

THE Village

OBSERVER

FREE

COMMUNITY
MAGAZINE

pick me up

AND TAKE
ME HOME

IN THIS ISSUE:

*Lane Cove Festival
Fun Run
Moocooboola*

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 361 **SEPTEMBER 2026**



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THE Village OBSERVER

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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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Sydney Community Services



Welcome to the September edition of TVO!

Spring is here, and what better way to welcome it than with a celebration of everything that makes our local community such a lively place to live?

This month's issue is devoted in large part to the Lane Cove Festival, our cover feature and one of the highlights of the local calendar. It is a wonderful opportunity to get out and about, discover something new and, perhaps most importantly, bump into people you know.

There is certainly no shortage of opportunities to do that over the coming weeks. The Lane Cove Fun Run will once again bring thousands of people together, while Moocooboola in Hunters Hill continues its long tradition of combining entertainment, community and plenty of fun.

As we leave behind the winter months, there is something especially appealing about a calendar full of festivals and community events. So, whether you are planning to run, watch, listen, eat, browse or simply catch up with friends, I hope you will get out and enjoy what our community has to offer.

Happy spring!

Melissa

MELISSA BARKS - EDITOR

editor@thevillageobserver.com.au

FRONT COVER IMAGE: Beeswax & Bottlecaps will be dazzling crowds at The Canopy on Friday 4 September with its lineup of roving performers, including this whimsical cycloped pair. Photographer: Alex Dalglish.



Thank you to all our supporters this month.

And a special thanks to our regular advertisers for their loyal support.

As a local, small publication, run by a not-for-profit charity, TVO relies on our advertisers and partners to come to life every month.

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Considering Purchasing or Leasing a Medical Suite?

The decisions you make before committing to a property can save you thousands of dollars and valuable time.

For many medical professionals, purchasing or leasing a consulting suite is a significant milestone. Whether you're opening your first practice, relocating from a larger group, or expanding into a specialist clinic, securing the right property is only the beginning. The reality is that not every commercial space is immediately suitable for healthcare use.

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At JDV Projects, a local business based in Artarmon, we've spent nearly 30 years helping healthcare professionals design and build their healthcare practice into compliant, efficient and welcoming healthcare environments.

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Kristy Lee, Client Engagement Manager
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\$187,500 fine over Longueville tree clearing

The cutting down of 287 trees on the Longueville foreshore has ended with a \$187,500 fine – and a remarkable court account involving chainsaws, truckloads of vegetation and cash payments left in a shoe.

The NSW Land and Environment Court has found gardener Yi Wang guilty of three environmental offences arising from the clearing of land adjoining 44 Lucretia Avenue between 8 and 22 November 2023.

What began as a request to trim grass quickly escalated. Wang arranged for a chainsaw operator to cut the trees, recruited two to four workers each day and provided regular progress reports and photographs to the woman who had engaged him. Cash was often left in a shoe at the property for him to collect and distribute to workers.

CCTV showed vehicles carrying branches along Lucretia Avenue almost daily, with records showing loads of vegetation taken to the Cleanaway waste facility in Ryde.

By the time a member of the public alerted Lane Cove Council on 23 November, 287

trees had been removed and about 1,210 square metres cleared. No approvals or permits had been issued.

The clearing occurred on public land including part of Griffith Park, the Dunois Street road reserve and a Council-owned waterside lot. It destroyed three native vegetation communities and affected an Aboriginal shell midden.

Expert evidence found the ecological damage was substantial, with the vegetation expected to take 20 to 30 years to regenerate to a comparable condition. The forest canopy had existed there since at least 1943.

Wang pleaded guilty to three offences and was fined \$187,500. He must also pay \$11,660 in Council investigation costs and publish notices about the offences, including in *The Village Observer*.

Lane Cove Council communicator recognised

Congratulations to Sarah Corry from Lane Cove Council, who has been recognised with an Outstanding Individual Contribution Award at the 2026 Local Government Week Awards.

The award recognises exceptional communications and events professionals who make a significant contribution to their councils and communities.

Corry was recognised for her work delivering campaigns that have strengthened community engagement, including helping increase Lane Cove Festival attendance by 209 per cent and securing \$337,000 in external funding for cultural events.

Her work has also supported major community initiatives, including environmental campaigns that helped divert 55 tonnes of food waste.

Community group raises concerns over data centre expansion

Plans for large-scale data centre developments in Lane Cove West are prompting growing concern among local residents, with a community campaign raising questions about the impact on Blackman Park, surrounding businesses and the local environment.

The Lane Cove for Responsible Planning

LEGAL NOTICE

Yi Wang was convicted and fined in the New South Wales Land and Environment Court ("the Court") on 6 August 2026, for one breach of s 4.2(1) and two breaches of s 4.3 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* relating to the removal of 287 trees from public bushland owned and managed by Lane Cove Council at Woodford Bay Reserve. The land from which the trees were removed included land identified on the Biodiversity Values Map published for the purposes of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*. It resulted in the clearing of an Estuarine Swamp Oak Endangered Ecological Community.

Yi Wang was prosecuted in the Court, where he pleaded guilty to all three charges. He was fined a total of \$187,500 and ordered to pay the Council's costs.

Offences of this nature carry significant penalties. All persons undertaking tree removal must ensure that appropriate permissions and approvals are obtained and in place prior to the commencement of any works.



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Group says several hyperscale facilities are proposed near Blackman Park and the Lane Cove River, while an existing AirTrunk facility is being expanded. A further proposal would increase the complex to 305MW.

Particular concerns have been raised about a Goodman Group proposal beside Blackman Park's top field, skate park and tennis courts. The nearly three-year construction period would involve excavation up to eight metres into Hawkesbury sandstone, raising concerns about noise and silica dust. More than 350 objections were received, according to the group.

Questions have also been raised about the electricity, water and fuel demands of data centres. The group says backup diesel generators could consume 36,000 litres of diesel in an hour at full load, with up to one million litres required onsite.

Beyond the environmental concerns, the campaigners fear data centre expansion could change the character of Lane Cove West Business Park, which was established to support local employment and small and medium-sized businesses. They are concerned smaller businesses could be displaced as large-scale development continues.

The Lane Cove for Responsible Planning Group is calling for the cumulative impacts of the proposed developments to be considered alongside the needs of local businesses, recreation facilities and the environment.

10,000 visitors celebrate North Sydney Olympic Pool opening weekend

More than 10,000 people visited North Sydney Olympic Pool during its free opening weekend, with community members eager to explore the redeveloped pool, enjoy free entertainment and experience the aquatic, fitness and wellness facilities for the first time.

The opening weekend began with an official Opening Ceremony featuring swimming legend Shane Gould.

'Today we celebrate not only the reopening of a remarkable pool, but the beginning of thousands of new stories that will unfold in these waters. May this place continue to inspire health, courage, friendship and community for generations to come,' Gould said.

The redevelopment has carefully restored



View of North Sydney Olympic Pool and Luna Park from the Sun Deck.

the Pool's significant Art Deco heritage while creating a world-class aquatic, fitness and wellness destination for the community, including:

- Refurbished outdoor 50m program pool which can be configured into halves or quarters
- Two indoor pools (25m lap pool and program pool)
- Spa, sauna and steam room
- Children's outdoor pool and splash pad
- Creche with indoor and outdoor play spaces
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The Future was Faster

There's an unsettling paradox about the fact that the future was faster.

I recall standing in the playground in England back in 1976 watching a distinctive pointed jet streak across the sky on its debut flight. These days kids can't tell the difference between stars and Elon Musk's satellites. But we Boomers still have one over on them: London to New York takes around eight hours today. Concorde did it in three.

And Concorde wasn't experimental. People actually bought a ticket, had lunch, drank champagne and arrived in New York before they'd had time to get bored.

We have become enormously clever at inventing things, but not necessarily at making everyday life better. While Concorde gave us speed, modern aviation gives us seat selection and creative ways to charge us for the privilege of sitting in it. All via the ubiquitous app. From February 2027, Jetstar is catching up with their European counterparts (and by catching up I mean finding new ways to take our money) and introducing a new 'carry-on baggage model' charging up to \$52 per bag per flight. A ridiculous bargain \$9 one-way flight soon adds up when you include taxes, seat selection, a meal, flexibility to change and now a bag. All while playing a stealth game of who-gets-the-middle-armrest with the guy next door.

Surely the provision of a seat is implicit in the booking, but you never know. That'll be the next thing - *would you like to ensure your travelling party sit together?*

Stainless steel cutlery, once the preserve of people turning left when they boarded a plane, is now standard. Some things that were once luxuries have become ordinary. Some things that were ordinary have disappeared. And some things marketed as improvements are actually downgrades.

As a junior marketer for Nestlé – my office was in the now closed LifeSavers factory in Lane Cove West – my first company car had mag wheels, a suitably extravagant feature in the eighties and apparently unmerited perk, judging by the reaction of one particularly angry sales manager.

Now mag wheels are standard.

But technology in cars has got ahead of itself. In a touch screen world, we seem to have forgotten that physical switches are still a thing. Manufacturers have been forced into doing swift about-



Illustration by Grace Kopsiaftis

turns after studies confirmed what anyone trying to adjust the temperature while driving already knows: it's easier to find a button when you don't have to look at it.

Even if you've forgotten they exist.

At a recent fire training session at the nursing home where I work, we learned how potentially risky (and expensive) turning your TVs off with the remote can be.

"No, don't turn them off at the wall," the trainer said. "Use the on/off switch on the side."

We've all lost sight of how inanimate objects work. You feel foolish waving your hands around a tap when all you actually have to do is turn it on. And perhaps that's the problem with progress. Smarter and newer is not necessarily easier. I have an eleven-year-old car with not a screen in sight, but I love it. Chunky tactile buttons and all.



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



Fancy a Festival – how do these fit?

If, like me, you're a Facebook follower (or Stalkbook as a brother calls it), then you'll be very familiar with the wonderful and weird festivals of seemingly everything which happen these days. To be fair, many have existed forever however the internet provides extra oxygen, enabling those previously out of reach or not in the know to see if it might be an attractive fit.

Of course, we have plenty of festivals in Australia too but sometimes it is nice to theme a trip around something special, not just regular sightseeing. And certainly, this seems to be increasingly important to my travellers these days, valuing experiential and active over passive involvement.

After years in the travel game, there are a few I particularly fancy, with my favourite all-time being the World of Wearable Arts, or WOW – and it is seriously wow – held annually in Wellington, New Zealand. I love how this now mega-production grew from one show in 1987, in front of 200 people in small town Nelson, to the current 15 shows of 2000+. The move to Wellington became necessary long ago and while I miss the simpler joy of seeing it in Nelson, the Wellington event is seriously sophisticated and should be on everyone's calendar. See <https://www.worldofwearableart.com/>.

From the new to the ancient, I'm personally keen to one day witness the Naadam Festival, happening every July in Ulaanbaatar. This festival is so famous, so authentically Mongolian, that it has even been recognised on the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage list. There are sports – wrestling, horseracing and archery – with special foods, music and other traditions involving the whole family. People train and plan for months, culminating in three celebratory days with little rest for participants and non-participants alike. It sounds like tremendous fun. See <https://ich.unesco.org/en/RL/naadam-mongolian-traditional-festival-00395>.

Perhaps you have an interest in the world's "most interesting festivals" in which case you might prefer to be a bystander at La Tomatina, in Spain, where people pelt each other with ripe tomatoes? Or the Cooper's Hill Cheese Rolling event where entrants race down a dangerously steep hill, chasing a giant wheel of Double Gloucester Cheese. Both sound delicious!

Not one for the children but possibly an option for those wishing to enjoy the delights of cherry blossom viewing in Japan while trying to



conceive, is the Kanamara Matsuri (Penis Festival) held the first Sunday in April in Kawasaki. Any thoughts you might have about the reservedness of Japanese as a race will be quickly dispelled when you succumb with gay abandon to noisy good fun. There's a procession of ancient phalluses, complementary phallus-themed merchandise and food (lollipops anyone?). Some wit has coined this day as The Festival Where Size Really Does Matter.

When it comes to summer, the Finns really know how to celebrate their few short months in the sun. Kaljakellunta sees all the boats and the beer come out, with anyone and everyone bringing their boat or a float to just meander down the river. A bit like the Henley-on-Todd regatta, I guess, except that there is water, the joy of participation is effortless, and you don't have to register to join in.

Unlike the Air Guitar World Championships held annually in Oulu, Finland. Won once by an Australian, Finland produced the 2025 winner and guess what the prize was? Aha, it was a real guitar. Clearly worth striving for. Enjoy a clip here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fsrKncWBuc8>.

So my suggestion is that if you're short of some inspiration, google for ideas and build a trip around something you've never done before. It might or might not turn out be a fabulous highlight but at least you'll have memories to rival the Eiffel Tower, London Bridge or the Manhattan skyline. You've nothing to lose and everything to gain – and we can help you go there for sure.

And if for some reason you can't travel, then do come and participate in the Lane Cove Festival, culminating in the Lane Cove Rotary Fair. September is magic in 2066.

