

SYDNEY CHRISTMAS

A Sydney Christmas is like no other, with sun-drenched summer days, balmy nights, uniquely Australian activities and tradition with a twist.

For all the dates and details, visit sydneychristmas.com.au

CITY CONCERTS

Two city centre concerts featuring top Australian performers will herald the start of a month-long program of Christmas festivities in Sydney.

The concerts in Martin Place and Hyde Park both take place at 6.30pm and will feature performances by Kate Miller-Heidke, Justice Crew, All Our Exes Live in Texas, Christine Anu, and children's entertainment from Jimmy Giggie, Bananas In Pyjamas and Peter Combe.

Martin Place Christmas concert

CAROLS AND CHOIRS

Choirs from all over Sydney will sing carols under the branches of our Christmas tree in Martin Place, every evening from 6pm to 8pm, from Sunday 26 November right through to Christmas Eve.

The Salvation Army Band and Choir will also perform under the tree on Friday and the weekend leading up to Christmas Day.

The strains of traditional Christmas carols will also fill the air in Pitt Street Mall. Choirs will perform in the mall Thursday and weekends, from 6pm to 8pm, from Saturday 25 November to Thursday 21 December.

The renowned Christmas at Sydney Town Hall concert on Tuesday 19 December will be a memorable night for the whole family. Enjoy traditional carol singing, festive music and readings and the sounds of the magnificent Grand Organ in Centennial Hall. The fun runs from 8pm to 9.30pm.

Sydney Christmas festivities

MARTIN PLACE CHRISTMAS TREE

The interactive Christmas tree in Martin Place provides a visual spectacle that invites visitors to share in the spirit of Christmas.

Visitors can send a Christmas message to the 20 metre high tree via sydxtmastree.com.au and watch the words light up the interactive ribbon.

The city's most-loved Christmas tree is decorated with 60,000 lights, 300 baubles and a 1.5 metre treetop star.

The GPO Dessert Bar next to the tree will offer gelato, sweets and cakes each day until Christmas Eve.

VILLAGE CHRISTMAS CONCERTS

Our much-loved free concert series continues to provide family-friendly entertainment in our villages. All the village concerts are from 6.30pm to 8.30pm and will be packed with children's entertainment, live music, fireworks and a visit from Santa.

There will be performances from children's favourites including Jimmy Giggie, Justine Clarke, The Listies, Bananas in Pyjamas and SplashDance.

Alexandria Park
Alexandria
Saturday 2 December
Prince Alfred Park
Surry Hills
Sunday 3 December

Reg Bartley Oval
Rushcutters Bay
Saturday 9 December
Turruwul Park
Rosebery
Sunday 10 December

LIGHTS AND PROJECTIONS

The Boulevard of Light will immerse Pitt Street Mall in the joy of the season as nearly 80,000 lights twinkle overhead every evening until 2 January.

Family-friendly ground projections will light up Customs House Square and Martin Place, from Saturday 25 November to Christmas Day, from dusk to 1am.

CHARITY PARTNER

Our charity partner is Variety – The Children's Charity that provides funding and support to individuals, organisations and hospitals to improve the lives of children with disabilities and special needs.

Visit whatson.sydney for more information.

Variety will sell merchandise and Santa showbags at all six Christmas concerts.

On Sunday 3 December, Variety will also host the Xmas Walk at Pyrmont Bay Park.

Our City in SUMMER New Year's Eve

Sydney celebrates New Year's Eve in grand style with one of the largest, most technologically advanced fireworks displays in the world.

The celebration attracts more than one million spectators along the Sydney harbour foreshore, with over one billion people tuning in from across the globe.

Our stunning Sydney Harbour, famous Sydney Harbour Bridge and glorious Sydney Opera House will take centre stage for two spectacular firework displays: the family fireworks at 9pm, and the main event at midnight.

Australia's First Peoples are recognised with a special bridge light show and harbour smoking ceremony as part of the Welcome to Country.

