

# THE Village

OBSERVER

**FREE**

COMMUNITY  
MAGAZINE

**pick me up**

AND TAKE  
ME HOME

WELCOME  
TO OUR

*Tax + Financial  
Planning issue*

PLUS OUR REGULAR  
COLUMNISTS



**Sydney Community Services**

Proceeds from *The Village Observer* support residents in need from the Lane Cove, Hunters Hill, Gladesville, Ryde, Chatswood, Willoughby, Crows Nest, St Leonards, Artarmon and North Sydney areas, through *Sydney Community Services*.

ISSUE 358 JUNE 2026



PATHWAYS

RESIDENCES

# Aged Care Residence Now Open in Longueville



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# THE Village OBSERVER

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Lane Cove, Hunters Hill, Gladesville,  
Ryde, Chatswood, Willoughby,  
Crows Nest, St Leonards, Artarmon  
and Northern Sydney areas.

### POWERING OUR COMMUNITY

Proceeds from The Village Observer supports residents of Lane Cove, Hunters Hill, Ryde, Willoughby and North Sydney, via Sydney Community Services – a local not-for-profit organisation that helps people to live a quality and independent life in their own home and in their community.

### LOCAL SUPPORT FOR LOCAL PEOPLE

SCS provides services to seniors and people living with a disability including social activities, gardening, home nursing, podiatry, laundry services, home delivered meals, home modifications and maintenance, flexible respite, carers support, shopping services, community and engagement programs and assistance in daily life.

### THE VILLAGE OBSERVER

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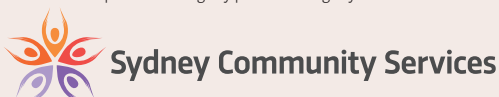
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## Welcome to the June edition of TVO!



Following a federal budget featuring some significant announcements and as we head towards tax return season, it seemed a fitting time for our Tax and Financial Planning feature. Big thanks to new TVO advertiser Tax App Accountants in Lane Cove for allowing us to reprint their 2026 tax checklists for individuals and businesses. You can read their Tax Alert 2026 on page 18.

For many of us in our \*cough\* middle years, financial planning leads inevitably to thoughts of retirement. But retirement is as much a lifestyle change as a financial one. Retirement specialist Sam Wright challenges us to start our preparation much earlier and start creating the life we want now. Read his thoughts on 'retiring with something' on page 20.

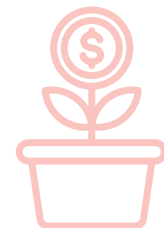
Whether you are a renter, a home owner or a property investor, changes in development and zoning will impact all of us on some level or another. The Architects Advisory Service shares its thoughts on 'Catching the wave of housing reform'. They are running a free symposium on 16 June to discuss changes in planning legislation. See page 14 for details.

But this issue is not all numbers. Maggie Lawrence has interviewed local sculptor Vivienne Lowe about her path to a life of creativity and the motivation behind her art. And we celebrate the Balls Head Reserve Bushcare Group in Waverton for their decades of quiet dedication to the environment. Plus much more. Enjoy!

## Melissa

MELISSA BARKS - EDITOR

[editor@thevillageobserver.com.au](mailto:editor@thevillageobserver.com.au)



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Pleased to join Assistant Minister Emma McBride and Clr Lyndal Howison to officially open the new Medicare Mental Health Centre in Ryde

# RYDE MEDICARE MENTAL HEALTH CENTRE

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The centre offers a welcoming place for people to access mental health information, services and supports from qualified professionals over extended hours.

Anyone can reach out for support for themselves, a loved one or patient. Delivered by mental health professionals, Supported by trained providers & Supported by trained peer workers.

This service may help:

- ✓ Provide immediate support to reduce distress
- ✓ Provide in-house assessment, treatment and support
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No referral or Medicare card is required – just walk in.

I fought hard to make sure Ryde was one of the first sites for this national Medicare initiative. Because in our community – no matter your income, background or postcode – you deserve mental health care that’s free, accessible, and there when you need it.



Learn more: 



## North Sydney celebrates First Nations culture

A free program of First Nations cultural events will take place across North Sydney as part of the Gai mariagal Festival 2026, running from 26 May to 13 July on Cammeraygal Country.

The festival will feature exhibitions, bilingual storytimes, weaving workshops, guided heritage walks and author talks celebrating First Nations culture, creativity and connection to Country.

Highlights include basket weaving workshops, an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Walk in partnership with Lane Cove Council, and the Threadlines exhibition curated by Nicole Monks. Families can also enjoy free bilingual storytime sessions, while acclaimed First Nations author Melissa Jane Fogarty will host a special author talk at Stanton Library.



North Sydney Mayor Zoë Baker said the festival creates opportunities for the community to ‘listen, learn and reflect on the deep cultural knowledge and creativity of First Nations peoples.’

Some events require bookings, with full details available through North Sydney Council.

## Community champions recognised by Rotary

Local volunteers, business owners and community leaders have been recognised at the annual Pride of Workmanship Awards hosted by Lane Cove Rotary and Crows Nest Rotary.

Established in 1975, the awards celebrate individuals who demonstrate professionalism, reliability, and pride in their work while making a positive contribution to the community.

This year’s Lane Cove Rotary recipients included retired teacher and Lane Cove Toy Library volunteer Jenny Gordon, La Piazza Lane Cove’s Dean “Deano” Doulakis, Lane Cove Council Sustainability Coordinator Anastasia Baldwin, and Zapparelli’s Pizzeria owners Avo and Nikki Majarian.

Lane Cove Rotary President Jenny May said the awards recognised people whose dedication helps strengthen the local community.

‘These awards celebrate people who genuinely care about what they do and the impact they have on others,’ she said.

## Data centre expansion sparks community concern

Residents of Lane Cove West have voiced strong opposition to a proposed 90MW hyperscale data centre at 12 Mars Road, with more than 350 submissions lodged against the development during the exhibition period.

Residents say the site’s proximity to homes, Lane Cove West Public School, Blackman Park and the Lane Cove Community Nursery raises concerns about noise, air quality, traffic, fire safety and impacts on children’s wellbeing.

Community representatives argue the project is part of a growing concentration of hyperscale data centres in Lane Cove West. A community petition opposing the cluster has attracted more than 1,100 signatures and was presented to a Parliamentary Inquiry examining data centre impacts across NSW.

Lane Cove Council has lodged its own submission opposing aspects of the proposal.

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## Old Money, New Games

**My sixteen-year-old nephew Ollie is the perfect combo of old and new money values. He maintains the neighbourhood gardens, then invests the cash into share portfolios he researches himself, most recently the parent company behind gaming franchise Grand Theft Auto, whose sixth instalment is about to drop.**

For the uninitiated, GTA is not exactly a masterclass in conservative financial planning. The in-game economy, helpfully linked to your actual credit card, allows players to purchase properties, luxury vehicles, high-end businesses, weapons and more. Savvy virtual investors can buy golf courses and cinemas to generate passive income. Think swapping four Monopoly houses for a hotel or expanding your property portfolio to include Mayfair while being shot at and fighting fires.

To keep your returns ticking over, you can rob convenience stores or armoured trucks for a quick yield or invest in an acid lab for high production value and impressive margins. Warren Buffett has never mentioned this strategy, which feels like an oversight. There's a casino, because of course there is, and 'random events' like helping out an investment banker for a reward, which feels simultaneously altruistic and mildly suspicious. (One wonders: if helping a little old lady with her shopping generated the same in-game payout, would the crime rate drop overnight? Asking for a friend.)

At least Ollie's buying shares in the game rather than spending his hard-earned cash in it, a distinction that says everything about the boy.

I try to remember what I did at his age. If I really wanted something, I saved for it: Saturday wages from a shoe shop, topped up with Christmas and birthday money. My most treasured purchase was a black-and-white television the approximate size and weight of a prize pumpkin, taking up a significant portion of my bedroom and all of my savings. Channels were changed with a twiddly knob, an imperfect science producing a generous amount of grey fuzz, and its aerial resembled an inverted coat hanger.

Ollie listened to this story with the patient, glassy-eyed expression of a child being told by Auntie Liz about how in her day she walked barefoot to school in the snow.

These days, the era of odd jobbing for cash has given way to content creation: a viral post about lawn care will now earn you considerably more than actual lawn care. My trusty pedal bike, kitted out with occy straps and a dynamo light, has been replaced by a tap-and-go Lime hire that appears from nowhere

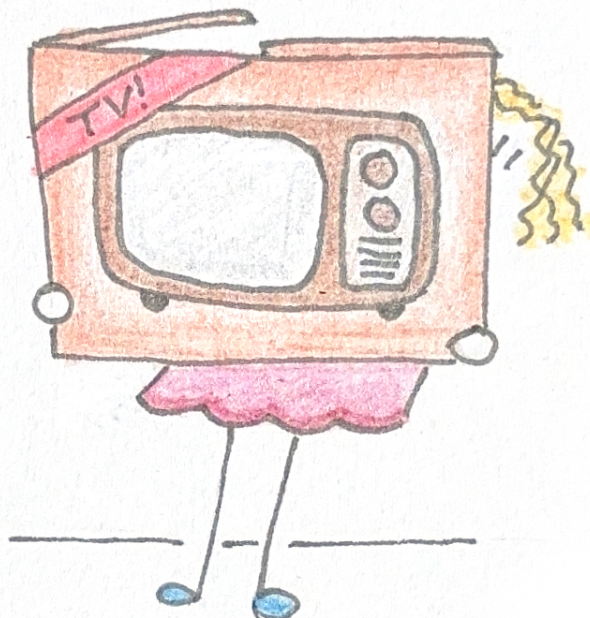


Illustration by Grace Kopsiaftis

and costs less than a coffee. Ninety-nine-pence vinyl singles (The Police, Duran Duran) have morphed into family access to my Spotify login. After-school snacks of Vegemite on toast are now 2am Uber Eats, ordered from a warm bed, delivered to the door.

And then there's impulse spending. Our generation had the record shop clearance bin and the TV shopping channel. Today's version is 3am Amazon, one thumb-tap away from your bank account, with an algorithm that knows what you want before you do. (Is it just me who finds it extraordinary that online purchasing takes approximately four seconds, while logging into any app containing personal information requires a twelve-step verification process and the patience of a saint?)

But I don't want to sound curmudgeonly. Times change, and mostly for the better. I enjoy a game as much as the next person, even if my weapon of choice is more Cluedo than Grand Theft Auto. Ollie is proof that the instinct to save, invest, and think ahead hasn't gone anywhere. It's just found new tools, and considerably better graphics.

The fundamentals, it turns out, are pretty much the same as they ever were. Work hard. Spend wisely. Don't invest in the acid lab.



**LIZ FOSTER IS A LOCAL WRITER.**

Her debut fiction novel, *The Good Woman's Guide to Making Better Choices*, is out now with Affirm Press.



You can reach her by scanning this QR code to join her Readers' Club or by emailing [liz@lizfoster.com.au](mailto:liz@lizfoster.com.au)

LONGUEVILLE

# Amara

*by Pathways*

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# Grinch, The Tax Man Cometh

**Tax. We none of us like it and no matter how much we plan for it, now more than ever, we are likely to be caught off-guard by some new impost or other. Even when travelling overseas.**

The Middle East war has sparked a raft of new fuel taxes on airfares and I'd be surprised if there are not more to come. Should the much talked about pressure on aircraft fuel availability happen, it is inevitable that airlines will impose higher taxes to better manage supply and demand.

Expect to see even more flights being cancelled and combined as airlines seek to minimise half empty planes. It is already happening in Europe, for spare seats are a luxury that none can now afford. My advice is that if your connection is tight, make sure your onward flights are on the same ticket – so that you should be automatically reaccommodated if a flight is cancelled. If this is not possible, leave plenty of time between those flights, and consider buying a fare basis that is changeable for a fee, or even cancellable for a full refund.

Personally, if my flights are not connected on the same booking, I prefer to overnight prior to my long-haul flight at that departure airport. It means I am not stressed if my connecting flight into Amsterdam or Paris or London or wherever leaves late. Moreover, I arrive unharried for the upcoming 24-hour journey back to Australia.

It may surprise some of you that international travel, by air or ship, is one of the few purchases not subject to GST or VAT. Yet this doesn't mean you will escape paying taxes, for there are still many other unavoidable taxes added. Take for example, the taxes on this round the world business class ticket for a client travelling in August. What I see in the ticket background is a list of 20 taxes, which once converted to Australia dollars add nearly \$1k to the final pricing.

**374.84-YQ/4.60-YR/70.00-AU/83.78-WY/17.00-AY/5.80-XA/10.60-XY/11.20-YC/64.50-GB/60.30-UB/ 37.80-CJ/53.00-RN/52.00-VV/10.90-WL/1.60-XU/12.60-L7/9.40-OP/54.20-SG/6.80-XF/6.06-WG**

How many of you knew, until the recent budget, that each time you leave Australia, you pay a tax of \$70, soon to be \$80? (That's tax 3 in the above example). A small portion will be allocated to national travel related costs but most is destined for general coffers. You can afford to travel, ergo you can afford to cough up.

The above taxes are irrespective of your class of travel and the itinerary does not include England. However, fly economy from Australia and you'll pay GBP106, whereas business or first is GBP253. You're not being slugged for any fabulous extra service as the airlines charge you for lounges/fast-track etc. in their fare, rather it is related to seat pitch. Fly flatter, pay more!



In years to come, it will cost more to cruise into Amsterdam and Barcelona. The former aims to eliminate cruise ships from the city by 2035 and is currently limiting ships to 100 large vessel a year. Barcelona, has reduced its terminals from seven to five. In these cities and others, the inevitable result is that you will pay more to go there.

And while not strictly classified as a tax, the cost to purchase an Australian passport is now a whopping \$422, the most expensive in the world. I maintain both New Zealand and Australian passports for economic reasons – a Brazilian visa (and some others) are free for NZ passport holders but costs USD81 for an Australian passport, not to mention that you are saved endless application time and enjoy faster queues.

It's worth the NZ249 NZ passport fee and the passport lasts years, providing many more opportunities to save.

Meanwhile, my husband and many others, are now compelled to get a UK passport if he wishes to travel to the UK (a recent impost for British descendants effective February 2026), which cost AUD380 including DHL courier costs for documentation and passport return to/from the UK. We'd much prefer to travel on the GBP20 ETA fee for two years but alas it is no longer legally valid.

In many countries, taxes are a tool to manage visitors. Bhutan has long had a mandatory Sustainable Development Fee of USD100 per person day, incorporated into your hotel or touring fee to be less obvious. The aim of this tax? To keep out the riff-raff (read backpackers) who might dilute the cultural ethos of a country. Some countries, like Bali, wish they had similar in order to strike a better balance between life for the locals and the value of the tourist dollar but are now over-dependent on value-conscious travellers to make meaningful change.

