

# RANDWICK SCENE

**Giving back**  
Kobie Dee on connecting  
with young people

Page 10

**FOGO**  
**changes**

What you need  
to know

Page 8

**People  
power**

Meet the residents  
behind Precincts

Page 20

**How 'The Spot'  
got its name**

Page 12





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  
**Web:** randwick.nsw.gov.au  
**Community Nursery:** 9093 6250  
**Lionel Bowen Library, Maroubra:** 9093 6400  
**Malabar Community Library:** 9093 6120  
**Margaret Martin Library, Randwick:** 9093 6100  
**Des Renford Leisure Centre:** 9093 6300  
**Your Say Randwick:** yoursay.randwick.nsw.gov.au  
**Randwick eNews:** randwick.nsw.gov.au/enews  
**Facebook:** facebook.com/randwickcitycouncil  
**Twitter:** twitter.com/randwickmayor  
**Twitter:** twitter.com/randwickcouncil

### 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

Randwick SCENE Magazine is written and produced by Randwick Council's Communications Team: Joshua Hay, Nicky Hughson and Jillian Lewis. Design by Gemma Elliott, Gavin Tso and Caen Clasby. Special contributions by Georgina Keep and Laura Parr.

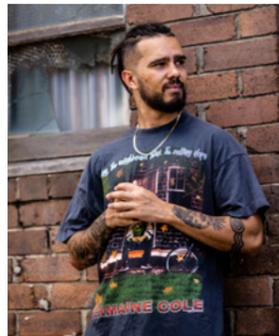
Distributed to 61,763 properties in Randwick City.

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.



Globally recognised by PEFC, the world's largest sustainable forest management scheme.

**Cover image:** Kobie Dee, a Gomerai man, rapper and master storyteller from Bidjigal Land in Maroubra. Photo by Mark Bond.



## Councillor contacts

### Central Ward

-  **Kym Chapple (Greens)**  
kym.chapple@randwick.nsw.gov.au  
0459 878 980
-  **Dylan Parker (ALP) (Mayor)**  
mayor@randwick.nsw.gov.au  
9093 6813
-  **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)(Deputy Mayor)**  
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)**  
alexandra.luxford@randwick.nsw.gov.au  
9430 6871
-  **Andrew Hay (Lib)**  
andrew.hay@randwick.nsw.gov.au  
0457 030 154
-  **Phillipa Veitch (Greens)**  
phillipa.veitch@randwick.nsw.gov.au  
0408 916 420

## From the Mayor **Dylan Parker**

Summer was big with plenty happening across our community. It was fantastic to see many across our area stepping out to enjoy the rays along our coast, new restaurants popping up, and plenty of events to liven up the mood.

To cap off the change in season, we're planning a big hurrah for our community with The Spot Festival on Sunday 26 March. You can enjoy wonderful entertainment, local food and dance the night away. I'm confident you won't regret popping down.

But if this doesn't pique your interest, there is still plenty covered in this Autumn's edition of Randwick's SCENE Magazine.

Are you're curious about how The Spot got its name? If yes then check out Georgina Keep's story on page 12 about its fascinating history.

We catch up with some local residents involved in Council's Precinct system to find out what motivates them and why Precincts have been part of our community

consultative process for over a quarter of a century.

We also get our twitcher on and check out eight fascinating birds that you could find in your backyard. Did you know that male Superb Fairywrens are doting fathers who sing to their eggs?

On our cover is Kobie Dee – a Gomerai man and local rapper from Maroubra making waves in the music industry. He's returning to headline the South East Block Party at Coral Sea Park on 21 April. Kobie talks about giving back to the community.

We also unpack the latest changes to your FOGO service and offer some great tips about how to manage your food waste and ensure you're helping create high quality compost – while keeping a lid on smelly bins!

Enjoy this edition and see you around!

**Dylan Parker**  
Mayor of Randwick





# THE SPOT FESTIVAL

SUN 26 MARCH

1-8PM

Bring your friends and family for a street party like no other. Enjoy the live entertainment, mix of amazing street food and market stall displays.

Intersection of Perouse Road and St Pauls Street, Randwick

Hit The Spot for a feast of food and music!

Check out the website for more information.



**news  
in brief**

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

[randwick.nsw.gov.au/enews](http://randwick.nsw.gov.au/enews)



**New General Manager appointed**

Randwick Council has a new General Manager and it's a familiar face. Ray Brownlee PSM is one of the country's most respected local government General Managers and is returning to the top job at Randwick. Mr Brownlee is the current Northern Beaches Council CEO, was General Manager of Randwick Council from 2004 to 2018 and also served as General Manager at the former Auburn Council. "I am very humbled and honoured to have the opportunity to work again with the elected Council and the outstanding staff at Randwick, for the Randwick community," Mr Brownlee said. "I look forward to building on the work of the last four years to deliver a customer focused organisation that provides excellent service to our community," Mr Brownlee said.



**Soft plastic recycling is back!**

Randwick City residents can once again recycle soft plastics thanks to a new partnership between Randwick Council and Plasmar - a local plastic recycler. You can drop off your soft plastics at the Randwick Recycling Centre in Matraville where they will be collected, taken to Plasmar's factory, melted down and pelletised to be turned into practical products like wheel stops, posts and bollards. Even better, Council has agreed to trial the products for use in Randwick City. "This is a great example of local government taking the lead and providing a local solution to a national problem," Mayor Dylan Parker said. The Randwick Recycling Centre is located at 72 Perry Street, in Matraville. It is open Monday to Friday from 6am - 2:45pm and on the first Saturday of every month from 7:30am - 2pm.



**Randwick celebrates Sydney WorldPride**

It was rainbow icecream, glitter and drag at Coogee Beach this February as Randwick City got behind Sydney Mardi Gras and Sydney WorldPride. Mayor Dylan Parker unveiled the new look Coogee Rainbow Walkway which has been repainted to include the Progress Pride colours. "We want the whole world to know we love and value our queer community, so we're making sure our area is as bright, loud and proud as possible," said Mayor Parker.



Council Lifeguard Brad Rope with the new ERB at Malabar Beach.

