

RANDWICK **SCENE**





council@randwick.nsw.gov.au

Randwick City Council Customer Service Centre

Address: 30 Frances Street, Randwick, NSW 2031

Hours: 8.30am to 5pm Monday to Friday

Phone: 1300 722 542

Email: council@randwick.nsw.gov.au

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Randwick SCENE Magazine is written and produced by Randwick Council's Communications Team. Words by Joshua Hay, Jillian Lewis and Rita Mu. Design by Gemma Elliott, Gavin Tso and Carlen Peddie. Special contributions by Sue Wheeler.

Distributed to 61,763 properties in Randwick City.

Randwick Council proudly prints this magazine on PEFC Certified Australian-made Offset paper, which ensures that all virgin pulp is derived from well-managed forests and controlled sources. It contains elemental chlorine-free bleached pulp and is manufactured by an ISO 14001 certified mill, which ensures best environmental management systems.



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Cover image:

Celebrating International Women's Day.

Top (left to right): Sheila Abrahams, Lisa McGuigan and Yi Yi Wang.

Middle (left to right): Marie Tesoriero, Aunty Maxine Ryan and Jane.

Bottom (left to right): Jenny Morrissey, Keira O'Sullivan and Cathy Shortt.

Read their stories on page 10.



Councillor contacts

Central Ward



Kym Chapple (Greens)

kym.chapple@randwick.nsw.gov.au
0459 878 980



Dylan Parker (ALP)

dylan.parker@randwick.nsw.gov.au
9430 6869



Daniel Rosenfeld (Lib)

daniel.rosenfeld@randwick.nsw.gov.au
0459 914 765

East Ward



Joanne McCafferty (Lib)

joanne.mccafferty@randwick.nsw.gov.au
0432 003 491



Michael Olive (Greens)

michael.olive@randwick.nsw.gov.au
0459 876 320



Marea Wilson (ALP)

marea.wilson@randwick.nsw.gov.au
0459 132 304

North Ward



Christie Hamilton (Lib)

christie.hamilton@randwick.nsw.gov.au
9430 6873



Kathy Neilson (ALP)

kathy.neilson@randwick.nsw.gov.au
0477 345 913



Rafaela Pandolfini (Greens)

rafaela.pandolfini@randwick.nsw.gov.au
0459 937 407

South Ward



Bill Burst (Lib)

bill.burst@randwick.nsw.gov.au
0459 912 106



Noel D'Souza (Ind)

noel.dsouza@randwick.nsw.gov.au
0477 351 202



Danny Said (ALP)

danny.said@randwick.nsw.gov.au
0408 653 006

West Ward



Alexandra Luxford (ALP) (Deputy Mayor)

alexandra.luxford@randwick.nsw.gov.au
9430 6871



Andrew Hay (Lib)

andrew.hay@randwick.nsw.gov.au
0457 030 154



Philippa Veitch (Greens) (Mayor)

mayor@randwick.nsw.gov.au
9093 6813

From the Mayor **Philipa Veitch**

Welcome to our very special 2024 International Women's Day edition of SCENE Magazine.

This edition is dedicated to each and every one of the 68,871 women who call Randwick City home.

No matter how long you've lived here, what your background is or what you do, we hear and value your contribution.

In this edition we meet nine extraordinary women from across Randwick City and learn a little about their stories. They are diverse, dedicated and determined.

Some are pioneers in their field, others humble volunteers, some have run the largest female participation sports activities in Randwick and another runs a heritage-listed farm.

What they share in common is uncommon. Proof that gender stereotypes do not have to constrain women and that with equal opportunity women and girls can build their capabilities and achieve their dreams.

This year's IWD theme is Count Her In: Invest in Women. Accelerate Progress.

The more we, as a society, invest in women the more we progress for ourselves, our families and loved ones and our wider community. I hope you enjoy reading their stories.

I also caught up with our dedicated bushcare volunteers who are celebrating 30 years of bushcare. Find out about what they've achieved on pages 16-17.

Our outdoor crews are also getting busy with a new Blitz team set to transform some of our town centres (pages 20-21).

If you need a tranquil escape and a reconnection with nature check out the Fred Hollows boardwalk (pages 14-15). It's a hidden rainforest snuggled between Randwick and Clovelly – and you probably never knew it existed!

Philipa Veitch
Mayor of Randwick

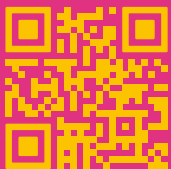


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news in brief

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Councillors support Environmental Levy

An application to continue Council's award-winning Sustaining our City Environmental Levy has been lodged with the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART), after Councillors formally supported the levy at their February meeting.

Ratepayers in Randwick City have been paying the levy for the past 20 years to fund important environmental initiatives like Coastal Walkway upgrades, sustainability rebates and cleaner beaches.

For the average residential ratepayer, the levy makes up about \$101 of their annual rates bill or about \$1.95 per week.

Thank you to the 7,639 respondents to our ratepayer survey. The survey found 55% support to continue the levy with the top three most important projects being increasing urban greening, installing more Gross Pollutant Traps to reduce water pollution and conserving and reusing water.

IPART will now assess Council's application and place it on public exhibition in March/April for community comment. A decision is expected in May as to whether the levy continues from 1 July.

Community Service Award winners



Community Service Award special commendations and winners. From left: Tsz Yung Chu, JP (Kevin), Kensington Park Local Residents Seniors Group, Nehal Nafcy, Jenny Morrissey (Community Service Award), Aaron Lowman (Community Achievement Award for a Person with a Disability), Mayor Philipa Veitch, 'Mum for Mum' (Community Service Group Award), Lynda Newnam (Mayor's Award), Noah Hockey (Community Service Youth Award).

New pool pump planned for Malabar

A new pool pump will be installed at Malabar Ocean Pool later this year providing increased reliability and better swimming conditions.

The existing pump is located underwater which makes accessing it for maintenance and repairs difficult. And despite fortnightly cleaning and regular inspections, the pump is prone to failure.

The proposed new pump will be built out of the water in a new pump house to be located near the pool.

Council is also planning a major excavation of the pool floor to remove built-up sediment and will install new signage about pool cleaning and maintenance schedules.

Mayor Philipa Veitch at one of the new recycled plastic tables at Coogee.



Not your average pic-a-nic table!

Ever wondered what happens to the soft plastics that people drop off at the Randwick Recycling Centre? They are melted down and turned into wheel stops, fence posts and tables like this one at Coogee Beach. Perfect for a beachside pic-a-nic!