Travel, once the preserve of the wealthy but opened to all with deregulation in the 70s and 80s is slowly returning to a more expensive proposition. We must appreciate it while we can.

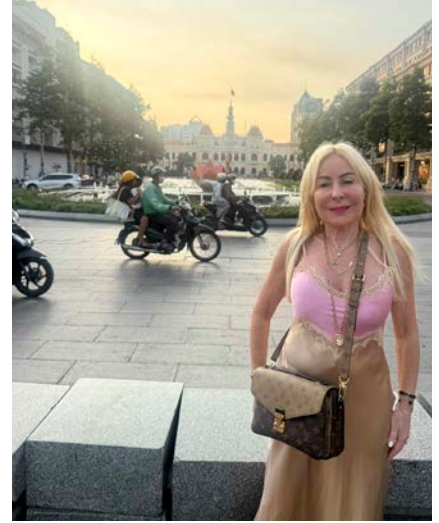
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*Managing Director*

PARTNER CONTENT



## Xin Chao (Hello) from Vietnam!

Debbi & Courtney have just returned from a week travelling in Vietnam with a group of 10 travel agents. The week in Vietnam was the perfect blend of culture and history, luxury, local experiences, and relaxation — giving the ladies the opportunity to truly experience the destination firsthand. This was Debbi's third trip to Vietnam having spent time in the North of Vietnam – Hoi An, Da Nang, Hue & Halong Bay. Now Courtney's kids are a tiny bit older, she has finally been able to experience the beautiful Vietnamese culture.

Their journey began in **Saigon** where they flew direct from Sydney with Vietnam Airlines. Vietnam Airlines were fantastic. The aircraft, service and the punctuality could not be faulted.

Staying 2 nights at the beautiful Caravelle Saigon Hotel in the heart of the city, Ho Chi Minh City is such a clean, vibrant city packed with history, and fun. The first dinner was at a local Vietnamese restaurant (with wine!) where they got to learn about the next 6 days and getting to know the other 8 travel agents who travelled from all over Australia. The group set off on a guided walking tour the following day where they visited the stunning Notre-Dame Cathedral Basilica of Saigon, the historic Saigon Central Post Office, the iconic Independence Palace and

the thought-provoking War Remnants Museum. Their organised activities finished with an incredible Vietnamese lunch before spending the afternoon at leisure. The time was easily filled with a swim, massage and of course – walking the streets of Ho Chi Minh and shopping at Saigon Square.

From Saigon, they travelled by road to the **Mekong Delta**, where a completely different side of Vietnam was experienced. Cruising along the rivers of Ben Tre, visiting coconut workshops, tasting tropical fruits, and riding through peaceful villages gave the perfect authentic insight into local life and culture. Then continuing onto Can Tho, spending 2 nights at the stunning riverside Victoria Can Tho Resort. Rising very early, the following morning was spent visiting the famous Cai Rang Floating Market by boat. Learning the process of rice noodles, sampling fresh pineapple and learning about and tasting the locally grown



coconut. Watching the river come alive at sunrise, with boats trading fresh produce and local food directly on the water, it was such a unique and memorable experience.

The last two nights of the trip were spent at tropical **Phu Quoc**, a one-hour flight from Can Tho Airport. The Mövenpick Resort Waverly Phu Quoc, a beachfront resort was the perfect way to finish the Vietnamese adventure. The island offered a perfect balance of relaxation, adventure and shopping – there truly is something for everyone. They spent an afternoon island hopping by speedboat, snorkelling in crystal-clear waters, relaxing on pristine beaches with a margarita, and finished the day with a sunset seafood BBQ overlooking the ocean.

This trip offered firsthand knowledge of Vietnam's diverse experiences — from the bustling city and cultural landmarks of Saigon to the peaceful waterways of the Mekong Delta and the luxury island escape of Phu Quoc. In Vietnam, there truly is something for everyone and all itineraries can be tailored to every traveller's desires and dreams.

**Next stop for the ladies – Vanuatu!**



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# Catching the wave of housing reform

The waves of change in housing and rezoning during the last few years have been driven by multiple levels of government. I'm sure you have noticed the changes in our suburbs with new apartment blocks, tall towers and dual occupancies appearing in the horizon. The Transport Oriented Development (TOD) and accelerated precincts are more recent developments in this field. The reach of which, sometimes, appears to be within our suburbs and streets... not as much in the distant horizon anymore! As an architect and a long-time resident of Lane Cove, I have put together some thought-gathering facts that could help us understand this wave of changes, find some clarity and objectively assess the benefits of it along with the downsides. After all, the cast is set on this matter and all we can do is to understand it and make correct decisions that could help us benefit from the opportunities and avoid the risks.

## Value-add

Dual occupancy and semi-detached houses have always been a good way of adding value to your lot; and are more likely to be achievable now with height increased to 9.5m as well as some relaxed Floor Space Ratios (FSR). If you were thinking about renovations or extension of your house before these changes but were held back by the cost of it or hoped to have a better return for your investment in your property, this might be the time to revisit that idea by using professional services. This might also provide a second income via renting or selling of the new dwelling.

## Newer Homes

It's all about lifestyle in our day and age, as an architect I can't emphasise enough the importance of living space and its condition in how we enjoy our lives. Your house should cater for your needs; a cold house with little insulation, mould, high utility bills, high maintenance, accessibility issues due to age or other restrictions, growing family, etc are all good reasons people might want to upgrade their houses to a more modern and suitable one to their needs. If you have any of these in mind, and in the light of the new rules, it is a good time to see what is possible by obtaining a Feasibility Study + Report prepared by a licensed architect, which might give a better picture of what the new home will look like and how it could improve your life.

## Intergenerational houses

You won't hear an argument from me if you say, "this is our family home, and I want to keep it for my children." This is the basic idea behind intergenerational homes, and one that can be materialised with more immediate and long-term benefits using the new housing reforms to your benefit. This will be your chance to future proof your family home, make it last longer, incorporate newer technologies and reduce costs of maintenance while adding a new space for your children and even their kids who might be struggling to find an affordable and accessible place to stay close to you while both of you keep your independence and freedom.

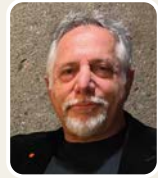
**RICHARD G. SALMAN**

*Nominated Architect*

**President**

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"Change is the only constant in this world". The wave of changes in housing legislation will change the fabric of our suburbs and how we live. I believe we can catch this wave instead of letting it crash over our heads.

## The upcoming free symposium

What I shared above is from personal and professional experience and a glimpse of what our upcoming symposium intends to cover.

If you own a property and feel that you may benefit, come visit us at the upcoming symposium event. Please RSVP via the QR code, or phone **(02) 8904 0000** or email [enquiry@aaansw.au](mailto:enquiry@aaansw.au) to book your spot in June. It's a **free event** and you'll learn some information on how the Architects Advisory Association can provide professional services in the journey of creating a new home or modifying your existing home for you. This will be valuable in helping to find your way in the maze of the legislation from council approval to the point of introducing pre-approved builders to help with getting the project off the ground and to a reality!

FREE EVENT



**ARCHITECTS  
ADVISORY  
ASSOCIATION**  
Architects Association NSW Inc.



SCAN TO SIGN UP

**Cordially invites you to an information night symposium to discuss:**

- What are the changes in the planning legislation ?
- How does these changes affect your property ?
- What can you do to benefit from the changes ?
- What do these changes mean to you ?

**Venue:** Galuwa Recreation Centre  
**Address:** 180 River Rd, Lane Cove NSW  
**Date:** 16 June 2026 7:00pm - 8:30pm

**RSVP:**  
 Email: [enquiry@aaansw.au](mailto:enquiry@aaansw.au)  
 Tel: (02) 8904 0000

With Special Guest:  
 Melissa Neighbour  
 of:





# Talking Dentistry

THIS MONTH WE'RE **TALKING RESTORATIVE DENTISTRY** WITH **DR ANDREW SEE** WHO COMBINES PASSION, ARTISTIC FLARE AND EXTENSIVE KNOWLEDGE OF DENTISTRY TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE. HE HAS ADVANCED TRAINING IN AESTHETIC AND IMPLANT DENTISTRY.

## READER'S QUESTION:

*"I have straight teeth from past orthodontics but I have these black triangles near the gum line that I notice when I smile, is there any way to get rid of them?"*

**Dr See says:** Wonderful question. Even if the teeth are aligned, straight and the gums are healthy, dark areas, or what we call negative space, can detract from the total smile aesthetics.

Black triangles, also known as open gingival embrasures, are the small triangular gaps that form between teeth at the gumline. They can result from various factors, including gum recession, bone loss, and tooth movement. These spaces not only compromise the symmetry and harmony of the smile but also become a concern for hygiene and potential food impaction.

The crux of the matter is that we have a dark negative space that needs to be masked and this is difficult. Despite this, there are advanced minimally invasive approaches using specialised techniques and materials that can minimise the negative space and result in predictable and natural outcomes.

Treating black triangles with porcelain veneers involves a meticulous and artistic approach. Let's look at two cases that we completed to help minimise the noticeable black triangles.



### THE PROBLEMS:

- Dark negative spaces
- Black triangles

### THE SOLUTION:

- Hand crafted natural-looking porcelain veneers



## DR ANDREW SEE

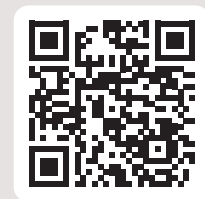
BDS Hons (Syd), FRACDS, MSc(Lond), PGDipDentImplantology, FCGDENT(UK), FICOI, MFDS RCSEng

## HOW ARE WE DIFFERENT?

Dr Andrew See has dedicated the last 20 years to Aesthetic Dentistry and has unique qualifications in cosmetic dentistry and rehabilitation. This includes a three year Masters in Aesthetic Dentistry from the prestigious King's College London and a Postgraduate Diploma in Dental Implantology. Dr See completed his Fellowship by primary and secondary examinations for The Royal Australasian College of Dental Surgeons (FRACDS). FRACDS is the mark of professional achievement in dentistry and demonstrates attainment of an advanced level and skill in Dentistry.

*If you have any questions you have always wanted to know about aesthetic or implant dentistry contact us at:*

**info@advanceddentistrysydney.com.au**



*\*\* Any surgical or invasive procedure carries risk. Before proceeding, you should seek a second opinion from an appropriately qualified health practitioner \*\**



9816 4885  dr.andrewsee  
advanceddentistrysydney.com.au

# PLANNING AHEAD:

## Smart Money Moves for Tax Time and Beyond

WORDS MELISSA BARKS

As June 30 creeps closer, many Australians are beginning the familiar annual ritual — digging through receipts, searching for forgotten invoices and promising themselves they'll be more organised next year.

But this year, tax time might feel a little different.

With cost-of-living pressures continuing, interest rates continuing to rise and the Federal Government's latest Budget proposing significant changes to investment taxation, many households and small businesses are feeling uncertain about what lies ahead.

According to analysis by KPMG Australia, the 2026 Federal Budget introduces 'significant changes to the taxation of investments' while also attempting to balance cost-of-living relief with long-term economic reform.

For many Australians, the message is clear: now is a good time to review not just your tax return, but your broader financial plans as well.

### Tax changes have investors paying attention

Among the biggest talking points from the Budget are proposed changes to capital gains tax and negative gearing.

Under the proposed reforms, the current 50 per cent capital gains tax discount would be replaced from July 2027 with a system based on inflation indexation and a minimum 30 per cent tax on capital gains.

The government has also proposed limiting negative gearing concessions on future purchases of established residential properties, while retaining concessions for new builds and existing investments.

While these changes are still some time away, they have already sparked plenty of discussion around property investment and long-term wealth planning.

### Tax time 2026

For now, the basics still matter: keeping good records, understanding eligible deductions and planning ahead rather than scrambling in late June.

Thanks to TVO supporter Tax App Accountants for generously providing the practical tax checklists accompanying this feature. Designed to make tax time a little less stressful, the guides include helpful reminders about common deductions and EOFY considerations. For local business owners, the business checklist also offers useful prompts around asset write-offs, depreciation opportunities and reviewing business structures before June 30 rolls around.

### Financial advice isn't just for the wealthy

Economic uncertainty often prompts people to seek professional financial advice, but experts say it's no longer something reserved for retirees or high-income earners.

Families are increasingly turning to advisers for help navigating mortgages, superannuation, inheritance planning, retirement decisions and changing investment markets.



The Australian Government's Moneysmart website recommends checking whether an adviser is licensed, understanding how they charge fees and asking whether they are independent or aligned with specific products.

Most importantly, advisers should take the time to understand your goals — whether that means reducing debt, preparing for retirement, supporting adult children or simply creating more financial security.

### Retirement looks different these days

Retirement itself is changing too.

Rather than a hard stop at 65, many Australians are choosing a more gradual transition — working part-time, consulting, travelling or downsizing to create flexibility.

And just as keeping your paperwork in order will make tax time much easier, planning for retirement should start well before the fact.

Local retirement specialist Sam Wright works with clients who are 10 or even 20 years out from retirement, to assist with planning a life that is satisfying in all aspects.

*Have you sat down to think about and plan for all the non-financial aspects of the next 10 to 20 years as you approach retirement, whatever that looks like these days? Research has found that many of us haven't planned for the key drivers of retirement happiness and are feeling uncertain about the future. Preparing for these later years and trying-out new activities will ensure you "Retire with Something", rather than "Retire to Something" providing greater peace of mind and wellbeing.*

Sam Wright, Reset Timed Right

### Wills are one of the most important financial documents you can have

It's not the most cheerful topic, but estate planning is one of the most important parts of financial wellbeing — and one of the most commonly avoided. Around 50% of Australians die without a will in place.

Others have not updated their will in years, meanwhile changes such as marriage, divorce, grandchildren, business ownership or property purchases can all affect whether a will still reflects someone's wishes.

And a will is only part of the picture. Enduring powers of attorney, guardianship arrangements and superannuation beneficiary nominations are equally important.

For people with relatively simple circumstances, EveryWill ([everywill.com.au](http://everywill.com.au)) offers free online wills as a starting point. However, more complex situations involving blended families, trusts, businesses or larger estates often benefit from professional legal advice.

Taking the time to organise these documents can spare loved ones significant stress, expense and confusion later on.



## Giving back to the community

For many local families, financial planning is not only about building wealth — it is also about giving back.

Charitable donations remain an important part of community life, and donations to registered deductible gift recipients may also provide tax benefits.

Some people choose to donate before June 30 as part of their annual tax planning, while others include charitable giving within their wills and estate plans.

TVO is honoured to regularly share inspiring stories from charities large and small, to promote their work and encourage community support. Whether through regular donations, volunteering or leaving a gift in a will, even small contributions can have a lasting impact. Here are just three of the charities we have worked with over the last financial year:

**The NORTH Foundation** is the charity partner of the Northern Sydney Local Health District (NSLHD), raising funds that fuel exceptional patient care, groundbreaking research and innovation across the district and beyond.