**Making our beaches safer**

Emergency Response Beacons (ERBs) have been installed at Little Bay and Malabar Beaches providing a direct link for beachgoers to contact emergency services in the case of an emergency. The ERBs stand 10-feet tall and are powered by solar panels which power a CCTV camera and intercom. The system links directly to the NSW Surf Lifesaving State Operations 24 hours a day. They can be activated by simply pressing the button which starts a video call. A third ERB is planned to be installed at Mahon Pool in the new financial year.



Women's Art Prize entries from 2022.

**Women's art on display**

Entries in the 2023 Randwick City International Women's Day Art Prize are currently on exhibition at Lionel Bowen Library in Maroubra. The annual art prize is open to women and girls in Randwick City providing a unique platform to celebrate their creative side and talent. Check out the exhibition during library hours until 27 April 2023.

**Council to investigate hosting Matildas live site**

Following the success of the Australia V Argentina football live site at Maroubra Beach last year, Council is investigating holding more live screened sporting and other events. This could include the 2024 Olympics and the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup which is being held from 20 July to 20 August in Australia and New Zealand.



More live sites like this one at Maroubra Beach are on the cards.



**Moverly Children's Centre a 'home away from home' - places now available**

The Moverly Children's Centre in Randwick has developed a solid reputation as one of the eastern suburbs' most popular and high quality early learning centres. With 36 places (including 12 in the 0-2 years nursery), Moverly has a team of well-trained and long-term staff focused on "providing the best in childcare in a safe and secure location" says Centre Manager Ada Chin. "Our goal is to provide high quality care in a home-away-from-home environment". The Council-run centre has competitive prices, long days and daily hot meals prepared onsite by a qualified chef. Places are available now.

To find out more or to book a tour call 9093 6150 or email [moverlychildrenscentre@randwick.nsw.gov.au](mailto:moverlychildrenscentre@randwick.nsw.gov.au).

# news in brief



## Lurline Bay stairs reopen

Walkers can once again access the Coastal Walkway between South Coogee and Maroubra with work now complete to repair stairs between Luguria Street and Lurline Bay. The stairs were damaged in June 2022 during a large storm and have been closed ever since. Council contractors have repaired the failing concrete and reinforced the support beams.

## New outdoor gyms open

Get your gym gear on and check out the latest two outdoor gyms now open at Barwon Park in Matraville and Snape Park in Maroubra. Officially opened by Mayor Dylan Parker, the gyms provide a free outdoor exercise option for local residents. They're suitable for people of all fitness levels but are particularly good for older people or those recovering from injury.



## Little Bay Beach asbestos report released

A Detailed Site Investigation into historic asbestos contamination at Little Bay Beach has concluded the material is likely moving onto the beach area from nearby gullies. Council recently published the report on our website and wrote to local residents in January. Council is now working through a series of short, medium and long term recommendations to manage the ongoing issue. The beach remains safe and open for general beach use, but beachgoers are advised not to collect, pick up or touch any shell or rock from the beach area. More information about this important issue is available on our website.

## Awards for community service

Congratulations to the recipients of the 2023 Australia Day Community Service Awards: John Wright, Keira O'Sullivan, Marie Tesoriero, Tadhg Kennelly, David Eccles, Jack Meister and community group The Permabees.



The Randwick 100 forum helped develop Council's new Community Engagement Strategy.

## Renters to be notified about DAs

Renters will be notified via mail about development applications near them from 1 July as part of Council's new Community Engagement Strategy. The new strategy, adopted by Council in December last year, requires minimum public exhibition periods for all Council projects and regular face-to-face consultation activities like workshops, Reference Groups, Precincts and Let's Chat drop-in events.



## Ambitious plans released for Maroubra Junction

Can you imagine Maroubra Junction becoming a car-free, green pedestrian boulevard stretching from one side of Anzac Parade to the other? Traffic could go underground and a giant 'lid' placed on top would return surface space for people and green space. These are some of the big ideas being put to the community to challenge and stimulate ideas for the future of the area as part of the Maroubra Junction Masterplan. You can check out all the big ideas and have your say at [yoursay.randwick.nsw.gov.au](https://yoursay.randwick.nsw.gov.au).



This park in Dallas, US put their traffic underground to create space above for people.

## FOGO changes now in effect

Paper towel, compostable packaging and pet waste needs to be placed in your red lid rubbish bin instead of your green lid FOGO bin under changes now in effect. The changes are designed to improve the quality of compost created from FOGO to ensure chemicals and pathogens don't make their way into the food chain. Read our feature story on page 8 to learn more about the changes.

## Council calls for short term rental levy to address housing affordability

Properties let through short rental websites like airbnb and Stayz could be hit with a small fee under a Randwick Council proposal being put to the NSW State Government to increase investment in affordable housing. There are currently more than 1,100 short term rental properties in the Randwick LGA which equates to almost two per cent of the dwelling stock. But in the suburbs of Clovelly, Coogee, Kensington and Kingsford it equates to 4.4 per cent of the dwelling stock. "The reality is we are in the middle of a housing crisis with rentals disappearing and affordable homes for purchase near non-existent. These 1,100 properties have effectively been taken off the rental or purchase market while young people, nurses and teachers queue around the block at inspections and families sleep in cars. A modest levy reinvested into affordable housing to off-set the downsides of short-term letting won't change the sad fact the housing market is broken, but it's a start," Randwick Mayor Dylan Parker said.

# ANZAC DAY 2023



## TUESDAY 25 APRIL

**Coogee Dawn Service 5.30am**  
Goldstein Reserve, Coogee. Or watch the **livestream on Facebook**

Find out more



# Not going to waste: Randwick residents making a difference

**It's easy, simple and is helping our environment big time. Here's why our locals are loving FOGO and what you can do to get involved.**

Randwick City residents have diverted more than 26,000 tonnes of food and garden waste from landfill in just the past two years. This has the same environmental benefit as removing 9,000 cars from the road permanently.

It's all thanks to FOGO (Food and Garden Organics), which has been embraced by many locals since it was introduced in March 2021. Residents simply place their food waste and garden organics in the same green bin for composting.