New mural makes a splash

A vibrant new mural at Gordons Bay in Sydney's east is capturing the attention of pedestrians and reminding people of the harmful effects of litter on local marine life.

The mural has been painted on a small pump station along the Coogee to Bondi Coastal Walkway at the northern end of Gordons Bay near Clovelly car park.

It features paintings of the famous local blue groper 'Bluey' on the front and a large blue octopus on the back, both swimming among litter.

"The mural was commissioned to remind people to do their part for the environment and take their rubbish with them or bin it," Mayor Philipa Veitch said.

The mural was painted by Sydney artist Nico Nicoson and co-funded by Randwick Council and the NSW Environment Protection Authority.



New mural at Gordons Bay.

Cool it on air-cond noise

As the warmer weather continues into Autumn, householders are reminded to be mindful of noise impacts air conditioning units may have on neighbours. NSW EPA guidelines state that air conditioners should not be heard by neighbours in a 'habitable room' before 7am and after 10pm. If noise from air conditioning is disturbing you, chat with your neighbour first, but if you cannot get a satisfactory result consider calling Council on 1300 722 542.

Diversity celebrated on the Coogee Rainbow Walkway

Hundreds of people gathered to celebrate diversity and inclusion at the annual Randwick Pride event at the Coogee Rainbow Walkway in February. Randwick Council is a proud supporter of the Sydney Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras. The Rainbow Walkway was unveiled in 2020 and upgraded in 2023 to include the colours of the Progress Pride Flag.



Construction progresses on new pocket park

A new pocket park on the corner of Clovelly and Carrington Roads in Randwick is under construction and due to open in mid 2024.

The new park replaces a median island and slip lane, providing more space for tree planting and a multi-purpose community space for people to sit and enjoy a morning coffee.

"With extra greenery and room for pedestrians, there will be even more to love about Clovelly Road," Mayor Philipa Veitch said.

"The new pocket park is set to be a communal gathering space with a village atmosphere, and is a wonderful addition to Randwick north."

The park was identified as one of seven key priority projects in the Clovelly Road Precinct Streetscape Masterplan.



Artist impression of the new pocket park on Clovelly Road.

news in brief

Easter Eat Drink Play is back

Looking for some great food and entertainment over Easter? We've got you sorted with our Easter Eat Drink Play food trucks serving up delicious food this Good Friday, Saturday, Easter Sunday and Easter Monday at Pioneers Park in Malabar. There will be food trucks every day for lunch and dinner as well as live music with Soulgenic playing on Easter Sunday. Check our website for more details.



New off-leash dog parks in South Coogee and Kingsford

New dog off-leash parks have been created at Emily McCarthy Park in South Coogee and Kensington Rotary Reserve in Kingsford. The new dog parks were approved by Council late last year following consultation with the local community which found general support. The changes increase the total number of off-leash dog parks in Randwick City to 16.



IWD art exhibition on now!

Artworks from some of Randwick City's most talented women artists are now on exhibition at the Lionel Bowen Library in Maroubra. The annual International Women's Day Art Prize offers almost \$6,000 in prize money across youth, local, open and Councillor/People's choice categories. **The exhibition is open during library hours until Sunday 21 April.**



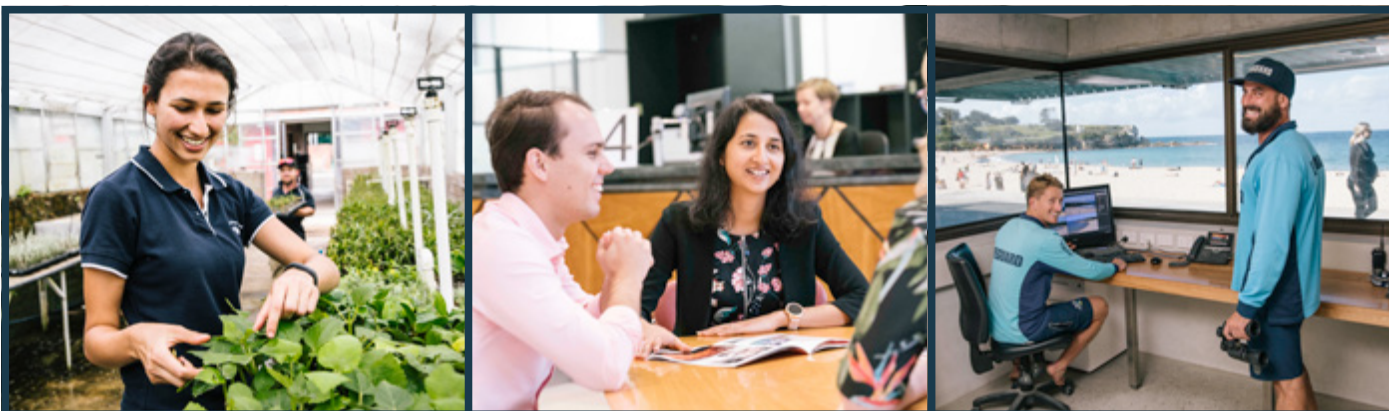
Artist impression of the new WIRES facility in Randwick.

New home for WIRES

Construction of a new purpose-built wildlife rescue and rehabilitation facility for volunteer group WIRES is set to begin at Randwick Environmental Park in April.

For more than 20 years WIRES has been operating out of a small facility at the park where volunteers care for injured native animals. The existing facility is in a poor condition and is in need of an overhaul.

With funding from Randwick Council, WIRES and a \$400,000 grant from the NSW Government, a brand new facility will be built near the Randwick Community Centre. It will feature possum pens, bird cages, storage, staff areas and interpretive signage about local birds and fauna. It's expected to open in early 2025.



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SCAN TO BOOK



Residents asked for feedback on Coogee amenities

Two options to improve the amenities and café building on Arden St in Coogee will be put to the community for feedback. One option proposes a \$4M refurbishment keeping much of the external structure but doubling the amount of female toilets. The second option proposes a \$6.75M knock-down rebuild with a new building connecting the different functions, also doubling the female toilets and providing more storage for Council Lifeguards and Coogee Surf Club.



New cycleway makes cycling easier and safer

A 1.8km cycleway linking Kingsford with Centennial Park is now open.

The Transport for NSW funded project was developed by Randwick Council and opened in stages in November and December.

The two-way cycleway is separated from the road providing safer and more convenient cycling options.

"We know that more people will ride once there is safe and convenient infrastructure in place. This is good news for people looking to make

short trips on a bike, access UNSW, connect with the light rail stations or commute to the City," Mayor Veitch said.

