

The City has removed library fines, and is seeing three times as many books returned

## REMOVING FINES SEES GREATER RETURNS

We have shelved overdue fines at City libraries until 2021, following a successful trial that saw the return of many items due back more than a decade ago.

67,945 overdue library resources were returned between July 2016 and February 2017 – more than triple the amount of overdue items returned in the twelve months prior.

Library fines have always been used to deter people from leaving their books at home. But we've found that in most cases they had the opposite effect, frightening members into never returning their overdue items.

This new approach encourages positive community responsibility, with library memberships being suspended until an overdue item has been returned, an approach that has been welcomed by our members.

*There are more than 415,000 items available for free at our libraries and we want more of our residents to enjoy these resources.*

## Compassionate solutions for homelessness

The former tent city in Martin Place highlighted the growing need for compassionate solutions to homelessness. The City has proposed initiatives and continues to call on the NSW Government to help fund and implement them.

The City has proposed the former Redfern Depot site for a second "Common Ground" – accommodation for homeless people with support services on site – but the NSW Government did not agree to funding ongoing services. This project, with discounted City land and support from Mission Australia and Macquarie Corporate Holdings, would include 150 new affordable and social housing units, with 50 specifically designed with the support and services that vulnerable homeless people need. We still hope to partner with the government to provide this facility.

The government should allow people back into Sirius, to utilise the 77 homes that

are currently sitting empty in a building purpose-built for social housing. This would immediately help rough sleepers throughout the City.

The City is limited by the government to applying the affordable housing levy in Green Square and Pyrmont/Ultimo. So far, it has resulted in more than 800 affordable rental housing units and there are 600 in the pipeline. (And we have asked the NSW Government to allow us to extend the levy across the entire city area, so all development could help increase the stock of affordable rental housing in Sydney.)



Lord Mayor Clover Moore addressing the media about the Martin Place Tent City

City staff marching for equality at the 2017 Mardi Gras



## VOTE YES FOR MARRIAGE EQUALITY

The Federal Government has committed to a postal plebiscite on marriage equality – it's going to cost \$122 million, it's voluntary, it won't be subject to the usual protections which ensure our elections are conducted fairly and the result won't even be binding on the Parliament.

However, it's critical our Federal politicians hear loud and clear from the majority of Australians who support marriage equality.

The City is proudly supporting the "Yes" campaign by supporting the Equality Campaign as well as flying the rainbow flag above Town Hall and rainbow banners throughout the City.

**Make sure your voice is heard. Sign up with Australian Marriage Equality, call your local MP, do whatever you can to ensure the Yes vote is overwhelming.**

[equalitycampaign.org.au/fightthepostal](http://equalitycampaign.org.au/fightthepostal)

## Celebrating the world's oldest living cultures

The theme of this year's NAIDOC Week celebrations was 'our languages matter'. It celebrated the unique and essential role that languages play in linking people to their land and water, and in sharing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, spirituality and rites through story and song.

The City is proud to not only recognise, but experience and celebrate the world's oldest living continuous cultures. There were more than 250 distinct Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language groups at the time of the first European contact. Only 120 of those languages are still spoken and many are at risk of being lost.

A highlight of this year's event was the installation of a 'gunya', a ceremonial site and shelter constructed from cane and bark. The gunya was home to didgeridoo and dance workshops and storytelling sessions.



Performers at NAIDOC in the City

At the end of 2014, Council granted seed funding to support the establishment of an interest free loan scheme for purchasing artworks valued between \$750 and \$20,000. The program, called Art Money, has made a significant contribution to building new markets for the visual arts sector by reducing financial barriers to artwork purchases.

Art Money was launched in April 2015 and within one year was offered in 35 galleries in Sydney and 140 galleries nationally, generating over \$1.7 million in artwork sales. Art Money has recently completed its second year in operation and is now offered in more than 350 galleries across Australia, New Zealand and the United States. Over 1,000 artworks have been sold using Art Money and 50% of those sales have taken place within the City of Sydney's local government area. The total value of artwork purchased through the scheme now exceeds \$5 million.

Art Money has been successful in driving the sales of Australian artists by making it easier and more affordable to buy art from galleries. Art Money has also helped unrepresented artists to sell their work through partnerships with leading independent art fairs and artist run initiatives in Sydney and Melbourne.



The Makery, Darlinghurst

## HELPING OUR LOCAL ARTISTS AND GALLERIES

## "Here, an Echo", new public artwork in Surry Hills

Along with the Biennale of Sydney, we recently unveiled the second Biennale Legacy Artwork Project, Australian artist Agatha Gothe-Snape's new work in Wemyss Lane, Surry Hills.

"Here, an Echo" is a whimsical and intriguing work that draws attention to a gritty laneway that might not otherwise attract attention. Stencilled messages are staggered along the pavement and up the walls of buildings, referring to the usage, history and geography of the site.

The City is committed to making Sydney the sort of place where street art is encouraged and contributes to the urban experience.