As an avid ocean swimmer, Coogee resident Christelle Damiens has always been very environmentally aware, so she wanted to be part of FOGO from day one.

"I am very conscious about creating as minimal waste as possible, and I

like the fact that [the collected waste] is going to be used as compost. It's brilliant. I love it."

For Maroubra local Ricky Klein, it's an opportunity to reduce his environmental footprint, while also teaching the next generation.

"Before we had FOGO we did composting. I like the process but if I'm honest, composting just took too much time out of my day to maintain properly and FOGO simplifies that.

"I enjoy teaching my two-year-old about how to recycle and where trash



Confused about FOGO? If it's in the kitchen, focus on food waste. If it's in the garden, focus on anything that grows.

goes. For her to learn, 'this one goes in the green bin' or 'this one goes in the recycling', that's a fun activity and it's been nice to get some parenting time out of it as well!"

## Setting the standard

By 2030, all local councils will be required under a NSW government mandate to implement a food and garden waste collection program. In an effort to streamline the scheme, the NSW Environment Protection Agency (EPA) has announced some changes as to what can and can't go into the green lid FOGO bin.

You can no longer put items like soiled paper towels and tissues, compostable cutlery made from bamboo and cardboard, pizza boxes, paper and pet poo into the FOGO bin.

Although these items make up just five per cent of the overall FOGO material collected in Randwick City, the EPA is concerned that some materials may contain additives and chemicals, which then risk contaminating the environment if composted.

Confused? Don't be. If it's in the kitchen, focus on food waste. If it's in the garden, focus on anything that grows. Everything else is likely to belong in either the red landfill bin or yellow recycling bin.

Additionally, you can search 'FOGO changes from 2023' on randwick.nsw.gov.au for a comprehensive A-Z guide of what can and cannot go into the FOGO bin.

## What's the deal with bin liners?

It's important to note that while you can no longer put compostable packaging into your FOGO bin for composting, you can still use a certified compostable liner, paper towels or newspaper to line the caddy.

**"I enjoy teaching my two-year-old about how to recycle and where trash goes. For her to learn, 'this one goes in the green bin' or 'this one goes in the recycling', that's a fun activity and it's been nice to get some parenting time out of it as well!"**

The EPA understands that using newspaper and paper towels as caddy bin liners can make it easier for households to separate their food scraps in the kitchen.

Alternatively, you can order new compostable caddy liners through Randwick City Council online or buy them at the supermarket - just make sure they have 'AS4736' compostability certification on the label.

## Strength in numbers

A recent audit showed that while FOGO participation was high among those living in houses, it was significantly lower among apartment dwellers.

## Tips for keeping odours and insects at bay:

1. Put garden matter such as leaves and grass clippings on top of food waste
2. Keep the caddy lid closed and in a shady spot
3. Regularly wash all bins
4. Freeze meat, dairy and seafood waste before you put them in the bin the night before collection
5. Wrap meat, dairy and seafood waste in newspaper or paper towel before placing it in the bin

Possible reasons include high tenancy turnover rates, as well as hesitancy among some residents to put food waste in shared bins.

Ricky, who lives in an apartment with his partner and young daughter, said it's important to make it work for you.

"My trick is to feel OK with throwing out a bag that's half full; just changing the bin liners regularly is one thing that I've learned. Don't make it a chore, make it something that you feel OK with and feel comfortable having in your kitchen."

Randwick City Council's Waste and Resource Recovery Officer, Alexandra Bastos, is encouraging more residents to get on board and spread the word to their neighbours.

"It's easy, simple and you can make a big difference. It's only working because everyone is playing their part. I really want to thank our residents for what they've achieved."

Updated bin room posters and FOGO guides can be downloaded from Randwick City Council's website. Council's waste education team can also work with you to help educate residents and improve the waste management in your building.

Maroubra locals Ricky and Clio are passionate about reducing their environment footprint.



**Kobie Dee, a Gomeri man, rapper and master storyteller from Bidjigal Land in Maroubra will headline the South East Block Party**

# Giving back

**Young people are at the heart of any community, especially in Randwick City, which is home to more than 23,000 young people. With an appetite to take on new challenges, learn new skills and showcase their creative ideas, our local youth bring our City to life. One such inspiring young person is local musician Kobie Dee, who is passionate about giving back and helping young people in the area.**

**K**obie Dee is a Gomeri man, rapper and master storyteller from Bidjigal Land in Maroubra, South Sydney. He has been writing all his life and even now that he has found great success in his craft, he still gives time and attention to the community where he grew up.

“I was about 10 years old when I started writing,” shared Kobie. “I was listening to rap music and relating to it. When I started writing, it gave me a way to talk about what I was going through and the chance to express myself.”

Throughout his youth and childhood, Kobie moved through various housing blocks near Lexington Place and Coral Sea Park, where many young people and families are doing it tough.

Randwick Council's Community Development Officer Sharron Smith said, “the young people in the area are often left behind and their hardships were especially compounded by the lockdowns.

“No one could connect and community services just weren't able to get to these young people. Educational disadvantage and youth suicide are major issues facing young people in the area.”

When he was younger Kobie attended youth programs run by Weave Youth and Community Services, a local not-for-profit organisation that offers programs to help local youth, families and community members.

Kobie understands the importance of connection and still gives his time to the community, even now that he has a busy touring schedule.

Kobie will be bringing his musical talent and love for his community to the South East Block Party at Coral Sea Park to celebrate National Youth Week on Friday 21 April.

Randwick City Council is partnering with Weave Services again this year to bring the community free entertainment, free food and fun activities.

The Block Party began as an idea between Kobie and his team, he explained.

“We jotted down dreams about what this could be. We wanted it to be really professional to make it really special. We wanted to do something for the community – some of these kids have never even been to a concert before.”

The initiative was really supported by the community, with about \$40,000 raised from local donations.

Mayor Dylan Parker is a strong supporter of the community event and took it to Council in May 2022 to form an ongoing partnership with Weave Youth and Community Services to secure the event into the future.

The Block Party helps to provide a spotlight for local talent in the Maroubra area. It also provides an opportunity for the community to come together and support each and raise awareness of important issues like mental health.