Motorists using Doncaster Avenue are asked to be mindful of changed conditions, slow down, watch for bike riders and pedestrians and not to park on the cycleway.

Residents should check for bike riders when accessing driveways and place garbage bins on the verge for collection (not the cycleway).

Burrows Park upgrade

Detailed site investigations will commence into extending the playing field and upgrading an amenities building at Burrows Park in Clovelly. Councillors considered feedback from the community and sports club which found support for the building upgrade but mixed views on the playing field. A masterplan and concept design will be developed providing more details on the options and implications for upgrading the field. It will be reported back to Council and go out to community consultation.

No change to parking arrangements on Broadarrow Reserve

Occasional parking will continue to be permitted on Broadarrow Reserve at Maroubra Beach to support major events occurring nearby. Council recently conducted a consultation with the local community to canvas views on permitting additional parking on hot days between November and March. The consultation found 34% support for intensifying parking while 24% supported the current arrangement and 31% wanted no parking.

Council backs dive wreck site off Coogee

A proposal by the Gordons Bay Scuba Diving Club to sink an ex-Navy ship off the Sydney coast to create an artificial reef and dive site has been supported in principle by Council. It is anticipated the site could attract 5,000 divers per year generating between \$12.5M and \$48M revenue over a five year period to the dive industry. The wreck would also contribute to the marine and aquatic life in the area. The proposal would be subject to extensive environmental assessment and funding. Randwick Council would not provide any funding to the proposal.

Serious apprehensions expressed over State housing reforms

NSW State Government housing reforms that would impose 20,000 new homes on the Randwick LGA over the next 20 years have been strongly criticised by Council. A submission to the Department of Planning endorsed by Council at its February meeting raises serious concern about the blanket application of permitting 6-storey apartments and reducing lot sizes for dual occupancies. "Our community is reeling from the impacts of the housing crisis, but throwing council planning controls out of the window will only benefit developers at the expense of local residents," Mayor Veitch said.

Flags to fly at half-mast for National Sorry Day

Council will fly its flags at half-mast every year on 26 May to mark National Sorry Day and to show its support for Aboriginal communities. All flags including the Australian, NSW, Council, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags will be flown at half-mast at Randwick Town Hall, Randwick Administration Building and at La Perouse for the day. Council will also fly flags at half-mast on National Apology Day which occurs each year on 13 February.

Naming honour for Warner

The cricket nets at Heffron Park will be named in honour of retiring Australian cricketer David Warner. The Randwick City local grew up in Matraville attending Matraville Public School and Randwick Boys High. As a test cricketer he scored 8,786 runs averaging 44.59 with 26 hundreds including a memorable 335 not out against Pakistan in 2019. He is the fifth highest run scorer in Australia's test history and holds the second highest Australian individual score ever.

Park naming honour for Simms and Longbottom families

The Simms and Longbottom families of La Perouse could be honoured with local parks to be named in their honour. The two families are considered part of the backbone of the La Perouse Aboriginal community who are able to trace their ancestry back thousands of years. Council will now investigate the matter further in conjunction with the La Perouse Aboriginal Land Council.

New location identified for Randwick SES headquarters

Randwick SES could be moving to a new facility to be built along Botany Road in Matraville. Randwick Council has been working closely with the volunteer emergency services organisation to find new premises to best meet their organisational needs for the future. Randwick SES is currently co-located within the Randwick Council Works Depot at Storey St, Maroubra. Council will now prepare a planning proposal to progress the proposal.



Solved or unsolved? Community input sought on Maroubra's Rubik's Cube

Have your say on whether Maroubra's landmark Rubik's Cube artwork should remain in its current 'solved' state or return to its original 'unsolved' state. The guerilla artwork has been a fixture at the beach for about 15 years after it was created by a mysterious artist. Its form has changed over the years and generated controversy in January when it was mysteriously solved overnight. www.yoursay.randwick.nsw.gov.au

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Count her in – nine extraordinary stories

As we celebrate International Women's Day, we caught up with nine women from Randwick City. Their tales are all unique and widely varying, providing testament to the abilities and extraordinary achievements of women living in our community.

Sheila Abrahams remembers a time when women were not respected. Women who studied higher education or worked were the exception, not the norm.

"Women didn't have the same opportunities back when I was growing up," Sheila says. "They weren't on Boards, and there weren't enough of them in politics.

"Women were expected to stay home, look after the children, and cook.

"I left school at the age of 15. We always used to think, you don't need an education. You just need to get married and have children.

"It's not so much that there aren't opportunities out there for women, but I think people are being fed this narrative that... there's a very rigid box that everyone needs to fit into." - Keira O'Sullivan

"Well, how wrong was I? I've come to realise the importance of education, especially for women."

Sheila, a committee member at McIver's Ladies Baths, has met women of all different ages and backgrounds over the past decade volunteering at the women's pool in Coogee.

While McIver's, founded in 1922, has changed significantly over the past century, so have the women coming to the pool.

"I really feel a real strength with all the women there," Sheila says.

"I admire some of the women there who are successful in many areas of employment."

Many women who visit the baths have overcome significant hardship: some are survivors of domestic violence; others are experiencing loneliness in older age.

But most are there simply for the sense of community, or seeking solace in the cool waters overlooking the Tasman Sea.

It was after several personal challenges when **Jane** opened her home to refugee children from Timor-Leste in 1975.

Dozens of children, mostly girls between the ages of five and 10 and who were living at a migrant hostel nearby in South Coogee, would visit Jane every day.

"I think it gave them a feeling of home," Jane says. "They would sometimes help clean the car, garden, or cook. We went to the beach and on picnics. We had Easter egg hunts. I went to their school

Aunty Maxine Ryan.



Marie Tesoriero aka
'Cool Marie'.



says: "It's not so much that there aren't opportunities out there for women, but I think people are being fed this narrative that there are only a limited number of spaces and there's a very rigid box that everyone needs to fit into. And if you don't get in, then you're just wasting your time."

Now that Keira is studying at the university she is looking to add peer tutoring to her long list of volunteer work, which includes helping Aboriginal communities and providing meals to the homeless.

"I went through a lot of bullying growing up," Keira says. "It brought down my self-esteem and my confidence with other people. There was a long time where I just didn't feel like I really belonged anywhere."

"The tutors at SHACK helped me so much. Feeling that someone cared enough to volunteer and give their time to help had a significant impact on me."

South Coogee local **Marie Tesoriero**, is also giving back after facing adversity. Born with intellectual and physical disabilities, including blindness in one eye, scoliosis, and a heart condition, Marie has overcome more barriers than most to become a force for good.