Every 24 seconds, someone reaches out to **Lifeline** for crisis support.

Gifts play a crucial role in helping to ensure Lifeline has the technology, resources and people necessary to deliver crisis support, self-led support, and counselling services around the clock.

At **Sydney Children's Hospitals Foundation**, philanthropy is a driving force behind transforming children's healthcare. Gifts in wills play a powerful role, helping to fund life-saving equipment, pioneering treatments, world-class facilities and family-centred spaces that bring comfort during the hardest days.

## A good time to pause and plan

While headlines about tax reform and investment changes can feel unsettling, financial advisers say this is not the time for panic or rushed decisions.

Instead, tax time can be an opportunity to take stock — to review your goals, get organised and think about what financial security looks like for you and your family.

That might mean updating your will, reviewing your superannuation, speaking with a financial adviser or simply putting better systems in place for the year ahead.

Because ultimately, good financial planning is not just about paying less tax. It is about creating confidence, flexibility and peace of mind for whatever the future may bring.

# Tax Return Checklist 2026

Must have records (use Tax App Australia for free record keeping)

## Work Related Deductions

- Vehicle and travel expenses (logbook or cents/km)
- Home office expenses (fixed rate or actual cost)
- Work-related phone & internet (proportional use) - not to claim if claiming fixed rate WFH
- Tools & equipment used for work
- Uniforms and protective clothing
- Union fees or professional memberships
- Work-related self-education expenses
- Conference or seminar costs
- Journals, trade subscriptions, or apps used for work
- Working in the sun (sunscreen, hat, etc)

## General Deductions

- Tax agent or accounting fees
- Interest on investment loans
- Income protection insurance (outside super)
- Donations over \$2 to registered DGRs
- Bank fees on investment accounts
- Dividend and share management fees

## Less than 300 / over 300?

You can depreciate these over their useful life if they cost over \$300 (if under, \$300 full amount = claimable):

### Work & Office Equipment

- Laptops, phones, tablets
- Monitors, printers, or scanners
- Office chairs, desks, ergonomic equipment
- Tools or machinery specific to your job
- Storage or filing systems for work
- Camera, lighting or recording equipment (for content creators)

### Home Office Assets

- Office furniture
- Modem or router
- Computer hardware or accessories

### Vehicles (if used for work)

- Car depreciation (logbook method required)
- Ute, van, or motorbike used for work (depreciation)

## Superannuation

- Personal concessional contributions & catch-up contributions (must lodge a notice of intent with super fund)

# Business Tax Checklist 2026

## Income & Revenue Management

- Bad debts write off
- If possible, defer income to next financial year

## Maximising Deductions

- Prepay expenses
- Prepay interest on loans
- Charitable donations
- Claim work-related business costs
- Home office deduction
- Gifts to clients
- Employee Bonus
- Director fees

## Inventory & Asset Management

- \$20,000 instant asset write off
- Write off old stock
- Review assets
- Use depreciation for newer assets
- Home office deduction
- Gifts to clients

## Governance

- Trust distribution minutes
- Company loans to shareholders need a Div 7A loan agreement

## Strategic Review

- Insurance cover review
- Review your business structure

 Tax App Accountants



# 2026 Tax Alert: Is Your Wealth Protected or Is It the ATO's Next Target?

The 2026–27 Federal Budget has just dropped a series of tax bombs that are set to reshape the financial landscape for property investors, business owners, and families. If you thought your current structures were set and forget, think again: this Budget effectively signals the end of the old tax strategies, and the time to move is **now** for tax planning for the 2026 Financial Year, before the 30 June deadline.

## The Trust Tax Trap and the Death of the CGT Discount

The most staggering change is the new **30% minimum tax on discretionary trusts** starting 1 July 2028. For decades, local families have used trusts for income splitting; that flexibility is being stripped away. Furthermore, from 1 July 2027, the iconic **50% Capital Gains Tax (CGT) discount** will be axed and replaced with cost base indexation. Even Pre-CGT legacy assets held since before 1985 are being dragged into the net for any gains made after mid-2027. If you are sitting on significant gains, you need a valuation or a structural review. If you are buying a new investment property or shares, you need to consider the structure you buy in.

## Negative Gearing: The New Build Ultimatum

Planning to buy an investment property? Be warned: **Negative gearing will be restricted to new builds only** from 1 July 2027. While existing properties are grandfathered if held by 12 May 2026, any established property purchased now will have its rental losses quarantined meaning you can no longer use them to offset your high salary.

**Expert Insight:** While traditional negative gearing for established homes is being scrapped, seek professional guidance for alternative sophisticated strategies to enable you to lower income tax while holding assets. By pivoting to **commercial property** or maybe a **negatively geared share portfolio**.

## EOFY 2026: Your Immediate Playbook

While the Budget targets the future, your 2026 Financial Year planning requires surgical precision:

- **\$20,000 Instant Asset Write-Off:** The government has finally made this permanent for small businesses with turnover under \$10 million. Ensure

equipment is ready for use by 30 June 2026 to claim the full deduction.

- **Supercharge Your Contributions:** With the Super Guarantee rates are 12%, and concessional caps at \$30,000 for FY 2026, maximising contributions remains the most effective way to drop your taxable income.

- **Loss Carry-Back is Back:** From 1 July 2026, companies can carry back current losses to claim a refund of tax paid in the prior two years, a critical cash-flow lifeline.

## Manoeuvre the Change

As the new measures begin to reshape the taxation landscape, it is important for investors, business owners and families to review their current arrangements and seek professional advice before making major decisions. With several changes set to take effect over the next two financial years, early planning may help individuals better understand how the reforms could affect property investments, trusts, superannuation and long-term wealth strategies.



**FAHAD GUL**  
Chartered Accountant  
**TAX APP**  
ACCOUNTANTS

## 2026 Budget Changes Are Coming, Is Your Financial Strategy Ready?

At Tax App Accountants, Fahad Gul and Alesha Masaud help clients navigate change with confidence.

### Strategic Advice For:

- Small Business Owners
- New businesses and startups
- Investors – property, shares & crypto
- Family and Unit Trusts
- Self-Managed Super Funds (SMSFs)
- Asset Protection & Tax Structuring
- Long-Term Wealth Strategies



With years of experience supporting local businesses and investors, Fahad Gul (Chartered Accountant) and the team at Tax App Accountants provide tailored strategies designed to help clients.

☎ (02) 8074 7774  
✉ [customerservice@taxapp.com.au](mailto:customerservice@taxapp.com.au)  
🌐 [www.taxapp.com.au](http://www.taxapp.com.au)

**Google Reviews**

5.0 ★★★★★



# You can shape the future of healthcare

Medical research, innovative treatments and compassionate care are transforming healthcare and saving lives.

The NORTH Foundation is the proud charity partner of our local hospitals and healthcare services.

Your support can help fast-track today's research into tomorrow's breakthroughs.

**Donate before 30 June  
and help change lives**



# Retire *With* Something

The world of retirement planning is filled with helpful advice where often the guidance for everyday life in retirement is the suggestion that people should “*Retire To Something*.”

This guidance is a good starting point as it suggests that people should have some sort of plan to replace the things that work has provided for them. However, retirement can be a difficult transition for many as it involves numerous important aspects of life, not just the finances, that can take years to adjust to. And what is ‘retirement’ these days anyway? It’s less about a single planned date where you stop working for good, but more about being busy with interests and possibly some part-time work or projects.

The generic retirement guidance by itself can be problematic as it leads people to believe that they will need to do new and different things after they retire which could set them up to fail. In other words, telling people they should “*Retire To Something*” gives them permission to postpone developing new routines, habits, and skills.

Time and time again, people say, “When I retire, I am going to eat better... cook healthier... start walking everyday...”

spend more time with family (or friends)... travel more... play pickleball (or golf), even start playing music again.” All great aspirations, but unfortunately it just doesn’t always magically turn out as planned.

People wrongly assume that the extra time that they have in retirement comes with extra motivation and higher energy levels. They imagine bouncing out of bed in the morning, grabbing some coffee, hitting the gym, preparing a healthy lunch, and then running out to meet some friends or do some good in the world through volunteering. They mentally picture this ideal, easy flowing day, but in reality, they have never done anything like it and so don’t really appreciate what they are in for.

The fact is, retirement doesn’t change you; it can magnify what you already are. So, if you don’t eat healthily, don’t have an exercise schedule, or work instead of spending quality time with friends, none of that is going to change overnight. Furthermore, it’s common for people to grieve the loss of social interaction, routine, or physical activity from work which doesn’t help the process of transition.

**SAM WRIGHT**  
CPRC  
Retirement Specialist  
**RESET: Timed Right**



Rather than “*Retire To Something*” we need to “*Retire With Something*.” This serves as a much stronger message to encourage people to start living the life they want now instead of hoping they can create it all later. The reality is, we are creatures of habit, and as Stephen R. Covey, of “*The 7 Habits Of Highly Effective People*” fame, wrote “First we make our habits and then our habits make us.”

Let’s face it, continuing to do what you are already doing and enjoy, is much easier than starting something completely new. It’s why we need to invest just as much time on pre-planning for the mental, social, physical, and spiritual aspects of retirement as we do for the financial stuff. Running out of any of those aspects is likely to have as big an impact on happiness and confidence in retirement as is the case for running out of money. The truth is many Australians haven’t adequately planned for their retirement years by the time they reach them, so the time to set your plans for all these considerations is now.

## What will your ideal retirement look like? Are you confident you will get it right?

**10%  
FEE  
DISCOUNT**

To the 1st 10 people  
to enquire & quote  
*The Village  
Observer*

### WE CAN HELP YOU PLAN TO:

- Have a clear sense of purpose
- Pursue the things you love
- Have Mental and Physical wellbeing
- Be socially connected & well supported
- Consider a legacy to be remembered by



[www.resettimedright.com](http://www.resettimedright.com)

## Are You Worried About Debt, Bills or Want to Do a Budget? Lifeline's Financial Counsellors Can Help You.

Are you overwhelmed by your financial situation, creditors, or need help creating a budget? Lifeline's Financial Counsellors are here to help.

Financial Counselling is a free, confidential and flexible service offered by Lifeline Harbour to Hawkesbury Sydney. Their experienced Financial Counsellors provide free support to help overcome the challenges of debt and financial stress.

Financial Counsellors support individuals and families achieve pathways to financial stability along with mental, physical and emotional wellbeing. During the 12 month period ending 31 March 2026, the team supported 530 clients experiencing financial hardship and helped achieve debt waivers, reductions and fee reversals for their clients.

They will listen, talk about your circumstances and your financial situation. They provide financial guidance, can advocate and negotiate on your behalf, and empower you to take control. The team is non-judgmental, qualified, and respectful. They have male and female counsellors, as well as a Chinese-speaking counsellor.

They work with you to address immediate financial concerns and can significantly reduce stress and worry.

'My experience using financial counselling was so much more than a money plan and numbers on a page. It was about being

seen, heard, and understood. The support we received felt like being wrapped in a warm blanket, shielding us from the storm while gently giving us space to breathe again. Our counsellor helped us navigate the complexity of our financial situation, but more than that—she helped restore our hope.'

– Financial Counselling Client

With your consent, they can advocate with creditors on your behalf, explore options to empower you and manage your finances, and provide referrals including personal counselling and pro-bono lawyers for legal advice and other support services.

Appointments are by phone, **online** or in **person at Gordon, Chatswood or Hornsby.**

To learn more about Lifeline Harbour to Hawkesbury Sydney's Financial Counselling, please visit the website:

<https://www.lifelineh2hsydney.org.au/get-support/financial-counselling/> or get in touch by calling **8287 1162** or emailing [csappointments@lifelineh2h.org.au](mailto:csappointments@lifelineh2h.org.au)

*If you, or someone you know are feeling overwhelmed,  
we encourage you to connect with Lifeline  
in the way you feel most comfortable.*



## WATERFRONT INDEPENDENT LIVING AT WOOLWICH

### Newly Refurbished Waterfront Apartments with Lane Cove River Views

Discover relaxed, low-maintenance living at James Milson Village Woolwich. These newly refurbished two-bedroom apartments offer comfort, security and sweeping water views in one of Sydney's most sought-after harbourside settings.

Designed for easy, independent living within a welcoming village community, providing peace of mind now and into the future.

**Live independently. Feel supported.**

- Newly refurbished two-bedroom apartments
- Water views over the Lane Cove River
- Maintenance-free living with 24-hour emergency call system
- Optional in-home care and support services
- A connected, welcoming village community
- A limited number of refurbished apartments are available.

**A limited number of refurbished apartments are available.  
Enquire today to book a private inspection.  
(02) 9346 1500  
[reception@jamesmilsonvillage.com.au](mailto:reception@jamesmilsonvillage.com.au)  
[jamesmilsonvillage.com.au](http://jamesmilsonvillage.com.au)**



## Context: Scale and Growth of Data Centres in NSW

I AM WRITING TO EXPRESS MY STRONG OBJECTION TO THE PROPOSED PROJECT MARS DATA CENTRE.

### Why This Matters: Resource Intensity and Planning Implications

To make all the information available relevant to Lane Cove I'd like to break everything down to simply one average size facility, keeping in mind there are currently 10-12 proposed or approved in within kilometres of Lane Cove.

### Water Usage and Cumulative Demand

On the issue of water, Reuters reviewed NSW planning documents show that 10 approved data centres projected 9.6 gigalitres (GL) per year of potable water demand in aggregate, which for just one data centre is 2.63 million litres per day. I'm being conservative here; sizes and cooling technology varies across different centres so it could easily be more.

Basically, one data centre uses as much water as a major industrial facility; five begin to rival a suburb; ten operate on the same daily water scale as an entire local government area. I do not want an entire LGAs worth of water usage being competed for and against families and businesses.

Warnings have already been issued that some proponents are seeking 5 to 40 million litres per day per facility, meaning a 10-12 facility cluster could imply 50-480 million litres per day in peak requests if not constrained by policy and technology requirements.

### Electricity Demand and Grid Impacts

The same "one vs many" logic applies to electricity and grid impacts.

State planners have warned that much of the growth in electricity demand over the next decade will come from data centres, making them a major driver of how the energy system is planned and built.

At the local level, this scale becomes very real: a single proposed data centre campus in Lane Cove has been described as drawing around 90 megawatts of power, showing how just a few facilities can create the equivalent of a large industrial load concentrated within a suburban area.

This is why my concern is not simply "a data centre", but the cumulative impact of 10-12 facilities in close proximity, which risks overwhelming local substations, increasing reliance on backup generation and in turn air pollution in suburban areas.