“It's important to give young people a voice. It empowers them, gives them a chance to be heard and lets them know the older generations are listening to them,” shared Kobie.

Speaking on the inter-generational divide, Kobie explained, “often, kids



think that older people don't want to hear their ideas. That's why the Block Party was so great, because as a young person, I knew that's what the young people wanted. I wished we had an event like that when I was growing up.”

As a young father, he spoke with great warmth when asked about hopes for his daughter's future.

“I want my daughter to feel comfortable to be and do whatever she wants to be. I hope she believes in herself and goes for what she wants in life. I want to see her thrive.”

Kobie's story offers inspiration and hope that it is possible to achieve your dreams in spite of adversity.

## National Youth Week

National Youth Week 2023 will be celebrated in New South Wales from 20-30 April, with a number of exciting events taking place across Randwick City.

In addition to the South East Block Party, there will also be some other fun events scattered throughout Youth Week 2023, including: a skateboarding clinic and barbecue at Maroubra; lawn bowls at South Coogee; a poetry slam workshop at the library and the heats and final showdown at the Randwick Ritz; and more!

## How else is Randwick City Council supporting our young people?

Randwick Council recognises that creativity should be nurtured and supported in young people. Our young creatives can let their light shine in Randwick City. The Lionel Bowen Young Writers' Award offers local young writers the opportunity to showcase their

talents and the Women's Art Prize gives young women the chance to exhibit their artistic skills. The top 50 entries of the 2023 Women's Art Prize are on exhibition now at the Lionel Bowen Library Gallery until Thursday 27 April.

In other exciting news, this year Randwick Council will be forming a Youth Reference Group. The committee will be advisory in nature and will be

The Third Space is an exciting new creative space that supports library programs in the areas of art, content creation and technology.

made up of young people aged 15-25 years old who live, work or study in the Randwick LGA.

The purpose of the Reference Group is to be a forum for young people to have a say on community issues that affect them and their peers and to provide input into Council's youth policy development. Watch this space for more details on how to apply!

**We are celebrating Youth Week with a series of events across the Randwick LGA to celebrate and support the diversity and talent of young people.**

Scan the QR code for the full program of events



## Young, Fun and Involved!

Here's where to look for more fun activities and ongoing services on offer for young people in our City:

- The Randwick City Library runs workshops and clubs, and they also offer programs through The Third Space and Studio Space, a collaborative workspace for making and learning, which includes access to equipment that enables 3D printing, laser cutting, soldering and electronics, coding, music and audio production and access to traditional artmaking materials, like painting, drawing and modelling.
- The Des Renford Leisure Centre offers teen gym programs, swim school, squads and school holiday activities.
- Youth-friendly programs and facilities, like The Shack, Kool Kids Club and La Perouse Youth Haven
- The Randwick Sustainability Hub offers a number of events and programs aimed at youth interests
- Local basketball courts, skateparks and beaches.



# A Spot of history

Every March our attentions turns to The Spot in Randwick as we celebrate The Spot Festival. It's the spot to be, but just why is it called The Spot? Our Local Studies Librarian Georgina Keep found out the answer is not straightforward.

Post European arrival, The Spot locality at Randwick was settled in the early 1850s by two families of Irish and Scottish ancestry. It was known as Irishtown with a settlement known as Struggletown located further west near Jane and Middle Streets, closer to the latter Newmarket Stables and now Newmarket residential precinct.

In the eastern portion, by the 1880s, a parcel of land bounded by Avoca, Barker, St Pauls Streets and Perouse Road was subdivided and auctioned for residential development. It was advertised as the Carlton Estate, 'Randwick Heights'. Randwick Council minutes from the same year refer to the area as 'Lower Randwick'.

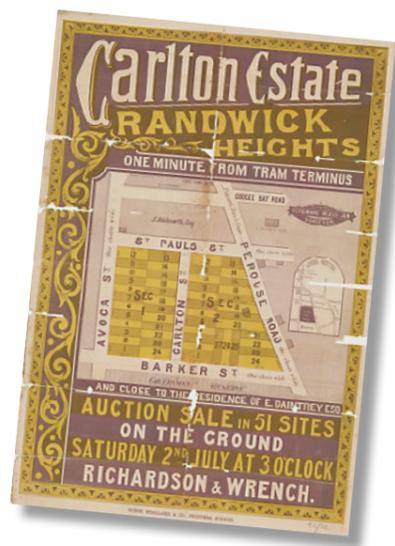
The alignment of Perouse Road is one of the oldest thoroughfares in the district. It partially represents the established routes of our First Nations peoples who regularly traversed

this natural thoroughfare for tens of thousands of years, eventually reaching what we now call "Frenchman's Road".

In 1909, the first published history of the district, *Randwick 1859-1909*, the author D.M. Cooper (a former Mayor of Randwick and Alderman) has this to say about the locality now incorporating The Spot:

"The portion of Randwick south of St Pauls Street was known as 'Struggletown', and another portion 'Irishtown', and retained these names till recent years. Some now refer to this portion of the municipality as 'Lower Randwick', but the writer strongly urges all and sundry to give the locality its correct name of South Randwick."

Almost 20 years later, the local newspaper *South Sydney News* on 24 December 1927 has advertisements referring to local businesses at The Spot.



An advertisement for subdivision plans for the Carlton Estate, Randwick Heights, showing a portion of 'The Spot' locality. Photo courtesy State Library of NSW.

This business appears to be what locals later remembered in the 1980s as The Spot Cash from their childhood. This remains the earliest written reference to the origin of the name.

During World War Two, in 1941, the *Randwick District News* began to compile a History of the Randwick Municipality, maybe as a morale booster. The entry for the 3 July 1941 dealt with the naming of The Spot.



South Sydney News 24 December 1927

"The Spot, so called after The Spot Ironmongery Store in Perouse Road, carried on and christened by the proprietor, Mr F Tyerman, has been known by many names in days gone by.

"Originally known as Struggletown, Lower Randwick, Pardy's Corner and South Randwick, the Spot is destined to one day be the leading shopping centre of Randwick."