"I left school at the age of 15. We always used to think, you don't need an education. You just need to get married and have children. Well, how wrong was I? I've come to realise the importance of education, especially for women."

– Sheila Abrahams

Since 2020 she has been raising funds for Sydney Children's Hospital – where she had several major surgeries – through a range of initiatives.

With the support of her family Marie creates and sells paintings and homemade crafts on her online shop, Made By Cool Marie, and at market stalls across Sydney. Her crafts come with fun names such as Boo Boo

activities – speeches, hat parades – because their mums had to work.

The girls came into her life when Jane most needed them. "They brought me happiness and gave me a purpose. They really helped me more than I helped them."

One girl, six-year-old Filomena, was particularly close to Jane. "I always took Mena to the doctor because she was without parents. She didn't have anyone at the hostel.

"She used to make her breakfast at my house every morning, and I would drive her to school. I know it's because she wanted to think she belonged to somebody."

Today, decades later, Filomena and Jane are still in touch with each other regularly. "We have been fortunate to spend so many years helping one another, but I truly believe the girls helped me much more," Jane says.

Aunty Maxine Ryan, a Dharawal woman from La Perouse, is a passionate educator and artist. She comes from a long line of renowned Aboriginal female artists that use shells to decorate or create a range of objects

such as jewellery boxes, kookaburras, shoes, and boomerangs. She is currently working on a Sydney Harbour Bridge made from shells collected along different beaches on the east coast.

While a lot of Aunty Maxine's work is teaching schoolchildren about Aboriginal arts and culture, she is also passionate about teaching respect and understanding for other cultures too.

"We are diverse," she says. "We eat different food, talk different languages, wear different clothes, and even smell different. We need to respect each other and each other's cultures."

Aunty Maxine says technology has made life easier in many ways, but some Aboriginal girls and young women are still struggling with the basics such as healthcare and education.

A young person who has overcome barriers and has become a role-model to her peers is 19-year-old **Keira O'Sullivan**. She is in her second year of a Bachelor of Media and Bachelor of Arts at the University of NSW.

The Maroubra resident is specialising in communications, journalism, film studies, performance and theatre. She

Bunny, Phil Better the Bunny, and Jimmy Chew the Rescue Dog, and she donates the profits to Sydney Children's Hospital.

Marie's mother Santina said the prognoses of Marie's condition had left her in the dark and having to draw upon an inner strength to move forward.

More than 40 years later, Marie has defied expectations and has participated in several fundraiser walks, including the 14km City2Surf, to raise money for Parkinson's disease research, people with disability, and the Sydney Children's Hospital.

"When people think of sport and Randwick, they think of the Rabbitohs or the Roosters. But we have 10,000 people – players, their mums and dads and grandparents – come through Heffron Park every Saturday from April to September. No other sport does that."

She has ruffled a few feathers along the way, but the netball community – including the thousands of women who are part of it – are now stronger for it. "To survive, you can't continue the way you were 50 years ago," Jenny says. "You have to think out of that box."

Head Coach at Maroubra Surf Life Saving Club **Lisa McGuigan**, has been

Lisa went on to compete in men-only endurance events, including the Forsters Iron Man and Kelloggs Nutri Grain Iron Man. She has also won State, Australian and World Titles.

For almost two decades she has been coaching at Maroubra Surf Life Saving Club, with the last 10 years as head coach. In 2023, Lisa was inducted in the Australian Surfing Walk of Fame for her contribution to surf life saving.

Registered nurse, midwife and lactation consultant **Cathy Shortt**, says the expectation or belief that women can "do it all" is unrealistic.

"The hours of a working woman are astronomical," says Cathy, a mother of three and director of Milk & Mums Co, a business based in Randwick that supports mothers and families transition to parenting. "I do my job, which I love, and then I come home and do my next job, which is looking after my family."

"There is more education and work opportunities at our fingertips, but the flip side is the expectations on women are far greater than they have ever been."

"Women need to get some support somewhere; they need to lean on somebody they know. They can't do it all on their own."

Throughout her 25-year career in midwifery and lactation consulting – which has included working at Prince of Wales Private Hospital and Royal



"I don't focus on barriers," Marie says. "I focus on the good things. I love helping people in the community."

President of Randwick Netball Association **Jenny Morrissey**, says women have more opportunities than ever to learn, earn and lead, but it is how they use them that makes all the difference.

A long-time advocate for gender equality, especially in sports, Jenny has been integral to raising financial support to promote netball's standing in NSW and Australia, and helping to improve conditions for players, coaches, umpires and spectators.

"Netball is the biggest women's sport in the country and the biggest sport in Randwick, but it never gets profiled," Jenny says.

breaking down barriers in sport since she was a teenager. She comes from a family of life savers and became the first female to earn a Bronze Medallion and become a qualified lifesaver, and compete in surf sports with men.

"It was a bit daunting," says Lisa, who grew up in the Sutherland Shire and was only one of two girls at Elouera Surf Life Saving Club in Cronulla in the 1980s.

"There were chauvinistic comments, but there were also a lot of supportive men."

"We did have to break down the barriers to compete and race the men in those early days; there were no women's events at all. It was a bit intimidating, and you knew you had no show against the blokes in a beach sprint or flags because they were so much stronger."





Hospital for Women in Randwick – Cathy has met and supported hundreds of mums. She says the transition to motherhood is one of the biggest challenges that many women will face in their lives.

Cathy says women face a “bounce back mentality” that places unreasonable pressure on mothers to return to work quickly and the life they had before having a child.

A single mum of two children, three years ago Yi Yi took over the operations of the La Perouse Chinese Market Gardens, a family business that her stepfather Robert ran for many years.

The heritage-listed gardens have been in continual use as market gardens run by Chinese migrants since the mid-1800s.

While Yi Yi defies stereotypical gender roles, she says she still faces discrimination at work.

“I don’t know the reason, but many people still don’t want to buy from a lady selling at the markets. One customer even said I should get a boy salesperson.

“I think they think women are weak. But I believe that whatever men can do, women can do the same or even better.”

“There’s this expectation that several months after having your baby you just go back to work, you’re off to Pilates, and you’re having coffee with friends. We need to gently shift those expectations and give women the time to take things more slowly, and allow their bodies to recuperate.” – Cathy Shortt

“There’s this expectation that several months after having your baby you just go back to work, you’re off to Pilates, and you’re having coffee with friends,” she says. “We need to gently shift those expectations and give women the time to take things more slowly, and allow their bodies to recuperate.”

