



SCENE

**Meet
Australia's
longest
serving
garbo**

Page 8

**Are you
lifeguard
fit?**

Page 12



**Diving into
McIver's Baths**

Page 10



scene@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 **Fax:** 9319 1510

Email: council@randwick.nsw.gov.au

Web: www.randwick.nsw.gov.au

Community Nursery: 9093 6000

Bowen Library, Maroubra: 9093 6400

Malabar Community Library: 9093 6120

Margaret Martin Library, Randwick: 9093 6100

Des Renford Leisure Centre: 9093 6300

SMS service request: 0400 722 542

Your Say Randwick: www.yoursayrandwick.com.au

Randwick eNews: www.randwick.nsw.gov.au/enews

Facebook: www.facebook.com/randwickcitycouncil

Twitter: www.twitter.com/randwickmayor

Twitter: www.twitter.com/randwickcouncil

myRANDWICK app: available for iOS and Android

Randwick City Council services

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

- animals
- building and planning
- community info
- council events
- council meetings
- development applications
- footpaths
- 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

The paper used to produce this magazine is PEFC certified. PEFC (Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification) is an independent, non-profit, non-government organisation, which promotes the sustainable management of the world's forests through third party certification. PEFC certification provides an assurance mechanism to purchasers of wood and paper products that they come from environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial and economically viable managed forests.

Distributed to 63,000 properties in Randwick City.



Photo: Mark Bond

Jack Gaskin, we believe Australia's longest-serving garbo

Councillor contacts

Central Ward



Anthony Andrews (Ind)
anthony.andrews@randwick.nsw.gov.au
9962 9134



Dylan Parker (ALP)
dylan.parker@randwick.nsw.gov.au
9430 6869



Ted Seng (Lib)
ted.seng@randwick.nsw.gov.au
0417 668 820

East Ward



Tony Bowen (ALP)
tony.bowen@randwick.nsw.gov.au
9962 8237



Murray Matson (Greens)
matson@ihug.com.au
0409 984 587



Brendan Roberts (Lib)
brendan.roberts@randwick.nsw.gov.au
0439 871 015

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



Lindsay Shurey (Greens) (Mayor)
mayor@randwick.nsw.gov.au
0477 351 819

South Ward



Carlos Da Rocha (Ind)
carlos.darocha@randwick.nsw.gov.au
0409 357 168



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
9340 6871



Harry Stavrinou (Lib)
harry.stavrinou@randwick.nsw.gov.au
9962 4275



Philipa Veitch (Greens)
philipa.veitch@randwick.nsw.gov.au
0408 916 420

Welcome to the summer edition of our community magazine SCENE

Welcome to the summer issue of SCENE Magazine, your guide to keeping in touch with what is happening in our community.

This is my first as Mayor of Randwick City, and I'm looking forward to meeting you as we take advantage of all the great experiences Randwick City has to offer. Six new Councillors join us this year for the next three-year term of Council, and I welcome them and our returning Councillors.

I'd also like to introduce you to the Gaskins. Three generations of this family all work for Council – patriarch Jack is this issue's cover star – and between them they have been of service to the Randwick community for more than 100 years!

I want to thank you for your patience as we built the new amenities building at Coogee Beach. Our story on page 6 describes how we overcame the challenge of creating a larger amenities space without losing the view from Goldstein Reserve. Then turn to pages 12 and 13 to find out exactly what it takes to become a Lifeguard at Coogee and our other Randwick beaches.

We've just taken over the lease of the La Perouse Museum as well as the monuments that are on the headland and we have some big plans. Find out what they are on page 7.

I want to wish you all a safe and Merry Christmas, however you choose to celebrate it, and look forward to a prosperous 2018!

**Lindsay Shurey
Mayor of Randwick**



Kingsford Noodle Markets
Saturday 18 November 2017
Meeks Street, Kingsford
Midday to 9pm
One day only

Randwick City Council
a sense of community

1300 722 542
www.randwick.nsw.gov.au

news in brief

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

randwick.nsw.gov.au/enews



Back row: Randwick Councillors Tony Bowen, Brendan Roberts, Danny Said, Carlos Da Rocha, Murray Matson, Anthony Andrews, Harry Stavrinou, Ted Seng, Dylan Parker and Noel D'Souza. Front row: Councillors Philpa Veitch, Kathy Neilson, Lindsay Shurey, Alexandra Luxford and Christie Hamilton.