Wemyss Lane, Surry Hills



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JUANITA NIELSEN  
COMMUNITY  
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CITY OF SYDNEY

## City projects recognised at state-wide awards

Two of our recently completed projects have been recognised at the prestigious NSW Architecture Awards, run by the Australian Institute of Architects.

Completed in November last year, the transformed Juanita Nielsen Community Centre, Woolloomooloo, designed by Neeson Murcutt Architects in association with the City of Sydney, was awarded the Greenway Award for Heritage Architecture, the John Verge Award for Interior Architecture, and a Public Architecture Award.

The community centre offers a broad range of adult fitness classes, recreational, social and creative learning programs for all ages, and beautiful new spaces for meetings and seminars.

The East Sydney Early Learning Centre was designed by Andrew Burges Architects in association with the City and was officially opened in July last year. It was awarded the Education Architecture Award and a commendation for Interior Architecture.

The three-level centre, fashioned from a former factory building and adjoining playground, has provided much needed space for 60 children with linked outdoor areas, plenty of natural light and a multipurpose community hire space and a kitchen.

I'm proud the City provides the very best design for our residents and their families.

On the awards night, I also presented the third Lord Mayor's Prize for Urban Design within the City of Sydney. I named Kensington Street, part of the Central Park Development, and The Tramsheds, part of the Harold Park redevelopment, joint winners for adding life, colour and vitality to our city.

*Clover Moore*  
@CloverMoore



Lord Mayor's Award for Urban Design:  
The Tramsheds at Harold Park

September 2017

## SYDNEY CITY NEWS



Lord Mayor Clover Moore and architect Rachel Neeson



At the launch of the East Sydney Early Learning Centre



EAST SYDNEY  
EARLY LEARNING  
CENTRE



To keep up to date with all Sydney events, sign up to our What's On newsletter at [whatson.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au](http://whatson.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au)





At the opening of City West's affordable housing in Green Square

# Much needed boost to affordable city housing

**The City of Sydney has announced new projects to significantly increase the number of affordable rental housing units in the city and help at-risk young people from becoming homeless.**

**The new projects include:**

- \$3 million grant to St George Community Housing Limited to house and support up to 75 young people at risk of homelessness in our local area
- The subsidised sale of City-owned land in Alexandria to community housing provider City West Housing, to be used for around 200 affordable rental housing units
- Additional land in Alexandria earmarked for negotiation and sale to interested community housing providers, with space for around 100 more affordable rental housing units.

Although affordable housing is primarily the responsibility of state and federal governments, the City is using all the levers available under existing planning laws to deliver a steady stream of affordable homes.

The City finances affordable housing projects through an affordable housing contribution scheme – a levy on development in Green Square, Ultimo/Pyrmont and the new Southern Employment Lands areas.

Already the City has helped finance the creation of 800 affordable housing units, as well as supplying grants

for housing projects including \$1.5 million to HammondCare for the development of a subsidised residential aged care facility in Darlinghurst and \$250,000 to The Salvation Army for crisis accommodation in Surry Hills.

*The City has asked the state government for permission to expand this levy across the local government area, to finance more affordable housing projects, but has not yet received a response.*

# CITY PROPERTY HELPING MEET HOUSING AND BUSINESS NEEDS

**Our commercial property portfolio provides a major revenue stream for the City, helping to create our strong, debt-free financial position and generates more than \$63 million of rental revenue each year. We are now looking to increase that revenue to help meet the demands of our booming population.**

Council has approved changes to our property portfolio prompted by the closure of **three City depots at Zetland, Redfern and Alexandria** (as we open a new major southern depot at Alexandra Canal) as well as interest in **commercial shopfronts on Oxford Street**.

The Redfern depot has been earmarked for **affordable housing** for some time. We will now enter negotiations with affordable housing providers to provide more than 100 affordable housing units for key workers such as teachers, nurses, police, firefighters and social workers.

Our three Oxford Street properties need significant capital investment and we're exploring ways to work with the private

sector to secure these necessary upgrades with long-term leases – similar to the arrangement we have with the QVB and the Capitol Theatre. Revitalising and leasing these buildings will help enliven **Oxford Street while maintaining subsidised space for artists and creative startups**.

***The strategic management of our property portfolio has enabled the City to provide some of the best parks, public spaces, facilities, infrastructure, events and services of any local government area in Australia. These changes will help us further invest in our City's future.***

Oxford Street properties



# Increased support for our nightlife



New funding streams for our night time economy

**Council has adopted changes to the City's Grants and Sponsorships Policy to establish a new Business Support Program that will better promote a more diverse and active city nightlife.**

The changes give increased funding in two strategically important areas:

## Live music and performance

To support capital improvements to venues for live music and performance. This could include internal acoustics, installation of sound equipment and upgrading performance venues to better protect patrons and surrounding residential amenity.

## Night time diversification

These grants will help build on the diverse day time business offerings by encouraging increased variety of night time activities in commercial precincts, for example live music, cultural activities, food events and retail activation.