Another local very familiar with the challenges of balancing raising a family with running a successful business is **Yi Yi Wang**.

Yi Yi works more than 17 hours a day. Her morning starts at 12am when she goes to Sydney Markets to sell produce, and ends around 5.30pm at the farm.

Yi Yi knew very little about operating a farm when she first came to Australia from China at the age of 18. But in between adapting to a new culture and learning English, she gradually learnt how to grow vegetables and herbs such as parsley, coriander, rosemary, red radish and bok choy.

Like the women featured in this story, Keira O’Sullivan says the women in her life who have inspired her have come from all walks of life. “They have left an imprint on my mind for different reasons. None of them look alike, sound alike, and they all come from different backgrounds.”

Sheila Abrahams says today’s women are confidently themselves. Times have changed for the better. “I see this marvellous change: women are independent, strong, and educated.

“It’s still not an easy ride, but things have become better.”

Fred Hollows Reserve

Right in the heart of Randwick exists this green space that transports you from bustling Alison Road to the tranquillity of nature, just with a few steps. Dive inside this luscious, green reserve and lose yourself in the natural surroundings.

Getting started

Fred Hollows Reserve can be reached from Alison Road in Randwick or Bligh Place in Clovelly. Starting at Alison Road will mean you're climbing up the stairs, while if you begin at Bligh Place, you'll be taking the stairs down. For this article, we start at Alison Road and head up! Of course, no matter which direction you go, you'll need to turn around and go the other way at some point to get back to where you started.

The official address for the walk is 63R St Marks, Randwick NSW 2031. However, you'll find the entry on Alison Road, located opposite the intersection of Farnham Ave and Alison Road. It's a little further east, but clearly marked and hard to miss if you're looking for it.

100m

The walk into the reserve from Alison Road begins with a short down set of stairs. You may notice newly planted shrubs throughout the reserve as this is one of Council's many Bushcare locations and it's lovingly looked after by several volunteers, as well as Council staff. Continue along the



path and you'll see the tree canopy soar above your head. The reserve is a gully and as you walk, you become surrounded by lush green walls of vines, shrubs and trees. Sunlight dapples through the tree canopy onto the ground. Curve around the path until you come to your first set of stairs.

200m

As you climb this set of stairs, you'll reach a platform. There's a bench where you can sit to enjoy the surroundings. You'll notice at the other end of the platform the real stair climbing starts, so rest while you can. Take a look over the balustrade and see if you can spot a Gully Skink. These reptiles were first

Who is Fred Hollows?


The reserve is named in honour of Fred Hollows, an ophthalmologist who lived in the area. Hollows is renowned for restoring the sight of thousands of people in Australia and overseas. His work continues through the Fred Hollows Foundation.

Glebe Gully is a secluded sanctuary.

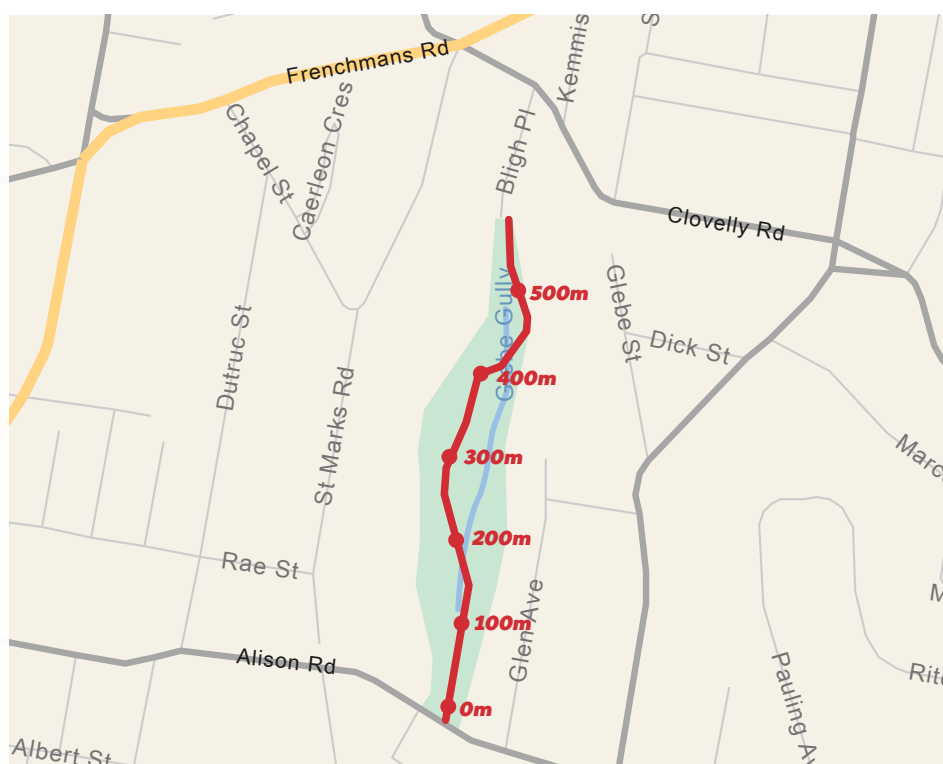
Walking City
Randwick's
best urban
walks

Type: One way
Modes: Walk
Distance: 500m
Grade: Moderate
Time: 15 mins

Our rating: ★★★★★



**View interactive map
on MapMyRun**



discovered in this very reserve and were identified by staff from the Australian Museum. It is now known that they are more widespread, preferring to hide in sandstone crevices in high, humid micro-climates. Fred Hollows Reserve provides the perfect home.

300m

Once you're ready to tackle more stairs make your way to the north end of the platform and head up! As you climb, you'll notice only glimpses of rooftops or apartment buildings at the edge of the gully - it's very easy to imagine you're in the middle of a much larger reserve or parkland. Keep an eye out for the red fairy door on your right as you're walking. If you're lucky, a fairy may appear, but they're rarer than the Gully Skink, so don't wait around for too long.



Try and spot the fairy door as you begin climbing out of the gully.

400m

Stairs will make way for a flat boardwalk at this stage, and you'll be able to rest again as there is some more seating available along the way. Enjoy the downtime and soak in the greenery. Ferns, groundcover, and soaring trees allow for a huge dose of forest bathing!

Continue down a few stairs and up some more stairs as you overlook the gully on your right, which plays home to frogs, lizards, and a wide variety of birds. Depending on the time of year and the weather, you may experience a chorus of song from the local inhabitants as you walk. As you keep walking, you'll come to the footbridge. This bridge crosses over the gully and provides the perfect place to look over the edge directly into the gully, where water may trickle, depending on recent rainfall.