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ADRIENNE WITTEMAN
Managing Director

ASPECTS

WHAT: A WINTER WALK

WHERE: SAWMILLERS RESERVE, MCMAHONS POINT

WHEN: JULY 2026

Miki Oka





WINNER

Local Business Awards, North Shore

CELEBRATING FOR THE 2ND YEAR IN A ROW



The team at Helloworld Travel Lane Cove have celebrated for the 2nd year in a row, becoming the Winner of Specialised Retail Business at the Local Business Awards North Shore.

We are absolutely thrilled and so proud of our entire team that works endlessly to ensure we are servicing our clients in the most professional way. The office has also this year celebrated 30 years in Lane Cove having grown from a team of 3 to a team of 6 in the last 2 years. Our team are all extremely experienced, travelled extensively and between the 6 of us – we truly have the world covered.

CRUISING

One particular area we really specialise in is everything to do with cruising. We have all travelled broadly on multiple cruise lines:

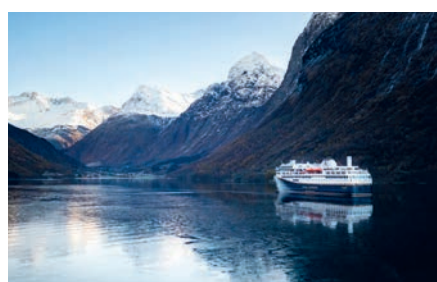
- OCEAN
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- EXPEDITION
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- FAMILY FRIENDLY

In the last two years our team has cruised on Royal Caribbean, Hurtigruten, Celebrity, Silversea, Scenic, Emerald, Explora, Tauck, Disney Cruise lines, to name a few. All cruise lines vary a lot in terms of size, inclusions and standards. Each cruise line and cruise style cater to different demographics, clientele and desires and it is critical that we can personally recommend a cruise that is best suited to our client's needs.

Helloworld have their own department which specialises in all cruise lines where a dedicated, expert team have access to exclusive deals worldwide. We have special access to allocations and can offer exclusive Helloworld bonuses, such as:

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Give our team a call or send us an email, we would love to enrich your life with cruising!

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The Best Reason to Exercise Might Be How You Feel Today

WORDS BY
Melanie Kerslake
General Manager
Guide Collective



For many of us, exercise is something we tell ourselves we should do.

We think about our future health, maintaining our independence, preventing disease or staying strong as we get older. These are all important reasons to move, but there is another reason to exercise that is often overlooked, and you don't have to wait years to experience it.

EXERCISE CAN CHANGE HOW YOU FEEL TODAY.

A walk can clear your head. A strength session can leave you feeling capable and energised. Moving your body can improve your mood, help you concentrate and, over time, support better sleep.

Research into the effects of a single bout of exercise has found measurable improvements in mood, with a 2024 meta-analysis of 103 studies involving more than 4,600 people finding improvements in general mood within 30 minutes of completing exercise. Research has also found that a single session can produce improvements in cognitive performance, including attention, executive function and memory.

That matters because how we feel today influences what we do tomorrow. When we have more energy, we are more likely to be active. When we feel stronger and more capable, everyday tasks become easier. When our mood is better, we are more likely to engage with the people and activities around us.

Exercise doesn't necessarily need to be another item on an endless list of things we should be doing for our future selves. It can be something we do for ourselves right now.

The immediate reward can be much simpler: you finish moving and you feel better.

You might have more energy for the afternoon. You might feel less stressed. You might think more clearly. You might feel stronger walking out of the gym than you did walking in.

And those small experiences matter because they make exercise something we want to keep doing, rather than something we feel we ought to do.

The World Health Organisation recommends that adults undertake 150–300 minutes of moderate-intensity physical activity each week, or 75–150

minutes of vigorous-intensity activity, alongside muscle-strengthening activities on at least two days each week. Importantly, the WHO emphasises that some physical activity is better than none and that people who are currently inactive should start with small amounts and gradually build up.

In other words, exercise doesn't have to begin with an ambitious transformation, just something that gets you moving today; the longer-term benefits then build from there.

Regular exercise helps maintain cardiovascular fitness, muscle strength, bone health, mobility and physical function. It is associated with lower risks of a range of chronic diseases and benefits mental and cognitive health.

Guide Collective brings together movement, exercise, recovery and allied health in one environment, creating an approach to health designed to support people across different stages of life.

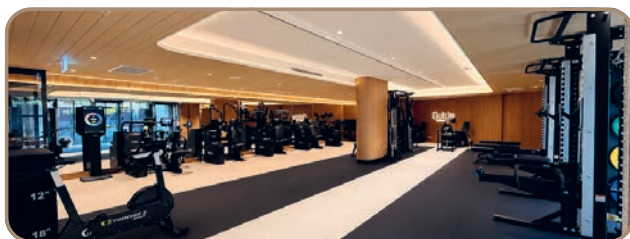
You don't need to wait until you're older to care about healthy ageing. You can start with how you want to feel today.

The strength you build today can help you carry the groceries tomorrow. The confidence you gain through movement can help you keep doing the things you love.

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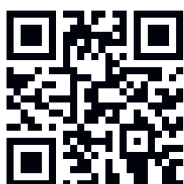
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Talking Dentistry

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READER'S QUESTION:

"I'm thinking about replacing my old porcelain veneers, but I'm worried they'll look fake or chip again. Has veneer technology improved?"

DR SEE SAYS: This is one of the most common concerns I hear from patients considering porcelain veneers, particularly those who have had veneers placed many years ago.

Many older veneers can become chipped, discoloured or simply no longer suit the person's face as they age. Patients often tell me they're worried that replacing them will result in teeth that look too white, too bulky or obviously "done". Others are concerned they'll simply experience the same problems again.

Amanda came to see me with exactly these concerns. As a busy professional and working mum, she wanted to replace her old veneers because they had become chipped and discoloured, and she felt her smile looked narrow. Her goal wasn't to have a dramatically different smile, it was to have teeth that looked naturally brighter, complemented her facial features and gave her greater confidence.

The first thing I explained to Amanda is that modern smile design is a collaborative process. We don't simply choose a shade of white and prepare the teeth. Instead, we carefully plan the proportions of the smile using digital smile design and a 3D mock-up, allowing patients to see and even trial their proposed smile before treatment begins. This gives patients confidence that the final result will look natural and suit their face.

Equally important is what most people don't see, the planning that goes into how the teeth function. Every veneer case I undertake includes a detailed assessment of the patient's bite, or how the upper and lower teeth come together. A well-balanced bite helps protect porcelain veneers from excessive forces and reduces the risk of unnecessary chipping or damage over time.

Amanda's new smile is now straighter, brighter and broader while still looking completely natural. Most importantly, she no longer worries about her



veneers chipping or breaking and feels more confident both professionally and socially.

Beautiful smiles aren't just about aesthetics, they should also be comfortable, healthy and designed to last for many years.



DR ANDREW SEE

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

HOW ARE WE DIFFERENT?

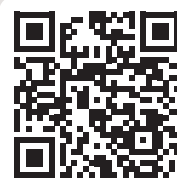
Dr Andrew See has dedicated the last 20 years to Aesthetic Dentistry and has unique qualifications in cosmetic dentistry and rehabilitation.

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.

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

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Something for everyone at

LANE COVE FESTIVAL

For 34 years, the Lane Cove Festival has brought the community together for a month of music, arts, culture, entertainment and family fun. This September, the festival returns with a packed program showcasing local talent alongside performers from across Sydney, with around 80 per cent of events hosted by locals.

WORDS MELISSA BARKS

Photographer credit: Duo Valentine.

Presented in partnership with Sydney Fringe, this year's Made in Lane Cove theme celebrates the artists, performers, makers and community groups contributing to the creative life of the area. Alongside the headline events, there are plenty of smaller opportunities to discover something new, get involved or simply enjoy an event with family and friends.

THEATRE WITH SOMETHING TO SAY

The Sydney Fringe partnership brings a diverse program of theatre and performance to Lane Cove, including several productions with very different perspectives.

Different Degrees, Sydney Community Services' drama ensemble for NDIS participants, will present *Bursting Into Life*. The production is created collaboratively by the performers, drawing on their own experiences, ideas and conversations.

Also premiering at Pottery Lane Performance Space is *The Algorithm of Us*, a satirical romantic comedy set in corporate Australia. Written, directed and produced by local artist Kersherka Sivakumaran, it tackles office culture, artificial intelligence and the pressure to keep up with a rapidly changing workplace.

For families, local independent performer and single mum Mae Da brings *I Couldn't Find a Babysitter!* to the festival – a family comedy inspired by the very real challenges of combining parenting with a career in the performing arts.

These are just three of the theatrical offerings, with the festival also featuring other Sydney Fringe productions, including *The Man, All Things Must Pass*, *Gia Ophelia* and *Barnaby: A Country Musical*.

MUSIC ALL AROUND

Music is woven throughout the festival, with performances taking place at The Canopy, the Civic Centre and Lane Cove Library.

Match Percussion Trio brings its energetic performance to the Civic Centre, while **Soulfood A Cappella** will perform *Songs From Our Backyard* at The Canopy. The multi-award-winning choir includes local singer Maya Khanna and will celebrate 50 years of Australian pop with a free performance featuring 50 voices.

There are also opportunities to hear local community musicians, including **Cameraygal Wind Symphony** and the Four Leaf Clover band at The Canopy. Lane Cove's own **LaVoce Community Choir** will perform at the library, with visitors invited to listen, sing along and find out more about the choir.



Photographer credit: Duo Valentine.



Photographer credit: Duo Valentine.

GET CREATIVE

The festival extends beyond performances, with plenty of opportunities for residents to make, learn and explore.

At Lane Cove Library, visitors can create handmade jewellery, take part in a mindful mandala session or explore the relationship between food and wellbeing with clinical nutritionist and bestselling author Lee Holmes. Local musician Graham Ball will explore the history of film music in *Moments in Music: Music from the Movies*.

The **Made in Lane Cove Markets** also make their debut at the Big Day Out at The Canopy, giving local makers and artisans an opportunity to showcase their work alongside the day's entertainment.

DISCOVER LANE COVE'S WILD SIDE

For those interested in the natural environment, September's program includes a series of Bushcare activities.

Families can go bug hunting at Stringybark Creek or learn about native plants that provide food and shelter for local wildlife. A Spring Spotlight Walk at Tambourine Bay Reserve offers the chance to look for nocturnal creatures, while an online session explores the secret life of microbats.

Later in the month, Bushcare's Big Day Out at Mindarie Park combines tree planting, bush activities and a nature walk along Stringybark Creek.

OUT AND ABOUT

The festival is also an opportunity to explore Lane Cove's history and community spaces. Events throughout the month include activities at local gardens and community venues, while **Carisbrook Historic House** offers a chance to step back in time and discover more about one of the area's historic homes.

And then there is the **Lane Cove Fun Run**, returning to Longueville on Sunday 13 September. With 2km and 5km courses, the event brings together runners, walkers, families and supporters while raising funds for local causes. Turn to page 19 for a closer look at this year's run and the fundraising effort behind it.

From theatre and live music to markets, creative workshops, wildlife walks and community activities, the Lane Cove Festival offers plenty of ways to experience the area throughout September – and to discover just how much is being **Made in Lane Cove**.

WHEN THE KIDS BECOME PART OF THE SHOW

For local independent performer and single mum Mae Da, the inspiration for her family-friendly comedy experiment *I Couldn't Find a Babysitter* came from a very real parenting dilemma.

Last year, when Mae couldn't find a babysitter for a performance, she brought her then four-year-old along, settling him beside the tech operator with snacks and an iPad. It seemed like a workable solution – until halfway through the show, she spotted his shadow heading towards the stage.

'I thought my career was about to end,' Mae recalls.

Thankfully, the tech operator intercepted him before the audience noticed. Afterwards, Mae discovered her son hadn't been attempting a dramatic stage entrance – he simply wanted help opening a lolly wrapper.

That moment became the starting point for *I Couldn't Find a Babysitter*, a funny and heartfelt show about motherhood, the



missing 'village' and the absurd juggling act of raising a child while pursuing a creative career.

Fresh from the Melbourne International Comedy Festival, the show comes to Pottery Lane Performance Space in Lane Cove from 1–3 October as part of Sydney Fringe Kids. It promises plenty of laughs,

with a story that will resonate with anyone who has ever tried to make it all work when there's no babysitter in sight.

• **Bookings:**
[www.sydneymfringe.com/
events/i-couldnt-find-a-
babysitter/](http://www.sydneymfringe.com/events/i-couldnt-find-a-babysitter/)



FREE Festival Concert

Come and enjoy an evening of choral music with La Voce Community Choir.



La Voce is delighted to present its Festival Concert at Lane Cove Library.

Come along and enjoy an evening of popular songs, community spirit and the joy of singing together. La Voce Community Choir performs a selection of songs chosen by its members, bringing energy, enthusiasm and plenty of heart to every performance.

CONCERT BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL:

Book through the Lane Cove Library website
Or scan the QR code.