By 1984, the *Wentworth Courier* published the recollections of an anonymous local who remembered, as a small boy, shopping with his mother at The Spot Cash – a large general store on the corner of Perouse Road and St Pauls Street.

You can still see the extent of these large premises by following the red brick building above the awning on the corner – wrapping around the current thai restaurant, along both St Pauls Street and down Perouse Road.

He also asserts that the shopping village claims its name from this business. On the southern side of St Pauls Street outside the newsagents he remembers as The Spot where locals caught the Coogee tram to the city. On the way home he said you alighted opposite The Spot Cash corner.

Ron Crawford – a descendent of the Crawford and Taylor business empire has generously shared his family images with the Randwick City Library.

We have an image of the original shop on the corner of St Pauls Street and Perouse Road as it was originally from the 1890s. This would be the northern corner of St Pauls Street and Perouse Road opposite what later became

known as The Spot Cash business. Crawford and Taylor also had a very large warehouse in Avoca Street.

Crawford and Taylor supplied produce for horses, still being used as transport in the early twentieth century, and the local horse racing industry. Business boomed and the company, founded by William Crawford, participated in local processions and celebratory occasions for decades.

The era from the 1914-1920s was a boom era for the businesses in the Randwick municipality. The Spot was leading the local shopping precincts with Pauline Curby (2009) acknowledging the 'mushroom-like growth' in the business centres particularly in the St Pauls Street shopping precinct in Lower Randwick.

In 1920 there was amongst others: a butcher, newsagent, confectioner, fruiterer, savings bank, tobacconist, hairdresser and general grocery stores.

Many houses on St Pauls Street and Perouse Road still carry house name plaques linked to this early era. This was an old-fashioned means to help postal staff find your house to deliver mail. Have a look next time you are walking around to see if you can 'spot' some current house names.

Today, The Spot has emerged as a pre-eminent retail, dining and entertainment district – anchored by The Randwick Ritz which opened in 1937.

It remains a gathering and community hub. If you're a true local you would've said to someone at some point 'Meet me at The Spot'.

Elements of the art deco architecture found at 'The Spot' including iconic signage. Photo courtesy Georgina Keep, Randwick City Library.



Then and now! Crawford and Taylor premises cnr of St Pauls Street and Perouse Road. Photo courtesy Ron Crawford Collection, Randwick City Library.

The fine curves of the local shops at The Spot taken in the early 1980s. Photo courtesy Local Studies Collection, Randwick City Library.





Local birds Little Corellas playing.

# ‘Stop. Sit. Listen. Look’: The rare finds in our backyard

When it comes to the biodiversity of birdlife, Randwick City really punches above its weight with a whopping 236 species recorded in the area. Here are some that may have flown under your radar.



## Channel-billed Cuckoo

You may not have seen it, but you have undoubtedly heard it... and most likely at the crack of dawn! The Channel-billed Cuckoo has a distinctive call - a loud ‘kawk’ followed by a more rapid ‘awk-awk-awk’ - which often wakes many sleepy Sydneysiders during summer. With a wingspan of close to one metre, Channel-billed Cuckoos are the world’s largest parasitic birds (those that sneak their own offspring into the nests of unsuspecting hosts, which then raise them as their own offspring).



## Spangled Drongo

Although the Spangled Drongo is happy to catch insects in its own acrobatic fashion, it often gathers in flocks of five to 10 to ‘hawk’ its prey from above. As the only Drongo living in Australia, its memorable name derives from its glossy black plumage and metallic blue-green “spangles”. The Spangled Drongo is noisy and makes a wide range of vocalisations, from harsh grating sounds to chattering and mimicking other birds. You can see them in action at Randwick Environment Park or where there is dense bushland.



## Superb Fairywren

The Superb Fairywren used to be spotted frequently in backyards, but its populations are sadly declining in cities all across Australia due to predatory cats and habitat loss. These tiny black and blue birds love dense shrub vegetation so you’re likely to see a few at Randwick Environment Park, as well as some unexpected places, like in Lantana weed. Recent research suggests the males are also doting fathers, as they sing to their eggs and once they hatch, chicks are able to recognise their parent’s unique song.



## Red-browed Finch

Similar to the Superb Fairywren, the Red-browed Finch is a small but sociable creature. As the name suggests, this native bird is recognisable by its bright red eyebrow, rump and beak. The Red-browed Finch needs thick shrubland or vegetation, which has also meant declining numbers in cities due to the lack of suitable habitat. Randwick Environment Park is a great place to hear the short, high-pitched whistles of this species, or you might even spot a few at Eastlakes Golf Club relishing the lawn and thick shrub.



## Little Corella

Put your gardening tools away... the Little Corella is here to save your lawn from onion grass! This small white cockatoo is a seed and nut eating specialist that’s been visiting our backyards more frequently in large, noisy flocks. They can also be spotted in big gum trees, as well as some unusual places like the road verges in the middle of Anzac Parade. Little Corellas are mostly white with a fleshy blue eye-ring and pale pink patch between its eye and bill.



## Latham's Snipe

If you see a Latham’s Snipe, consider yourself very lucky. This super cryptic wetland bird frequently stops over at Randwick Environment Park, as well as the wetland areas in La Perouse and Botany Bay, but is rarely seen as it likes to hide amongst the low vegetation. This migratory species breeds in Japan and south-east Siberia and spends its non-breeding season in eastern Australia from August to February. If startled, the Snipe bursts into a rapid zig zag flight and sounds a ‘chak’ alarm call, before diving into dense cover nearby.



## Peregrine Falcon

Don’t let the drab grey appearance fool you – the Peregrine Falcon is a sight to behold. It can reach diving speeds during flight of more than 300 kilometres per hour, making it the world’s fastest animal. The Peregrine Falcon is a large raptor with a black hood, creamy white chin and yellow eye-ring. It feeds on small and medium-sized birds as well as rabbits, which is likely why a pair can be regularly spotted at Malabar Headland year-round.



## Australasian Figbird

In the space of just a few years, Australasian Figbird numbers have noticeably improved in Randwick City, thanks to the growing popularity of native fruit trees like Lilly Pillies and Fig Trees. The male Figbird is distinguishable by its striking green plumage and bright red eye-ring, while females are brown. Locals keen to spot this native species should head to Arthur Byrne Reserve at Maroubra Beach.