Your new Council 2017-2020

For the first time in its 158-year history, Randwick Council will be helmed by an all-female leadership team. Greens Councillor Lindsay Shurey was elected as Mayor and Labor Councillor Alexandra Luxford as Deputy Mayor during September's Council meeting. They were joined by five new Councillors, Dylan Parker, Christie Hamilton, Carlos Da Rocha, Danny Said and Philpa Veitch.



New amenities building at Heffron Park

A new amenities building at Maroubra's Heffron Park is now open providing improved change facilities for sports teams, as well as showers and toilets for users of the nearby kids bike track – The Pedal Park. The building replaces the previous toilet block which was outdated and in need of repair. With thousands of visitors to the 44 hectare Heffron Park on weekends, the building is a much-needed asset for those visiting the park to play sport, spectate or enjoy the great outdoors.

Share your Randwick Acts of Kindness

Randwick Council is encouraging residents to pay it forward, with the launch of a new website to capture and share stories of random acts of kindness. This is a space for Randwick residents to thank a stranger and share with others the lovely, heart-warming experiences they have had as a result of someone else's actions. People can join the kindness revolution and contribute their stories at www.randwickactsofkindness.com.au.

Kensington Community Centre hiring costs decreased for charities

We have reduced the cost for charities to hire the newly opened Kensington Park Community Centre by more than 50 percent. The feedback from our residents was that prices were too high. Council wants this community centre to be used by everyone, and we particularly want to support the not-for-profits in our area. The fees are in place for a 12-month trial period.

Mergers are off

After years of uncertainty our community now has an answer about amalgamations. They are off. Randwick will continue to stand alone as a Council. This is welcome news, not least because it provides clarity for our residents and staff. Randwick City Council's position has consistently been that we would prefer to stand alone. Council will seek compensation from the Government for Council's incurred costs.

Give the Best Gift in the World this Christmas

With the Christmas season fast approaching, why not come along to our Best Gift local markets from 2pm to 7pm on Saturday and Sunday, 25 and 26 November at Randwick Community Centre. Green Santa will lead the charge with gift ideas, entertainment, workshops on 'upcycling' your homewares, and local artists and producers selling their wares. There will even be a car boot sale for local residents trying to move their unwanted goods to a new home just in time for Christmas. There is more information at www.thebestgift.com.au.



Summer celebrations!

Randwick City comes alive over the Christmas break, and there are many ways to catch the festive spirit. Coogee Carols, a free event, will be held at Goldstein Reserve, Coogee Beach from 6.30pm to 8.30pm on Sunday 17 December 2017. There are a number of other Carols being held throughout the community, see our back page for more details. Once more, Randwick City Council will proudly present the Coogee Sparkles NYE fireworks at the family-friendly time of 9pm. Goldstein Reserve, Grant Reserve, Trenerry Reserve and Burrows Park headland all offer great views of the 15 minute fireworks display. See you there!

Save on energy costs

The Our Energy Future program is an initiative to help residents reduce their energy bills and improve their environmental footprint. Come along to our free workshop for Randwick City residents and get renewable energy advice, including tips on how to reduce your energy consumption in your home and workplace, plus information on heating, cooling, solar PV, batteries, hot water, appliances and insulation. The next workshop is at Lionel Bowen Library on Thursday 23 November, from 5.30pm to 7pm.

Free mulch!

Over three Saturdays in November, you can grab some free mulch from the Council Works Depot Top Yard. Mulch helps green thumbs to reduce weeds, save water and promote a healthy organically cultivated garden. Drop in to Storey Street, Maroubra with a rates notice between 10am and 1pm on Saturdays 4, 11 and 18 November to get your free mulch.



