



MARCH 2021

SYDNEY CITY NEWS



Children enjoying the water play area at the new Gunyama Park Aquatic and Recreation Centre

DELIVERING ON OUR PROMISE FOR GREEN SQUARE

The NSW Government sets housing and development targets, and local government not only has the obligation to meet them, but also to provide our growing communities with needed infrastructure.

In 1996, Green Square – Zetland, Beaconsfield and parts of Rosebery, Alexandria and Waterloo – was earmarked for urban renewal. But when the newly amalgamated City Council was elected in 2004, the project was virtually moribund.

So, we set out to make Green Square the best possible example of a high density urban village.

And with the Gunyama Park Aquatic and Recreation Centre now open, we've delivered the key community projects in our \$1.3 billion infrastructure plan for local facilities, new parks and playgrounds, public art, childcare, and roads, footpaths and cycleways.

This includes the Green Square Library and Plaza, Joynton Avenue Creative Centre, Banga Community Shed and the Waranara Early Education Centre.

The Green Infrastructure Centre recycles water for use in the town centre, including in the affordable housing facilitated by the City so that key workers can live close to the city centre. Both the town centre and the Green Square Library have 6 Star Green Star ratings from the Green Building Council of Australia.

We are building new parks, upgrading existing ones and working with developers to provide residents with more than 21 hectares of open space across 40 parks and playgrounds. We have also put aside land to ensure the NSW Government can deliver appropriate public transport and a new primary school in the future.

By 2036, 70,000 residents and 22,000 workers will live and work in the 278-hectare Green Square area. I know they will enjoy the village we have built for them.

In this first edition of Sydney City News for the year, we introduce you to the Gunyama Park Aquatic and Recreation Centre as well as the newly opened skate park and water treatment plant in Sydney Park.

I hope you can join me in looking ahead at a brighter 2021.

Clover Moore

Lord Mayor of Sydney
 @CloverMoore
 @clovermooresydney



KUNG HEI FAT CHOY!

The Sydney Lunar Festival was celebrated from 12-21 February this year.

The City of Sydney marked the beginning of the Year of the Ox with a beautiful new Ox lantern designed by Sydney-based artist Chrissy Lau and displayed in the Dixon Street Mall. Eleven other colourful lunar lanterns illuminated parts of our newly pedestrianised George Street.

The Sydney Lunar Festival is normally the largest celebration of its kind outside of Asia. While it was scaled back this year because of Covid-19 restrictions, we were still able to host more than 80 events including our popular community performance program and roving entertainers in Chinatown.

The Sydney Lunar Festival is an important recognition and reflection of our historical and increasingly multicultural society.

Wishing you good luck, health and fortune in the Year of the Ox!



The Ox lantern on Dixon Street by artist Chrissy Lau symbolises good luck and fortune



Beautiful dancers from the Shanshan Dancing Studio performing a competitive and highly technical double fan dance



Designed by Valerie, the Rooster features egg-shaped glowing lights

AND PLANS FOR THE MUSEUM OF CHINESE IN AUSTRALIA

When the Haymarket Library was closed after the larger and more modern Darling Square Library was opened, we reserved the three-storey Victorian sandstone building for continued community use.

After a competitive expression of interest process, it was decided that the old library and former bank building would become the Museum of Chinese in Australia (MOCA).

MOCA will play an important role in elevating the diverse stories and experiences of people of Chinese descent in Australia, as well as their positive contribution to society. It will be a vital community centre for research, dialogue, learning, understanding, and appreciation of Chinese Australian history, heritage and cultural vibrancy, from past to present day.

We are working with MOCA to re-purpose the City-owned building for this important purpose. The NSW Government also supported the project with a Create NSW grant.

The Museum of Chinese in Australia will open in early 2022. In the meantime, virtual exhibitions are planned.

Visit moca.net.au for more information.



Board Chair of MOCA Dr John Yu AC and Lord Mayor Clover Moore

Image: Edwina Pickles. Courtesy of The Sydney Morning Herald

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 Online: cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au **Your councillors are** Clover Moore (CMIT) / Jess Miller (CMIT) / Robert Kok (CMIT) / Jess Scully (CMIT) / Philip Thalys (CMIT) / Christine Forster (LIB) / Craig Chung (LIB) / Linda Scott (LAB) / Kerry Phelps (IND) / Angela Vithoulkas (SBP)

WELCOME TO THE SUNSET PIAZZA!



Cumbiamuffin performed rhythms of Latin America on 28 January

Alex the Astronaut performed on 31 January

Together with the NSW Government, we built a stage in Cathedral Square to support musicians and local arts organisations and bring people back into our city centre during the Covid-19 recovery.

Until 21 March, Sydney Festival has programmed live music, theatre and performance for local residents and visitors to enjoy. The diverse program has included American musician Ben Folds, the James Morrison Quartet, Heaps Gay, Opera Australia and the Sydney Symphony Orchestra.

This is part of the NSW Government and City of Sydney's \$20 million plan to transform Sydney with outdoor cultural experiences and al fresco dining.

Since November, roving performances have enlivened our city streets, and cultural institutions such as the Art Gallery of NSW and the newly revamped Australian Museum have extended their opening hours and put on COVID-safe events.