500m

As you near the end of the walk, you'll see a dead tree that has been pruned but still standing. A section of the tree has been hollowed out. The hollow has been made to assist the hollow-using bird species in the reserve.

Join Bushcare!

Want to be part of the team who helps look after this wonderful reserve? Join our wonderful Bushcare team. Read more about them on page 16.



It's worth noting this two-hectare park is part of a natural gully. It contains a lot of stairs,

so it's not accessible, nor will it be easy with a stroller. There are no amenities available inside the reserve. Although just slightly shy of being a 0.5km walk, your legs will be challenged. Take it slow if you need to - there are benches where you can rest. Or, challenge your fitness and take the stairs at a quicker pace. Just be sure to enjoy the surroundings as you go. Dogs are permitted, but they must be on a leash. After rain, the stairs can be slippery so use caution.

Did you know?

'Shinrin yoku' is the Japanese practice of being calm and quiet amongst the trees and observing nature around you while breathing deeply. The practice boosts health and wellbeing and Fred Hollows Reserve is the perfect place to try it out.

Weed warriors giving back

More than 200 volunteers are this year celebrating 30 years of weeding and planting a better future for Randwick City's bushland areas. Oh ... and they're looking for new members too!

The notion that we can all make a difference to our community and have a positive impact on our environment is alive and kicking in Randwick Council's Bushcare program.

This year they're marking a special 30th birthday and celebrating the 200 or so volunteers who regularly give their time to weed, plant and take care of our local parklands and coastal fringes.

Council Bushcare Officer Emily Strautins, who runs the program and co-ordinates the volunteers, says: "Creating a more caring world starts with small actions by individual people. The program has shown me that the old adage 'from little things, big things grow' couldn't be more true."

"We have a great group of people doing something for their community... and we always love our morning tea break when we get to chat about anything and everything together."

Bushcare officially launched in 1993, in response to grass roots groups who were already working to protect and enhance the bush within Council-owned patches of bushland at Gordons Bay. Today there are regular working groups at 14 locations, including Wylie's Baths, Fred Hollows Reserve and Randwick Environment Park.

"Bushcare is about people taking direct action to care for the places where they live, work or play and it provides a supportive, learning environment that gives them the opportunity to meet like-minded people and to

connect with their environment and community," explains Emily. "It brings together people of all ages, ethnicities, and backgrounds."

Fifteen years ago, local resident Susan Lundy initiated the monthly working bee at the Ladies Pool at McIver's Baths.

"I've been swimming here for years so this place means a lot to me. It's like my garden; one that I could never afford to have," she says. "We have a great group of people doing something for their community... and we always love our morning tea break when we get to chat about anything and everything together."





Susan Lundy, Marleen Zegerman, Annabel Sutherland, Emily Strautins, Mayor Philipa Veitch & Coralie Owens.

Annabel Sutherland also joined the group when she retired: "I tried yoga and other activities, but this ticks lots of boxes for me," she says. "I live in a unit so this allows me to spend time outdoors in a 'garden' and to learn things. It's a great way to socialise and be active while making a positive impact. And it's free!" Coralee Owen, who joined Bushcare two years ago,

Randwick Mayor Philipa Veitch, is passionate about the work Bushcare and its volunteers do: "It's so important. It takes a lot of work to maintain these habitats and it's a job that never finishes as we always need to be weeding and planting new shrubs and trees. We know Randwick residents care about their environment, and this gives them a chance to do their bit. We value and celebrate the hundreds of volunteers who have helped over the years and made Randwick such a beautiful place to live and somewhere we can be proud of."

After blowing out its birthday candles, what does Bushcare's future look like? "We want to keep growing Bushcare as there are many sites that need help," says Mayor Veitch. "The fact that it's been going for 30 years shows how successful and popular it is, but we need new volunteers all the time."



adds: "It's my home environment and I love seeing the improvements and difference we make."

Randwick City's flourishing parklands and coastlines are some of the most beautiful in the world, the Coastal Walkway attracting some 13 million visitors every year. But these habitats would look very different today if it weren't for the past and present Bushcare volunteers. Emily says, "There are plenty of areas along our coast which would have succumbed to erosion or development and been lost to the public long ago, yet today are thriving and providing refuge for precious wildlife."



Want to be a part of Bushcare?

- Anyone can become a Bushcare volunteer - simply show up to one of our regular working bees, no prior experience or booking necessary. You can join as an individual or a group and we also have dedicated sessions for students or corporate groups.
- Bushcare working bees typically involve identifying flora and fauna, hand weeding, planting indigenous plants, mulching and installing environmental controls all guided by an experienced supervisor.

Scan to find out more and sign up.



"I'd love more people across the community to recognise that they are the stewards of their environment and to get involved," adds Emily. "Whether that's becoming a Bushcare volunteer (all you need is a couple of hours) or by planting more locally native plants in backyards and on balconies. Everyone plays a role in crafting the City we want for the future. Today's citizens will determine whether or not future generations have similar access to experience beautiful, healthy and biodiverse environments. It's up to us."

"Randwick City supports a huge variety of life; species which are resilient but need some help from us to continue to thrive in a rapidly changing world and urban environment." – Bushcare Officer, Emily Strautins

Greening our city for the next 25 years

Four Randwick City suburbs are set to flourish thanks to securing the lion's share of funding under the NSW Government's tree planting initiative.

There's something about walking along a tree-lined street that makes you want to slow down to a stroll, look up and appreciate the natural world around you. Good news then that the vibrant landscape of Randwick City's streets are looking to a greener horizon, as an extensive tree planting initiative is under way. By August this year 2,000 trees will be planted in areas with the lowest canopy cover and highest heat, thanks to funding of \$1.88 million, through the NSW Government's Greening Our City grant program.

To paint a picture of what that looks like; within the next 25 years Randwick City will have additional tree canopy cover equivalent to 19 football fields, across its most vulnerable suburbs. "It's exciting to think about the ripple effect this initiative will have," says Randwick Mayor Philipa Veitch. "Planting this number of trees will bring significant environmental, health and financial benefits to Randwick City, enhancing its beauty as well as the wellbeing and happiness of our community."

The Greening Our City grant program awarded more than \$9.9 million to 21 projects and 17 councils across Greater Sydney, with Randwick City Council receiving the largest grant (which will be supplemented by \$400,000 from Council). As part of

the NSW Government's goal to plant five million trees by 2030, the grant program aims to support councils with low canopy and green cover (and therefore heightened heat exposure), providing crucial shade and reducing ambient temperatures, helping to alleviate urban heat-island effect. The funding also supports a successful establishment period of 12 months, while the ongoing care for these trees simply becomes a part the Council's maintenance program.