### Proximity to Residential Areas and Community Facilities

A further and fundamental concern is how close many of the proposed data centre developments are to residential

areas and community spaces. In at least one case, a very large data centre is proposed less than 50 metres from existing homes and around 160 metres from Lane Cove West Public School and childcare facilities, as well as immediately adjacent to Blackman Park.

Based on this, it is understandable that many local families view these proposals as simply the wrong form of development in the wrong locations.

### Environmental and Amenity Impacts

Beyond resource use, clustering also compounds local environmental and amenity impacts. Submissions to the NSW inquiry have raised concerns about air quality impacts from backup diesel generators, this is a risk that grows as multiple facilities operate and potentially pollute our suburban airspace should the grid be struggling, which it most definitely will.

The inquiry's scope also explicitly recognises cumulative impacts such as noise, heat, traffic, and land-use conflicts, and questions whether current planning settings are adequate to manage precinct-level concentration—exactly the challenge now emerging in and around Lane Cove.

### Land Use Opportunity Cost and Local Employment

In the case of the Lane Cove Industrial area, Data centres are increasingly treated as infrastructure rather than places that create local jobs.

Policy submissions warn they can outbid other businesses for industrial land, forcing out employers that would otherwise provide everyday work and more active local precincts.

### Water Reliability and Local Infrastructure Resilience

Finally, I do not accept that Lane Cove should be treated as a "safe bet" for high dependence, water intensive facilities when the area has already experienced recent, well documented water disruptions; Lane Cove West had a burst water main on Garling Street earlier this year causing significant disruption including supply loss across the business park, and another burst main event affecting around 11,500 properties across multiple LGAs including parts of Greenwich and Lane Cove.

Yours Sincerely,

**The Hon Anthony Roberts MP**

MEMBER FOR LANE COVE

# Mayor's Message June 2026

Merri Southwood, Mayor of Lane Cove e: [msouthwood@lanecove.nsw.gov.au](mailto:msouthwood@lanecove.nsw.gov.au)



**As we move into the middle of the year, there is much to look forward to and get involved with across our Lane Cove community.**



Thank you to everyone who took part in this year's NSW Youth Week celebrations and to the team at Synergy Youth Centre for delivering such a fantastic program. It was wonderful to see so many young people participating and connecting.

This month marks World Environment Day on 5 June. Here in Lane Cove, we are committed to building a more sustainable future year-round, and our Environment Week program has a range of events, workshops and activities for residents to connect with nature and make a positive impact.

I also encourage you to continue to Have Your Say on the issues that matter to our community. Whether it is Council's advocacy on major developments, environmental initiatives, or long-term planning, your feedback plays an important role in helping Council advocate strongly on your behalf and shape the future of our area together.

Thank you for your continued support and have a great month ahead!



## Action-Packed Youth Week Brings Young People Together in Lane Cove

NSW Youth Week was a huge success in Lane Cove, with 85 young people coming together for Game On: Dare to Play under this year's theme, Dream. Dare. Do.

Proudly delivered by Synergy Youth Centre, the day was packed with activities including games, arts and crafts, sustainability activities, BBQ, road safety resources, interactive activities with GambleAware and the popular "Dare to Play" challenge which included laser tag and spinning wheel challenge.

Feedback from attendees showed the event was a hit, with young people sharing how much they enjoyed spending time with friends, playing laser tag and helping with the BBQ.



## Council's Sustainability Action Plan is Here!

Lane Cove Council has officially adopted the Sustainability Action Plan 2026–2030, continuing its long-standing commitment to sustainability. Developed with input from more than 140 community members and over 500 ideas, the Plan focuses on protecting biodiversity, improving transport connections, preparing for climate impacts and strengthening economic sustainability. Council has also released a new Outcomes Report highlighting achievements from the past three years.

To read both the Report and Plan, visit [www.lanecove.nsw.gov.au/Sustainability-Action-Plan](http://www.lanecove.nsw.gov.au/Sustainability-Action-Plan).



## Call for Stallholders for Sustainability Lane 2026

Lane Cove Council is seeking stallholders for Sustainability Lane, taking place Sunday 11 October at The Canopy. As part of Rotary Fair, this popular annual event showcases sustainable products, services, and initiatives to a large and engaged community audience (with over 18,000 attendees in 2025!). Businesses, community groups, and organisations with a focus on sustainability are encouraged to submit their Expression of Interest now, with formal applications opening in July 2026.

For more information, visit [www.lanecove.nsw.gov.au/Sustainability-Lane](http://www.lanecove.nsw.gov.au/Sustainability-Lane)



## Heritage Restoration Works Completed at Carisbrook House

Lane Cove Council recently completed important restoration works at Carisbrook House thanks to funding from the NSW Government 2025–27 Caring for State Heritage Grant Program.

The project included the replacement of the northern veranda roof and the repair and repainting of the existing wrought iron boundary fence. These works were undertaken to help preserve key elements of the state heritage-listed house museum.

Visitors are encouraged to come and experience a piece of local history at upcoming Devonshire Teas hosted by the Lane Cove Historical Society.

**For more information, visit [www.carisbrookhouse.com](http://www.carisbrookhouse.com)**



## Gallery Lane Cove + Creative Studios Launches EOFY Appeal

Gallery Lane Cove + Creative Studios is inviting the community to support local arts and creativity through tax-deductible donations, volunteering and event participation. Funds raised will help deliver exhibitions, workshops and accessible art programs for the community. Following strong community advocacy (more than 150 submissions received), Council has committed \$100,000 for the continued support and sustainability of this important cultural facility. While Council continues to provide vital support, the long-term sustainability of cultural infrastructure also relies on investment and partnership from other levels of government.

**For more information, visit: [www.gallerylanecove.com.au](http://www.gallerylanecove.com.au)**

## ROAD SAFETY EVENTS



### 'Help Learner Driver Become Safer Driver' Online workshop (image supplied)

**Wednesday 17 June, 6:00pm–7:30pm**

This online workshop will help you supervise your Learner Driver to navigate roads with confidence. Bookings essential: [www.lanecove.nsw.gov.au/Help-Learner-Driver](http://www.lanecove.nsw.gov.au/Help-Learner-Driver)

### Child Car Seat Checking Clinic

**Saturday 20 June, 9:00am–1:00pm**  
**Council Chamber Car Park, 48**

**Longueville Rd, Lane Cove**  
Ensure your child's safety with a free car seat inspection and fitting by a Transport for NSW Restraint Fitter. **Bookings essential: [www.lanecove.nsw.gov.au/Child-Car-Seat-Safety](http://www.lanecove.nsw.gov.au/Child-Car-Seat-Safety)**

## CONSULTATION CORNER

### Last Chance to Have Your Say: 2026/2027 Draft Budget

Lane Cove Council is inviting community feedback on its suite of Draft Integrated Planning and Reporting Plans for 2026/27, including the Budget Overview, Operational Plan, and Associated Resource Plans. Submissions close Friday 5 June 2025.

**For more information and to submit your feedback, visit [www.lanecove.nsw.gov.au/2026-27-draft-budget](http://www.lanecove.nsw.gov.au/2026-27-draft-budget)**

### Small Watercraft Storage Policy

Council's Draft Small Watercraft Storage Policy aims to implement a better management system for the storage of small boats, paddle boards, canoes and kayaks to reduce clutter, protect the local environment and improve foreshore access across the LGA.

**For more information and to submit your feedback by Friday 5 June, visit [www.lanecove.nsw.gov.au/small-watercraft-policy](http://www.lanecove.nsw.gov.au/small-watercraft-policy)**

## EVENTS



### Pride Month film screening and social event: Four Mothers (MA15+) (image supplied)

**Wednesday 17 June, doors open at 6:15, screening starts 7pm**

In partnership with QUEERSCREEN, Lane Cove Cinema Club will be screening the BFI London Film Festival award winning film Four Mothers. Come early to have a drink and mingle.

**Bookings essential: [queerscreen.org.au/sessions/four-mothers](http://queerscreen.org.au/sessions/four-mothers)**

# What's on in Lane Cove June 2026

Find all our events on our website at [www.lanecove.nsw.gov.au/events](http://www.lanecove.nsw.gov.au/events)



## Come and Celebrate Lane Cove Environment Week!

In celebration of World Environment Day 5 June, Lane Cove Council is hosting a week of events focused on sustainability, nature, and climate action. All events are free and bookings are essential.

*For more information and to book, visit: [www.lanecove.nsw.gov.au/Environment-Week-2026](http://www.lanecove.nsw.gov.au/Environment-Week-2026)*

### Climate Fresh Workshop

**Tuesday 2 June, 5:30pm–8:30pm**

This interactive workshop explores the causes and impacts of climate change through a collaborative, science-based card game experience. Plant-based refreshments provided.



### World Environment Day – Greenwich

**Sunday 7 June, 9:00am–12:00pm**

Take a guided walk through the woodland of Berrys Creek in Greenwich, followed by seedling planting to help restore local bushland. Equipment and refreshments provided.

## COMING UP @ THE CANOPY

visit [thecanopy.com.au](http://thecanopy.com.au)

### Chess Weekly

Every Thursday from 1:30pm

### Makers Market

Sunday 21 June,  
9:00am–4:00pm

### Sunday Sounds with Blue Mallee

Sunday 28 June,  
2:00pm–4:00pm



### Growing Banksias

**Thursday 4 June, 9:00am–11:30am**

Discover local Banksia species and learn how to propagate these iconic native plants to help support wildlife and a healthy planet. Ages 16+.

### First Fridays: World Environment Day

**Friday 5 June, 2:30pm–5:00pm**

Celebrate World Environment Day at Lane Cove Plaza with Council's Bushland and Waste teams. Enjoy free seedlings, interactive activities, prizes, and more.

Join us in recognising NAIDOC Week with a series of community events celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, culture and achievements. More events to be announced, for updates visit: [www.lanecove.nsw.gov.au/events](http://www.lanecove.nsw.gov.au/events)

### NAIDOC First Fridays

**Friday 3 July, 3:00pm–5:00pm**

Join us in The Plaza for arts, crafts and activities that celebrate the start of NAIDOC Week.



### NAIDOC Saturday Sounds

**Saturday 11 July, 3:00pm–5:00pm**

Enjoy live music in The Plaza from The Bush Billies and Naya Maye.



### Cinema Club Screening: In My Blood It Runs (M)

**Thursday 16 July, doors open 6:45pm, screening starts 7pm**

A powerful documentary navigating the challenges of culture, identity, and the Australian education system. Pottery Lane Performance Space. Free.

*Bookings essential: [www.lanecove.nsw.gov.au/In-My-Blood-It-Runs](http://www.lanecove.nsw.gov.au/In-My-Blood-It-Runs)*



### Aboriginal Heritage Cultural Tour

**Saturday 27 June, 10:00am–1:00pm**

Join Karen Smith from the Aboriginal Heritage Office on this insightful tour and enrich your understanding of the Cameraygal and Wallumedgal people. In partnership with North Sydney Council. Light refreshments provided. Ages 12+.

## NAIDOC WEEK EVENTS – 5–12 JULY 2026

# What's on in Lane Cove June 2026

Find all our events on our website at [www.lanecove.nsw.gov.au/events](http://www.lanecove.nsw.gov.au/events)



## LIBRARY EVENTS

*Bookings are not required unless otherwise stated. For more information, visit [www.lanecove.nsw.gov.au/Library-Events](http://www.lanecove.nsw.gov.au/Library-Events)*

### Chatty Chairs

@ Lane Cove Library

Every Tuesday, 10:00am–12:00pm. Chatty Chairs is a relaxed morning for meeting new people and open to all.

### Library Quiet Hour

@ St Leonards Library

Every Wednesday, 9.30am–10.30am. Featuring gentle lighting, low noise levels and sensory supports, Quiet Hour is family friendly and open to all ages.

### Crafters Corner

@ Greenwich Library

Monday 1 June, 9.30am–10.30am. Enjoy morning tea while working on your latest craft project or knitting squares for Wrap with Love. First Monday every month. This is a drop-in session. Ages 16+.



### BookChat @ Greenwich Library

Monday 15 June, 9.30am–10.30am. Meet up monthly and discuss your favourite books or find a new one! Each month has a different theme. June's theme: Allo, Allo, Allo: English Detective Fiction.

### Tech Savvy Seniors

– Intro to Online Shopping

@ Lane Cove Library

Thursday 18 June, 2:30pm–4:30pm. This workshop teaches you the basics of buying and paying online, from booking holidays to buying groceries and paying bills. For Adults. *Bookings essential.*



### Moments in Music – Verdi and Puccini @ Lane Cove Library

Wednesday 24 June, 10:00am–12:00pm.

Local musician Graham Ball reflects on the lives, and music, of two great opera composers, Giuseppe Verdi and Giacomo Puccini.

*Bookings essential.*



### 3D Printed Plant Sign

@ St Leonards Library

Thursday 25 June 2:30pm–4:00pm.

This beginner friendly workshop teaches you the basics of 3D printing. Create your own custom label for herbs and plants.

Ages 16+. Cost \$5.00 + booking fee.

*Bookings essential.*

### Writer in Residence Group

@ Lane Cove Library

Thursday 25 June, 6:00pm–7:30pm.

Join our Lane Cove Writers in Residence group who meet monthly to share stories, discuss creative writing ideas and writing methods.

### Meet Angelina Matrippolito – Le Seconde – Inheriting the Unspoken @ Lane Cove Library

Thursday 25 June, 6:15pm–7:30pm.

Honest and heartfelt, Angelina Matrippolito's memoir explores the Italian and feminine sides of her experience growing between cultures and balancing family history with personal identity. Books available for purchase on the night.

*Bookings essential.*

## GALLERY LANE COVE + CREATIVE STUDIOS EVENTS

*For more information and bookings on these events and more, visit [www.gallerylanecove.com.au](http://www.gallerylanecove.com.au)*



### Winter Salon at Gallery Lane Cove + Creative Studios

Opening Friday 12 June, this group exhibition features artists at all stages of their careers and working across a diverse range of media. Discover painting, sculpture, photography, textiles and more, while meeting the artists behind the works.



### Term 2 Adult Classes

Casual drop-in sessions and pro-rata enrolments are available across the adult program for the term's remaining weeks. The program includes pottery (wheel and hand building), painting, drawing and two gentle yoga classes.

### Winter School Holiday Program

*Bookings are now open for the Winter Children's Holiday Workshops, 6–17 July.*

Young makers can explore pottery, textiles, drawing and painting through creative workshops led by qualified educators and artists. Places fill quickly, so book early.

# Every child in hospital is a childhood on hold. You can change the future for sick kids.

When you think about childhood, you picture first steps, birthday parties, and playing with siblings. But for many families those moments are put on hold as their child fights for their life in hospital.

Three-year-old Zayn knows this reality all too well.

At just six weeks old, Zayn underwent surgery at The Children's Hospital at Westmead, after doctors discovered a rare and life-threatening liver condition.

What followed was a long and uncertain journey - one that would see him spend more than 500 days in hospital, much of it in intensive care.