The wetlands in the Randwick Environment Park is a great place to spot some of our bird species.

### Supporting our birdlife:

- Keep cats indoors. If they go outside, actively supervise.
- Add to the diversity of plants and structures in your backyard.
- Offer water in a birdbath.

### Birdwatching 101:

“My biggest tip is listening. Often you hear the birds before you see them. If you take the time to stop, sit, listen and look, you’re going to become a lot more aware. You might be surprised what you find in your own backyard.”  
Emily Strautins, Randwick Council Bushcare Officer.



Local street librarian Lisa McCutcheon.

## Taking to *the streets*

**Street libraries are community-led initiatives, which spread the joy of reading with visitors and locals alike. If you have ever wondered what they were, or wondered how to start one, here's the scoop!**

Over the past few years, a growing number of Street Libraries have been popping up across Randwick City. Affixed to brick walls, standing on posts, tied to front gates, their brightly painted exterior inviting passers-by to pause on their journey and peruse the harlequin collection of books housed within.

Local street librarian Lisa McCutcheon takes great joy in curating her street library on St Marks Road, Randwick. Lisa's library is yellow, with the word 'hello' painted in cursive across its roof. Lisa sings out with a similarly cheerful greeting as she opens the hinged door of her street library to

restock the shelf. Bathed in sunlight and easily noticed on the corner of the street, it is hard not to take note of the treasures Lisa has left for us to find.

Lisa, like many others, began her Street Library as a lockdown project, but has since really loved becoming a local street librarian. "I think some people become librarians because they love people, and some do it because they love books. One of the perks of being a street librarian is having access

to an endlessly renewing source of fresh books," she shared.

"I once had two Booker Prize winners, the latest Jane Harper and a Harry Potter in the library – I call that being visited by the book gods!"

Lisa joked that once your friends and family know you've started a library, you will become a magnet for all their spare books, but mostly the contents come from neighbours and locals.



"Street libraries are a collective effort, constantly being replenished by the generosity of local readers. New books arrive every day, and most libraries sustain themselves that way."

When asked about what it's like when people come to visit her Street Library, she explained that often people don't understand how it works, almost like it's too good to be true. If people look confused, she just reassures them, it's okay, the books are free, take a book, swap a book, it's all good! Mostly, she likes to give people their space, everyone likes to read different things and it can feel like a really private and personal moment that she doesn't want to interrupt.

"Street libraries are magnetic and a bit magical. You can't help but be drawn to them." Lisa smiled.

The pure magic of reading and the promise of a new book to discover is particularly felt at Street Libraries dedicated to children. One such Street Library sits out front of the La Perouse Public School.

**"Street libraries are magnetic and a bit magical. You can't help but be drawn to them."**

Principal, Lisa Haller, peered into the shelf and rearranged some of the



picture books as the children were in classes. "Oh good, there's not too many on the shelf!" she exclaimed, "That means the kids have been in here."

There are two Street Libraries at the school that sit side-by-side, one for adults and one for children. They were installed by the Randwick Soroptimist Club who also keep the library stocked as needed. The small library is a community project, built by Carrs Park Men's Shed, installed by a volunteer from Windgap and illustrated by Soroptimist Club member Marcia Shepherd.

Street libraries are undoubtedly a special part of the community. There are many located throughout Randwick City. If you want to go on a book hunt, check out all the local ones registered on the Street Library website. If you have one, start one or find one – share a photo on socials and tag Randwick Council.



La Perouse Public School Principal, Lisa Haller.

### Top tips to start your own library:

- Make sure it's noticeable and accessible from the street.
- If you purchase the kit from Street Library Australia, register it on the Street Library website so people can look it up and more people can know about it.
- You can also make your own – just make sure it's fairly weather-proof. It helps to have a door on the front to protect the books.
- Replenish the shelf, keep it looking stocked but not fit-to-bursting. If the library is too full, people tend to feel overwhelmed.
- Cycle the books so the shelf always looks fresh! If you notice one isn't moving, bring it inside and give a different book a chance.
- You can source books from your own shelf, from family and friends, and from the annual Bowen Library book sale.
- Give people space to browse, choosing a book can be a really personal thing.
- Occasionally put a new release on the shelf – you'll know you've made someone's day!

# Growing our way to better health

**Trees go a long way in making our suburbs beautiful places to live, work and play. But did you know they also have the ability to reduce illness? A new street tree planting program in Randwick City aims to do just that.**

When you think of Randwick City, your mind might turn to Centennial Parklands, well-vegetated coastal walks and established, tree-lined streets.

You might then be surprised to learn Randwick City has one of the lowest canopy cover of any metro Sydney council area, sitting at just 18 per cent. This means that we're particularly vulnerable to high heat, which can have significant consequences for our health.

Research from Wollongong University has shown that a lack of green space was associated with mental health disorders such as depression and anxiety.

On the flipside, the research also found that exposure to 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.

## What can we do about it?

Within the next 25 years, Randwick City will have an additional 19 football fields worth of canopy coverage across the area, thanks to a new street tree planting initiative.

Randwick City Council successfully applied for \$1.88 million in funding through the NSW Government's 2022

Greening our City grant program to plant at least 2,000 trees by August 2024. It is the largest grant that has been awarded through the program and is being supplemented by \$400,000 from Council.

The project aims to establish large container-sized trees in vulnerable communities that have the lowest canopy cover and the highest heat.

The Greening our City program contributes to the NSW Government's commitment to plant five million trees across Greater Sydney by 2030 and to achieve the Greater Sydney Region Plan's 40 per cent canopy cover target by 2036.

**"Trees are an incredible asset to our community and provide a range of environmental, cultural, psychological and financial benefits, which in turn creates a happier and healthier community."**

Dylan Parker, Mayor of Randwick, said the City is working towards its own ambitious goals to ensure residents reap the benefits of an established urban forest.