This year's highlights are:

6pm
Pre-show entertainment
8.38pm
Welcome to Country ceremony
9pm
Family fireworks display
9.15pm
Harbour of Light Parade
Midnight
Spectacular 2017 Sydney New Year's Eve fireworks display

Getting in and out of the CBD is different on New Year's Eve. There will be road closures, on-street fencing and diversions to help people get around safely and move crowds to transport. Visit sydneynewyearsve.com for all the information you need to plan your night.

Sydney Harbour, NYE 2016

Our Chinese New Year Festival, from 16 February to 4 March 2018, celebrates the Year of the Dog – the most friendly, faithful and loyal of the zodiac animals.

From its modest beginnings in 1995 as a community street market, the City of Sydney's Chinese New Year Festival has grown to become one of the largest celebrations of the Lunar New Year outside of Asia.

The festival will feature the spectacular Lunar Lantern exhibition. Four new lanterns created by artists Guan Wei (Dragon), Song Ling (Dog), John Deng (Pig) and Kevin Bathman (Tiger) will join the exhibition of the 12 zodiac signs at Circular Quay.

There will also be favourites such as the Dragon Boat Races at Darling Harbour and an extensive program of more than 80 partner events.

Visit sydneychinesenewyear.com for all the details.

Chinese New Year

Year of the Dog lantern

Sydney Festival

In January every year, the ever popular Sydney Festival enlivens and transforms Sydney with bold and inspiring cultural celebrations based on the highest quality performance, art and big ideas. The City is proud to directly support four festival events this year:

The Town Hall Affair

Don't miss the Australian premiere of *The Town Hall Affair* at Sydney Opera House which reimagines a raucous 1971 feminist debate between author Norman Mailer and leading feminists like Jill Johnston and Germaine Greer.

Meriton Festival Village

Hyde Park North will once again be a favourite space for audiences to enjoy food, drinks and dancing. The new-look, revamped Meriton Festival Village returns. Spiegelent shows are back, along with shipping containers filled with wild and wonderful attractions. Check out the

freaky virtual reality *Ghost Train* and sing a song on the *Karaoke Carousel*.

Bayala

Local Indigenous community leaders and language experts return in 2018 with an extended range of classes and talks, celebrating local Sydney language.

Jurassic Plastic

Japanese artist Hiroshi Fuji recycles and reinvents unwanted plastic toys into colourful dinosaur sculptures and landscapes. Bring the whole family to see Jurassic Plastic at Lower Town Hall and book into a workshop with the artist.

Visit sydneyfestival.org.au for all the details.



Help shape the future of Sydney.
Have your say at
SydneyYourSay.com.au

How to contact the City Visit: City of Sydney, Town Hall House, 456 Kent Street, Sydney Post: GPO Box 1591, Sydney NSW 2001 T: 02 9265 9333 Email: council@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au
Online: cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au **Your councillors are** Clover Moore (IND) / Jess Miller (IND) / Robert Kok (IND) / Jess Scully (IND) / Philip Thalys (IND) / Christine Forster (LIB) / Craig Chung (LIB) / Linda Scott (LAB) / Kerryn Phelps (IND) / Angela Viouthoulas (IND) **To subscribe to Sydney City News online:** cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/subscribe



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Sydney Park wetlands



December 2017

SYDNEY CITY NEWS

Time running out for climate action

The World Meteorological Organisation reports carbon pollution has surged to its highest level in 800,000 years and such abrupt changes in our climate have never been seen before.

Without dramatic and rapid cuts to emissions, the WMO warns we should plan for temperature increases by the end of this century that are "well above" those the Paris agreement tried to avoid, and sea levels 10 to 20 metres higher than at present.

This is a global challenge and everyone must act, especially as Australia is one of the world's main contributors to greenhouse gas emissions, and when China, India and other nations are fast tracking their switch to renewables, it makes our Federal Government's inaction all the more depressing.

Following years of inaction, the recent decision to dump the clean energy target and their enthusiastic support for the Adani Carmichael mine in Queensland – their record is damning and likely destructive.

Not only is the Federal Government falling behind the rest of the world but also their own cities and states. The ACT Government will achieve zero emissions by 2020, South Australia has one of the highest proportions of renewable energy in the world, Victoria has legislated for a renewable energy target of 40 per cent by 2020, Queensland 50 per cent by 2030, and NSW has even set a zero emissions target for 2050.