Zayn underwent a life-saving liver transplant, but complications meant his fight was far from over. His kidneys began to fail, his heart struggled, and at one point, his family were called in to say goodbye. But Zayn kept fighting.

After months of life support and a



subsequent kidney transplant, Zayn was finally well enough to go home.

Today, he's doing what every child should be able to do - running around, playing with his siblings, and causing a bit of chaos.

But the reality is, children like Zayn never get back the time they've lost.

That's why this tax time; Sydney Children's Hospitals Foundation is asking the community to come together to support the Sydney Sick Kids Appeal.

Your donation could help fund world-class research and innovation across the Sydney Children's Hospitals Network - work that is focused on reducing hospital stays, improving survival rates, and finding new ways to treat and cure serious childhood illness.

Breakthroughs in areas like transplantation and gene therapy have the potential to transform outcomes for children like Zayn - helping them spend less time in hospital and more time being kids.

This tax time, you can change the future for sick kids.

**Make a tax-deductible donation today at [www.schf.org.au](http://www.schf.org.au) or call 1800 770 122.**

Sydney Children's Hospitals Foundation

**1 in 2 Australians don't have a valid Will.**

**Don't leave your legacy to chance.**

Scan here

[www.schf.org.au](http://www.schf.org.au) | 1800 770 122

Sydney Children's Hospitals Foundation.  
ABN 72 003073 185

# Vaccinations

## – your questions answered

**DR CARL WONG**  
IS A LANE COVE-BASED  
GP AND SITS ON THE  
BOARD OF SYDNEY  
COMMUNITY SERVICES



Having your recommended vaccines (immunisations) at every life stage, for example childhood, pregnancy, seasonal, travel and at an older age, is the most effective way to remain healthy, build immunity and prevent diseases that can cause complications, disability or death. Many of the vaccinations (excluding travel) are fully funded by our government at no charge to you.

Why do vaccinations matter? On average each year in Australia, seasonal influenza results in an estimated 3500 deaths, 300,000 GP consultations and 18,000 hospitalisations. This has a major impact on the affected individual through illness (missed school/work, health complications), increased demand and burden on our health care system, and on businesses and the economy through lost worktime and productivity. Vaccine programs (including for influenza) prevent about 2.5 million deaths globally every year. Vaccinations also provide protection against long term complications from infections such as HPV which can lead to cancers, and infections from the chickenpox virus, which can result in shingles later in life.

Most routine vaccines are effective in 85–95% of people. This means that in every 100 people who receive a vaccine, between 5 and 15 of them may not develop their own protective immunity. But if population vaccination rates are high, then these people are still protected because they are at a much lower chance of meeting an infected person. This is why vaccination for everyone is important so we can achieve ‘herd immunity’ - when enough people are vaccinated against a disease to prevent it from spreading, and provide indirect protection to unvaccinated people, including children too young to be vaccinated and people who are unable to be vaccinated for a range of valid medical reasons. To achieve herd immunity for infectious diseases, coverage needs to be high, and our national target is to have 95% of the Australian population vaccinated. According to latest results, childhood immunisations rates have been falling well below this over the past three years.

### HERE ARE SOME ANSWERS TO SOME COMMON VACCINATION QUESTIONS:

#### • How do vaccines work?

Vaccines work by triggering an immune response in the body to the infection they target, without causing the disease itself.

They do this by stimulating cells in our immune system to produce antibodies that help fight disease and teach our immune system to ‘remember’ the specific virus/bacteria. This enables the immune system to mount a defence if the infection is encountered in the future.

#### • Are vaccines properly tested and monitored?

Yes. Vaccines must meet the highest possible safety standards and are tested before they are released for use in our community. Once vaccines are released, each batch is monitored for any unanticipated problems during use. We have a register that has now captured information from hundreds of thousands of recipients, showing that the rates of adverse effects after vaccination are extremely low in Australia.

#### • What are the side effects of vaccinations?

Almost all side effects are minor and usually go away within a few days. The most common are redness, swelling and tenderness at the injection site and usually happen within hours of the injection. Other less common effects (<10% cases) are fever, headache, tiredness or nausea. Even fewer people experience vomiting, diarrhoea, or muscle or joint pain. It is important to remember that these symptoms could be happening by chance (unrelated to the vaccine) or simply indicate that the vaccine is working in the body to generate an immune response, which is what it was designed to do!

Serious side effects to vaccines are extremely rare, and it is usually not possible to predict who may have a mild reaction and who may have a rarer, more serious reaction to a vaccine. Sometimes, children can have a febrile seizure if their temperature rises suddenly. These are usually very mild and recover on their own without any ongoing effects. About three in every 100 children by the age of five will have had a febrile seizure, but these aren't usually associated with a vaccination, and febrile seizures do not increase the risk of developing epilepsy.

Whilst side effects are not to be trivialised it needs to be balanced by the fact that vaccines are given to many millions of people in Australia and billions worldwide. Being vaccinated is less harmful than getting the disease—many of the diseases we vaccinate against can be fatal or have long-term health effects.



- **Does the Measles-Mumps-Rubella (MMR) vaccine cause autism? Do vaccines cause Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)?**

The MMR vaccine doesn't cause autism. The potential link between the MMR vaccine and autism was originally suggested by a study in the United Kingdom in 1999 which generated a lot of media attention and research at the time, causing a worldwide mass hysteria and a sudden drop in vaccination rates. Many subsequent studies and reviews over the past 20 years have found no link between MMR vaccine and autism. The original study was shown to be fake; the head doctor had been hired to attack the MMR vaccine and the research group had made up their results. This published paper has since been withdrawn and the head doctor is no longer allowed to practice medicine.

SIDS is the sudden and otherwise unexplained death of an infant under one year of age with most cases happening in the first three months of a baby's life. Given that many routine vaccinations are given by two months of age, this idea has been thoroughly researched and shown there is no link between vaccinations and SIDS.

- **Do vaccines cause or worsen asthma and allergies? Can my child still be vaccinated if they have allergies?**

There is no evidence that vaccines cause or worsen asthma or allergies. It is very important that these people are vaccinated to reduce their chance of getting a serious infection, which could make their existing condition worse.

- **If I have an egg allergy, is it safe to have the flu vaccination?**

Yes. People with egg allergy may be safely vaccinated with any of the flu vaccines available in Australia. Most of the current influenza vaccines are derived from the virus, grown in a hen's egg. Once purified, the amount of residual egg protein in each vaccine dose is usually less than one microgram. This is much less than the amount of egg protein likely to trigger reactions in people with egg allergy, which is estimated at 130 micrograms when eaten.

- **What winter vaccinations should I consider?**

Everyone above the age of six months should get a flu vaccination unless there is a rare medical reason that they are unable to. Immunity from vaccinations wears off and influenza viruses and vaccines change every year, which is why annual vaccination is recommended. This year, there is a free nasal flu vaccination (no needles!) available from age 2-4 years, and for 5-18 years of age at a private cost.

COVID virus changes occur less often but it is still no less important to keep up to date with vaccinations every 6-12 months, depending on your age and other health conditions. Also at time of this publication, the government has now introduced a free RSV vaccine for those 75 years and over. Please see your GP for more advice.

With winter upon us, now is the time to act to protect yourself, your loved ones, and the wider community from vaccine-preventable illnesses. Don't delay.

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*Kookaburra's Concert links children's laughter and happiness to the joy of music and nature in the park.*

**Maggie Lawrence** chats with Linley Point local Vivienne Lowe about her journey from landscape architecture to beautiful stories told in sculpture.



**MAGGIE LAWRENCE** IS A LOCAL AUTHOR AND SCREENWRITER. YOU CAN VISIT HER AT [WWW.MAGGIELAWRENCE.COM](http://WWW.MAGGIELAWRENCE.COM)

## Shaping an impressive career in sculpture

Vivienne Lowe was born in Newcastle where she spent her early childhood before moving to Sydney to complete high school and later university. When her father was 16, he journeyed from China to Newcastle to attend school.

'My father later went back to China to marry my mother – who sailed to Australia to start their new life,' Vivienne told me.

Vivienne was one of six children. Her father was an entrepreneur who owned and ran a retail business and Chinese restaurant with her mother. They later invested in other properties.

'In Sydney, my elder sisters and brother were already studying courses in pharmacy, psychology, languages and medicine,' she said.

Although Vivienne was initially interested in environmental sciences, by chance, the move to Sydney led her to study art for her HSC.

'I was convinced to take art as one of my prime subjects as the new school didn't offer geography. I studied six years of art history in two years to catch up on curricula I'd missed.

'I'd always been interested in drawing and making things. Eventually, when I chose to do landscape architecture at university, I reasoned it offered a creative side as well as a functional facet to the work. As a landscape architect I worked in both the design and environmental areas but discovered I much preferred the creative outlet of design work.'

Vivienne had always wanted to travel and not long after she graduated, she spent ten months travelling through Europe before coming home to marry and start a family.

'We initially lived in Lane Cove close to where we are now. We then bought and rebuilt our home in Linley Point where we've lived for over thirty-five years,' she said.

### Joining the Willoughby Arts Centre

It was only after she started her family that Vivienne was introduced to creating sculpture by two of her sisters.

'By then, I'd set aside my landscape career which gave me more time to explore sculpture along with family commitments and helping out with my husband's business.

'I joined the Willoughby Art Centre (WAC) and completed numerous short sculpture courses. At the Tom Bass Art School, tutored under Tom Bass himself, I worked on a stylised figure. At National Art School Dave Horton taught welding in steel. I attended classes by Ingrid Morley and numerous other sculptors of renown in Sydney creating more figurative work.'

It was at the WAC that Vivienne joined a supportive group of sculptors who met weekly to hire a studio.

'They gave not only friendship and support but often technical help, access to live models and sparked my interest in new techniques. Starting with clay, I quickly found a competency in figurative sculpture and went on to develop more stylised works that created clean lines and forms.'

### Appointed Vice President of The Sculptors Society

In 2003 Vivienne joined The Sculptors Society (TSS) and exhibited on a regular basis with the Society and with her group of Studio Sculptors from the WAC. In 2016, she was appointed Vice President of TSS.

'One of my first major contributions was to organise an international sculpture exchange program with Japanese sculptors who came to exhibit with the Society. In the following year, I led a group of Australian sculptors to exhibit in Japan,' she told me.

'During Covid, I produced a book titled *Celebrating 70 Years* which showcased the members' work and stories for the Society's 70th anniversary. I also wrote numerous articles for the TSS Bulletin, as well as helping set up exhibitions and marketing. I spent ten years in this position and was honoured with a lifetime membership to the Society.'

In addition to creating sculptures for exhibitions, Vivienne started tendering for public art projects specifically for sculptural work.

‘My background as a landscape architect gave me the experience to put together the necessary documentation and understanding of public safety that comes with producing any design. So, in producing public art works, I married both my landscape training and my artistic development.’

### Kookaburra’s Concert sculpture links laughter with music

Vivienne’s most recent public artwork of a laughing kookaburra can be seen in Hughes Park in Lane Cove West. It was commissioned by the Lane Cove Council and was titled *Kookaburra’s Concert*.

‘This project was a small but very pleasing job to do. I enjoyed having a site literally up the hill and minutes from home. We often have kookaburras in our garden and hear their laughter nearby.’

‘I love creating sculptures that tell stories or express something meaningful. In this sculpture, I link the kookaburra’s laughter with music, remembering Marion Sinclair’s beloved kookaburra song which was taught to many schoolchildren.’

‘The site where the sculpture is located features a children’s playground and is also home to the Lane Cove Band, so it seemed appropriate to link this laughter with children’s laughter and happiness in the playground, and to the joy of music and nature in the park.’

‘I like the challenge of a new project’s brief. Often the brief is fairly general and so I create something that fits the environment and also relates to me as an artist - one who recognises beauty and positivity in the world - our place, our cultures, our people and our stories,’ she told me.

Over the years, Vivienne has continued to experiment with different concepts, materials and techniques. Her materials range from ceramic, resin, paper pulp, glass to bronze, aluminium and stainless steel.

‘Often, a work might start in clay but be reproduced in a more durable metal depending on whether indoors or outdoors.’

‘A recent indoor work is my *La Femme Fragile*. It’s a reiteration of the book cover illustration of Germain Greer’s iconic work *The Female Eunuch*. The “body suit” is made of stainless-steel mesh and wire and glass. The decorative glass is recycled chandelier glass pieces. The work reveals a woman’s emotional and physical wellbeing, reflecting her strength and beauty. Like glass, this wellbeing can be so easily shattered in a DV situation.’



When the sculptures in *Box Ballerina* are twirled, the *Fur Elise* (Blue Danube) music plays mechanically on stainless steel pipes under the skirting.



*La Femme Fragile* reveals a woman’s emotional and physical wellbeing, reflecting her strength and beauty.



*Rhythm of the Heart* sculpture heralds the start of something special that flows like music, through the lives of mother and child.

### Inspiration drawn from the connection to her children

Family is of prime importance to Vivienne, so when she created her *Rhythm of the Heart* sculpture her inspiration was drawn from her connection to her children. Her beautiful statement about the work describes that connection and love.

*The essence of the Rhythm of the Heart sculpture is a positive, spiritual connection between mother and child, creating a sense of quiet calm binding them beyond the days of childhood. The treble clef design heralds the start of something special that flows like music, through the lives of mother and child.*

Another of her series of works focuses on memory and memories.

‘The initial work titled *Memory* was created when close family members suffered from Alzheimer’s disease. This work in aluminium was inspired by the shape of brain coral. This and subsequent works in blue resin in the series, used the repetition of a floral design to represent a happy or positive memory.’

In earlier works such as *Box Ballerina* and *M’selle V*, Vivienne employed viewer interaction and music to trigger memories. *Box Ballerina* depicts a larger-than-life size childhood jewellery box “ballerina”. When these sculptures are twirled, the *Fur Elise* (Blue Danube) music is played mechanically on stainless steel pipes under the skirting.

‘*M’selle V* recreates a ball gown which might have been seen at the yesteryear balls in the palace of Versailles. These represent happy childhood and recent travel memories. Hopefully they trigger memories for others also,’ she added.

Vivienne’s largest public artwork involved three large-scale works: a 2.5m high stainless steel and glass sculpture, two 3.5m wide bas reliefs and a colourful two storey high mural for an RSL Lifecare Facility in Newcastle.

‘Winning this commission, I felt a strong connection to my past as not only was it for a site close to where I grew up, it was also where I first was impressed by a Lyndon Dadswell sculpture – commonly known by locals as *Him n’ Her*. This sculpture is two figures both about six metres tall in the entrance to the war memorial library in Newcastle. The project brief was to honour soldiers who fought in the Vietnam war so my theme was bravery and patriotism. There is a reference to *Him n’ Her* in my mural.’