Be part of the relay action

The Queen's Baton Relay, heralding the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, is the longest in history, travelling through the entire Commonwealth for 388 days and 230,000 kilometres. On Sunday 4 February 2018, the baton will stop in at La Perouse. Watch the baton arrive and catch some live music from 5-8pm. A fireworks display will conclude the event.



Coogee Beach water quality

Council will enact a number of strategies put forward by the Coogee Beach Stormwater Working Group to improve water quality at the popular beach. These include improved signage at both ends of the beach, community education campaigns, new procedures for reporting pollution and developing concept plans to divert stormwater away from the beach.



Thumbs up

- Christmas by the beach
- Free mulch
- New tram poster-style street banners



Thumbs down

- Swimming when the flags aren't up
- Noisy Bluetooth speakers on the beach
- Cigarette butts in the sand



Building underground at Coogee Beach

Sydney's favourite beach has received another boost thanks to the completion of a new and much expanded amenities building, which was officially opened by Council.

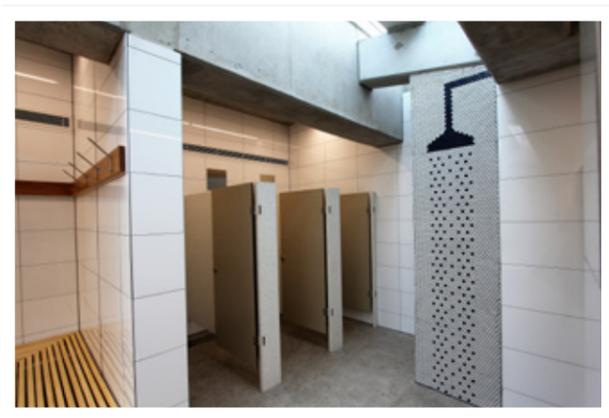
A comprehensive consultation program back in 2014 revealed that 69 percent of local residents thought that more toilets, changerooms and showers close to the beach were needed.

However, there was a challenge – build a structure that won't spoil the glorious views while also providing 19 toilet cubicles, 10 showers, change areas, lockers, a kiosk, board storage and facilities for Council Lifeguards and cleaning staff and Surf Life Savers. Our solution? Build underground. This allowed us to expand the existing Lifeguard Office space without taking away any of the open green space above at Goldstein Reserve.

But building underground is complex and has its own challenges. Getting enough light and air movement is important to make the space feel bright, safe and inviting,

and so we used obscured light wells, bringing the daylight in from above, while a well-designed air conditioning system moves air into and around the building.

The new building has been carefully designed to be bright and inviting. The design of the building also took into account the wild weather conditions sometimes experienced at Coogee Beach and flood modelling was undertaken to minimise the impact to the building from storm damage.



Vive La Perouse!

The French beauty will soon be freshened up and reinvigorated, now that Randwick Council has taken on responsibility for the iconic headland.

The La Perouse Museum has been a landmark heritage building for many decades but lately has been missing a certain *je ne sais quoi*, as the French say.

Randwick Council signed a 42-year lease, taking it over from NSW National Parks and Wildlife Services, and has some grand visions to reinvigorate the area. It was a momentous occasion, and one that Council and many people in the community had been working towards for a number of years.

The Museum, which is housed within the historic Cable Station, will soon have increased operating hours and Council will hire a curator to consolidate and expand the current collection and develop a new exhibit and display strategy.

We will also consult with residents about the future uses of the area. Some of the ideas being considered include restoring and repairing the La Perouse Museum, increasing community access, expanding and enhancing the Museum's collection and possibly providing a café, event space and Museum shop.

When the lease was signed, Randwick Council also took delivery of the anchor from Laperouse's vessel, the Corvette L'Astrolabe. It has been in storage for the past 50 years, but will be restored and returned to display at the Museum so residents and visitors can share in this piece of Australia's history.

The precinct also includes the Macquarie Watchtower, the La Perouse Monument and the tomb of Father Receveur, the first Catholic priest to be buried on mainland Australia. So don't forget to visit those while you're in the area.



Bin there, done that!

Cover star Jack Gaskin is Australia's longest-serving garbo in a family which has seen four generations work for Council, clocking up over 100 years' service between them.