*This change honours the public commitment made in February to introduce new grant funding programs that "would be dedicated to new and existing live music and performance venues, live music programming, night time venue safety initiatives and other projects that help diversify Sydney's late night economy."*

# NEW SKATE SPACE IN SYDNEY PARK

**Skateboarders will soon be able to kick-flip and shove-it at Sydney Park, which is earmarked to be home to one of Sydney's biggest public skate spaces.**

A proposed scope of works outlines the concept design for an awe inspiring urban skate plaza and flow bowl suitable for skateboards, scooters and BMX bikes.

This proposed skate space marks another major step in the transformation of Sydney Park from an industrial site some years ago, into a 44 hectare park to be enjoyed by tens of thousands of residents.

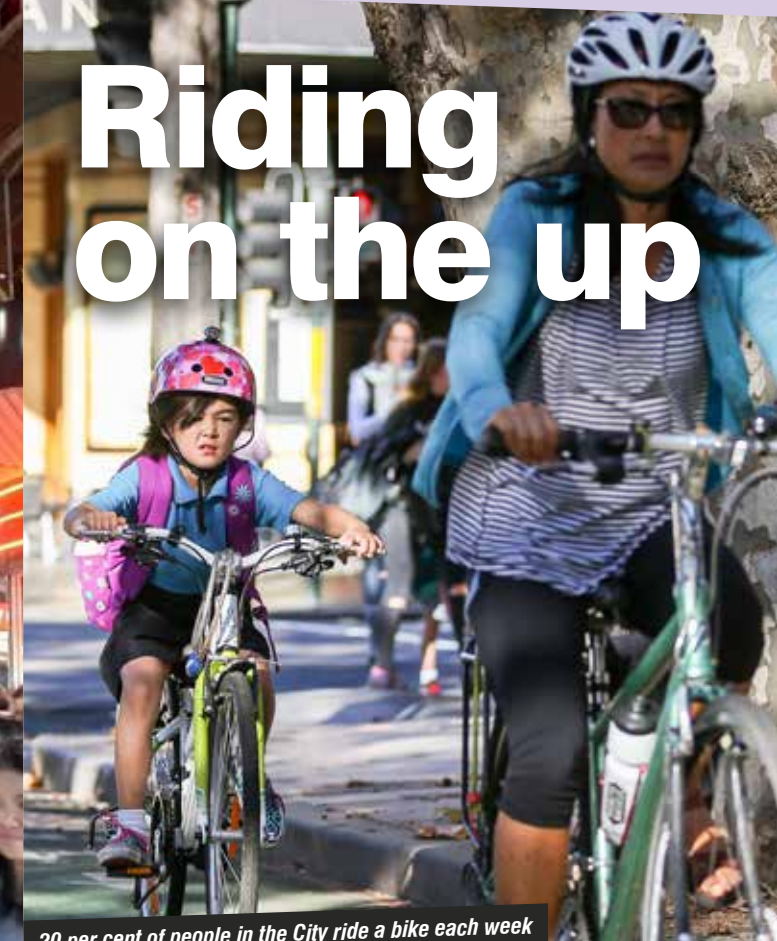


Artist's rendition of the new space

Features of the new skate space include:

- Traditional park skate zone suitable for all skill levels and disciplines, featuring a combination of street and bowl style obstacles;
- Lineal plaza zone featuring low level obstacles to allow for street style technical tricks;
- Beginners bowl for new skaters to hone their skills; and
- Flow bowl varying in depth from 1.5 to 3 metres, suitable for skaters from intermediate to advance ability.

# Riding on the up



20 per cent of people in the City ride a bike each week

**Results of the nationwide Cycling Participation Survey found 20 per cent of people living in the City of Sydney, around 42,500 residents, ride a bike in a typical week.**

Forty per cent of residents used their bicycle for transport, double the Sydney-wide rate, which the City attributes to the long-term program of building safe and connected bike paths.

For the last seven years, we've been dedicated to building infrastructure, educating people about safe riding behaviour and supporting Sydney's growing bike culture. Each person riding is one less driver stuck in traffic or one extra seat on the bus or train.

## New cycleway

Riding a bike to the city centre from the eastern suburbs will soon be easier and safer with plans for a new two-way separated cycleway linking the Centennial Park (Oxford Street) cycleway with Surry Hills.

The project also includes wider footpaths, safer crossings, better street lighting and improved access to the stadiums.

# PRINCE ALFRED PARK OPEN ALL YEAR ROUND

**Swimmers can continue to enjoy the warm waters of Prince Alfred Park Pool in Surry Hills throughout the winter months, with the City of Sydney keeping the pool open permanently all year round.**

The Prince Alfred Park Pool complex near Central Station features a 50-metre heated outdoor pool, toddler splash deck with water toys, café and kiosk, shaded bleacher seating and sky-lit change rooms.

The City conducted a trial to test demand for keeping the pool open during the winter months. Results show good community support for extending operations to all year round, with an average attendance of 29,656 over the winter months.



Prince Alfred Park Pool, Surry Hills