‘We recently travelled to Bhutan where I was amazed by the landscape, the people and their culture. What struck me most is the spiritualism of the Buddhist people and the beauty of their temples and practices. It has inspired me to create more sculpture to tell part of that story,’ Vivienne concluded.



Vivienne’s largest public artwork involved three large-scale works for an RSL Lifecare Facility in Newcastle.

# Help shape the future of healthcare

Medical research, innovative treatments and compassionate care are transforming healthcare and saving lives. Before the end of the financial year, the NORTH Foundation is calling on the community to help shape the future of healthcare with a tax-deductible donation.

For Carolyn Talbot, the impact of that research is deeply personal.

‘Life is precious. It becomes even more precious when you hear the words “you have cancer”’; Carolyn said. ‘I’ve heard those words twice.’

First diagnosed with breast cancer in 2008, Carolyn faced a very different experience to her mother, who had died from the disease decades earlier when treatment options were limited. Advances in early detection, tailored therapies and new medications meant Carolyn could access more personalised treatment and recover with minimal side effects.

More than a decade later, Carolyn heard those words again - this time it was pancreatic cancer.

‘I thought I might be facing my last Christmas,’ she said. ‘But the care I received and the advances in treatment gave me hope when I needed it most.’

Under the care of Professor Stephen Clarke OAM, senior medical oncologist at Royal North Shore Hospital, Carolyn received a personalised treatment plan that included surgery followed by adjuvant chemotherapy.

‘Neoadjuvant or adjuvant therapy has become standard care on the North Shore campus,’ Professor Clarke

explained. ‘By treating circulating cancer cells before they spread, it has helped transform outcomes for patients. Our multidisciplinary approach has led to the best pancreatic survival rates in Australia.’

Six years later, Carolyn remains cancer-free.

‘I am deeply grateful to be living a full, active life – travelling, staying well and sharing precious time with family and friends,’ she said. ‘Medical research and innovative treatments gave me that chance.’

Carolyn’s experience is one of many that demonstrates the real-world impact of medical research.

At 23, Sam Ledo was training to become a professional football player when he was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, a chronic condition with no cure.

‘Everything changed overnight,’ Sam said. ‘I lost my health, my football dream and my sense of what the future could look like.’

After years of decline, Sam was offered a haematopoietic stem cell transplant at Royal North Shore Hospital - an advanced treatment developed through decades of medical research.

‘Medical research gave me hope,’ he said. ‘Within months, I was walking again and starting to rebuild my life.’

Today, Sam has a brighter future. He is helping coach his local football team and raising a young family.

‘I’m living a life I once thought was impossible,’ he said.

Through donations, the NORTH Foundation supports leading medical



research, equipment and innovation that improves diagnosis, treatment and patient outcomes. In the past year alone, philanthropic support has helped deliver significant progress, including new cancer care initiatives, advanced surgical technology, enhanced rehabilitation facilities and improved training for clinicians.

As the end of the financial year approaches, the NORTH Foundation is urging Australians to support the next wave of breakthroughs.

Behind every life transformed is a commitment to research, innovation and compassionate care made possible by donors.

A tax-deductible donation before 30 June will help fund the discoveries and treatments that give patients hope - today and into the future.

## DONATE AT

<https://northfoundation.org.au/tax-appeal/>



Six years after her second cancer diagnosis, Carolyn remains cancer-free, and living a full and active life, thanks to medical research and innovative treatments.



Diagnosed with multiple sclerosis at 23, Sam was offered a haematopoietic stem cell transplant - an advanced treatment developed through decades of medical research.



Today, Sam looks forward to a brighter future with wife Sophie and son Thomas

# COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



**VOLUNTEER ART EXHIBITION**

**Opening night**  
Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July 6pm - 8pm

**Exhibition**  
Friday 10<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> July 9am - 3pm



This exhibition features works by Art Therapy volunteers, practitioners, and trainees at Twilight Aged Care, honouring the complexity of lived experience and the quiet courage of life's many thresholds.

Proceeds will support the expansion of the Art Therapy Program.

**HUNTERS HILL VILLAGE**  
8 D'Aram St, Hunters Hill

Enter the Church Hall via the Sunroom Cafe on Alexandra St

## Room Hire at the Meeting House



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The Meeting House in Lane Cove offers a versatile and welcoming space that takes the stress out of hosting at home.

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With over 25 years of experience, our business specialises in no fuss removal for those unwanted, unregistered, damaged, or unroadworthy vehicles, regardless of their condition, year, make, or model.

**CARS. TRUCKS. UTES. VANS. CARAVANS.**



**Call Wal 0425 304 475 today**



# City of Ryde Libraries wants to hear from you!

*We're adding to our collection and making our libraries more welcoming for all, and we'd love to hear from you!*

## Dementia-Friendly Libraries – Have Your Say!

City of Ryde Libraries is proudly working towards becoming a Dementia-Friendly Library Service in collaboration with Dementia Australia.

To help shape our libraries as Dementia-Friendly spaces, we are seeking feedback from people living with dementia or their carers. This will include a visit to one of our branches and a short focus group discussion to share your insights.

For more information, please visit [www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/DFL-EOL](http://www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/DFL-EOL).

## Ryde's Veterans: Stories of Service

Our Local History team are seeking to record stories of service in Australia's armed forces from veterans with connections to the City of Ryde.

From the Vietnam War to contemporary operations such as Somalia, Afghanistan, Iraq and United Nations peacekeeping missions, we want to capture the lived experience of service personnel across generations.

Through recording these stories, this project will document not only military service, but also the enduring connection between veterans and the Ryde community before, during and after their service.

If you've served or would like to share the story of a loved one, visit [www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/storiesofservice](http://www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/storiesofservice).



## 100 WORDS



### TANAMI TRACK ENCOUNTER, CENTRAL AUSTRALIA

We met Tommy and Benny at Bililuna. Vietnam Vets, they'd been on the road for years.

They drove a 1942 US Army jeep and a 1956 Willy's jeep. They'd made town with barely two litres of fuel and no water. Mouths as dry as a lime miner's boot, their last drink had been 24 hours ago. Sips from an old can of KB found in Tommy's trailer.

After 'Nam, they'd never settled down. Always called to the outback.

If you see a cloud of dust on your travels, it just might be Tommy and Benny heading towards another distant range.

**Anthony Lane - Lane Cove**

### THE POCKET WATCH

The gold Patek Philippe pocket watch rested on the bedside table, as its proud new owner, drifted off to sleep.

Earlier that day, he'd been the highest bidder at Chicago's Freeman's Auction House. The timepiece once belonged to John Jacob Astor IV, the wealthiest passenger aboard the RMS Titanic.

Several hours later, he was abruptly awakened by the chiming of the pocket watch, as fog clouds swirled around him. Frantically switching on the lamp, he checked the time...two twenty a.m. the exact moment the ship of dreams sunk to bottom of the North Atlantic, but rose to legendary status.

**Perihan Bozkurt - Lane Cove**

**Do you have a 100 word story?**

**Email:**

[editor@thevillageobserver.com.au](mailto:editor@thevillageobserver.com.au)

## I'M HERE TO HELP

As your local Member of Parliament I can assist with:

- access to NSW Government services
- representation in Parliament and to Ministers
- attending local events and supporting local groups

**Please contact me and I will be pleased to assist you.**

- ☎ 02 9439 4199    ☎ 0478 164 250
- @ [willoughby@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:willoughby@parliament.nsw.gov.au)
- 🌐 [www.timjamesmp.com.au](http://www.timjamesmp.com.au)
- 📍 Shop 26, 145-151 Sailors Bay Road, Northbridge NSW 2063



Scan for the Willoughby Community Survey

**TIM JAMES MP**

**MEMBER FOR WILLOUGHBY**

Authorised by Tim James MP, Shop 26, 145-151 Sailor's Bay Rd Northbridge NSW 2063. Funded using parliamentary entitlements.

## History talk @ the library: The Industrial Revolution and its effect on Australia

The Industrial Revolution in Britain (1760-1840) fundamentally transformed society and the global economy, yet its specific impact on Australia is less widely understood.

This month, Chris Schofield will present an overview of the technological, social, and political changes that occurred during and after this era. As many people today return to working from home, such history offers valuable insights; the Industrial Revolution famously saw a shift from agrarian and handicraft-based economies to those dominated by industry, and workers moved from their homes to urban factories.

Chris Schofield is a former President of Hunters Hill Historical Society. He is a retired broadcast journalist, who has worked for mainstream media organisations both in Australia and in the UK.

**Please join us for this insightful presentation.**

**Who:** Chris Schofield

**When:** 7pm on Tuesday 23 June 2026 at Lane Cove Library

**Cost:** \$5 includes wine and cheese (free for LCHS members)

### Australians at War

Each year, the Lane Cove Historical Society hosts a presentation honouring Australians in war zones as part of our ANZAC Day commemorations. Given the strong community participation in these services, we are seeking to compile more comprehensive records of local residents who served in any conflict, including the Vietnam War.

If you know of a Lane Cove resident who has served, please reply with their name and any available details regarding their service. We will be collaborating with the local RSL sub-branch to preserve this important history before it is lost.

Additionally, research often identifies medals that have been lost over time. Please note that the Department of Defence can replace service and campaign medals issued from the Second World War through to current operations, for both Australian and Imperial honours.

Please email your information to [LCHS@carisbrookhouse.com](mailto:LCHS@carisbrookhouse.com) to help us record and honour the service men and women of Lane Cove.

### History Prize

There is still time to enter the \$1,500 Lane Cove History Prize. Research a topic you are passionate about—whether it is your street's history, a notable person, or a local event—and submit your entry by August 31st. This is a wonderful opportunity to share personal stories of historical significance to Lane Cove and potentially win a valuable prize.

Full details regarding entry conditions, guidelines, and criteria can be found on our website. We look forward to hearing your amazing stories.

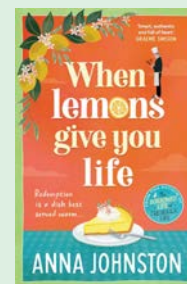


Photo by Museums Victoria

## When Lemons Give You Life

By Anna Johnston

REVIEWED BY  
MELISSA BARKS



From dementia and aged care to LGBTQIA+ discrimination and food as a love language, *When Lemons Give You Life* tackles a remarkable breadth of social issues. Yet Anna Johnston skilfully weaves these themes into a story filled with flawed, deeply human and ultimately endearing characters.

The novel's greatest strength is its authenticity. Johnston draws on her own experiences, stepping away from a promising career in medicine to work in the nursing home where her grandfather lived after his dementia progressed. That firsthand insight gives the residents of Sunny Glen Aged Care Facility a depth and emotional honesty that lingers long after the final page.

Retired Michelin-star chef Griff resides at Sunny Glen under false pretences, having faked a dementia diagnosis so he could remain beside his husband Beau, whose life was shortened by early-onset Alzheimer's disease. Now widowed and adrift, Griff struggles to find purpose in the routines of residential care, his only comfort coming from secret online shopping, top shelf whisky and a teddy bear stuffed with contraband three-ply toilet paper. His relationship with his sister Lisa is equally fragile, shaped by years of resentment, grief and misunderstanding.

When Griff is given the opportunity to cook again, he rediscovers a sense of dignity and connection. His determination to replace the bland meals served at Sunny Glen becomes symbolic of something larger - restoring individuality and joy to residents too often reduced to stereotypes within the aged care system. Johnston's portrayal of life inside residential care is compassionate yet unflinching, highlighting both the quiet indignities residents face and the humanity that persists within them.

Beyond Griff's journey, the novel also explores Lisa's search for happiness and the vulnerabilities that come with love, illness and family responsibility. These parallel stories deepen the book's examination of caregiving, sacrifice and the complicated ways people protect those they love.

*When Lemons Give You Life* is an engaging and emotionally resonant read, filled with warmth, humour and believable characters. But its lasting impact comes from the questions it asks of readers. It challenges us to consider how we treat society's most vulnerable - and whether dignity, compassion and connection are truly valued in the systems designed to care for them.

### PAM PALMER

President

Lane Cove Historical Society Inc

[www.carisbrookhouse.com](http://www.carisbrookhouse.com)





Balls Head Reserve Bushcare Group



Margaret has been a member of the Balls Head Reserve Bushcare Group in Waverton for over 25 years. Credit: Carole Burns, 2017

## Celebrating the quiet heroes of Landcare

The quiet achievers restoring our bushland, protecting wildlife habitats and caring for local waterways are set to be recognised through the 2026 New South Wales Landcare Awards. The biennial awards celebrate individuals, groups and organisations making outstanding contributions to environmental care and sustainable land management across the state.

Nominations are now open and close on July 31, giving communities the opportunity to shine a light on the volunteers and environmental champions often working behind the scenes.

The awards span a wide range of categories, including the Coastcare Award, Women in Landcare Award, Junior Landcare Award and Sustainable Agriculture Landcare Award. Winners will progress to the 2027 National Landcare Awards in Adelaide.

Among the many worthy nominees across NSW could be local groups like the Balls Head Reserve Bushcare Group in Waverton, which has been caring for the reserve for decades. Bush regeneration work began at Balls Head in 1980, while the volunteer Bushcare group has worked regularly on the site since 1990. Their projects have included rehabilitating bushland around an Aboriginal engraving site, planting natives, erosion control and ongoing weed management.

Volunteer Margaret has been part of the movement for more than 25 years after joining Bushcare following her retirement.

'I feel like I'm doing my bit to improve the area,' she said. 'I've learnt a lot from the dedicated North Sydney Council Bushcare staff and enjoy the company of all the other volunteers.'

For Margaret, the rewards come from both the environmental impact and the sense of community.

'It's very comfortable to work with a group of like-minded people, and it's the most rewarding job I've ever had,' she said.

Over the years, she has watched the reserve transform. Areas once overrun with invasive weeds such as *Tradescantia* have gradually been restored, while new native plantings and improved pathways have helped protect the bushland for future generations.

Margaret says the simple act of spending time in nature is one of the things she enjoys most about volunteering.

'I enjoy the sounds of the bush – the wind in the trees, bird songs and the quiet chatter of others in the group doing their bit,' she said.

The experience has also given her valuable knowledge she has carried into her own home life.

'I'm now able to identify lots of native plants, weeds and best method to remove weeds,' she said. 'With this knowledge I have been able to convert a grassy area at the block of units where I live into a native garden with plants supplied by the council's nursery.'

She believes protecting remaining pockets of native bushland is increasingly important in urban areas.

'We need to maintain what little native Bushland we have in the North Sydney area as well as everywhere else in Australia to maintain a healthy atmosphere for humans, animals and bird life,' Margaret said.

Margaret also hopes the reserve continues to be respected and cared for by the broader community.

'I hope that it remains as it is, and continues to be cared for by visitors as well as volunteers,' she said.

Margaret believes recognition programs like the NSW Landcare Awards play an important role in highlighting the work volunteers do.