Jack Gaskin is a man who knows a garbage truck inside-out. With 53 years' service under his belt, he carries the title of longest-serving garbo in Australia – and he's got two apprentices following in his footsteps.

"Being a garbo is the best job in the world," professes cover star Jack. "Working with the other guys, they soon become your mates – the camaraderie is wonderful."

Jack, who now carries out his duties at a more sedate pace driving a compact sweeper between South Kingsford and La Perouse, has been collecting Randwick City's trash for over half a century. He was inspired to join Council by his own father, Jack Gaskin Senior, who after joining Council in 1957, soon clocked up 23 years working as a Driver. He sadly passed away in 2005, but the Gaskin legacy has long since continued – Jack Jnr. started his career at Council in 1964, followed later by

his son Jason in 1990, and this year grandson Brendan also joined the fold. The Gaskin family name is certainly one that's become well-known – and well-respected – around the City.

Joining Council was an obvious step for newest recruit Brendan: "I've always known it was a great place to work – they look after you at Council. I'm only two months into my role as Apprentice Carpenter, but I'm really enjoying it," he says.

And for middle Gaskin Jason, a variety of roles during his 27 years has kept things interesting. "I started as an apprentice gardener, but I've worked as a Sports Fields Supervisor, and as a Team Leader in Beach Services. Nowadays I'm a Business Analyst helping to ensure the City's infrastructure runs smoothly, but whatever I do, I love looking after the community. There's a lot of pride in what we do, which is why it's great to have all the family here, too – it's great to feel like we're all contributing to making Randwick City a better place to live."

And Brendan knows of one other perk of having dad and grandad in the office: "There's always someone to ask for lunch money!"



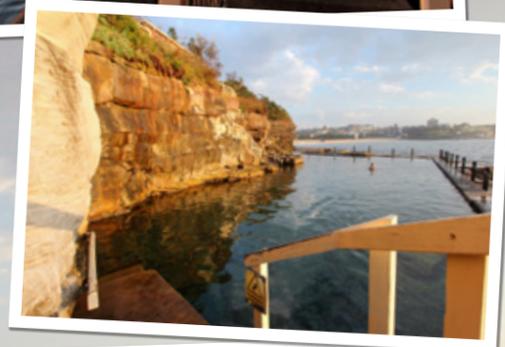
Left: Norm Longbottom, Robert Weatherby, Russell McKay and Jack Gaskin.



Jack, Jason and Brendan Gaskin

Lost in time

Flip a \$2 coin into the bucket at the entry to McIver's Ladies Baths and a wonderland of salt, sea and sun is all yours to enjoy at this historic pool.



McIver's Ladies Baths

Overall rating: ★★★★★

SNORKELLING: ★★ PARKING: ★★★
 WATER QUALITY: ★★★★★ SWIMMING: ★★★★★
 PRIVACY: ★★★★★ ACCESSIBILITY: ★

Often cited as one of Sydney's top oceanside pools and a beacon for many overseas visitors, McIver's Ladies Baths are sheltered from view on a rock platform just south of Coogee Beach and offer panoramic views of surrounding beaches, bays and cliffs. You have to know what you're looking for to find this secret spot, but when you do it's a summertime treat.

McIver's is open to women and children only, which has been the case since early colonial times. The Randwick and Coogee Ladies Amateur Swimming Club took over the lease in 1922 from the McIver family who took ownership of the baths and remodelled it to its current form in 1918.

Prior to this, the baths were considered a sacred space for Aboriginal women who used it as a birthing site as well as for fishing and bathing.

Located beneath Grant Reserve on Beach Street, access to the Baths is via a pathway opposite the children's park. Above the pool, the grassy knoll offers prime sunbathing and reading opportunities pre- and post-swim. On a Saturday many women can be spotted with the weekend papers or a book, settling in for the day. But don't worry if you forget to bring reading material, there's a free little library located inside the change rooms.

Down the stairs, the natural salt water pool is also home to a number of sea creatures that surf a wave into the Baths. You can swim leisurely laps alongside tiny dartfish and whiting and perhaps spot sea urchins or tiny crabs. If you're particularly lucky you'll go home with tales of an encounter with the local friendly Sydney octopus.