At the City, we've taken our own action and our work shows ambitious targets are compatible with strong economic growth.

In 2007–2008, we committed to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions of our own organisation and the area by 70 per cent, on 2006 levels, by 2030 – and following Paris we committed to net zero emissions by 2050.

The City's operations have been carbon neutral since 2007 and we've already reduced emissions by 25 per cent meeting our 2016 target. Across the area, greenhouse emissions have been reduced by 17 per cent at a time of strong economic growth.

A few weeks ago, we held an inspiring and timely CityTalk with former United Nations Climate Chief, and now head of the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, Christiana Figueres.

We called on the Australian Government to step up, saying the next three years are crucial, and reminding us the "investments made in infrastructure now will be in our emissions portfolio in 2050."

That's why responsible governments should stop supporting projects like Adani and WestConnex – they are the very opposite of what's needed to safeguard the future of our children and grandchildren.

We need governments that make decisions aided by facts and consultation, not ideology and vested interests. Now more than ever we must all work to demand real and meaningful climate action. We don't have time for anything less.

Clover Moore

Lord Mayor of Sydney

📞 @CloverMoore

📧 @clovermooresydney

Mardi Gras turns 40

The 40th anniversary of the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras is a major milestone.

From the first march in 1978, Mardi Gras has become one of the world's great LGBTIQ festivals, and it highlights the community's long journey for social justice.

In celebrating the achievements, we must also acknowledge the remaining barriers to equality, with a 'YES' to marriage the next big hurdle.

We are proud of the City's long history of support for the LGBTIQ community and the great welcome Sydney gives to visitors from around the world.

For more information, visit the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras website: mardigras.org.au



Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras, 2017

To keep up to date with all Sydney events, sign up to our What's On newsletter at whatson.sydney

Our powerful CityTalks – raising awareness, igniting debate and driving change

At our CityTalks this year, thousands of Sydneysiders heard from global leaders on climate action.

All agreed, the time to act is now. With summer heat records tumbling, the dithering by the federal government is inexcusable.

As Executive Secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, Christiana Figueres secured agreement from 195 of the world's 196 countries for the Paris Climate Accord, the most significant agreement yet to cap greenhouse emissions.

Figueres said Australia was having a messy transition to renewable energy but ultimately the worldwide shift was inevitable. She urged the Australian Government to step up, saying the next three years are crucial.

John Hewson, former Liberal Party leader, criticised the Federal Government for having no strategy to meet its Paris targets, leaving these challenges to future generations. He echoed Irish leader Mary Robinson's earlier CityTalk, when she said climate action requires climate justice – this great transition is also an opportunity to redress the inequalities that divide us.

Australian National University scientists have warned Sydney to expect scorcher days reaching 50 degrees Celsius by the end of the century, even if we limit warming to the Paris target of 2 degrees. While government decisions matter, it will take our communities, the private sector – all of us – working together to change direction on climate.

We at the City of Sydney are absolutely determined to take action on this most serious of threats. This is about the future of the planet, we have no choice but to act.



Christiana Figueres
Vice Chair Global Covenant of Mayors and former Executive Secretary UN Framework Convention on Climate Change

"It's concerning that Australia is in the crossroads of energy and climate policy once again."



John Hewson AM
Professor Crawford School of Public Policy ANU and former Liberal Party Leader

"We are very close to a tipping point where it will be too late to change behaviour to achieve net zero emissions by 2050."



Gregor Robertson
Mayor of Vancouver

"I didn't imagine a \$50 billion motorway project was still on the books in any city of the world."