'It helps particularly if the local councils recognise the efforts of volunteers and makes it known to all the residents how much volunteers contribute to improving the environment,' she said.

Landcare NSW Acting Chair Steve Bunnell said the awards are designed to celebrate the "extraordinary talent and passion" of people quietly delivering environmental outcomes in their communities every day.

For those considering volunteering themselves, Margaret's advice is simple: start local.

'Contact Bushcare personnel at North Sydney Council, and they will provide you with all the information one needs,' she said.

Whether it is a long-running Bushcare group, a young environmental advocate or a community organisation restoring local habitat, the NSW Landcare Awards offer a chance to recognise the people helping protect Australia's natural environment for future generations.

For more information or to nominate, visit [landcareaustralia.org.au](http://landcareaustralia.org.au)

## Next generation of classical talent comes to Chatswood

Three exceptional young local musicians will take centre stage when the 2026 NSW Secondary Schools Concerto Competition Final comes to The Concourse on Sunday 28 June.

Now in its 42nd year, the prestigious competition is regarded as a launching pad for Australia's next generation of classical stars, with past finalists including internationally acclaimed musicians such as Simon Tedeschi and Amy Dickson.

Among this year's finalists are Christina Bhang from Epping and Kiara Morishita-Lee from Denistone, who will compete in the Junior division, alongside Senior division finalist Jeffrey Dong from Willoughby.

Fourteen-year-old violinist and violist Christina Bhang has already built an impressive list of achievements. A year nine student at Abbotsleigh, she studies through the Rising Stars Program at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music and has won multiple first prizes, including the Sydney Eisteddfod and the 2025 AUSTA ACT Concerto Competition. Christina will perform Korngold's Violin Concerto in the junior division final.



Christina Bhang



Jeffrey Dong



Kiara Morishita-Lee

Fellow Abbotsleigh student Kiara Morishita-Lee, also 14, will perform Mozart's Flute Concerto. A Music Scholar with a passion for expressive storytelling through music, Year 8 student Kiara has studied with leading international musicians and will attend The Juilliard School Summer Program later this year.

Senior finalist Jeffrey Dong, 15, has already earned international recognition for his piano playing. The Year 10 Conservatorium High School student has won prizes in major competitions across Australia, Switzerland and Germany, and recently gained acceptance to the prestigious Curtis Institute of Music as the top-ranked candidate. Jeffrey will perform Chopin's Piano Concerto No. 2.

The six finalists will perform with the Ku-ring-gai Philharmonic Orchestra under conductor Paul Terracini, competing for prizes worth up to \$10,000 and invaluable professional performance opportunities.



## Hunters Hill Theatre presents Neil Simon's *Chapter Two*

Rehearsals are well under way at Hunters Hill Theatre @ Club Ryde Ex for the next production *Chapter Two*, a semi-autobiographical play by writer Neil Simon.

Following on from the successful *Exit Laughing*, which kicked off the 2026 season, *Chapter Two* is another comedy which first premiered on Broadway in 1977.

The play focuses on a recently widowed writer, George Schneider, who is introduced by his press agent brother to soap opera actress Jennie Malone.

Jennie's marriage to a football player has dissolved after six years. Both are uncertain of their readiness to start dating and developing a new romance when her breakup is so recent and he still has recurring memories of his deceased wife, Barbara.

Not surprisingly, *Chapter Two* mixes laughter with heartache and is considered to be one of Simon's finest plays.

*Chapter Two* opens on **Friday 29 May** and runs over four weekends with performances on Friday evenings at 7.30pm, Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2.00pm. Tickets can be purchased via the website [www.huntershilltheatre.com.au](http://www.huntershilltheatre.com.au) or by calling the Box Office on **0478 097 525**.

Lane/Cove  
MUSIC



**CONCERT No. 3 - 81st Season**  
**The Baker Boys - Elijah, Gabriel and Isaac**  
**7.30pm TUESDAY 23 June 2026**  
**Venue: ST. ANDREW'S UNITING CHURCH**  
**47A KENNETH ST, LONGUEVILLE**

*Presenting a joyful showcase of brass brilliance with highlights for organ and piano alongside the dynamic power of brass.*

Concert prices 2026 Season  
\$90 annual subscription (for 4 concerts)  
or \$30 visitor | \$10 student per concert

**Bookings open on 2 June**  
[www.lanecovemusic.org.au](http://www.lanecovemusic.org.au)

**Online bookings preferred. Limited admission at the door on the night.**  
**Enquiries welcome: 9428 4287**

# THE Village Quiz

OBSERVER



Brought to you by **SydneyTrivia.com**

1. Name all five members of The Travelling Wilburys
2. Which two actors have played the role of Obi-Wan Kenobi in Star Wars movies?
3. How many Nobel prizes did Albert Einstein win?
4. Which is taller - Sydney Tower, Big Ben or the Eiffel Tower?
5. What was the name of the recent moon mission?

11. In which Australian Town would you find the Big Banana?
12. Who created Minecraft?
13. Who was the lead singer of Aussie band, Icehouse?
14. Easter Island belongs to which country?
15. Which island comprised all of the 7 Kingdoms?

## Q5

What was the name of the recent moon mission?




## Q15






6. Who plays the Shepherd in *The Sheep Detectives*?
7. Which town was Priscilla Queen of the Desert's destination?
8. What two great cities fought the Punic wars?
9. Which famous Mexican artist was Frida Kahlo's husband?
10. What's the name of this classic album?

16. From which direction should one 'Pass the Dutchie'?
17. Who won the Rumble in the Jungle?
18. What is James Kirk's middle name?
19. What's Bluey's Dad's name?
20. Which author wrote Moby Dick?


## Q10

What's the name of this classic album?

## Q20

Which author wrote 'Moby Dick'?




**Answers:**  
 1. Roy Orbison, Tom Petty, Jeff Lynne, George Harrison, Bob Dylan  
 2. Ewan McGregor and Alec Guinness 3. One 4. Eiffel Tower 5. Artemis II  
 6. Hugh Jackman 7. Alice Springs 8. Rome and Carthage 9. Diego Rivera  
 10. The Dark Side of the Moon 11. Coffs Harbour 12. Markus 'Notch' Persson  
 13. Iva Davies 14. Chile 15. Westeros 16. From the left hand side 17. Muhammad Ali  
 18. Tiberius 19. Bandit 20. Herman Melville

If you enjoy a great quiz, please visit us at any of our local weekly quiz nights:

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Mondays 7:00pm    | <b>Orchard Hotel, Chatswood</b>          |
| Mondays 7:00pm    | <b>Commodore Hotel, North Sydney</b>     |
| Tuesdays 7:00pm   | <b>Chatswood Hotel</b>                   |
| Tuesdays 6:00pm   | <b>Billy Barry's Hotel, North Sydney</b> |
| Wednesdays 7:00pm | <b>Union Hotel, North Sydney</b>         |
| Wednesdays 7:00pm | <b>Norths Cammeray</b>                   |
| Wednesdays 7:00pm | <b>Cammeray Golf Club</b>                |
| Thursdays 7:00pm  | <b>KC's Bar, Crows Nest</b>              |
| Thursdays 7:00pm  | <b>The Diddy, Lane Cove</b>              |
| Thursdays 7:30pm  | <b>North Sydney Hotel</b>                |

(please contact the venue to book a table)



# Your goals. Your pace. Your community.

## *Supporting You, Every Step of the Way*

For over 40 years, Sydney Community Services has been proudly supporting people of all abilities to live life their way — with confidence, connection and choice.

We offer flexible, personalised **one-on-one disability support** at home and in the community, helping with everyday tasks, appointments, and building independence at your pace. Our caring, experienced staff take the time to understand what matters most to you, providing support that fits your goals and lifestyle.

Looking to connect and have fun? Our engaging **group programs** offer a wide variety of activities, from creative arts and drama to social outings, online meetups and community adventures. They're a wonderful way to meet new people, try something new and feel part of a welcoming community.

Whether you prefer individual support or enjoy group activities — or both — we're here for you every step of the way.

**READY TO LEARN MORE? WE'RE HERE TO HELP.**

**P 9427 6425   E [support@sydneycs.org](mailto:support@sydneycs.org)**



**Sydney Community Services**

**9427 6425**

**LOCAL SUPPORT. TRUSTED CARE. COMMUNITY WELLBEING.**





The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) has been a lifeline for many people with disability, enabling choice, independence and meaningful participation in community life. As the Federal Government announces significant reforms to the NDIS, many participants, families and carers are understandably feeling uncertain about what these changes may mean for them. During this period of transition, Sydney Community Services remains committed to providing reliable, high quality disability support and standing alongside our community.

SCS has been a registered NDIS provider since the inception of the Scheme, consistently meeting all compliance, safeguarding and quality requirements. Our long-standing registration reflects our strong governance, transparency and commitment to participant wellbeing, particularly important as reforms introduce greater scrutiny across the sector.

One of the biggest announced changes is a move away from diagnosis-based eligibility. Instead of focusing on a specific medical diagnosis, eligibility will be assessed on how a person's disability impacts their everyday life and ability to function. For some, this may offer flexibility – but for others, the process may feel less certain.

Funding for social and community participation is also expected to decrease. This could affect supports that help people stay connected, build relationships and participate in community life – an area many participants value deeply for their wellbeing and independence.

The reforms also introduce tighter rules around plan reviews. Unscheduled plan reassessments will only occur in exceptional circumstances, which may make it harder for participants to respond quickly if their needs change.

To strengthen quality and safety, providers delivering higher-risk supports will be required to be officially registered with the NDIS. In addition, funding for support coordination and plan management is proposed to reduce, which may impact how some participants receive assistance to navigate the system.

The reforms will be phased in between 2026 and 2028, including tighter assessments of “reasonable and necessary” supports and changes to how responsibilities are shared between the NDIS and mainstream services.

Change can be unsettling, particularly when funding levels and eligibility rules are evolving. At SCS, we recognise the anxiety this may cause and are committed to helping participants navigate these changes with clear

communication, practical support and continuity of care wherever possible.

SCS delivers flexible, person centred Individual Disability Support Services, assisting participants to live as independently as possible. This includes support with daily activities, personal care, transport, skill development and access to community activities. We tailor supports to individual goals, interests and abilities, recognising that no two people's needs are the same.

We also offer group-based support services, providing opportunities for social connection, learning and enjoyment in a safe and supported environment. Group programs promote inclusion, confidence and friendships, helping participants build routine and a sense of belonging within their local community.

As the NDIS continues to evolve, Sydney Community Services is committed to remaining a trusted provider of choice for people with disability in our local community. Our focus is on growing alongside our participants, offering reliable, high-quality supports. In our 2026 Participant Survey, participants told us they would like to see more programs focused on health, fitness and relaxation. In response, SCS is exploring new and flexible models of support that encourage wellbeing and active lifestyles such as aqua fitness, pickleball, yoga, and other low impact physical activities.

If you or a family member would like to learn more about SCS Disability Services, now or in the future, our team is always here to help, feel free to contact Rose Lee, our Disability Services Coordinator, on 9427 6425.

### Make a Difference before 30 June

*Your donation today can change lives in your local community.*

Every contribution—big or small—helps Sydney Community Services support seniors, people with disabilities, and vulnerable individuals to live safely, independently, and with dignity at home.

With your help, we can continue delivering essential services that keep people connected and cared for.

**Donate before 30 June to make it count this financial year—your gift is tax-deductible and stays right here in our community.**

<https://www.sydneycs.org/get-involved/donate/>

**T 02 9427 6425    E [support@sydneycs.org](mailto:support@sydneycs.org)**

**LANE COVE HUB:** HEAD OFFICE: 1 POTTERY LANE, LANE COVE  
**MEETING HOUSE HUB:** 23A STOKES STREET, LANE COVE NORTH  
**HUNTERS HILL-RYDE HUB:** 46 GLADESVILLE ROAD, HUNTERS HILL



Supported by the Australian Government  
Department of Health and Aged Care

# SAVE THE DATES: UPCOMING EVENTS



## A Festive Midwinter Morning

Bring a little festive cheer to the middle of winter and join us for a special Christmas in July celebration. Enjoy the beautiful harmonies of local a cappella group **Aqua Luna**, and be treated to a delicious Christmas-style morning tea.

**Date:** Monday 13 July

**Time:** 10.30am – 12noon

**Location:** Parkview Room,  
1 Pottery Lane

**Free to attend:**

But be sure to book early as places are limited.



## Creative Connections!

Come along for a relaxed and friendly craft session - no experience needed! Enjoy good company, light refreshments, and the simple pleasure of making something special to take home. All materials provided.

**SESSION ONE:**

**Date:** Tuesday 14 July

**Time:** 1pm – 3pm

**SESSION TWO:**

**Date:** Friday 17 July

**Time:** 10am – 12pm

**Location:** Parkview Room, 1 Pottery Lane

**Cost:** \$10 per session.

Be sure to book early as places are limited.

## STAYING CONNECTED @ THE HUBS



### Strength & Balance NEW CLASS

**Date:** Tuesdays

**Time:** 10.45-11.35am

**Location:**

44 Gladesville Road,  
Hunters Hill



### Movement Plus NEW CLASS

**Date:** Tuesdays

**Time:** 11.45am-12.35pm

**Location:**

44 Gladesville Road  
Hunters Hill



### Line Dancing

**Date:** Wednesdays

**Time:** 1.30pm-2.30pm

**Location:** Sydney  
Community Services,  
44 Gladesville Rd,  
Hunters Hill



### Memory Cafe

**Date:** Wednesday  
17 June

**Time:** 10.30am-1pm

**Location:** The Meeting  
House Hub,  
23a Stokes St,  
Lane Cove North

**Cost:** FREE

**BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL: P: 9427 6425 E: SUPPORT@SYDNEYCS.ORG**



### LANE COVE HUB

1 Pottery Lane, Lane Cove

#### Movement Matters

- Monday, 10.30 - 11.30am.
- Tuesday, 12 - 1pm and 1.15 - 2.15pm
- Wednesday, 11.15am - 12.15pm
- Friday, 9.30 - 10.30am and 10.45 - 11.45am

#### Book Club

- Monday 15 June, 1.30 - 2.30pm
- Cost: \$5 includes book and afternoon tea.

#### Mah Jong

- Tuesday, All players, 9.30 - 11.30am
  - Wednesday, Competent players, 1.00 - 3.45pm
  - Cost: \$5 including morning/afternoon tea.
- New players please contact us.*

#### Scrabble

- Thursday, 10am - 12noon
  - Cost: \$5 includes morning tea
- Relaxed, social and a great way to stay connected. Come for the words, stay for the fun!