La Voce
Community choir

CONCERT DATE:

Thursday
17 September 2026
6.30pm

VENUE:

LANE COVE LIBRARY,
LIBRARY WALK,
LANE COVE.

www.lavocelanecove.com

BURSTING INTO LIFE

TURNING LIVED EXPERIENCE INTO THEATRE

When Jessica arrived at a Different Degrees rehearsal with a story about her daily bus commute, she probably didn't expect it to become part of the group's next production.

Jessica had been struggling to get a seat on the bus. The group talked through what she could do: ask for a seat, wear a sunflower lanyard, speak to the driver or follow up afterwards. Those conversations became part of *Bursting Into Life*, the new production from the Different Degrees Drama Ensemble.

For Artistic Director Alice Williams, this is exactly what makes the group unique.

Different Degrees is a drama ensemble for NDIS participants, with members involved in creating the performance as well as appearing in it. Many have been part of the group since it began in 2011, developing their confidence as performers and creative thinkers along the way.

'The relationships between its members' are what Alice says makes the group so special. Participants support each other's work and progress, while taking an active role in deciding what they want to say and how they want to say it.

FROM CONVERSATION TO STAGE

Alice began working with Different Degrees in 2018 as an assistant to founder Larry Boyd. She became Artistic Director following his retirement during Covid, working alongside Lucy Watson, who continues to support the workshops and production design.

The creative process starts with conversation. During workshops, Alice and Lucy explore ideas with the performers, discussing the story, characters and things they would like to say. Alice then edits those conversations into possible scripts, which are taken back to the group.

The performers decide how scenes should develop, who wants particular lines and how the fictional world should take shape.



For *Bursting Into Life*, conversations within the group have been combined with ideas from Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*. The result promises to be funny, imaginative and direct, with karaoke numbers led by the performers.

The sunflower from Jessica's bus story has become a motif throughout the production, while variations of "Can I please have this seat?" have become part of the group's vocal warm-up.

For Alice, the question goes beyond the bus. It is about who gets a seat – on the bus, or 'at the negotiating table' – and what happens when our needs aren't met.

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

Alice hopes audiences will discover the intelligence, humanity and humour of the performers, while gaining a greater understanding of the differences we all have.

And there is certainly humour in the show. After a few bars of singing from Camilla Bent, performer Belinda Sewell declares: 'CDs anyone? We're selling merchandise after the show!'

With an ensemble cast of 10 performers, Alice describes *Bursting Into Life* as honest, articulate and a night to remember.

The Lane Cove Festival offers two opportunities to enjoy the talents of Different Degrees Ensemble.

Sydney Fringe Festival – Different Degrees Ensemble Mini Performance

- **Date:** Friday, 4 September 2026
- **Time:** 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm – keep an eye on the program for the exact time
- **Venue:** Lane Cove Canopy

Different Degrees Ensemble 2026 Production – Bursting into Life

- **Date:** Wednesday, 30 September 2026
- **Time:** 6:00 pm
- **Venue:** Pottery Lane Performance Space
- **Bookings:** www.sydnefringe.com/events/bursting-into-life/



WHEN AI MEETS THE OFFICE ROMANCE



Photo Credit_ HollyMae Steane Price

WHAT ARE WE ARE WILLING TO SACRIFICE TO KEEP UP WITH THE CHANGING WORLD OF WORK?

What happens when your homemade AI assistant accidentally sends a company-wide email, lands you on a project team you never asked for and introduces you to the person you probably least want to meet?

For Laari, a data analyst in corporate Australia, it is the beginning of an unlikely romance – and the premise of *The Algorithm of Us*, a new satirical romantic comedy coming to Lane Cove as part of Sydney Fringe.

Written, directed and produced by Lane Cove local Kersherka Sivakumaran, the show takes aim at corporate jargon, management consultants, endless meetings and the growing pressure to work 'faster, smarter' with technology that few of us completely understand.

But Kersherka didn't set out to write a play about AI.

'I very simply started writing *The Algorithm of Us* because a lot of the people in "my world" are not traditional theatre-goers,' she says.

Her 'world' is the corporate world – people working in offices, government and not-for-profits. She wanted to create something they would recognise and, hopefully, feel comfortable coming to see.

Having initially felt intimidated by theatre herself, Kersherka understands why people can be reluctant to spend money on a production they don't feel is meant for them. *The Algorithm of Us* was her way of creating a show that would make those audiences 'feel seen' while introducing them to live theatre.

LAUGHING AT OURSELVES

For anyone who has ever sat through a corporate town hall or been subjected to a particularly enthusiastic management consultant – there is plenty to recognise.

Terms such as 'low-hanging fruit', 'north star' and 'blue sky thinking' are thrown around with straight faces, while abbreviations such as SME, COB, OOO and EOD have somehow become part of everyday language.

Kersherka has plenty of first-hand material. The play draws on more than 10 years of her own experience working across retail, consulting, media and not-for-profit organisations.

'I want to be clear: this play is not an attack on corporate Australia or the people who work in it,' she says. She remembers many positive experiences, particularly the friendships and sense of teamwork she found working alongside people from very different backgrounds.

What concerns her is how much that workplace culture is changing.

People are being asked to do more with less, while technology and organisational systems are changing faster than many workers can adapt. AI has become part of that transformation, raising questions not only about jobs, but about identity and the value we place on human creativity.

THERE ARE NO EASY ANSWERS

Kersherka says she uses AI herself to brainstorm, prototype and challenge her thinking, but draws a line at allowing it to replace the human element of creative work.

That's one of the questions she hopes audiences consider: just because something is faster, cheaper or more polished, does that necessarily make it better?

'The serious themes live inside the plot, and the comedy lives inside the dialogue,' she says.

And the romance helps. Laari and Vee see the corporate world very differently, yet find themselves drawn to one another – an unlikely attraction that gives the bigger questions about work, technology and human connection a playful way into the story.

Ultimately, Kersherka hopes audiences will recognise something of themselves – or someone they know – in the show.

'I want people to feel genuinely seen, and perhaps a little bit read, but in the best possible way.'

The Algorithm of Us (Rated M)

- **Date:** 16-19 September
- **Time:** 7:30 pm
- **Venue:** Pottery Lane Performance Space
- **Bookings:**

www.sydneyfringe.com/events/algorithm-of-us/





TEN YEARS OF THE LANE COVE FUN RUN



By Don Moloney, Lane Cove Public School P&C President

Ten years ago, the Lane Cove Fun Run began with a simple idea: bring the community together, get people moving and raise funds for worthy causes.

In 2016, then Lane Cove Public School P&C President Carla FitzSimons turned that idea into reality while juggling four sons, including a four-month-old baby. 'I didn't sleep much!' she recalls.

With a small team of parents, Carla created the event from scratch, working through council approvals, traffic control, course mapping, registrations, timing, sponsors and stalls. Her favourite memory from that first 2km race came when she overheard a young boy announce: 'I can see why this is called a fun run. It's really fun!'

The baton passed to Katie Sykes, Race Director in 2018. Having volunteered at the first two events, Katie was determined to keep the Fun Run going while making it easier for future volunteers to take over. She built a broader organising team, delegated responsibilities and documented how the event worked.

'People who volunteer for their community are amazing,' she says. 'I have made long-term friends and got so much out of it personally.'

Vanessa Mundell took over in 2019, having previously managed marketing and communications. She remembers running

much of the event from her dining-room table, supported by an enthusiastic committee and the systems created by those before her.

For Vanessa, the greatest reward was the friendships. 'I met so many wonderful parents from different year groups that I probably never would have crossed paths with otherwise.'

Then came COVID, and the Fun Run paused for two years.

When Lara Wehby stepped forward to bring it back, much of the event infrastructure had gone dormant – even the website had expired. Drawing on the notes and experience of previous organisers, a new volunteer team rebuilt the event and grew participation beyond 2,000 runners.

Lara says one of the things she is most proud of is how deeply the Fun Run has become part of the local community. More than 80 volunteers now help make the event happen each year, while the event raises funds for Lane Cove Public School and supports Sydney Community Services.

'It brings the whole community together,' Lara says. 'People of all ages, abilities and fitness levels come out to move, whether they're running, jogging or walking. I've always loved the event's philosophy: we run for fun.'

This year, the leadership structure has evolved again. Liz Wright, who was Race Director in 2024 and 2025, is

now Production Manager, focusing on race-day delivery, site logistics and safety. Don Moloney is Program Manager, overseeing sponsors, schools, volunteers, communications and the growing event village.

As Carla says, the Fun Run has become even more important with time: 'We need opportunities to connect, to get outside, to smile at strangers, experience kindness and take joy in simple things, like running together.'

COME AND BE PART OF IT

On **Sunday 13 September**, the community will do exactly that again.

You don't need to be a runner. Come down to **Kingsford Smith Oval**, grab a coffee or breakfast, explore the stalls, bring the kids and enjoy a morning with your neighbours.

Run, walk, cheer – or simply come for the village. Everyone is welcome!

Registrations and information:
www.lanecovefunrun.com.au

THIS YEAR'S EVENT



Sunday 13 September



2km & 5km events



Kingsford Smith Oval



Village, food, coffee and community



Maggie Lawrence chats
with local artist Wendy
Fare about her passion
for painting portraits



Reminiscing - Winner of Drawing
and pastel section of Drummoyne Art
Society Open Awards, 2026



MAGGIE LAWRENCE IS A LOCAL
AUTHOR AND SCREENWRITER.
YOU CAN VISIT HER AT
WWW.MAGGIELAWRENCE.COM

Drawn to faces

Wendy Fare has lived in Lane Cove for 30 years with her husband Steve. Originally from the English city of Norwich in Norfolk, Wendy had a happy childhood with her parents and two brothers.

‘Norfolk is a lovely county in East Anglia with a beautiful network of navigable lakes and rivers known as the Norfolk Broads. We used to go there regularly during the summer months,’ she told me.

‘I enjoy living in Lane Cove with its village atmosphere and sense of community. I also love the lush green surroundings, trees and birdlife that frequently visit our balcony.’

Wendy says she’s predominantly a portrait/figurative artist but she’s also painted a few scenes around where she lives.

‘We overlook the Lane Cove River and there are so many painting opportunities. I painted a contemporary version of a beautiful angophora, with bush and river in the background. A print of the painting is now hanging in our foyer. I’m so glad I did this as the tree eventually died and was cut down. This was a very sad day for me,’ she said.

Wendy has always had a strong interest in art and loved drawing and painting from early childhood.

‘I feel that I was “gifted” in art and I’ve always been so appreciative of that. My primary school teacher Mrs Utting told my mother she wouldn’t be surprised if I became a professional artist one day, which really encouraged my interest in painting.’

After finishing high school Wendy successfully enrolled at the Norwich School of Art and Design. She describes her art style as “impressionistic realism”.

‘I’ve always loved the Impressionists with their visible brushstrokes, movement and their talent for capturing light. They threw away the rigid rules of the time and developed their own unique styles. Some of my favourite artists are Van Gogh, Cezanne and Gauguin. I also admire the great pastelists Degas and Toulouse-Lautrec,’ she said.

At art school Wendy immersed herself into an unstructured creative learning experience.

‘I loved my new life with so many likeminded students and tutors. It was exhilarating but due to lack of income I decided not to complete the course. There was no pressure from my parents but I felt a strong sense of responsibility to “earn my keep”.’

Runner up for a luxury boot design

After her studies, Wendy secured a job at Bally, a leading luxury brand for shoes and accessories.

‘I managed to stay in a creative environment by joining their design department and enjoyed coming up with new ideas for shoes and accessories. I entered an international footwear design competition and was thrilled to become the runner up with a boot design,’ she said.

Wendy got the travel bug after she received an invitation to stay with her aunt in Southern California.

‘I loved the weather, the mountains, beaches and the casual lifestyle and my desire to travel made me realise I needed a temporary change of career in order to support myself. I did a business studies course including typing and shorthand.

Wendy had friends that had left England for Australia. They urged her to apply for an Australian working visa and she ended up working full-time in an office environment. However, this led to a gap in Wendy’s journey with her art.

‘The switch to office work became my way to earn a living as it’s hard to do this from art. Before retiring from work, I did some part-time medical secretarial work. It was during this time I started to pick up from where I left off with my art activities.’

Fellow of the Royal Art Society of NSW

Wendy started going to exhibitions, galleries, workshops, demonstrations and evening classes.

‘The flame had been reignited after being on the back burner for so long and there was no stopping me now. During this time, the Mitchell School of Arts week-long workshops were held twice yearly at the Charles Sturt University in Bathurst. They were wonderful and really fun,’ she said.

‘There were some great artists and tutors running the workshops. With my love for portraiture, I did my first week with Lesley O’Shea. She suggested I attend her classes at the Royal Art Society of NSW (RAS) which I did and never looked back.

‘Whilst doing Lesley’s classes in portraiture I decided to work towards the RAS Diploma including the study of portraiture, landscape, still life and drawing. Joe Bezzina became my tutor/mentor and I studied part-time there over a few years. I obtained their Diploma in 2015 and automatically became an exhibiting member of the RAS.’

Wendy was elevated to Associate (ARAS) in 2018 and enters most of the RAS exhibitions. She was delighted and humbled to be elevated to Fellow (FRAS) in 2024. She is also an exhibiting member of the Lane Cove and Drummoyne Art Societies and usually enters their twice-yearly exhibitions as well as the Hunters Hill Art Award and occasionally the Royal Easter Show.