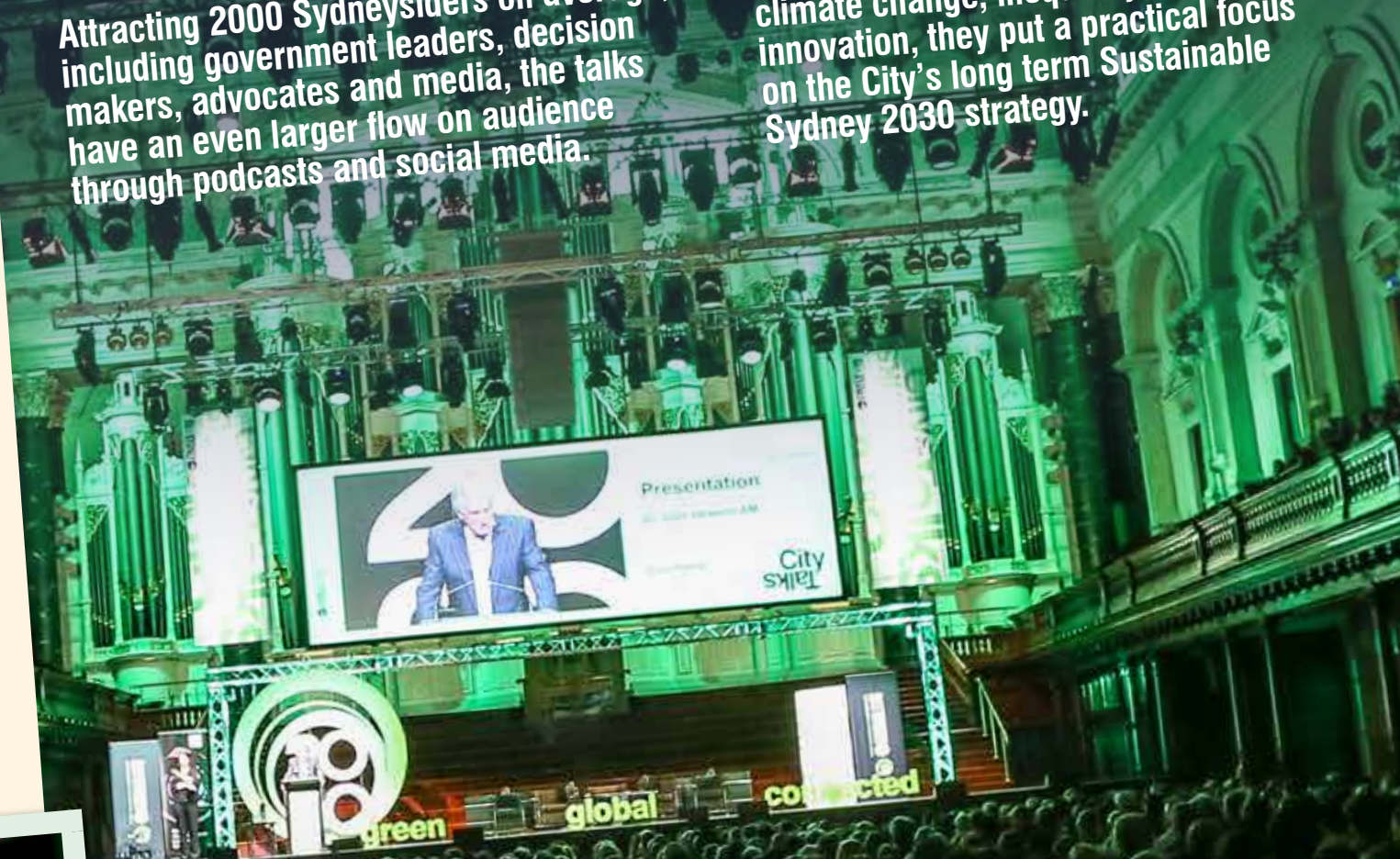
Cities Taking the Lead, CityTalks



Our free public talks feature heavy hitting international speakers alongside our best local thinkers and doers.

Attracting 2000 Sydneysiders on average, including government leaders, decision makers, advocates and media, the talks have an even larger flow on audience through podcasts and social media.

Spurring national conversations on climate change, inequality, food and innovation, they put a practical focus on the City's long term Sustainable Sydney 2030 strategy.



WESTCONNEX THE DESTRUCTIVE ROAD TO GREATER CONGESTION

Our public talk in Sydney Town Hall heard damning evidence of the many impacts of WestConnex tollways, particularly on residential amenity, pollution, increased congestion and environmental degradation.