Why Randwick City will be a healthier place to live

The impact of planting trees on the health of our environment and people is well documented, but when it comes

to specifics, research conducted by Wollongong University found that exposure to a tree canopy of 30 per cent or more was associated with improved general health, while increasing canopy cover by just one per cent reduced the prevalence of diabetes, cardiovascular disease and hypertension.

While Randwick City is home to the extensive, lush surrounds of Centennial Parklands, verdant streetscapes and coastal paths teeming with vegetation, it has a canopy cover of just 16 per cent. Consequently, the Greening Our City grant will play an important part in future-proofing the community and delivering the benefits of an established urban forest.



Randwick Mayor Philipa Veitch.



Banksia is one of the 49 species being planted.

Mayor Veitch points out that the grant program is also part of Randwick City's bigger picture. "It works alongside the ambitious goals of the City's Environment Strategy 2020 and specifically aligns with our objectives to increase native plantings by 30 per cent by 2030."

Where will the trees be planted?

Providing Randwick City's most vulnerable communities better access to trees and green spaces was front of mind when Council devised its planting strategy. It examined the suburbs most lacking in canopy cover and experiencing heat vulnerability, and determined Matraville, Little Bay, Malabar and Chifley would benefit most from the initiative. The designated streets will be brought to life with a diverse medley of 49 different species of (mostly) natives, including Scribbly Gum (*Eucalyptus haemastoma*), Bracelet Honey Myrtle (*Melaleuca armillaris*) and Sydney Red Wood (*Angophora costata*).

Trees provide a home for native wildlife.



"Planting this number of trees will bring significant environmental, health and financial benefits to Randwick City, enhancing its beauty as well as the wellbeing and happiness of our community."

Growing numbers

Here's the suburbs where the trees are being planted:



**Chifley
Little Bay
Malabar
Matraville**

**2,000
new trees**

49 SPECIES OF TREES BEING PLANTED

Australian Teak	Banksia
Bangalay	Pine Oak
Black Tea-Tree	Prickly Paperbark
Bottlebrush	Queensland Lacebark
Bracelet Honey Myrtle	Red Cottonwood
Brush Box	Revolution Gold
Brush Cherry	Riberry
Carob Tree	Royal Poinciana
Cheese Tree	Scribbly Gum
Chinese Pistachio	Simons Poplar
Claret Ash	Snow-in-Summer
Coast Banksia	Swamp Mahogany
Coast Cottonwood	Sydney Red Wood
Dwarf Apple Gum	Tallow Wood
Firewheel Tree	Tulipwood
Golden Robinia	Water Gum
Gordonia	Weeping Lilly Pilly
Hills Fig	Weeping Paperbark
Honey Locust	White Bottlebrush
Illawarra Flame Tree	Willow Bottlebrush
Ivory Curl Flower	Yellow Bloodwood
Jacaranda	Yellow Top Mallee Ash
Lemon Scented Gum	Yanderra
Mugga Ironbark	
Muggago	
Old Man	

Blitz team *puttin' on the ritz*



A new Randwick Blitz team is cleaning, repairing and polishing up town centres across Randwick City.

If you happen to see up to 50 workers all in orange hi-vis somewhere in Randwick – don't panic, it's probably the Randwick Blitz team hard at work.

A new initiative commencing in April will see Randwick Council workers from multiple departments descend on one

town centre at a time for an intensive cleaning, maintenance and upgrade program – in as quick as 24 hours.

The new initiative dubbed the 'Blitz team' is putting a bit of spit and polish on town centres across Randwick City for the benefit of businesses and shoppers alike.

The first town centre to get the blitz treatment is the Belmore Road shopping strip in Randwick commencing in April.

"While maintenance and improvements have and always will be core business for Council, the difference with the Blitz team is the intensity and methodical nature of the program," Randwick Mayor Philipa Veitch said.

"Cleaning, repairs, upgrades and improvements that might have been scheduled over a longer period will now be delivered in as little as one day, providing an instant boost for the shopping strip and support for our local businesses."

To undertake the works, Council staff across multiple departments including waste and cleansing, trades services, open spaces, infrastructure services and economic development will coordinate their teams into a single operation.

The types of works being undertaken will include sweeping; pressure washing; graffiti and chewing gum removal; painting; planting shrubs and flowers; repairs to benches, bins,





The Blitz program is designed to support local businesses with cleaner and more attractive public spaces.

Feedback from businesses will help guide each Blitz program.

***“While maintenance and improvements have and always will be core business for Council, the difference with the Blitz team is the intensity and methodical nature of the program,”
Randwick Mayor Philipa Veitch said.***

bollards, pavers and pit lids; along with anything else that needs fixing.

Council’s Place Coordinators will door knock businesses in the area before the blitz commences to find out any areas of focus or special requests.

In addition to Council’s regular scheduled cleaning and maintenance, the Blitz teams will move through each town centre over a period of time and focus on areas prior to major events or festivals or during particular seasons – such as beachside town centres before summer.

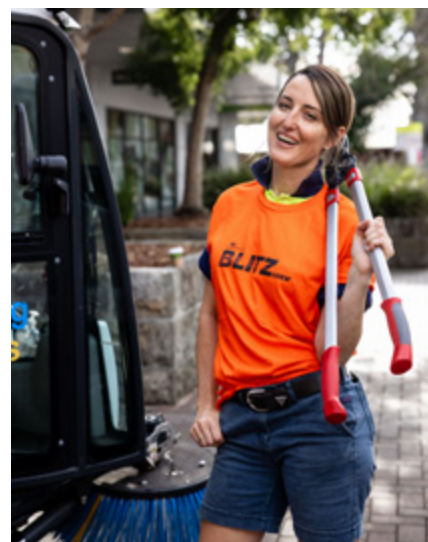
“This is a huge logistical operation to coordinate this many trades and workers over a single period,” Mayor Veitch said. “I’d like to thank all the hard-working council staff involved for their dedication to our City.

“If you happen to see the Blitz team out and about, give them a wave!” Mayor Veitch said.