The Baths are deep but high tide or a big swell can turn them into a bit of a washing machine, so be careful if you're not a strong swimmer. A good rule of thumb is if the beach is closed due to dangerous conditions, then so are the pools.

While Olympic swimmers Fanny Durack and Mina Wylie may have trained here, the Baths are not Olympic-sized. Measuring at only 20 metres long – so say regular patrons at the Baths – short laps can make non-swimmers feel like professionals.

Not much about the Baths has changed in its long, storied history. The entrance fee will be increased to \$2 this summer, which can be tossed into the blue bucket at the entrance. All money goes to the upkeep of the building and surrounds, so you'll be giving back to a tranquil coastal retreat that offers so much to the community.



Fit to respond at a moment's notice

You've seen them in their iconic blue t-shirts patrolling beaches at Coogee, Maroubra and Clovelly. Watching over a staggering 8.8 million visits to Randwick City beaches last year, Council's 45 lifeguards are highly trained, strong and fit. But do you know exactly how much training it takes to become a lifeguard?

It's September and we're on the cusp of another busy season, with the temperature tipping the mercury at 32°C on training day – one of the warmest spring days on record. After a pool test in the calm waters of Des Renford Leisure Centre, it's straight to Maroubra Beach, where lifeguards have to undertake a gruelling 600m ocean swim, 200m soft sand run and a 600m board paddle.

Being a good swimmer is essential, but being alert, vigilant and a good

communicator is also a prerequisite of the role. "We rescued 325 people and dealt with 9,550 first aid incidents last season alone," says Supervisor Beach Lifeguards, Peter Halcro. "You have to be able to think on your feet, and respond very quickly - we also moved 20,000 swimmers to safer swimming areas, so communication is an important part of the job, too."

Lifeguards undergo casualty care training, and must be able to operate high-powered rescue vehicles under

pressure. An all-terrain vehicle, more commonly known as a quad bike, has good manoeuvrability and all-round visibility, and is nimble enough to get a lifeguard to the water's edge within seconds. Jet skis, meanwhile, are used in the water, and are fast and able to move through very large surf and across big stretches of water quickly – meaning those in danger can be reached in a matter of seconds.

Knowing that lifeguards are highly trained and able to respond at a moment's notice makes visiting Randwick City beaches a reassuring pastime, especially for families. Red and yellow flags always indicate the safest part of the beach to swim, and danger signs will show where rip currents are lurking.

With a number of tragic fatalities taking place last year after lifeguards went off-duty, the message this summer is 'no flags, no swim'. Council lifeguards make it their duty to keep you safe, and if they're not there, they're not able to do so.

Never swim if you're unsure of the conditions, but if you do spot somebody in difficulty, call 000 and ask for the Police.



2018 Randwick City Lifeguards

Times Gone By...

New Bondi, only better

In the early 1990s, Randwick Council and the State Government rebuilt Coogee Beach's promenade leading some to dub it the 'new Bondi, only better'. It's not the first time the suburb has attracted praise with locals calling it 'Australia's most beautiful seaside resort' in the 1920s. And more recently in 2017 a leading holiday research website U.S. News, declared it the best beach in Sydney. We can only concur!



Coogee Beach

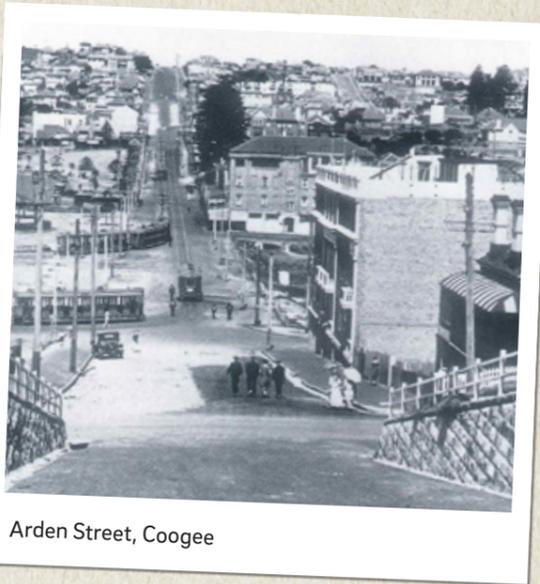
Kensington a designer suburb

The suburb of Kensington was built following a design competition in 1889 for a 'model suburb'. The winning entry known as Rus in Urbe – 'the country in the city' – proposed spacious sites to encourage quality homes. The design was praised for its adaptation to the site's natural features and for its services and roads which were installed before settlement – something modern Sydney could well learn from!