‘I have taught portraiture for an art society in the past but I feel I would rather just “do my own thing” now. I have also done workshops and I’m frequently asked to do demonstrations. I have mainly concentrated on portraiture and figurative work but have also painted landscapes and still life which I also enjoy and have done many commissions for both.’

One of the most difficult art forms

Wendy has won over thirty awards in various art exhibitions including Lane Cove Art Society, Drummoyne Art Society and The Royal Art Society of NSW. She’s also been a finalist for many years in the Hunters Hill Art Prize.

‘It’s becoming harder to earn a living as an artist. It helps to build a reputation and display your work at a specific gallery/galleries and exhibitions. Selling online is an option but not always highly profitable. These days, unless they are art investors, many people buy art for purely decorative purposes.

‘There are many challenges to portraiture which is why it’s considered one of the most difficult art forms. I want my finished portraits to portray the person in an accurate way both technically and emotionally. A portrait is never finished until I have achieved this,’ she concluded.



Tony - Winner of Alan Hansen Award (acquisitive) at The Royal Art Society of NSW, 2015



Reinier - Very Highly Commended in the Portrait section and People's Choice winner of Drummoyne Art Society Open Awards, 2026



Natalie - Very Highly Commended in the Portrait section of Drummoyne Art Society Open Awards, 2022

Capturing the essence of a person

I’ve always considered it remarkable how an artist is able to paint a portrait of someone that is so realistic. I asked Wendy to describe the process she goes through when painting someone’s portrait.

Starting with structure

‘Drawing and painting faces is something I’ve always enjoyed. It’s partly the challenge of achieving an accurate likeness but also capturing the essence of the person. If possible, this means meeting and talking to them during the process,’ she told me.

‘I start by analysing the structure and proportions of the face. This is so important because there’ll never be a good likeness if the proportions are incorrect. I observe the slope of the nose, the slant of the eyes and so on. I usually do a preliminary sketch and then mark in the darkest areas and the shadows in shapes before thinking of details.’

Reading the face

‘After mapping out, I think about tones to create a three-dimensional face. I check the proportions and facial features are correct and then refine the features and choose my colours. Facial expressions need to be closely observed as they are a guide to personality. Eyes are also very important as they are “the window to the soul” revealing a lot. I’m fortunately quite intuitive and enjoy “reading” faces, gestures and expressions. It can be challenging when people have a view about how they want their portrait to look which may not necessarily be my perception.’

Choosing the medium

‘I work with a variety of mediums depending on the subject I’m painting. I used to work primarily in oil which I particularly love for portraits, but I now tend to use water-based acrylics, chalk pastel or charcoal.

‘It took me a while to get used to acrylic paint as it’s so different to using oil paint with its buttery texture. One advantage of acrylic is that it dries quickly which is great for layering but the downside is that the colours can sometimes appear darker when dry. Using pastels and charcoal can also be problematic because after using fixative, the work needs to be framed under glass to prevent smudging,’ she said.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Willoughby Symphony Orchestra

HYMN OF PRAISE

Sunday 27 September 2pm

The Pat Reilly Hall
The Concourse

Dr Sarah Penicka-Smith
Associate Conductor

Willoughby Symphony Choir



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50km
Classic Ride

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Looking for the perfect venue for your next celebration, meeting, or community event? The Meeting House offers a versatile and welcoming space that takes the stress out of hosting at home.

- Spacious hall + enclosed outdoor area
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- Tables and chairs available
- Convenient Lane Cove location

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P: 9427 6425
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**LOCAL LANE COVE AUTHOR
RELEASES NEW BOOK**



**Available now at
Burns Bay Bookery**

"Strikingly Original"
Reedsy Discovery Best Non-Fiction books March 2026.

"It's about AI but also self reflection and philosophy. Teaching AI a Poem recalibrates the AI with your own values and creates what it calls a Companion Mind. Amazing." - reader biblio.co.uk

"A novel approach to training Artificial Intelligence" - Kirkus Reviews

The author, a Lane Cove local, proposes a strikingly original idea: that poetry, not code, may be the most powerful instrument for aligning artificial intelligence with human values.



COUNSELLING SERVICES

We all struggle sometimes

Life can feel overwhelming, so reaching out for support can make a real difference.

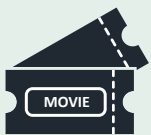
Services offered

- Grief & Loss
- Stress, Anxiety, Depression
- Self-Esteem, Confidence
- Relationships

HopeWise Counselling, Gladesville Medical,
275 Victoria Road, Gladesville.
\$75 for 50 minute session. \$100 for couples.
Call 9817 2522 to book a session.
Also available on zoom hopewise counselling.com.au

MEMBER OF **ACA** AUSTRALIAN COUNSELLING ASSOCIATION

APPROVED BY **Psychology Today**

Pizza + Movie nights @ Longueville UC Hall

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

Tuesday 1 September
- *The Third Man* (1949) (B & W)
British Film Noir based on the thriller by Graham Greene and set in post WWII Vienna. Once voted the best British film of all time. Starring Joseph Cotton, Orson Welles, Trevor Howard and Alida Valli.

Tuesday 6 October
- *Churchill's Secret* (2015). A biographical drama set in 1953, soon after Churchill's third election as PM. Starring Michael Gambon, Romola Garai and Lindsay Duncan.

Bookings essential on 9428 4287
Cost \$15 cash only – the best value pizza/movie combo! BYO drinks

Mayor's Message

Merri Southwood, Mayor of Lane Cove
e: msouthwood@lanecove.nsw.gov.au



It's an exciting time to be part of the Lane Cove community, with plenty happening across our area this spring, the most exciting of which is the Lane Cove Festival.

Back for its 34th year, this much-loved annual event brings the community together with a month of music, arts, culture, entertainment and family-friendly events. Presented in partnership with Sydney Fringe Festival, this year's Made in Lane Cove theme celebrates the incredible talent in our community, right alongside some of the best of Sydney's vibrant arts scene right on our doorstep. I encourage everyone to get involved, explore the program and enjoy the spectacular variety of entertainment on offer.

We're also celebrating six months of our food waste service, with many residents embracing the initiative and sharing positive feedback. It's encouraging to see so many households getting behind the program and making food waste recycling part of their daily routine. Thank you for playing your part in helping our community reduce waste and build a more sustainable future.

See you at Lane Cove Festival!

Lane Cove's New Organic Buyer's Group is Here

Love fresh organic produce and supporting local farmers? Lane Cove's new Organic Buyers Group offers certified organic produce at close to supermarket prices, through a community-run weekly hub modelled on Randwick's 20-year-old group.

Meetings are every Monday 5–6pm at the Living and Learning Centre, 180 Longueville Road. Members chip in on the divvies but don't have to attend every week.

Find out more and register at www.organicbuyers.group/lanecove-1

Court Win for Longueville Tree Vandalism

A Sydney contractor has been convicted and fined \$187,500 over the illegal clearing of more than 280 trees on council-owned foreshore bushland at Woodford Bay, Longueville, in November 2023. The contractor pleaded guilty and was also ordered to pay Council's costs.

Lane Cove Council welcomes the judgment and continues to advocate for strong penalties to deter tree vandalism. More info can be found on Council's website.

GET READY FOR LANE COVE FESTIVAL!

Lane Cove Festival is back, celebrating 34 years of bringing the community together through music, arts, culture, entertainment and family fun!

Presented in partnership with Sydney Fringe, this year's festival theme Made in Lane Cove shines a spotlight on the creativity and talent found right here in our community. From local artists and performers to makers and community groups, the festival celebrates what makes Lane Cove unique.

With a packed program of events happening throughout September, there's plenty to see, do and discover for all ages.

Don't miss these festival highlights

• Festival Launch Night,

Friday 4 September, 5:00pm–8:00pm, The Canopy, Free

The festivities kick off with a night of live performance, roving entertainment and plenty of surprises for all ages.

• At Your Request Jazz Night,

Friday 11 September, 6:00pm–7:30pm, Lane Cove Civic Centre, \$20 + bf

A night of great music where you can request a song with the band.

• Big Day Out + Made in Lane Cove Markets,

Saturday 12 September, 10:00am–4:00pm, The Canopy, Free

The festival's biggest family day with entertainment, markets, food and plenty of fun.

• Lane Cove Art Award,

Friday 18 September, 6:00pm–8:00pm, Gallery Lane Cove, Free

A celebration of some of Australia's best visual arts.

• Rumours: Fleetwood Mac Tribute Show,

Saturday 26 September, 6:00pm–9:00pm, The Canopy, \$18 + bf

Rumours recreates the full spectrum of Fleetwood Mac's discography with precision, passion and flair.

For the full program and to book, visit www.lanecove.nsw.gov.au/lanecovefestival



Six Months On: Lane Cove is Embracing Food Waste Recycling

It's been six months since Lane Cove's Food Waste Service was introduced to households in stand-alone homes, and the response from the community has been overwhelmingly positive.



Over the past six months, Council's Waste Team has been out checking food waste bins each morning, speaking with residents and answering questions. The results have been fantastic, with the vast majority of bins showing correct use of the service and only a very small percentage showing low levels of contamination. One of the most rewarding outcomes has been hearing how residents have made the service work for their households. Here is just some of the feedback we have received:

"I love the food waste service. I compost and have been surprised at how much I've used it for food that can't go in the compost bin. I sometimes receive food from neighbours who also compost and don't have a lot to put in their own bins." - Lane Cove mum

"I like the food waste bin. As a busy mum, I use the kitchen caddy during dinner prep at night, when emptying lunch boxes, and at the end of the weekly food prep. It's practical and easy to do." - Greenwich mum of three young kids

"We love it. Because our worms slow down and eat less over winter, we just put the extra food in our food waste bin. It also takes the food that the worms never eat such as lettuce

which has dressing on it, meat, citrus and garlic." - Retired couple from Northwood

It's great to see so many households embracing the service and helping to divert food waste from landfill – keep it up Lane Cove!

Free Dads Group for Support and Practical Parenting Advice

Dads, grandfathers, uncles and carers are invited to a free monthly group at St Leonards Library offering practical parenting advice and honest conversation.

Run by not-for-profit The Fathering Project, the North Sydney – Lane Cove Dads Group covers topics like building emotional intelligence, reducing stress and raising resilient kids, from infancy through to the teen years.

Next sessions: Thursday 10 September and Thursday 8 October, 5–6pm.

Registrations essential at www.lanecove.nsw.gov.au/Dads-Group

Who is the Lane Cove Banksy?

Mysterious plaques have been popping up around Lane Cove, and no, it wasn't us. Who is the Lane Cove Banksy creating guerrilla art plaques?



Enjoy the spring weather and go hunting for them - it's the perfect excuse to slow down and spot the beauty around us. And if it leaves you wanting more, explore the public art across our villages at lanecove.nsw.gov.au/publicart

Consultation Corner

Have your say and help inform decisions that will shape the future of Lane Cove. Council currently has a number of important consultations open for feedback, including the Burns Bay Reserve Masterplan and the Draft Data Breach Response Policy. Register to receive updates on Council projects, plans and community consultations, and share your input on the issues that matter most to you at haveyoursay.lanecove.nsw.gov.au

EVENTS



Learn Lifesaving Skills – Free CPR Sessions

The Heart Foundation has partnered with Lane Cove Council to offer free, one-hour sessions teaching CPR and AED use.

- Friday 18 September, 1:00pm–2:30pm, St Leonards Library, 88 Christie St, St Leonards

No experience needed.

Registrations are essential at collections.humanitix.com/heart-of-the-nation-program



Wills, Guardianship and Power of Attorney Information Session

Register for this free session to learn about planning ahead. Presented by a solicitor from Seniors Rights Service.

- Wednesday 30 September, 10:00am–11:30am, Cove Room, Civic Centre, 48 Longueville Rd, Lane Cove

Registrations are essential by email support@sydneycs.org or phone 9427 6425

What's on in Lane Cove September 2026

Find all our events on our website at www.lanecove.nsw.gov.au/events



Welcome to Men's Cooking: Cook, Eat, Play

Celebrate the Lane Cove Festival by giving your first cooking session a try and taking part in seniors festive games! Follow recipes with Ku-ring-gai Neighbourhood Centre to make a three-course meal and enjoy it with your fellow group members. This event is ideal for men aged 55+ who are looking to attend twice a month to build their skills.



- Lane Cove Festival special event: Thursday 3 September, 10:00am–12:30pm
- Ongoing classes: First and third Thursday of every month, 10:00am–12:30pm
- Location: Living and Learning Centre, 180 Longueville Rd, Lane Cove
- Cost: Cost of ingredients

Registrations are essential by email kerrin.davis@knc.org.au or phone 9988 4966

Sustainability Lane Returns with Lane Cove Rotary Fair This October



- Sunday 11 October, 10:00am–3:00pm, The Canopy and Birdwood Lane

Don't miss Lane Cove Rotary Fair, a fun-filled day of entertainment, market stalls, food, rides and family activities. Lane Cove Council's

Sustainability Lane returns to the Fair once again, bringing plenty of inspiration and practical ideas to help you live more sustainably. In addition to interactive workshops, sustainable market stalls, and live entertainment, this year's event will also unveil a new public artwork, the Welcome to Sustainability Lane archway, created by local primary school students.

www.lanecove.nsw.gov.au/Sustainability-Lane

BUSHCARE EVENTS



Let's Go Bug Hunting

- Saturday 5 September, 9:00am–11:00am, Stringybark Creek

Dip net for aquatic creatures living in our creeks and sift through leaf litter to uncover a whole world of bugs which lie beneath. Join in the fun on this bug hunt.