"This initiative aligns with Randwick City's Environment Strategy 2020; specifically, our objectives to increase native plantings by 30 per cent by 2030 and achieve the Greater Sydney Commission's target of 40 per cent tree canopy cover across Council managed land by 2040," said Mayor Parker.

"Trees are an incredible asset to our community and provide a range of environmental, cultural, psychological and financial benefits, which in turn creates a happier and healthier community."

## Where will the trees be planted?

The rates of physical and mental health illnesses - such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease, anxiety and depression - are disproportionately present in households that have a weekly income of \$449 or less.



People can also get involved in planting trees in local parks through Council's Plant With Us program.



Mayor Dylan Parker is hoping to create more green streets like Melody Street in Coogee.

The good news is that we can directly improve the health and wellbeing of vulnerable community members by creating better access to trees and green space.

By mapping vulnerable communities based on average household income, as well as suburbs most lacking canopy cover and experiencing heat vulnerability, the Council determined that Matraville, Little Bay, Malabar and Chifley would benefit the most from this program.

Nearly 50 different species - mostly natives - will be planted in these suburbs including Coastal Banksia (*Banksia integrifolia*), Scribbly Gum (*Eucalyptus haemastoma*), Brushbox (*Lophostemon confertus*), Yellow Bloodwood (*Corymbia eximia*) and Smoothbark Apple (*Angophora costata*).

## How the community can help

As the majority of land in Randwick City is privately owned, residents play

an important role in boosting canopy coverage in their own backyards.

"They don't have to be big trees. They can be small or medium sized, depending on the lot. Everything helps," said Tom Britton, Council's Urban Forest Planner.

Randwick City Council is supporting this measure through the Draft Development Control Plan (DCP) that was recently on public exhibition for community comment.

The changes will require new houses, semis or dual occupancy developments in low density residential areas to plant between two and four trees and achieve a minimum of 25 per cent tree canopy coverage over the entire site.

But planting new trees isn't the only way residents can help.

"The most expensive thing about street tree planting is watering. Water is really heavy and you can imagine how difficult it would be to take industrial quantities of water to all these trees around the area," said Britton.

"One of the best things you can do is use grey water and pour it on any street tree that needs establishment. Water is the biggest factor that will determine how successful tree planting is."

Randwick City's street tree planting program will get underway this March.

## More leafy benefits:

-  Increase biodiversity
-  Less carbon dioxide contributing to climate change
-  Improve air quality
-  Provide shade
-  Reduce run-off into waterways
-  Decrease household energy consumption
-  Create a sense of place
-  Reduce traffic noise and glare

# The power of people

**They meet in community centres, surf clubs and RSLs over cups of tea and Council documents. They're the local residents volunteering their time to give a voice to their communities. Precinct Committees have been around since 1996... but just what is a Precinct and how can you get involved? It's actually easier than you may think – you're already a member.**

It's a warm February night and about 50 people slowly stroll into the Matraville RSL for the first Matraville Precinct Meeting for the year.

There's lots of familiar chatter and smiles between attendees. Some clutch glasses of water, others lemon lime and bitters or a sneaky schooner as they wait for the meeting to start.

It's a big one – a changing of the guard for the Precinct Executive. New chairperson Laurie O'Connor, secretary Anthony O'Flynn and treasurer Danielle Wood introduce themselves. They're all local residents, all volunteers, all giving up their time to run this meeting.

Steve McAndrew and Terry Campbell are in the crowd too. They're the outgoing Executives who retired from the Precinct at the end of last year after six years of service.

First up on the agenda is a presentation from Council on the new Matraville Masterplan. The attendees listen attentively and respectfully. They fire away their questions – they're direct and insightful, but not rude... just passionate. After all, this is Matto and people speak their mind.

Then comes other business, it's basically anything people want to raise. Nothing's off limit. Can we have more off-leash dog parks? Can Council restrict access for heavy vehicles? How's that roundabout coming along?

Recommendations are moved and seconded by those attending and voted on. They'll be sent by the Secretary to Council for consideration and response.

And that's how the meeting goes. It's civil, orderly, but casual.

Councillors attend as well, as do the local State and Federal Members. But they're not in charge. It's a resident meeting run by residents, for residents in partnership with Council.

Any resident or ratepayer in the Precinct area is automatically a member. There's no fee or application form. Just turn up whenever you want or have an issue to raise.

"It's important because it gives residents an avenue to voice their concerns and issues. The more people that attend the Precinct meetings the stronger the voice. That's important," says Terry.

The importance of community connection was particularly evident during the pandemic when Precinct meetings went online. Rather than losing attendees, Precincts like Matraville actually increased attendees with some meetings attracting over 100 people.

"There is still a need for people to get together and discuss issues as a group," says Steve. "It brings communities together and forms friendships. A lot of people feel more comfortable in a group environment."



Randwick Precinct members Katrina Drewer and Leanne Bergan.

Just up the road a bit, the Coogee Precinct has been one of the most active Precincts. Two of the Precinct's most well-known members and active members are Coogee couple Rona Wade and Mark England.

"The Precincts are a grass roots expression of democracy," says Mark.

**"Precincts give focus to local issues and facilitate dialogue with council. This is a great achievement for those residents who are beset by local issues over which they feel no control or influence."**

"They are an important refuge and resource for residents to turn to. They give focus to local issues and facilitate dialogue with council. This is a great achievement for those residents who are beset by local issues over which they feel no control or influence."

Mark also says the fact Precincts are held in person is their strength.

"Machines are made to help with communication, but they do not replace face to face physical contact. As humans we need and value this. Meetings in which we are physically present have been found far more satisfactory than the virtual meetings that we had during Covid lockdown."

At La Perouse, long-serving Precinct Executive Member Charles Abela helped set up one of the first Precinct meetings in the area now known as Bays & Beaches Precinct.

"I immediately recognised the many advantages and potential effectiveness of the Precinct

Committee system over informal local action groups," Charles says.

"Many people prefer to attend meetings in person rather than meet digitally because in person meetings provide opportunity for personal interaction and interpersonal information exchange."

At Randwick Precinct, Katrina Drewer and Leanne Bergan are relative newcomers having first got involved in 2019.