While cities across the world and in other Australian states, are stopping and ripping up their former motorway projects to make way for parkland and affordable housing, Australia's most expensive road project ever is steamrolling ahead. WestConnex is appropriating parkland and destroying tree cover at a huge cost to taxpayers, commuters, local communities and businesses right across Sydney.

We heard the expert evidence on the health impacts of air pollution from Paul Torzillo, Head of Respiratory Medicine at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, and the impassioned pleas of Rozelle parent Sunil Badami, who said that WestConnex told parents at his children's school they could expect a morbidity rate of 0.2 children per year, or one child every five years.

The Climate Council's recent report shows transport is the third largest source of greenhouse gas pollution in Australia, and since 1960 the fastest growing. WestConnex will dramatically increase that air pollution. The investments we make in infrastructure now will be our emissions portfolio in 2050.

For many people, the fear is it's a done deal. But for Tony Murphy, a community member who fought the successful campaign against Melbourne's East West Link, WestConnex can be stopped, but the timing is critical: "People told us we couldn't win, that the East West Link was already being built. Yet there were only 40 of us and we stopped it."

The fact is WestConnex is not a done deal yet, but the timing is critical and your voice matters. Head to FixWestConnex.com.au and join the campaign against this harmful waste of state funds.



Peter Newman
Curtin University Professor of Sustainability

"This is a silly road, it was always a silly road. Melbourne and Perth have stopped theirs, why not Sydney?"



Louise de Plater
Transport Workers Union of NSW

"Motorists are now paying for a toll on the M4 which has improved their overall travel time by a grand total of a minute or two."



Clover Moore
Lord Mayor of Sydney

"We need to fight for a city for people, not a thoroughfare for cars."



Elizabeth Farrelly
Sydney Morning Herald

"For our leaders, the city is nothing but an obstacle between the McMansion and the airport."



Councillor Pauline Lockie
Inner West Council

"People are suffering as I speak, and many more will suffer if this project rolls on."



Public meeting, Sydney Town Hall

TAKE ACTION TODAY NEVER MISS ANOTHER CITYTALKS

Sign up to get an alert when tickets are available:
VISIT: cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/city-talks



MORE ACTION TO REVITALISE SYDNEY'S NIGHT LIFE

In October, Council released a discussion paper that outlines a suite of bold steps to revitalise Sydney's night life. Although this work began before the impact of the NSW Government's lockdown laws, it is even more important now.

People have told us they don't want to live in or visit a city that is unsafe, or one that shuts down when the sun goes down – they want a diverse and exciting night-time economy, with cultural events and activities for all ages and interests.

Some of the proposals being considered include:

- Encouraging more small-scale cultural events and activities across the city
- Making it easier for small businesses to trade later
- Developing fairer methods of managing entertainment noise.

TAKE ACTION

Let us know what you think (before 13 December, 2017).

VISIT:
sydneyyoursay.com.au/openandcreative

We have so many young creative people with great ideas and imagination in our city and we want to make it easier to put their ideas into practice and enrich our city.

Sydney nightlife



Be. Live the City.

Hidden Sydney

Many actions from our OPEN Sydney plan are underway: we led Sydney's small bar revolution and introduced food trucks, upgraded taxi ranks and improved wayfinding, increased CCTV, funded late-night ambassadors, and we are implementing a live music action plan.

PLAYWAVE

Young Sydneysiders can see the best theatre, music and dance performances in town for as little as \$5, thanks to a new digital platform backed by the City of Sydney.

Conceived through the City's Creative City cultural policy, Playwave is a free arts app designed to give teenagers aged 15–19 discounted access to our best arts and culture.

Many of Sydney's major arts organisations are already on board, including Sydney Festival, Australian Museum, Bangarra Dance Theatre, Belvoir, Carriageworks and Sydney Opera House.

Making the arts accessible to our next generation of audiences is vital to a creative and sustainable Sydney. With youth arts organisation Shopfront, this project will help build a new generation of audiences for our creative sector.

Find out more at playwave.com.au