Plants for Wildlife

- Saturday 5 September, 10:00am–12:00pm, Community Nursery

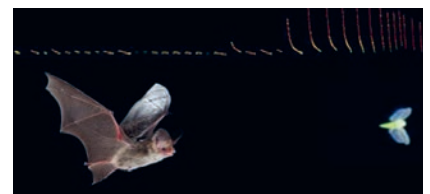
Sydney Wildlife shares insights on which native plants provide natural food, shelter and breeding sites for local wildlife plus tips on growing your own native plants!



Spring Spotlight Walk

- Friday 11 September, 5:45pm–7:30pm, Tambourine Bay Reserve

Enjoy an evening walk by the river while looking for nocturnal creatures. Keep your eyes and ears ready to spot possums and geckos and listen for bats with our bat detector. Bring a torch and wear sturdy shoes. Suitable for ages 8+.



Secret Life of Microbats: Bats in Backyards

- Thursday 17 September, 7:00pm–8:00pm, Zoom presentation

Microbats play a critical role in ecosystems yet half of the 34 species in NSW are under threat. Join the Bats in Backyards Project Officer for a fascinating look at the secret life of microbats, their ecology and what you can do to help protect them.



Bushcare's Big Day Out

- Saturday 26 September, 9:00am–12:00pm, Mindarie Park, Lane Cove North

Join us for tree planting, bush activities and a short nature walk along beautiful Stringybark Creek. All welcome to this fun, family-friendly morning, with activities suiting most fitness levels. Tools and morning tea provided.

What's on in Lane Cove September 2026

Find all our events on our website at www.lanecove.nsw.gov.au/events



COMING UP @

THE CANOPY

VISIT THECANOPY.COM.AU



Play Garden

- Thursday 3 September, 9:30am–11:30am

Lane Cove Festival at Sydney Fringe Launch

- Friday 4 September, 5:00pm–8:00pm

Lane Cove Dance Academy

- Saturday 5 September, 1:30pm–4:00pm

Big Day Out + Made in Lane Cove Markets

- Saturday 12 September, 10:00am–4:00pm

Live Music with Lee Benari

- Sunday 13 September, 11:30am–2:30pm



Boxing Display

- Saturday 19 September, 8:00am–12:00pm

Cameraygal Wind Symphony

- Saturday 19 September, 10:00am–12:00pm



Four Leaf Clover band

- Sunday 20 September, 2:00pm–4:00pm

Makers Market

- Sunday 20 September, 9:00am–3:30pm

Open Mic Night

- Thursday 24 September, 6:00pm–8:00pm



Songs From Our Backyard – Soulfod A Capella

- Friday 25 September, 6:00pm–8:00pm

Rumours: Fleetwood Mac Tribute Show

- Saturday 26 September, 6:00pm–9:00pm



LIBRARY EVENTS

www.lanecove.nsw.gov.au/Library-News-Events

Eat to Heal with Lee Holmes, Lane Cove Library

- Saturday 5 September, 2:00pm–3:00pm.

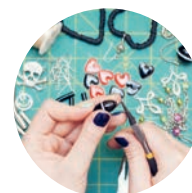


Join qualified clinical nutritionist, wholefoods chef, and bestselling wellbeing author Lee Holmes for an accessible and practical session on gut health, inflammation and the connection between food and everyday wellbeing. Books will be available for purchase at the event. **Bookings essential.**

Festival Jewellery Creations, Lane Cove Library

- Monday 7 September, 5:30pm–7:30pm.

Celebrate Lane Cove Festival by creating beautiful hand-made jewellery and accessories including bracelets and earrings. This is a drop-in session for ages 16+. **No bookings required.**



Art for Life: Mindful Mandala, Lane Cove Library

- Monday 14 September, 2:00pm–3:00pm.

Enjoy a relaxing afternoon of mindful music and creating a beautiful mandala. Ages 16+. **Bookings essential.**

She Who Remembers with Megan Dalla-Camina, Lane Cove Library

- Monday 14 September, 6:15pm–7:30pm.

Join bestselling author, women's researcher and founder of Women Rising, Megan Dalla-Camina as she offers a thoughtful exploration of what happens when women begin reconnecting with their own wisdom, intuition and inner authority. Books will be available for purchase at the event. **Bookings essential.**



Lane Cove Festival: LaVoce Community Choir, Lane Cove Library

- Thursday 17 September, 6:30pm–7:30pm.

LaVoce is a Lane Cove community choir singing for fun and good health. Join us to listen to the choir, sing along and consider joining the LaVoce choir! **Bookings essential.**

Moments in Music: Music from the Movies, Lane Cove Library

- Wednesday 23 September, 10:00am–12:00pm.

Local musician Graham Ball will discuss film history and the key composers who have turned film music into an art form. **Bookings essential.**



HSC Study Night, Lane Cove Library

- Fridays, 5:00pm–8:00pm and Sundays 2:00pm–5:00pm from 4 September to 25 October.

Enjoy some quiet study time and exclusive use of the Library for your HSC exam preparations. **No bookings required.**



PATHWAYS

LONGUEVILLE



Supporting Community, Every Step of the Way

At Pathways Longueville, we provide compassionate, personalised aged care that supports dignity, independence and wellbeing. Our welcoming community offers meaningful connections, engaging activities and a place where residents feel valued and at home. Whether you're planning ahead or seeking care for a loved one, we're here to help. Visit Pathways Longueville to experience the difference.

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Sunday
13th September

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Longueville



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BASIC FIRST AID

What you need to know to make a difference

DR CARL WONG

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



It started as a typical Saturday morning that many parents will identify with. School sports: cheering your child from the sidelines after first trying to find a near-impossible nearby parking spot.

Local resident Davina was one of those mums. But with her children playing at different sporting venues, it was a quirk of logistical fate that found her on her way to see her daughter play football that morning. That was when she received a call from her husband asking had she arrived yet, as a child had collapsed mid-match on a nearby playing field.

By the time Davina arrived at the scene, a large crowd had gathered. A 15-year old girl had collapsed unconscious with a cardiac arrest. CPR had already been started by another parent, an off-duty paramedic who also thankfully happened to be there at the time. Davina worked with the other parent using a nearby-located Automatic Emergency Defibrillator (AED) device to deliver two electrical shocks. All of these measures made a positive difference and saved this young girl's life.

Now this had been a very fortunate outcome for this teenager. Not only were chest compressions started very early by a skilled bystander, but the AED device was used quickly and effectively. Davina was also no ordinary parent; Dr Davina Julliard is an emergency medicine specialist at Royal North Shore Hospital.

'My heart went out to (the girl's) mother who was watching this entire situation occur. I was quite relieved that I could assist. It was a quick-acting team effort, and I think this girl was incredibly fortunate to have a number of people surrounding her, and just not myself, who were prepared to use the training they had to take measures which saved her life.'

A medical person is trained for this situation, but very few of us have had medical training and these situations can be very confronting. We never know if or when we might be a witness to something like this in the future. That is why it is crucial that we all learn how to do basic first aid CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation), because administering early CPR can save lives.

According to NSW Health, 8500 people experience an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest in NSW each year. Of these, only 12% will survive. 'CPR is the cornerstone of all resuscitation by maintaining oxygenation to the brain and heart. Basic life support will improve life survival by at least three-fold' says Professor Hugh Grantham, Chair of Training for St John Ambulance Australia.

Here is a quick guide to providing Basic First Aid to an unconscious patient using the acronym: **DRs-ABC-D**

D = Danger. Are you and the unconscious person in a safe location? Is the person on a road? If so, they need to be carefully moved out of harm's way.

R = Response. Speak loudly close to their ear to confirm if unconscious 'Can you hear me?!', 'Open your eyes!', 'Squeeze my hand!'

S = Send for help. Ask someone to call 000 straight away.

A = Airway. Are they breathing? Look (for movement of the chest/abdomen). Listen for air escaping from nose/mouth. Feel for air coming out of their mouth/nose. If needed, remove any obvious oral foreign material (e.g. food, vomit, blood) by turning their body (carefully) onto their side to allow it to drain.

B = Breathing. If not breathing, provide two quick breaths mouth-to-mouth if you feel comfortable to do this. Current resuscitation guidelines state that the risk of disease transmission, like COVID, from this is extremely low.

C = Compressions. Administer 100-120 compressions per minute over the central chest bone. After 30 compressions and if willing and able, provide 2 quick breaths and then start the cycle again. Count your compression frequency along with the beats of the classic Bee Gee's song *Stayin' Alive*. A common mistake is not pushing hard, deep or fast enough. Don't be scared about pushing too hard and possibly breaking ribs. Professor Grantham agrees: 'Go hard, fast and vigorous. Occasionally a rib will fracture, but it's better for someone to be alive and complaining of a fractured rib than the alternative.'

D = Defibrillation. The problem is that CPR alone does not restore a normal heart rhythm. It does help to keep the heart in a state where an AED (cardiac defibrillator) has a greater chance of being able to do its job. An AED provides THE biggest chance of survival if done as quickly and as early as possible, by providing a controlled electric shock to 'jumpstart the heart'. When both CPR is performed and an AED is used within the first 3 to 5 minutes of a cardiac arrest, survival rates can increase to 60-70%.

Using an AED is easy. Just turn it on and follow the instructions. It will tell you exactly what to do. AEDs are publicly located everywhere (please see below for a list in your local area). They are free to use. All you need to do is place the two pads directly onto the chest on a hairless area around the heart (picture guides included). Voice commands will prompt you to shock the person if it is appropriate. If the machine says 'not shockable', always continue CPR until more professional help arrives!

So, the take-home message: CPR saves lives. Survival from a sudden out-of-hospital cardiac arrest depends on acting fast. Do a CPR (or refresher) course.

Dr Julliard wholeheartedly agrees. 'All of us can do the training, and don't be afraid to use it. I think half the time there is some hesitation to use the training. Be empowered to use it as it can save lives.'

LINKS:

- **CPR courses:** St John Ambulance, NSW <https://stjohnnsw.com.au/> or organised through your school or workplace
- **The GoodSAM Responder app:** this saves lives by notifying registered members of the community when someone nearby requires hands-only CPR in the first minutes which are critical in cardiac arrest.