And many city businesses have also accessed our fast-tracked approvals process for expanding free outdoor dining.

Visit sunsetpiazza.com.au for more information.

CELEBRATING MARDI GRAS AT THE SCG

Due to Covid-19, the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Parade will not be held on Oxford Street for the first time in its 43-year history.

So they have hired the SCG to hold a seated and ticketed event for up to 36,000 people. A ballot system randomly allocated 2,000 free tickets for community members.

After such a dark and difficult 2020, it will be wonderful to see the SCG come alive with rainbow banners, colourful costumes and biodegradable glitter. It includes a parade entry involving 40 City of Sydney staff members!

As a long-term supporter of the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras, our City has given the festival a \$240,000 cash grant each year for two years plus value in kind such as street banners. We've also supported local businesses to activate Oxford Street during the festivities, including \$62,700 to the Darlinghurst Business Partnership for Oxtravaganza – now a two-week event running alongside Mardi Gras. And our grants and sponsorship program has funded cabaret, live music and theatre, art installations and more.

The Mardi Gras festival runs from 19 February to 7 March. **Visit mardigras.org.au for more information.**



The launch of Mardi Gras at the SCG in November 2020

Image by Russell Quinn, courtesy of Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras



GUNYAMA PARK AQUATIC AND RECREATION CENTRE NOW OPEN!

Gunyama means “wind from the southwest” in the Aboriginal language of Sydney. Now officially open to the public, the Gunyama Park Aquatic and Recreation Centre is the largest pool complex built in Sydney since the 2000 Olympics.

Designed by Andrew Burges Architects with Grimshaw Architects and Taylor Cullity Lethlean, the design interprets Sydney’s much-loved coastal rock pools and original wetlands flora to provide active and passive spaces for all ages.



50-metre outdoor pool

It includes a 50-metre outdoor pool, 25-metre indoor program pool, indoor leisure pool, hydrotherapy pool and fitness centre. The complex is heated and powered by an innovative co-generation system. Surplus energy generated by 420 solar panels installed on the roof will help power buildings in the neighbouring community and cultural precinct.

There is also a new park with a multi-purpose sports field, skate areas, large children’s playground, fitness stations, and barbecue and picnic areas.

Visit gunyamapark.com.au for more information.



Shaded pool for kids



Synthetic multi-purpose sports field

When complete, there will be 40 parks and playgrounds in the Green Square urban renewal area. Twenty-three parks are already open to the public and seven are currently in the pipeline.



Lord Mayor Clover Moore with Andrew Burges of Andrew Burges Architects and Andrew Cortese of Grimshaw Architects, who designed the Gunyama Park Aquatic and Recreation Centre



Aerial view of facilities at Gunyama Park, including its 420 solar panels
Image: Brett Boardman



The outdoor deck is a wellness space overlooking the pool

The artwork *Bangala* by Aunty Julie Freeman (Gorawari/Jerrawongarla) and Jonathan Jones (Wiradjuri/Kamilaroi) is located in a raingarden in Gunyama Park. Traditionally made from the Bangalow palm, the bangala is a vessel used for holding fresh water. The artwork speaks of the enduring presence of Eora culture within the landscape and the continuing importance of water on the site.



Image: Jennifer Leahy

NEW FACILITIES IN SYDNEY PARK

SKATE PARK NOW OPEN



At the City of Sydney we try to provide facilities for all ages and interests. So with more than 2,000 skaters living in the local area and significantly more in surrounding suburbs, we worked with local skaters at the Sydney Skateboard Association to design and build a new skate park in Sydney Park.

The new skate park features a traditional skate park zone for all skill levels and disciplines, a plaza zone with low level obstacles for street-style technical tricks, a beginner’s bowl, and a flow bowl from 1.5 to 3 metres for intermediate and advanced skaters. It is accessible to people using wheelchairs, bikes and scooters. We also upgraded picnic and shaded areas nearby.

It is one of four great places currently to skate in the area: Redfern Park, Redfern; Fernside Skate Park, Waterloo; Ward Park, Surry Hills; and the Sydney Park Skate Park, Alexandria. A fifth is on its way, with a skate plaza and mini skate ramp under construction at The Crescent and Federal Park in the Glebe Foreshore Parklands.



Lord Mayor Clover Moore and skaters at the new skate park

AND THE WATER TREATMENT PLANT REBUILT



We are continuing to build water recycling infrastructure to drought-proof our city and keep it green and cool.

The water treatment plant we built in 2017 in Sydney Park had to be decommissioned because it was in the way of the NSW Government’s destructive WestConnex project.

Because we are committed to using recycled stormwater to maintain the park, a newly designed water treatment plant has been rebuilt and located at the nursery depot in the south-western corner of Sydney Park.

The primary source of water for the plant is the Munni Channel. Stormwater from this channel is pumped into the Sydney Park wetlands system and then to the treatment plant. The plant can produce around 200 kilolitres of water per day and is used to irrigate the 44-hectare Sydney Park and water plants in the nursery. It also fills tankers that water our street plantings across the local government area.

The City also recycles stormwater from a large treatment plant built in Green Square. And we are working on plans to provide recycled water to the city centre via pipes we laid along George Street during the excavations for the light rail project.