#### Social Bridge

Cards and conversation! Enjoy a relaxed afternoon of social bridge every Thursday, 12.30-3.30pm. \$5 includes afternoon tea.  
*Contact us to register.*

#### Social Tennis Group

- Every Thursday 9-11am
  - Cost \$5
- Lane Cove Tennis Club, Central Park, Kenneth St, Longueville.  
*Players must register prior to playing.*

#### Yoga

Join Sinead Costello, an experienced yoga/wellbeing specialist, in our yoga class.

- Wednesday
- 9.30am - 10.30am



### MEETING HOUSE HUB

23a Stokes Street, Lane Cove North

#### Seniors Shopping Bus

Tuesdays and Thursdays. Return trip from your home to Lane Cove shops. We can also assist and carry your shopping into your home.

- Cost: \$15

#### Chess Club Every Monday

The group is friendly and sociable, and all abilities are welcome.

- Mondays, 1.30pm - 3.00pm
- Cost: \$5pp, includes afternoon tea.

#### Movie and Morning Tea

'Rocketman' - the musical fantasy about Elton John's breakthrough years.

- Wednesday 24 June
- 10am - 1pm
- Cost \$30



#### reACTIVATE Fitness Solutions for Seniors

Join us for a series of functional fitness classes.

- Monday, 10.45am - 11.45am
- Friday, 11am - 12pm
- FEE: \$13 per class. Pay by the term. \$18 per casual visit.

#### Meeting House Playgroups

*Meet local parents and children.*

- FREE to attend. Arts, Craft, Music & Stories
- Playgroups for 0-5 years
- Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9.30am - 11.30am.



All enquiries and bookings for activities please contact:

📞 9427 6425    ✉️ support@sydneycs.org



## HUNTERS HILL-RYDE HUB

46 Gladesville Road, Hunters Hill

### Seniors Hub

Fun, welcoming weekday programs for seniors and dementia-friendly groups. Enjoy outings, activities, great company, door-to-door transport and nutritious meals.

*Get in touch for this month's program.*

### Seniors Hub - Monday Chinese Group

Friendly company, scenic independent outings, and delicious lunches. Everyone is welcome but Cantonese & Mandarin is mainly spoken. This group is dementia, cognitive & mobility friendly. *Contact us for this month's program.*

### Seniors Social Support

Supporting Afghan, Chinese, Iranian, Italian and Spanish seniors through culture, connection and care. Enjoy social outings, cultural events, English classes and wellness sessions.

*Contact us for this month's program.*

### Social Bus Outings

Hop on board every Tuesday and explore new places with friendly local seniors! Enjoy half or full-day adventures from 9.00am–4.00pm.

*Contact us for this month's destinations and cost.*

### The Velveteens

Morning tea, great company and a new outing every month. For independent over-65s with a My Aged Care referral.

- 2nd Monday monthly, 10am–4pm.

### reACTIVATE - Move Well & Live Well for Men & Women

Move better, feel stronger and enjoy great company! Our welcoming seniors fitness class builds strength and balance in a supportive setting.

- Wednesdays, 11am–12noon
- FEE: \$13 per class. Pay by the term..

Supported by



## YOU'RE INVITED...

### Disability Services

#### - Individual and Group

*Our dedicated disability support team is here to help you (or a loved one) stay connected, independent, and involved in the community.*

Programs run monthly. Whether you'd like to try something new or build on what you love, we're here to support your journey.

*Contact us for more information.*



### BOOMers Mens Group

A relaxed social group for independent senior men who enjoy good company and great outings every Friday.

- Departs 10.00am from Lane Cove Hub, returns 2.00pm.

*Contact us for this month's program and cost.*



### Friday Group at the Seniors Hub

Join us each Friday for fun outings and day trips for seniors! Enjoy social connection, dementia-friendly support, and tasty meals—carers can relax knowing everyone's safe and happy.

*Contact us for details.*



Supported by the Australian Government  
Department of Health and Aged Care



Costs indicated are for Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) participants only. Contact us and speak with one of our Coordinators to learn more about other funding options.



## ANTHONY ROBERTS

MP

P: 9817 4757

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## TRENTON BROWN

CITY OF RYDE MAYOR

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I have received strong community feedback about the proposed State Significant Development at 300 Burns Bay Road.

Lane Cove supports appropriate housing growth and renewal. But growth must be done properly.

Growth must respect neighbourhood character, infrastructure capacity, and community input. The proposal for 300 Burns Bay Road does not meet that standard.

The current planning controls allow a building height of around 21 metres. This proposal seeks more than 54 metres, or up to about 15 storeys. This is a major change to the scale and character of this part of Lane Cove.

The surrounding area along Burns Bay Road and Waterview Drive is largely mid-rise. Many nearby buildings are around six or seven storeys.

Residents have raised serious concerns about overshadowing, loss of sunlight, privacy, loss of outlook and visual bulk.

Traffic and parking are also major concerns. Burns Bay Road and surrounding intersections already experience congestion. Local residents know how difficult it can be to move in and out of nearby streets, and visitor parking around Hughes Park and nearby apartment buildings is already limited. Adding more than 200 dwellings and hundreds of additional residents will increase pressure on roads and commuters.

Lane Cove Council has objected to the proposal. Council has written to the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces seeking referral of the application to the Independent Planning Commission, asking that the exhibition period be reopened, for State Significant Development applications of this kind.

I support that call.

For a proposal of this scale and complexity, the community should not be rushed. Residents deserve adequate time to read the documents, understand the impacts and make informed submissions. A limited exhibition period for a development of this magnitude is simply not good enough.

Planning should not be about how much can be squeezed onto a site. It should be about whether a proposal fits its surroundings, whether infrastructure can cope, whether existing residents retain reasonable amenity, and whether the community has been properly consulted.

Residents accept that this site can be redeveloped. What they ask is reasonable: that redevelopment respects the existing height limits, local character and the capacity of surrounding infrastructure.

Lane Cove deserves thoughtful and balanced planning. It deserves housing that fits the community, not development that overwhelms it.

### World Environment Day

World Environment Day is being celebrated across the globe on Friday 5 June 2026 and City of Ryde is joining the festivities with several fantastic events across the first two weeks of the month.

This means more opportunities for everyone to get involved, with activities that are accessible, welcoming, and inclusive for all ages and backgrounds. You can enjoy a range of workshops, events, and hands-on activities designed to inspire and empower the community to live more sustainably and care for our local environment.

Whether you're passionate about reducing waste, conserving water, protecting wildlife, or learning new sustainable skills, there is something for everyone.

Our carefully-curated program includes the SWAP Workshop: *Fabulous Florals* on 13 June from 10am – 12pm at Ryde Library, *World Environment Day Charity Clothing Swap* on 14 June 10am – 2.30pm at the Tzu Chi Centre in Eastwood and *Sydney Water: Save Money on Your Water Bill* on 16 June from 10.30am – 11.30am at West Ryde Library.

With National Reconciliation Week also taking place until 3 June, it provides important reminders from our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community that looking after the land, water, plants and animals is something we all share.

### Community Services Expo

The City of Ryde is one of the most vibrant, multi-cultural regions in Sydney and every year we hold a Community Services Expo for new arrivals to our friendly and welcoming City.

This event - which takes place on Wednesday 17 June at the North Ryde School of Arts Community Centre from 10.00am-1.00pm – welcomes refugees, asylum seekers, newly arrived migrants, and the wider community to come together, celebrate cultural diversity, and build local connections.

You'll have the chance to meet local service providers offering support with housing, employment, health, education and more.

You will also get a chance to hear powerful community speakers share their stories, enjoy cultural performances and share in light refreshments and connect with others.

### Meet the Mayor

I'll be holding my second Meet the Mayor event of 2026 on Saturday 27 June at the Midway Shopping Centre, Denistone East, from 9.30-11.30am.

This friendly gathering aims to promote community and neighbourhood harmony and provides an informal way for people to connect with Council.

*For more information on these events and others happening in the City of Ryde throughout June, go to: ryde.nsw.gov.au*



## TIM JAMES

MP

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## ZAC MILES

HUNTERS HILL MAYOR

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Families across Willoughby are being challenged greatly by the cost of living. Grocery prices are up. Mortgage repayments and rents are up. Council rates, childcare, insurance and energy bills are all putting pressure on household budgets. For many people, there is simply less left at the end of each week.

At a time like this, governments should be doing everything possible to ease the pressure. Instead, too often, policy decisions are adding to the burden. NSW households are already paying the highest taxes in the country, and every extra cost flows straight through to families, small businesses and local communities.

Fuel is one of the clearest examples. Every parent doing the school run, every tradie driving between jobs, every nurse, teacher or shift worker who cannot simply leave the car at home knows how quickly petrol prices bite. It is money taken from the weekly shop, the family budget or the small business bottom line.

In coming weeks, as temporary fuel excise relief ends, motorists face the very real prospect of prices again climbing well above \$2 a litre. For many households, that will be yet another hit at the worst possible time.

That is why I have introduced practical reforms into Parliament to give motorists more power at the bowser. My Bill builds on FuelCheck, the fuel price transparency tool introduced by the former Liberal Government. FuelCheck allows motorists to compare prices in real time and shop around for the best deal. It has empowered consumers with information and helped drive competition. I recommend everyone download FuelCheck on your phone or access it at [fuelcheck.nsw.gov.au](http://fuelcheck.nsw.gov.au)

My proposed 24-hour fuel price lock would require service stations to notify their maximum price for the next day. That price would then be locked in, giving motorists certainty and stopping sudden price spikes during the day. In simple terms, if you check the price, you should be able to trust that will be the price when you arrive. This is not a silver bullet for the cost-of-living crisis, but it is a practical, sensible reform that would give consumers more information, more certainty and more control. At a time when every dollar matters, that is exactly what government should be focused on.

## FOGO Waste Collection

Council is preparing to roll out our Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) service, an important step towards reducing waste and supporting sustainable waste practices.

Kitchen caddies will be delivered to households this month to help residents separate food waste at home, with the new FOGO collection service commencing in July.

This initiative will help divert organic waste from landfill and turn it into valuable compost. I encourage all residents to take part and make the most of this new service as we work together to reduce our environmental impact.

## Screen & Brains Webinar

A free online webinar with neuroscientist Dr Mark Williams will be held on Tuesday 11 August from 7pm - 8.30pm.

The session will explore how screen use may influence children and young people's brain development, learning, behaviour, wellbeing and social connection, and will provide practical strategies to support healthy development in a digital environment.

The webinar is presented by Northern Sydney Local Health District in partnership with the Northern Sydney councils and is intended for parents and carers of children and young people aged 5-16 years.

*For more information and to register, visit Council's Events page.*

## Sponsorship Expression of Interest: Moocooboola Festival

Local businesses and community groups are invited to express interest in being part of this year's Moocooboola Festival that will take place on Sunday 27 September from 10am to 4pm.

Moocooboola is our premier community event, drawing thousands to Boronia Park Ovals for a day of food, entertainment, rides, and the ever-popular Dog Show.

The support and involvement of our sponsors help us bring the Moocooboola Festival to life. It also helps ensure the event is free and accessible for locals and visitors.

*If you'd like to get involved and become a sponsor, please submit your Expression of Interest at [huntershill.nsw.gov.au/Community/Sponsorship-Opportunities](http://huntershill.nsw.gov.au/Community/Sponsorship-Opportunities)*

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[crowsnestcentre.org.au](http://crowsnestcentre.org.au)  
 Phone: 9439 5122



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### Pizza + Movie nights @ Longueville UC Hall

47A Kenneth St, Longueville. 6.30pm Pizza; 7.15pm Movie

**2 June – Rabbit Proof Fence** (2002) Australian epic drama – the story of 3 aboriginal girls, stolen from their mothers, resettled, their escape and their 1000 mile journey home. Starring Evelyn Sansbury, Laura Monaghan, David Gulpiil and Kenneth Branagh.

**7 July – The Five Pennies** (1959) An American biographical, musical drama, “the perfect combination of comedy, romance and drama” with Danny Kaye starring as jazz cornet player and bandleader “Red” Nichols. Also starring Barbara Bel Geddes, Louis Armstrong and Bob Crosby.

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## PROPERTIES OF THE MONTH



18 Elliott Avenue, East Ryde 3 bed 1 bath 3 car

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Jay Assay 0452 185 529 E: [jay.assay@belleproperty.com](mailto:jay.assay@belleproperty.com)  
Michael Gallina 0402 320 265 E: [michael.gallina@belleproperty.com](mailto:michael.gallina@belleproperty.com)



98 Tennyson Road, Tennyson Point 5 bed 4 bath 2 car

Designed with flair and built with care, this lavish residence is certain to impress the most fastidious buyer. Showcasing multiple living areas over dual levels, an exquisite chef's kitchen, generous backyard entertaining and a mosaic tiled pool, it provides the perfect blend of contemporary luxury, family comfort and central convenience.

Michael Gallina 0402 320 265 E: [michael.gallina@belleproperty.com](mailto:michael.gallina@belleproperty.com)  
Cameron Brown 0438 594 708 E: [cameron.brown@belleproperty.com](mailto:cameron.brown@belleproperty.com)



10 Centenary Avenue, Hunters Hill 4 bed 3 bath 4 car

A haven of peace and privacy, this excellent home combines size, flexibility and convenience in a tightly held cul-de-sac near Hunters Hill village, Heydon Park and St Joseph's College.

Joshua Jarvis 0468 899 443 E: [joshua.jarvis@belleproperty.com](mailto:joshua.jarvis@belleproperty.com)  
Simon Harrison 0433 100 150 E: [simon.harrison@belleproperty.com](mailto:simon.harrison@belleproperty.com)



2 Dalrymple Avenue, Lane Cove 5 bed 2 bath 3 car

An irresistible family haven with its spacious, free-flowing design, beautiful alfresco areas and contemporary luxury and classic charm, this five bedroom plus study home delivers on every aspect of lifestyle excellence.

Patrick Lang 0423 891 807 E: [patrick.lang@belleproperty.com](mailto:patrick.lang@belleproperty.com)  
Kim Walters 0499 014 886 E: [kim.walters@belleproperty.com](mailto:kim.walters@belleproperty.com)

### BELLE PROPERTY NORTH SHORE

Belle Property Hunters Hill	3/52-56 Gladesville Road, Hunters Hill	9817 7729
Belle Property Lane Cove	2a Phoenix Street, Lane Cove	9087 3333
Belle Property Willoughby	551 Willoughby Road, Willoughby	9958 5211
Belle Property Lindfield	Suite 20, 12-18 Tryon Road, Lindfield	9416 6999
Belle Property Ryde	95 Blaxland Road, Ryde	8080 9116



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PROPERTY

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**Chris Schofield**  
The Industrial Revolution  
and its effect on Australia

7pm 23 JUNE  
Lane Cove Library  
0434 757 300

# ASPECTS

**WHAT:** COLOURFUL SUNDAY MARKET STALLS

**WHERE:** KIRRIBILLI MARKETS, MILSONS POINT

**WHEN:** 12TH APRIL 2026

*Miki Oka*