WHERE TO FIND A DEFIBRILLATOR

LANE COVE	ADDRESS	ACCESS
Blackman Park – Lower Field	Lloyd Rees Drive, Lane Cove West	Public outdoor
Blackman Park – Upper Field	Lloyd Rees Drive, Lane Cove West	Public outdoor
Bob Campbell Oval (Gore Creek)	St Vincents Road, Greenwich	Public outdoor
Burns Bay Reserve	71 Kooyong Road, Riverview	Public outdoor
Council Depot	Lloyd Rees Drive, Lane Cove West	Venue hours
Hughes Park	314 Burns Bay Road, Lane Cove West	Public outdoor
Kingsford Smith Oval	Kenneth & Stuart Streets, Longueville	Public outdoor
Lane Cove Council Civic Centre	48 Longueville Road, Lane Cove	Venue hours
Lane Cove Library	Library Walk, Lane Cove	Venue hours
Lane Cove Plaza	Lane Cove Plaza, Lane Cove	Public outdoor
Living & Learning Centre	180 Longueville Road, Lane Cove	Venue hours
Mindarie Park	18A Mindarie Street, Lane Cove North	Public outdoor
Pottery Green Oval	Phoenix Street, Lane Cove	Public outdoor
12ft Skiff Sailing Club & Public Storage Facility	Stuart Street, Longueville	Public outdoor
Tantallon Oval	Tantallon Road & Epping Road, Lane Cove North	Public outdoor
The Canopy	2 Rosenthal Avenue, Lane Cove	Public outdoor
Pottery Lane Performance Space	1 Pottery Lane, Lane Cove	Public outdoor
Wadanggari Park	564 Pacific Highway, St Leonards	Public outdoor
HUNTERS HILL	ADDRESS	ACCESS
Bedlam Bay	2A Bedlam Bay Road, Gladesville	Public outdoor
Boronia Park	Park Road, Hunters Hill	Public outdoor
Buffalo Creek Reserve	Pittwater Road, Hunters Hill	Public outdoor
Clarke Point Reserve	Clarke Road, Woolwich	Public outdoor
Kellys Bush	Nelson Parade, Hunters Hill	Public outdoor
Woolwich Baths	Gale Street, Woolwich	Public outdoor
RYDE	ADDRESS	ACCESS
Corporate Office	Building 0, 3 Richardson Place, North Ryde	Venue hours
Customer Service Centre	Ground Floor, 1 Pope Street, Ryde	Venue hours
Ryde Library	Level 1, 1 Pope Street, Ryde	Venue hours
West Ryde Library	2 Graf Avenue, West Ryde	Venue hours
Eastwood Library	Corner Hillview Road & West Parade, Eastwood	Venue hours
North Ryde Library	201 Coxs Road, North Ryde	Venue hours
Gladesville Library	6 Pittwater Road, Gladesville	Venue hours
Operations Centre	1 Constitution Road, Ryde	Venue hours
Ryde Aquatic Leisure Centre	504 Victoria Road, Ryde	Venue hours
Council Chambers	Level 1A, 1 Pope Street, Ryde	Venue hours
NORTH SYDNEY	ADDRESS	ACCESS
Anderson Park	Clark Road, Neutral Bay	24 hours
Cammeray Park	Abbott Street, Cammeray	24 hours
Forsyth Park	Young Street, Neutral Bay	24 hours
Primrose Park	Matora Lane, Cremorne	24 hours
St Leonards Park	Miller Street, North Sydney	24 hours
Waverton Park	Bay Road, Waverton	24 hours
WILLOUGHBY – CHATSWOOD	ADDRESS	ACCESS
Chatswood Station	Railway Street & Victoria Avenue, Chatswood NSW 2067	24 hours
Chatswood Interchange	436 Victoria Avenue, Chatswood NSW 2067	24 hours
Service NSW Chatswood	313 Victoria Avenue, Chatswood NSW 2067	Venue hours
Woolworths	17 Smith Street, Chatswood NSW 2067	Venue hours
Bunnings	23 Smith Street, Chatswood NSW 2067	Venue hours
Dougherty Community Centre	7 Victor Street, Chatswood NSW 2067	Venue hours
Westfield Chatswood	1 Anderson Street, Chatswood NSW 2067	Venue hours
Coles Supermarket	39/45 Victor Street, Chatswood NSW 2067	Venue hours
Willoughby Council	31 Victor Street, Chatswood NSW 2067	Venue hours
Chatswood Chase	345 Victoria Avenue, Chatswood NSW 2067	Venue hours
Chatswood Rotary War Memorial Athletics Field	Mowbray Road West, Lane Cove North NSW 2066	Not stated
WILLOUGHBY	ADDRESS	ACCESS
Willoughby Leisure Centre	2 Small Street, Willoughby NSW 2068	Venue hours
Willoughby Uniting Church Office	10 Clanwilliam Street, North Willoughby NSW 2068	24 hours
Willoughby Park Centre	Warrane Road, Willoughby NSW 2068	Venue hours

24 HOURS

– publicly accessible at all times according to the information available

PUBLIC OUTDOOR

– located in a public park/reserve or outdoor area

VENUE HOURS

– access is dependent on the facility being open

NOT STATED

– access information was not available

AED LOCATIONS: PLEASE CHECK BEFORE YOU GO

This list is not comprehensive and is provided as a community resource only.

It includes publicly advertised AED locations identified through local council information and the NSW Ambulance AED register.

AED locations, access arrangements and opening hours may change.

For the most up-to-date information and to find additional registered AEDs in your area, scan the QR code to access the NSW Ambulance AED locator.



LOCATE AN AED

In an emergency, always call Triple Zero (000) and follow the instructions of the emergency operator. Do not delay calling 000 while searching for an AED.



Spring into Moocooboola

Hunters Hill's much-loved Moocooboola Festival will return to Boronia Park Ovals on Sunday 27 September 2026, bringing a full day of family-friendly entertainment, activities and community celebrations.

Bigger than ever

This year's event will be bigger than ever, expanding across two ovals and taking place on a new springtime date. From carnival rides and live entertainment to market stalls, community displays and the ever-popular Moocooboola Dog Show, there will be something for all ages to enjoy.

Visitors can explore a vibrant market bazaar featuring food, gifts, plants and handmade products, while local community organisations will be onsite with activities, information and giveaways.

Throughout the day, local performers will take to the stage and community radio station 2RRR will broadcast live from the festival grounds.

Family fun

The Kids Zone, proudly sponsored by Kids Cottage Hunters Hill, will feature an interactive circus playground and jumping castle, alongside carnival rides and returning crowd favourites including a petting zoo, pony rides and other family-friendly attractions.

Festival-goers will also have the opportunity to meet representatives from the SES, NSW Rural Fire Service and United Resource Management (URM), and take part in activities hosted by local sporting clubs and fitness providers.



Pooches on parade

One of the festival's most anticipated attractions, the Moocooboola Dog Show, will return with a range of categories, giving every dog the opportunity to shine. Sydney Water will provide refill stations throughout the site to help visitors and their four-legged companions stay hydrated.

Council thanks its valued sponsors, including URM, Kids Cottage Hunters Hill, Hunters Hill Hotel, Sydney Water and 2RRR, for their continued support of this much-loved community event.



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: huntershill.nsw.gov.au/moocooboola

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You're invited to Music On Mars 2026

An outdoor concert in a beautiful setting

Sunday 20 September
~ 2pm ~

At the Visitor Centre, Field of Mars Reserve,
Gladesville/East Ryde (main entrance:
Pittwater Road), **OR**, in bad weather, at the
adjacent Environmental Education Centre.

THE PROGRAMME INCLUDES:

*"What Does the Rabbit Look Like?", a short
musical, (executive producer: Chloe Hwang);
Folk, Country and Acoustic with Ineke Olive;
AvaZan: Empowering Women Through Music,
Culture and Community;*

*"The Hidden Landscape": Stories and Poetry
with John August;*

*The Macquarie Singers with excerpts from
Jenkins' "Stella Natalis".*

*From 2.30pm there will be separate activities
for children (accompanied by an adult)
based on the musical.*

ENTRY FREE but donations gratefully received.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

alfred.vincent@bigpond.com
or **0403 749 181**.

Hosted by the Ryde – Hunters Hill Flora and
Fauna Preservation Society.

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Sydney 000 Expo: meet the people who come to the rescue

We all hope we'll never need to use our first-aid skills in an emergency, but it's good to know what to do – and who to call – if the unexpected happens.

The Sydney 000 Expo is a great opportunity to meet some of the people behind the emergency services we rely on, and learn more about what happens when a call for help comes in. The free, family-friendly event returns to Castle Hill Showground on Sunday 13 September, from 10am to 4pm.

Formerly known as Emergency Expo, the event will bring together emergency services, support agencies, volunteers and specialist response teams. Visitors can explore emergency vehicles and rescue equipment, watch live demonstrations and chat with frontline personnel about how they respond to fires, medical emergencies, road accidents, storms and other incidents.

There will also be plenty for families, including the Kids' Stamp Rally, where children can complete activities at participating displays and collect stamps for a chance to win prizes. Helicopters and specialist aerial support are expected to be among the highlights.

The Expo also showcases career and volunteering opportunities across emergency response, aviation, healthcare, communications, engineering and more.

SYDNEY 000 EXPO

- Sunday 13 September, 10am–4pm
- Castle Hill Showground
- Free tickets available online



I'M HERE TO HELP

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- ☐ access to NSW Government services
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MEMBER FOR WILLOUGHBY

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

LONGUEVILLE

Amara

by Pathways

Week of Wellness at Amara Longueville

Join us from **14 – 18 August**

Discover New Ways to Live Well

Amara Longueville is a seniors' living community designed to help residents live well, stay active and feel connected.

Join Amara's Week of Wellness and enjoy complimentary talks and workshops covering brain health, social connection, exercise, nutrition, supplements and financial wellbeing, with practical insights from experts to support your wellbeing now and into the future.



To register or find out more information, scan QR code or visit
amararesidences.com.au

Live the Amara Difference
0412 646 841 | 266 Longueville Road, Lane Cove

A \$50 ACT OF KINDNESS

Recently, a worker at Lane Cove Library came across what appeared to be lost property. But on closer inspection, they discovered \$50 in cash and a typewritten card with a simple message: Somewhere in Lane Cove today is someone who needs it more than you do. You'll know them when you see them.

The money and card were passed on to Sydney Community Services CEO Branka Ivkovic, who held onto the gift while considering who might benefit from the anonymous donation.

Branka later learned of a single mother of two who was experiencing financial hardship. When she was presented with the \$50 and card, she expressed heartfelt gratitude and excitement,

sharing that earlier that very morning none of her bank cards had worked. Overjoyed by the unexpected support, she said the first thing she would purchase was a much-needed cup of coffee!

That \$50 meant everything.

This envelope contains \$50.

It isn't for you.

Somewhere in Lane Cove today is someone who needs it more than you do. You'll know them when you see them.

Don't explain. Don't wait around. Just hand it over and walk away.

Whoever you are, we suspect you're someone who'll get this right.

To the anonymous donor, thank you. Your \$50 act of kindness made a real difference. We hope this story inspires others to keep the kindness flowing in our community, because even the simplest gesture can change someone's day for the better.



WATERFRONT INDEPENDENT LIVING AT WOOLWICH

Newly Refurbished Apartments with Lane Cove River Views

Enjoy independent living in a premium harbourside setting at James Milson Village Woolwich.

With sweeping water views and access to in-home care and support services, it's a lifestyle designed around you now and into the future.

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- Access to on-site care and services
- Light-filled apartments with river views
- A connected, welcoming community

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OUR DEFENCE HERITAGE DESERVES PARLIAMENT'S PROTECTION

Excerpts from the speech of Anthony Roberts MP to the NSW Legislative Assembly while introducing legislation to protect five defence sites:

Victoria Barracks at Paddington, HMAS Penguin at Mosman, RAAF Base Glenbrook, Timor Barracks at Dundas and Lancer Barracks at Parramatta.



"There are occasions when Parliament is called upon to discharge a duty of custodianship: to recognise that certain places, institutions and inheritances have passed temporarily into our care, and that our responsibility is to preserve them from decisions which, once made, cannot be recalled."

"These sites cannot be recreated elsewhere."

"A façade retained in front of a large private development is not the same thing as the preservation of a military precinct. A plaque in a foyer does not maintain the character of a parade ground."

"The Commonwealth is proposing to dispose of land which the public does not regard as ordinary real estate and which cannot sensibly be valued only by reference to the return that might be obtained from its sale."

"A decision that land is no longer required for a particular Commonwealth purpose does not mean that the land has ceased to possess a public character."

"A place may no longer be required by a department and still remain deeply important to a city, to a community, to those who served there and to the history which the Parliament of New South Wales is charged with protecting."



WHAT THE BILL SEEKS TO ACHIEVE

"The question, therefore, is not whether change can ever occur. The question is who should authorise a fundamental change, by what process, with what information before them and with what degree of accountability to the public."

"It ensures that change of the kind contemplated by the legislation can occur only with explicit democratic consent."



DEVELOPER AND COMMERCIAL PRESSURE

"The starting assumption should not be that the land must first be sold to the highest bidder and that the public interest will be considered afterwards."

"Communities understand that disposal is a one-way process. Once land has been transferred into private ownership at a price influenced by development expectations, the pressure for rezoning and intensification becomes relentless."

"The market can place a price on the land, but it cannot assign a monetary value to two centuries of continuous service, to the memory held within the site or to the legitimacy that comes from retaining a place in public hands for a public purpose."

"If a proposal is worthy, it can be presented to Parliament."

"Both Houses can hear that case, examine the evidence and vote."

"The resolution will be public, the vote will be recorded and each member will have to explain to the people who sent them here why they supported or opposed the proposal."



BIPARTISANSHIP AND SERVICE

"The heritage protected by this bill is not the inheritance of one political party. The men and women who trained, worked and served at these sites did not do so under party colours."

"The memorials, museums and traditions associated with these places belong to Australians of every political persuasion and to many who have no political affiliation at all."

The Honourable

Anthony Roberts MP
Member for Lane Cove

If you require assistance
please contact my office
Tel: 02 9817 4757
Email: lanecove@parliament.nsw.gov.au



Ride across the Harbour Bridge for Lifeline

Sydney's iconic Spring Cycle returns on Sunday 11 October, celebrating its 40th anniversary with thousands of riders expected to take over the city's streets.

The annual event gives cyclists of all ages and abilities the rare opportunity to ride across the Sydney Harbour Bridge and through the heart of Sydney on traffic-free roads, while raising vital funds for Lifeline.

There are two rides to choose from. The **10km City Ride** is designed for families, beginners and leisure riders, crossing the Harbour Bridge before taking in landmarks including the Opera House and The Rocks. It finishes at Pirrama Park, Pyrmont, with family-friendly entertainment, food and activities.

The **50km Classic Ride** is aimed at intermediate cyclists and adventure

seekers. It follows the 10km route before continuing through Sydney's Inner West, finishing with a festival celebration at Parramatta Park.

For Lifeline, the event is about more than fundraising. Lifeline Australia CEO Graham Strong said Spring Cycle highlights the role that movement, connection and community can play in supporting mental wellbeing.

'Spring Cycle is a powerful reminder that simple actions like getting outside, moving together and connecting with others can make a real difference to our mental wellbeing,' he said. 'We're grateful to every rider and supporter helping Lifeline be there for anyone who needs us, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.'

The event is powered by Bicycle NSW



and supported by Blackmores, the City of Sydney, Transport for NSW and Booktopia.