Town centres getting the Blitz treatment soon:

- **Randwick Junction**
- **Maroubra Junction**
- **Clovelly**
- **Malabar**
- **Little Bay**
- **Matraville**
- **The Spot**
- **Kensington**
- **Coogee**
- **South Maroubra**
- **Kingsford**

Got a suggestion for the Blitz team? Reach out to us at business@randwick.nsw.gov.au



Unearthing Randwick's hidden treasures

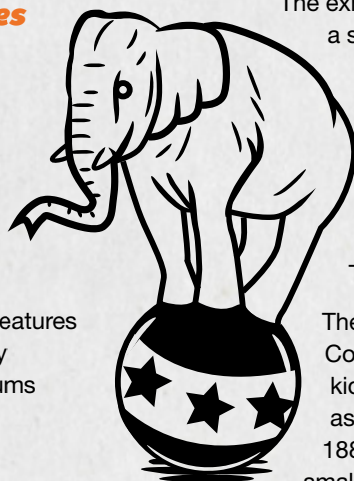
Discover a treasure trove of stories that reveal Randwick City's rich and layered history.

Elephants strolling through Coogee and toasted sandwiches in Little Bay are just some of the stories that have been shared by Randwick City residents in a new exhibition at La Perouse Museum.

Randwick Stories, opening on Friday 22 March, features family treasures generously shared by community members, alongside objects uncovered in museums across NSW that give voice to the diverse and captivating history of Randwick.

"Randwick Stories is a blend of history and delightful discoveries, and showcases the unique objects that make Randwick the city it is today," said Randwick Mayor Philipa Veitch.

"Visitors might know the stories behind some of the historic items, or they might discover stories they've never even heard of."



The exhibition includes a propeller from *Widgeon I*, a seaplane designed in Randwick and one of the first planes in Australia that was designed to official Royal Australian Air Force specifications. The plane was launched at La Perouse in 1925.

There is also a helmet and trophy from a speedway in Maroubra, known as the 'Killer Track' in the 1920s.

The exhibition will also feature stories from the Coast Hospital in Little Bay, where the first kidney transplant in NSW took place in 1965, as well as replica nurse uniforms from the 1880s when the hospital was utilised during the smallpox epidemic.

"Whether you're a long-time local or a new resident, there is something for everyone to enjoy at Randwick Stories," Mayor Veitch said.

Randwick Stories is on now at the Community Galleries at La Perouse Museum until 13 October 2024.



Top: Department of Public Health, Coast Hospital, Sydney Ambulance (horse drawn) with nurse. Date and photographer unknown. Courtesy of the NSW State Archives Collection via Museums of History NSW.

Left: Wackett Widgeon I G-AEKB launched at La Perouse, New South Wales, 1925. Photograph by Sir Hudson Fysh. Courtesy of Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW FL7573643.





MARCH

TECH SAVVY SENIORS CLASSES: INTRODUCTION OF IPHONE

Fri 15 Mar, 10am - 12pm

Lionel Bowen Library, Maroubra

SENIOR'S WEEK: SENIORS EXPO AT THE LIBRARY

Tue 19 Mar, 12pm - 4pm

Lionel Bowen Library, Maroubra



RANDWICK STORIES

Fri 22 Mar - Sun 13 Oct

Community Galleries, La Perouse
Museum



THE SPOT FESTIVAL 2024

Sun 24 Mar, 1 - 8pm

The Spot, Randwick

EAT DRINK PLAY

Fri 29 Mar - Mon 1 Apr, 12pm - 8pm

Pioneers Park, Malabar



APRIL

BABIES LOVE BOOKS IN FRENCH - LES BÉBÉS AIMENT LES LIVRES

Wed 3 Apr, 10.45am - 11.15am

Lionel Bowen Library, Maroubra

CLIMATE FRESK WORKSHOP

Sat 13 Apr, 10am - 1pm

Randwick Sustainability Hub

CHESS CLUB FOR ADULTS 2024

Thu 18 Apr, 1pm - 3pm

Lionel Bowen Library, Maroubra



BELOW SEA LEVEL - GLENN DUFFUS AT THE BAYVIEW

Until Sun 28 Apr

The Bayview Gallery, La Perouse
Museum

PERMABEE - COMMUNITY GARDENING PROGRAM

Fri 19 Apr, 9am - 12.30pm

Randwick Sustainability Hub



ANZAC DAY COOGEE DAWN SERVICE

Thu 25 Apr, 5.30am

Goldstein Reserve, Coogee

MAY

LIBRARY AFTER DARK: TABLETOP GAMES (16+ EVENT)

Tue 7 May, 6pm - 9pm

Margaret Martin Library, Randwick

COMMUNITY BIRDING GROUP

Sat 11 May, 8am - 10am

Randwick Sustainability Hub

LADIES POOL BUSHCARE

Thu 16 May, 9am - 12pm

Mclvers Ladies' Pool, Coogee

SYDNEY WRITERS' FESTIVAL: KERRI SACKVILLE IN CONVERSATION

Sun 26 May, 1pm

Margaret Martin Library, Randwick

KOOJAY CORROBOREE

Fri 31 May

Coogee Beach

JUNE

GORDONS BAY BUSHCARE

Sun 2 Jun, 9am - 12pm

Access via the UNSW Cliffbrook
Campus, 45 Beach Street Coogee

SENSORY STORYTIME (2-5 YEARS)

Tue 4 Jun, 10.30am - 11.30am

Lionel Bowen Library, Maroubra

PHOTOGRAPHY IN NATURE

Sat 8 Jun, 10am - 1pm

Randwick Sustainability Hub

OLD TRAMLINE PARKCARE

Thu 13 Jun, 9am - 12pm

Adjacent 284R Carrington Road,
Randwick

BRAIN TRAINING AT THE LIBRARY

Fri 21 Jun, 10am - 12pm

Lionel Bowen Library, Maroubra

ANZAC DAY 2024



THURSDAY 25 APRIL

Coogee Dawn Service 5.30am
Goldstein Reserve, Coogee

SUNDAY 21 APRIL

Kensington RSL sub-Branch
Commemorative service
Randwick Bowling Club
The Avenue, Randwick, **11am**

Malabar RSL sub-Branch
Community march from
The Juniors Malabar
10.30am
Ceremony at Bob Clarke
Memorial Reserve, Anzac
Parade, **11am**

Maroubra RSL sub-Branch
Community march from
Mons Avenue to Cenotaph,
Anzac Parade, **11am**

Matraville RSL sub-Branch
Community march from
Daunt Avenue to the
Cenotaph in Norfolk Parade
10am

THURSDAY 25 APRIL

Maroubra RSL sub-Branch
Cenotaph opposite The
Juniors Maroubra,
Anzac Parade, **4.30am**

Matraville RSL sub-Branch
Cenotaph, 1 Norfolk Parade
5am