"I was having trouble with a local development and found it hard to get any traction," says Katrina. "I took my issue to a Precinct meeting and it was a pathway into Council that I would not normally have thought of."

For Leanne, she believes the Precincts are about grass roots community engagement and hearing various viewpoints.

"People are looking for meaningful connection, especially post-Covid. I would encourage more people to get involved... you never know who you might meet, or what issue might crop up. Precincts can be fun as well as informative!"

## Which is your Precinct?

If you live or pay rates in Randwick City, you're automatically a member of your local Precinct. Just turn up!

### Bays & Beaches

baysbeaches@gmail.com  
La Perouse, Little Bay, Phillip Bay  
Meets fourth Monday in Mar, May, Jul, Sep & Nov at 7pm

### Clovelly Precinct

precinctclovelly@gmail.com  
Clovelly and some parts of Randwick and north Coogee  
Meets second Monday of the month at 7pm

### Coogee Precinct

coogeeprecinct2034@gmail.com  
Coogee and South Coogee  
Meets third Monday of the month at 7.30pm

### Maroubra Precinct

maroubraprecinct@gmail.com  
2023 meeting dates to be confirmed

### Matraville Precinct

matprecinct@gmail.com  
Matraville and parts of Chifley  
Meets second Monday of the month at 7pm

### Randwick Precinct

randwickprecinct@gmail.com  
Meets first Wednesday of the month at 7pm

Scan to go on the Precinct emailing list.



Coogee Precinct members Rona Wade, Del Buchanan, Mark England and Terry Maunsell



Long serving La Perouse Precinct members Carol and Charles Abela



# Float to survive

**It's the unusual water safety message that may just save a life. If you get into trouble in the water, try to stay afloat by relaxing, rotating your arms and legs and floating.**

Last year Australia recorded its highest drowning rate in the last 10 years with 339 deaths. Men represented 82% of all drowning deaths, almost half occurred in NSW and 21% happened at the beach.

This summer, Randwick and Waverley Councils joined forces to pilot a new water safety campaign.

"Our Float to Survive message is that if you can master the skill of floating, even if you are not a good swimmer, you are more likely to survive and be rescued," Mayor Parker said.

Waverley Mayor Paula Masselos said: "The one key message of this pilot campaign is 'Float to Survive' and we want to test the memorability of this message in our research".

Since December, both councils have been communicating the float to survive message through outdoor advertising, social media, cinema advertising and messages at the beach.

The idea is to test the memorability and recall of the message and whether

it could potentially be a new national campaign similar to 'slip, slop, slap'.

Professor Rob Brander (aka 'Dr Rip'), from UNSW's Beach Safety Research Group is helping to evaluate the efficacy of the pilot campaign.

"The Float to Survive message has the potential to help those who find themselves in trouble in the water at unpatrolled locations or outside of patrol hours and locations. We want to see what the public thinks about the message."

Randwick Council Beach Lifeguard Supervisor Paul Moffat said sometimes people who get into trouble in the water can swim, but they panic and try to swim against the current which tires them out.

"If you can relax and float, you'll conserve energy and have a better chance of drifting out of a rip or being rescued," Mr Moffat said.

Bruce 'Hopppo' Hopkins, coordinator Waverley Council Lifeguard Service, said learning how to float is easier than

learning how to swim and "could be the difference between life and death".

Both councils are now working with UNSW to undertake follow up research to test the recall of the message to determine if the pilot program could potentially be expanded.

**"If you can relax and float, you'll conserve energy and have a better chance of drifting out of a rip or being rescued."**

### Five steps to float:

- 1> Keep calm and control your breathing
- 2> Lean back
- 3> Extend your arms and legs
- 4> Gently rotate your arms and legs in a circular motion
- 5> Signal for help with your hand if you can

# What's on



March to May 2023

## THE SPOT FESTIVAL

Sunday 26 March  
1pm-8pm  
The Spot, Randwick  
Free

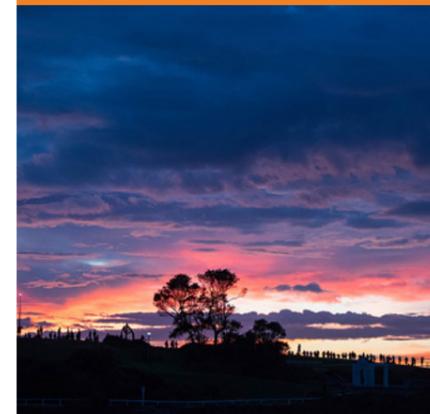


## MARINE & COASTAL DISCOVERY PROGRAM

17-20 April  
Various locations  
See website for details

## SOUTH EAST BLOCK PARTY

Friday 21 April  
Coral Sea Park, Maroubra  
Free



## ANZAC DAWN SERVICE

Tuesday 25 April  
5.30am  
Goldstein Reserve,  
Coogee Beach  
Free



## 2023 WOMEN'S ART PRIZE EXHIBITION

Until Thursday 27 April  
Lionel Bowen Library Gallery  
Free

## MARINE DREAM EXHIBITION

Until Sunday 21 May  
The Bayview Gallery,  
La Perouse Museum



## KOOJAY CORROBOREE

Friday 26 May  
Coogee Beach  
Free

For more information on events visit [randwick.nsw.gov.au](http://randwick.nsw.gov.au) or call 1300 722 542

# Safer at home

## Don't let me roam



### The idea that all cats need to roam outdoors has changed.

Cats are great companions and many cat owners now provide a safe and suitable environment for their cat at home all day, every day.

Keeping your cat contained is the best way to keep them safe and to reduce the chance of them killing or injuring native wildlife.

Cats are natural hunters and wearing a bell or being well-fed will not necessarily inhibit them from hunting.

Keeping your cat contained at home helps to:

- reduce the risk of them getting sick, being hurt or being hit by a car
- provide more opportunities for them to interact with you and the family
- reduce the risk of them getting lost
- stop them killing native wildlife
- reduce interactions with other roaming or stray cats

To find out more about keeping your cat safe and happy at home visit the RSPCA's website [safeandhappycats.com.au](http://safeandhappycats.com.au)



Randwick City Council  
a sense of community