Whether you are looking for a family-friendly day out, a challenge on two wheels or a chance to support an important cause, Spring Cycle offers a unique way to experience Sydney.



SPRING CYCLE 2026 - SUNDAY 11 OCTOBER.

10km City Ride – finish at Pirrama Park, Pyrmont.

50km Classic Ride – finish at Parramatta Park.

Registrations are now open at springcycle.com.au.



DATE: SUNDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2026 9:00AM - 1:00PM



**Sunday 20 September
9:00am - 1:00pm**

**Council Civic Centre car park
between Phoenix Street
and Little Street, Lane Cove**

Find a RECYCLED bargain!

- clothes
- toys
- household items
- sporting equipment and more

Site Fees support Lane Cove Rotary

**Apply now for a carspace
www.lanecoverotary.org**



**Lane Cove
Council**

Rotary
Lane Cove



100 WORDS



THAT NOISE

Something woke me at 3am. Laying still I listened, then heard a noise coming from under my bed. Switched on my reading light. Was it a mouse? Reaching over for a slipper, I threw it under the bed- all quiet, no scamperings of a mouse. Then again that noise. Getting out of bed to shine my torch under the bed - only to see a slipper. Then I stomped around the bedroom to scare whatever, nothing happened. Gave up and got back in bed and turned the light off, and lay very still waiting, then I heard it again.....my stomach rumbling!

Wendy Jannings, Willoughby

Do you have a 100 word story?
Email: editor@thevillageobserver.com.au

The Burning Blue

by Mike Carlton

REVIEWED BY
MELISSA BARKS



I opened the pages of Mike Carlton's *The Burning Blue* with some trepidation. Military history is not one of my special interest areas.

But even for a novice like me there were familiar names. Hargrave, Hinkler, Hawker. Along with famous WWI aircraft the Sopwith Camel, although I'm fairly sure that's because Snoopy used to reenact battles with the Red Baron from atop his doghouse in the *Peanuts* cartoons!

The Burning Blue is a fascinating history of those who flew for the Royal Australian Navy, from the earliest days of military aviation in World War I through to the modern Fleet Air Arm.

It is an impressive sweep of history, covering Australian pilots through World War I, World War II, Korea and Vietnam. There are plenty of stories of courage and, inevitably, tragedy, but what makes the book interesting is that Carlton doesn't just concentrate on the famous pilots. He also looks at the observers, engineers, mechanics and aircraft maintainers, as well as the families behind them.

The stories are extraordinary. Landing a jet on an aircraft carrier using modern technology is impressive even by today's standards. But someone had to be the first to try it, and it didn't always work out so well. Early naval pilots were adventurers, mechanics, daredevils and inventors, using their own ingenuity to devise 'on the fly' solutions to occupational hazards such as breaking your nose upon every landing. Landing being the loosest definition of the term, which was often ditching into the sea, hopefully close enough to your ship to be rescued before you drowned.

Carlton has clearly done a huge amount of research and, importantly, lets many of the people involved tell their own stories. His writing is straightforward and readable, with a good eye for the human details behind the history.

The Burning Blue will be enjoyed by readers interested in military history, but you don't need to be an expert to appreciate it. It's not a dry military history, more like a collection of personal experiences woven into a bigger story.

JOIN US AT THE **LANE COVE**

ROTARY FAIR AND SUSTAINABILITY LANE

SUNDAY 11 OCTOBER
9:00AM TO 4:00PM

LANE COVE VILLAGE

- Eco-friendly stalls
- Electric vehicle showcase
- Local community groups
- Entertainment, rides and more!

Rotary Lane Cove | Lane Cove Council

lanecove.nsw.gov.au/events

The 2026 Lane Cove Art Award

The 2026 Lane Cove Art Award exhibition will be open to the public at Gallery Lane Cove from Wednesday 16 September to Saturday 3 October. The Opening Event & Awards Presentation is set for Friday evening 18 September.

The Lane Cove Art Award is supported by Lane Cove Council, Lane Cove Art Society and Gallery Lane Cove & Creative Studios. The Award was originally inspired by Society founders and outstanding Australian artists and residents Lloyd Rees and Guy Warren.

A combined prize money of \$18,000 makes this Award a key event in the Australian Art Community calendar and encourages local artists, Lane Cove Art Society members and artists from around Australia to enter their work. The First Prize of \$15,000 is an acquisitive prize supported by the Lane Cove Council. The Second Prize of \$2,000 is open to Lane Cove Art Society members and residents of the Lane Cove area with postcode 2066. This prize is sponsored by Hycorp Property Group. The third prize of \$1,000 is supported by Centrehouse.

This exhibition is a must-see for local residents who have the opportunity to appreciate the work of award-winning artists from around Australia on display in their own Gallery Lane Cove.

- **Exhibition opening** 16 September to 3 October
- **Opening Night and Award Presentation** evening of Friday 18 September.

Native & Indigenous Plant Sale



Saturday 5 September, 9am - 12.30pm
Lane Cove Plaza

Discover a selection of native and local species.
Learn how to grow beautiful, environmentally-friendly plants in gardens, terraces and balconies. Come along, get inspired and find native plants perfectly suited to your space!

website: www.lanecovebushland.org.au
email: lanecove_bushland@yahoo.com

GIVE A LOVED ONE THEIR OWN **LIFE STORY DOCUMENTARY**

 teacupfilms.com.au

Record your loved one's stories while you still can

"Nothing could have prepared me for how I would feel watching the finished film. We laughed. We cried. We applauded. It's so much more than a film. It's a living legacy and a beautifully crafted record of Dad's voice, memories, humour and heart. A precious piece of family history to be treasured, remembered and handed down for generations to come."

C. Bennett

TEACUP *films*
A LANE COVE SMALL BUSINESS

Watch sample films and find out more





Paws for a Moment brings dogs and residents together

Pathways Residences has celebrated the special bond between people and their four-legged friends with a new initiative, Paws for a Moment, to mark International Dog Day on Wednesday, August 26.

The organisation-wide event brought residents, families, staff and canine companions together for relaxed gatherings designed to encourage conversation, connection and shared memories.

Four Pathways residences hosted events throughout the week, including Pathways Killara Gardens and Pathways Longueville. Events were also held at Sailors Bay and Cronulla Pines.

Pathways says companion animals can play an important role in reducing social isolation and creating meaningful experiences for older people and their families.

‘For many residents, dogs have been a cherished part of family life,’ said Pathways Residences Chief Operating Officer Esperanza Arias Calli. ‘Paws for a Moment is about creating a relaxed and joyful setting where residents can reconnect with those memories, spend meaningful time with loved ones and experience the companionship that animals provide.’

The initiative is planned to become an annual celebration of companionship, family connection and the enduring bond between people and dogs.

50th anniversary Spring Fashion Parade

- **Wednesday 30th September 2026**
- **St Andrews Uniting Church Hall, cnr Kenneth & Christina Streets, Longueville**

Morning Tea served from 10:15am. Parade begins 10:45am sharp. Entry Donation \$15 (Cash only). Garments (by Stafford Fashions) and Jewellery (by Tina Hyman) may be purchased following the Parade. Proceeds donated to help the homeless (Rev. Bill Crews Foundation).
ENQUIRIES: Call Jan on 0455 741 414

A special Devonshire Tea & Tour @ carisbrook historic house

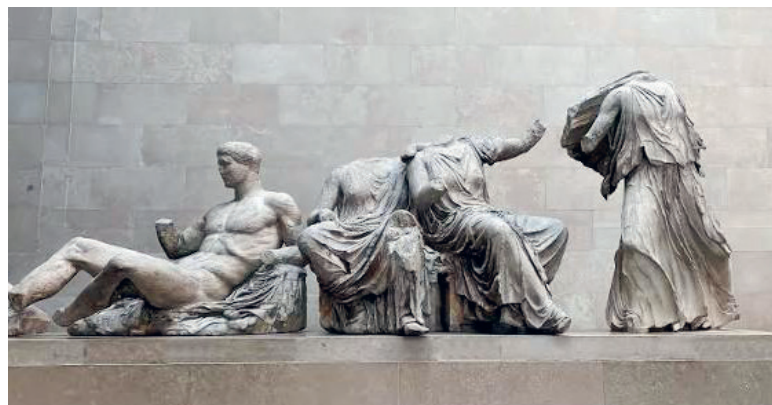
To celebrate the Lane Cove Festival, each Devonshire Tea served this month comes with a complimentary glass of bubbly!

You can experience a tour of the Historic House, a delicious Devonshire Tea or homemade cakes and coffee, and wander through the gardens and down along the river.

In the 1880's, the resident Brooks family was able to live happily 'off the grid'. The current on-site exhibition highlights how a sustainable lifestyle was a necessity at a time when access to services was limited and resources were scarce. Explore how they lived, remembering there was no electricity or running water!

Bookings are not necessary. Free parking via Waterview Drive.

- **When:** Saturday 19th & Sunday 20th September from 10am to 4pm.



• HISTORY TALK @ THE LIBRARY The Elgin Marbles

Patricia Skehan presents her work on the controversial Elgin Marbles, housed in the British Museum. This is the strange and tragic story of events that led to the removal of the ancient statuary from the Parthenon.

As Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire, Lord Elgin resided in a palace in Constantinople, hundreds of miles away from the Parthenon. In his name, archaeologists on site took many liberties. When Lord Elgin did eventually visit the site, he was appalled at what had been done in his name.

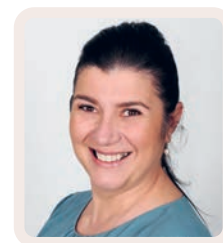
Although attributed to Lord Elgin, the real mistakes come to light in this fascinating research from the British Museum and an interview with David, the current Lord Elgin in 2000. It tells a very different story to the usual misconceptions.

- **Details:** Tuesday 22nd September at 7pm in Lane Cove Library. \$5 entry includes wine and cheese (free for LCHS members).

PAM PALMER

President Lane Cove Historical Society Inc
www.carisbrookhouse.com





Creative expression can and does transform lives. Art is far more than entertainment. It is a powerful way for people to connect, communicate, build confidence, and share their unique perspectives with the world. Research consistently shows that participation in the arts can strengthen wellbeing, foster social inclusion, build self-esteem, and create a genuine sense of belonging.

We are fortunate to have a vibrant arts community right on our doorstep in Lane Cove. Each September, the area comes alive with performances, exhibitions and creative events as part of the Lane Cove Festival and Sydney Fringe Festival. These celebrations remind us that the arts enrich not only our individual lives but also the communities in which we live.

One of the most inspiring examples of this is our Different Degrees Drama Ensemble, a drama group for NDIS participants led by experienced Artistic Director Alice Williams and Assistant Director Lucy Watson. The ensemble is built on the belief that everyone has a story worth telling and that creativity should be accessible to all.

Unlike traditional theatre productions, Different Degrees Drama Ensemble members are involved in every stage of the creative process. Throughout the year, participants workshop ideas, share their experiences, explore themes that resonate with them and collaboratively write their own performance piece. They are not simply performers. They are creators, writers, storytellers and actors. (You can read more about the ensemble group and those who help pull it all together on page 17).

This process develops far more than acting skills. Participants build confidence in expressing themselves, learn to work as a team, strengthen communication skills and develop friendships that often extend well beyond the rehearsal room. The creative journey provides a safe and supportive environment where individuals can take risks, discover new abilities and celebrate their achievements.

The annual production is always a highlight. Audiences are treated to performances that are authentic, thought-provoking, humorous and deeply human. Every script reflects the voices and experiences of the people who created it, making each production unique and meaningful.

The value of programs like Different Degrees Drama Ensemble extends beyond the participants themselves.

Community arts initiatives bring people together, strengthen connections and create opportunities to better understand and celebrate one another. When we attend performances, we are not only enjoying the creativity on stage. We are building a community that values inclusion, diversity and the contribution of people of all abilities.

This year, the ensemble will be sharing its talents through two exciting performances.

Sydney Fringe Festival

– Different Degrees Ensemble Mini Performance

- **Date:** Friday, 4 September 2026
- **Time:** 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm – keep an eye on the program for the exact time
- **Venue:** Lane Cove Canopy

Different Degrees Ensemble 2026 Production

– Bursting into Life

- **Date:** Wednesday, 30 September 2026
- **Time:** 6:00 pm
- **Venue:** Pottery Lane Performance Space

Come along, bring family and friends, and support these remarkable performers. Your presence helps create an audience that values inclusion, creativity and the voices of people of all abilities. Bookings can be made at www.sydneynfringe.com/events/bursting-into-life/

If you would like to learn more about Different Degrees Ensemble, we welcome enquiries from people with NDIS funding who are interested in joining the program, as well as community members who would like to volunteer and support our productions – support@sydneycs.org. Whether on stage, behind the scenes or in the audience, there is a place for everyone in this creative community.

As we celebrate another vibrant festival season in Lane Cove, I encourage you to experience the remarkable talent, creativity and authenticity of the Different Degrees Ensemble. Their performances are a reminder that some of the most compelling stories are those drawn from real lives and shared with honesty, humour and heart. I look forward to seeing our community come together to support Bursting into Life and to applaud the dedication of a group of local artists who continue to challenge expectations and inspire everyone around them.