Acknowledgement: Information for this section is obtained from "Pictorial History Randwick" by Joan Lawrence published in 2001 and "Randwick" by Pauline Curby published in 2009 to celebrate 150 years of local government in Randwick City. Both books are available for loan from Randwick City Library and "Randwick" is also available for sale. Phone (02) 9093 6400.

What parking problems?

A day at the beach was a little easier in 1928. Pictured is Arden St looking south with a solitary car parked on the street and three trams.



Arden Street, Coogee

Changing names

In 1918 the quaint suburb of Lilyville was renamed South Randwick and just five years later in 1923 renamed Maroubra Junction. South Kensington was granted its own name of Kingsford in 1936 in honour of aviator Sir Charles Kingsford Smith who was lost flying from England to Australia the previous year. And famously Long Bay was renamed Malabar in 1933 after the ship that wrecked there to remove the association with the gaol.



Giles Gym and Baths

When it happened...

1828

La Perouse Monument erected at La Perouse. Management of the monument was handed over to Randwick Council in 2017.

1860

Tragedy strikes Coogee with the beach's first recorded drowning, a local chemist and his son.

1906

Lifesaving team formed at Maroubra.

1998

Giles Gym and Baths on the northern headland of Coogee Beach closes after 70 years in operation.

WHAT'S ON

November 2017 – January 2018

EVERY FRIDAY

IN NOVEMBER

TAI CHI ON THE BEACH

7:00am – 8:00am
Maroubra Beach
Cost: Free



FRI 24

NOVEMBER

SYDNEY'S WHITE RIBBON WALK

7:15am – 9:00pm
High Cross Park Randwick to Grant Reserve, Coogee
Cost: Free

FRI 17

NOVEMBER

EMMA PASK

7:00pm – 8:00pm
Randwick Town Hall
Cost: \$22 (\$20 conc.)



THU 23

NOVEMBER

OUR ENERGY FUTURE WORKSHOPS

5:30pm – 7:00pm
Vonnice Young Auditorium,
Lionel Bowen Library
Cost: Free



SAT 25 - SUN 26

NOVEMBER

BEST GIFT MARKETS

2:00pm – 7:00pm
Randwick Community Centre
Cost: Free

SAT 2

DECEMBER

NURSERY SUMMER SATURDAY SALE

9:00am – 4:00pm
Randwick Community Nursery

SUN 17

DECEMBER

COOGEE CAROLS

6:30pm – 8:30pm
Goldstein Reserve



SUN 31

DECEMBER

COOGEE SPARKLES

9:00pm
Goldstein Reserve



FRI 26

JANUARY

AUSTRALIA DAY CELEBRATION

Coogee Beach and Prince Henry Centre, Little Bay

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



CAROLS IN RANDWICK CITY

COOGEE CAROLS

Sunday 17 December 6.30pm-8.30pm

Coogee Beach www.coogeecarols.com.au

MATRAVILLE CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Saturday 9 December
5pm-9pm

Barwon Park, Matraville
0419 204 056

CAROLS BY THE SEA

Saturday 9 December
6pm-10pm

Grant Reserve, Coogee
Organised by the local churches.
9665 5409

CAROLS BY CANDLIGHT

Sunday 10 December
4:30pm-8pm

St Lukes Anglican Church,
corner Varna Street and
Arden Street, Clovelly.
9665 8320

SOUTH MAROUBRA CHRISTMAS PARTY

Saturday 16 December
2pm-5pm

South Maroubra Village Green,
corner Malabar Road and
Meagher Avenue, Maroubra.
9311 0088