVELLY CAROLS AND STREET PARTY

Sunday 3 December

4pm – Street Party

6pm – Carols

St Luke's Anglican Church

Clovelly



Randwick City Council
a sense of community