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



Sydney Community Services

LOCAL SUPPORT. TRUSTED CARE. COMMUNITY WELLBEING.





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
- Now taking expressions of interest for Term 4.
Attend and pay by the term.*

Book Club

- Monday 21 September, 1.30 - 2.30pm
- Cost: \$5 includes book and afternoon tea.

Mah Jong

- **Tuesday**, All players, 9.30 - 11.30am
Beginners please call before attending.
 - **Wednesday**, Competent players, 1.00 - 3.45pm
 - Cost: \$5 including morning/afternoon tea.
- Contact us for more information and to register.*

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.

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.



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.

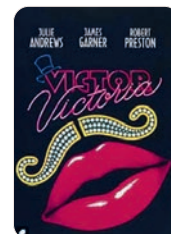
Attend and pay by the term.

Movie and Morning Tea

Victor/ Victoria

Set in 1930s Paris, this comedy follows an aspiring singer who finds fame through an unusual disguise.

- Wednesday 23 September
- 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.

Friday Group at the Seniors Hub

Each Friday for fun 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.

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



Lane Cove
Council

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.



Yoga with Sinead Costello

Now offering a **NEW** Monday class!

- **Monday** 9am - 10am
 - **Wednesday** 9.30am - 10.30am
 - Gentle yoga
 - All welcome
 - Term or casual attendance
- Call for details.*



Movement Plus

Enjoy a faster-paced feel good workout designed for seniors who like to keep active safely.

- **Tuesdays**
- 11.45am - 12.35pm
- 44 Gladesville Rd, Gladesville Community Hall, Hunters Hill.





Sydney Community Services

Staying Connected @ The Hubs 2026



Supported by



Memory Cafe

A welcoming space for carers, family members, and people living with dementia

As part of **Dementia Action Week**, come along for a morning of connection, support, and fun.

Enjoy:

- A live Music Therapist
- A delicious FREE BBQ

Date: Wednesday 16 September

Time: 10:00am - 1:00pm

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

Cost: FREE



FREE Emergency Preparedness Workshop

An informative workshop in partnership with the Australian Red Cross and the City of Ryde.

- Light refreshments provided.
- Go into the draw to win a Mini Emergency hand-crank solar radio, torch & USB charging capability.

Date: Tuesday 22 September, 10:30am-12:00pm

Location: Ryde Library,
Wallumetta Room, 1 Pope St, Ryde

Bookings Essential:

<https://shorturl.at/ysX7D>



Rageism Beauty Make-up Session

Whatever your age, we believe you should feel confident and beautiful every day. Enjoy a fun, friendly and informative session designed to inspire, educate and empower.

Go into the draw for a \$200 gift pack and enjoy a delicious high tea.

Date: Tuesday 29 September 2026

Time: 10:30am - 1:00pm

Location: Sydney Community Services, Parkview Room, 1 Pottery Lane, Lane Cove

Cost: \$10



Supported by



Bursting into Life



Different Degrees Drama Ensemble presents an original theatre offering, inspired by Roman feast day Saturnalia, a reference for Shakespeare's Twelfth Night, and shares what would happen if they were in charge.

Date: 30 September 2026 **Time:** 6.00pm - 6.45pm

Location: Pottery Lane Performance Space,
1 Pottery Lane, Lane Cove.

Bookings Essential: 9427 6425

E: Rlee@sydneycs.org

Cost: FREE



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



ANTHONY ROBERTS

MP

P: 9817 4757

E: lanecove@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Protecting our defence heritage should unite us

Victoria Barracks at Paddington, HMAS Penguin at Mosman, RAAF Base Glenbrook, Timor Barracks at Dundas and Lancer Barracks at Parramatta form part of our State's military, civic and architectural history. Australians have trained, served and commemorated their fallen there.

Governments must manage their property responsibly, as defence requirements change. But land no longer required for a Commonwealth purpose has not ceased to have public value. These places cannot be recreated elsewhere. Their significance lies in their buildings, setting, history, continuity of use and connection with surrounding communities.

That is why I introduced the Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment (Defence Lands Parliamentary Approval) Bill 2026.

The bill does not prevent change. It ensures fundamental change receives the scrutiny these places deserve.

Where these sites come under NSW planning law, major changes such as rezoning, subdivision or increased density would need approval from both Houses of Parliament. The protection would stay with the land, even if sold or subdivided, ensuring Parliament has a say before development expectations take hold.

If a proposal is in the public interest, proponents should explain what they want to build, what heritage will be retained and what public access will be provided. Parliament can then decide openly.

This should not be a partisan issue.

The decision to divest these lands was made by a Federal Labor Government. I am a Liberal member of the NSW Parliament. But reducing this to Labor versus Liberal misses the point. The men and women who served at these sites did not serve under party colours. Their memorials, museums and traditions belong to Australians regardless of how they vote.

I want to see the NSW Government, Opposition, crossbench and both Houses work together. Defence determines what land it requires. New South Wales has responsibility for planning once land falls within State jurisdiction. Those responsibilities can coexist.

A united NSW Parliament would send a constructive message to the Commonwealth: we are willing to discuss these sites in good faith, but their future must involve consultation, public benefit and accountability.

There may ultimately be good proposals for housing, museums, veterans' services, education or open space. My bill does not decide those questions in advance. It ensures major and irreversible change cannot occur without Parliament's express approval.

There are moments when Parliament must act not as Government and Opposition, but as custodian of something belonging to the whole community. Our defence heritage is one of those things. We have an opportunity to protect these places before irreversible decisions. I hope members from every side of politics will take it together.



TRENTON BROWN

CITY OF RYDE MAYOR

P: 9952 8222

E: TMayor@ryde.nsw.gov.au

Open space upgrades

One of my major priorities in a City that is undergoing remarkable growth in housing density and population is the addition to and improvement of our precious open space areas.

With open space for both our current and future residents at a premium, I'm pleased to say that planning and work are underway at many of our most popular parks to ensure that our most essential community infrastructure is fit for the future.

These projects include the recently announced upgrade to Anzac Park in West Ryde, with work to improve pedestrian and cycle paths, add seating, shade and gathering spaces, a new fitness zone, improved BBQ facilities and a modern and accessible amenities building scheduled to begin in the first half of 2027.

In Macquarie Park, Stage 2 of the eagerly awaited Catherine Hamlin Park – which includes landscaping, an amphitheatre and waterplay area, and amenity building – is scheduled for completion mid this month. This new park will be joined by a 3,200sqm park at the Midtown MacPark development which will be dedicated to Council in mid-2027.

That's on top of the Blenheim Park upgrade, which is currently underway, the recently completed Gannan Park upgrade, upgrades to Ryde Park and Putney Park, and sports field upgrades at Christie Park and Meadowbank Park.

E-bike safety

The recent arrival of shared e-bike services in the City of Ryde has not gone unnoticed by residents, with the distinctive green bikes becoming a common sight on our streets and public spaces.

While these bikes offer convenient and cost-effective transportation for users, there are issues for the broader community around obstructed footpaths, impacts on accessibility, pedestrian safety and the amenity of public spaces.

That's why Council is setting out to identify priority locations for designated shared e-bike parking, particularly around transport hubs, town centres and other high-demand areas.

We're also seeking commitments about ongoing compliance, enforcement and maintenance responsibilities.

Granny Smith

With this month's issue of TVO focusing on upcoming events, I'd like to remind everyone to save 17 October in their calendars, the date for this year's Granny Smith Festival in the heart of Eastwood.

I'll have more details next month about our biggest event of the year – it's a day and evening not to be missed!

For more information on events and activities happening in the City of Ryde throughout September, go to:
ryde.nsw.gov.au



TIM JAMES

MP

P: 9439 4199

E: willoughby@parliament.nsw.gov.au



ZAC MILES

HUNTERS HILL MAYOR

P: 9879 9400

E: mayor@huntershill.nsw.gov.au

Our local streets are more than just roads. They are how we walk the kids to school, get to the shops, reach public transport, visit our parks and connect with neighbours. That is why I am working to deliver safer, greener and better-connected streets across our community.

I am pleased to have helped secure support for a number of improvements through the latest Get NSW Active round. These projects are only a small snapshot of the countless local improvements I have worked to support and deliver right across the electorate, but together they will make everyday journeys safer, easier and more pleasant.

One of the most significant is the Edward Street and Penshurst Street South Quietway in Willoughby. This 800-metre corridor will be transformed into a greener, cooler and more pedestrian and cycle-friendly street. It will create better connections to Willoughby Public School, Willoughby Girls High School, local shops and surrounding neighbourhoods, while making the street itself a more attractive and comfortable place to walk and ride. It builds on earlier funding I secured for tree planting and streetscape improvements in the area. Together, these projects mean more shade, more greenery, improved amenity and better connections through South Willoughby.

Another important project is Chandos Street in St Leonards. Residents approached me about the difficulty of safely crossing Chandos Street and the missing pedestrian links connecting Naremburn with Crows Nest and the Metro. I took those concerns up with both Willoughby and North Sydney Councils and am very pleased to have now secured funding for Council to design improved crossings along the street. The proposed improvements include raised crossings, safer treatments at roundabouts and continuous footpaths. For residents, that means a safer and more direct walk between Naremburn, Crows Nest and the Metro, particularly for families, older residents and people making everyday trips on foot.

There are also improvements coming to Cammeray and Cremorne, including new footpaths, raised pedestrian crossings, safer cycling links and traffic-calming measures around Moodie Street, Parraween Street and Park Avenue and Sutherland Street.

Whether it is planting more trees, fixing a missing crossing or creating a safer route to school or the shops, I will keep working with our community and local councils to make our neighbourhoods safer, greener and better connected. If there's a potential improvement or issue you've noticed on our streets, please let me know and I'll be happy to assist.

Moocooboola Festival Returns

One of the highlights of our community calendar is just around the corner, with the much-loved Moocooboola Festival returning to Boronia Park Ovals on Sunday 27 September.

As Hunters Hill's longest-running community festival, Moocooboola brings residents, families and visitors together for a day of fun, entertainment and community spirit. With only a few weeks to go, excitement is building for what promises to be another fantastic event.

Visitors can look forward to the market bazaar featuring wonderful food, unique novelties, jewellery, candles, showbags and plants. Community organisations including Sydney Wildlife Rescue, Hunters Hill Historical Society and Sydney Community Services will be on hand with information, activities and giveaways. Thanks to Hunters Hill Hotel, visitors can pose with their family and friends at the festival and take home a free photo magnet.

Our entertainment program will showcase a variety of talented local performers throughout the day, while community radio station 2RRR will be broadcasting live from the festival.

Families will find plenty to keep children entertained in the Kids Zone, proudly sponsored by Kids Cottage Hunters Hill. The Kids Zone will feature an interactive circus playground and jumping castle, providing hours of fun for younger festival-goers. Across the festival grounds, families can also enjoy carnival rides, a petting zoo, pony rides and a range of other attractions throughout the day.

Young visitors can explore display vehicles from the SES, Rural Fire Service and United Resource Management, our waste management sponsor. Local sporting clubs will also be running interactive demonstrations and activities, including AFL and croquet.

One of the festival's most popular attractions, the Moocooboola Dog Show, is sure to draw enthusiastic crowds once again. With a variety of categories to enter, every pup has the chance to shine. Sydney Water will be providing water refill stations throughout the festival to help visitors, and their four-legged friends stay hydrated during the day.

We are grateful for the generous support of all our sponsors.

For more information and for registration links, visit huntershill.nsw.gov.au/moocooboola.

I look forward to seeing you there.

PROPERTIES OF THE MONTH



23 Fox Street, Lane Cove 4 bed 2 bath 3 car

Offered for the first time in more than 50 years, this freestanding double brick home is tucked away on approx. 1,141sqm delivering generous single level living and superb indoor/outdoor flow in a lush leafy setting.

Tim Holgate 0400 802 888 tim.holgate@belleproperty.com

Charlotte Graves 0448 721 642 charlotte.graves@belleproperty.com



34a Little Street, Lane Cove 4 bed 2 bath 2 car

Tucked down from the street and embraced by established gardens, this master built double storey home is offered for the very first time and delivers a rare sense of seclusion set on approx 759sqm in a serene neighbourhood just metres from the Pottery Green.

Simon Harrison 0433 100 150 simon.harrison@belleproperty.com

Nicola Farrell 0488 027 701 nicola.farrell@belleproperty.com



14 Arnold Street, Ryde 5 bed 4 bath 8 car

Setting a new benchmark in luxury family living and entertaining, this beautifully bespoke residence has been crafted to the highest standard with no expense spared.

Michael Gallina 0402 320 265 michael.gallina@belleproperty.com

Cameron Brown 0438 594 708 cameron.brown@belleproperty.com



4/25 Greenwich Road, Greenwich 3 bed 2 bath 2 car

Enhanced for stylish contemporary living, this spacious dual level townhouse is defined by its remarkable outlook featuring a wraparound northeast garden plus an elevated rear terrace capturing panoramic district and water views.

James Bennett 0403 504 724 james.bennett@belleproperty.com

Steven O'Neill 0499 693 665 steven.oneill@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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