

RECENT CITY EVENTS AND ACCOLADES

Professor Megan Davis, Pat Anderson AO and Noel Pearson accept the 2022 Sydney Peace Prize for the Uluru Statement from the Heart



Image: Lukas Bulicek

ULURU STATEMENT WINS SYDNEY PEACE PRIZE

The Lord Mayor recently presented the Sydney Peace Prize to Megan Davis, Pat Anderson and Noel Pearson, as principal architects and representatives of all those who contributed to making the Uluru Statement from the Heart. The prize was awarded for bringing together Australia's First Nations Peoples around a clear and comprehensive agenda for meaningful recognition and for healing and peace within our Nation. It delivers practical self-determination for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and enables Australia to move into the future united, respectful, and confident. Council has unanimously affirmed the City's support for the Uluru Statement and will campaign to help ensure a high yes vote across Sydney in the coming referendum.



CITY WINS PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

Green Square's stormwater drain project has taken out a prestigious award at the important International Water Association's Project Innovation Awards held in Copenhagen, Denmark.

The 2km, \$140 million project which the City delivered together with Sydney Water, stops flooding in the Green Square area during downpours, and helps us capture and reuse water to increase our resilience during times of drought. Up to 365 million litres of non-potable water is sent to new buildings in Green Square town centre and open spaces every year. This trunk drain project was also essential to allow the urban renewal of the former industrial area which had originally been wetlands.

This impressive award is further proof that we are delivering a world-class precinct in Green Square, making it a wonderful place to live, work and visit.



KEYS TO THE CITY FOR JOHN KALDOR AND RONNI KAHN

The Lord Mayor recently presented John Kaldor and Ronni Kahn with Keys to the City. John Kaldor AO is an entrepreneur, art collector, and philanthropist. He is behind Christo's audacious wrapping of Little Bay and Jeff Koons's colossal Puppy, as well as numerous exhibitions, donations, and education programs. Ronni Kahn AO is the CEO of the food rescue charity OzHarvest. It started in Sydney with one van 18 years ago and now delivers more than one million meals every month. Congratulations to John and Ronni!



CITYTALKS RETURNS TO TOWN HALL

Town Hall recently filled for CityTalks: "Making Australia a renewable energy superpower." Guided by MC Patricia Karvelas, speakers discussed how governments, businesses, and communities can work together to help reshape Australia's economy with sustainability at its core. Federal Climate Change and Energy Minister, Chris Bowen, outlined the Government's plans to meet emission targets. The panel featured David Griffin from Sun Cable, Shemara Wikramanayake from Macquarie Group and Rowan Foley from the Aboriginal Carbon Foundation.

OUR CITY THIS SUMMER! CHRISTMAS RETURNS TO THE CITY

Covid has had a significant impact on our last two festive seasons, but we are excited to welcome everyone back into the city for a full, four-week program this Christmas. The heart of Sydney will be transformed into a Christmas wonderland with markets, roving performers, carollers, and decorations. Our much-loved village concerts return with events in Alexandria, Glebe, Pyrmont, Rosebery, Rushcutters Bay and Surry Hills. Pick up unique, locally crafted Christmas treats at the Green Square Christmas Fair. Find out more: sydneychristmas.com.au



PLAN AHEAD FOR NEW YEAR'S EVE



Image: Mick Tsikas

Sydney New Year's Eve is a celebration that wows the world with its style and spectacle! This year's event will feature one of the world's largest, most technologically advanced displays of fireworks, lighting, and projections. We will again recognise Australia's First Peoples with special Sydney Harbour Bridge projections and there will be a harbour smoking ceremony as part of the Welcome to Country. Getting in and out of the city is different on New Year's Eve. There will be road closures, on-street fencing, and diversions to help people get around safely. Visit sydneynewyearsve.com for all the information you need to plan your night.

CELEBRATING THE YEAR OF THE RABBIT

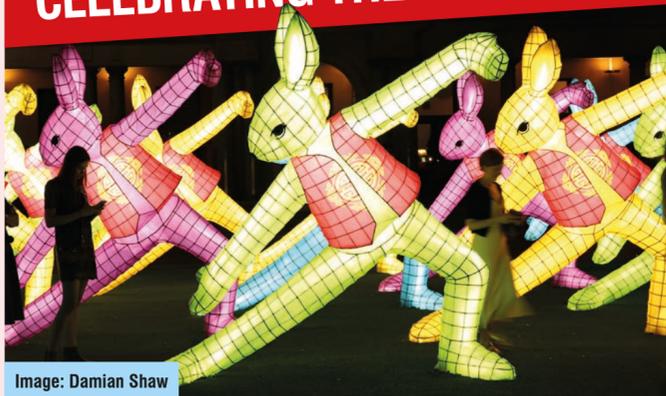


Image: Damian Shaw

This year's Lunar New Year Festival runs from 21 January to 5 February, celebrating the Year of the Rabbit. Traditionally, the rabbit is a symbol of great luck and good fortune, which will hold us in good stead as we look ahead to a prosperous new year and a strong economic recovery. From its modest beginnings in 1995 as a community street market, the Sydney Lunar Festival has become the largest celebration of the Lunar New Year outside Asia and there's something for everyone, with dragon boat races, food, music, performance and more than 80 partner events. For information visit: sydneylunarfestival.com

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DECEMBER 2022 SYDNEY CITY NEWS



Sod turning with local students at Wimbo Park

THE CITY IS THE BEST PLACE TO BE THIS SUMMER!

After an incredibly challenging three years, I'm excited to welcome everyone back to the City this festive season. In this edition of *Sydney City News*, you'll find information about our extensive program of Christmas events, plans for New Year's Eve and the Sydney Lunar Festival, as well as WorldPride 2023!

MAJOR PROJECTS RECENTLY COMPLETED AND COMMENCED
Greening our city and creating spaces to play, exercise, and relax has been a high priority since 2004 when one of the first actions of the amalgamated Council was to purchase land from the State Government to create Pirrama Park on the Pyrmont waterfront.

Since then, we have invested over \$400 million in the development and renewal of over 120 parks, as well as beautifying our streets and planting more than 16,000 street trees and over 132,000 square metres of landscaping across our local area.

All of these projects are important, whether smaller park renewals like the recently completed Clyne Reserve in Millers Point and Crystal Plaza in Waterloo, or major new spaces like Wimbo Park in Surry Hills and Drying Green in Green Square.

The opening of Drying Green, the area where washed sheep fleeces were dried

in the early 19th century, was particularly special as it is the final piece of major civic infrastructure the City is providing along the spine of the Green Square Town Centre. Complete with a newly moved in family of ducks, Drying Green is just one of 40 parks for locals to congregate and features best practice sustainability.

We also recently celebrated the completion of our major upgrade of Macleay Street in Potts Point and will soon begin work to further pedestrianise George Street north to Circular Quay.

This includes a new public domain plan for the north of the CBD, with extended car free areas to accommodate increased pedestrian movement when the Metro comes online.

We are committed to transforming Sydney into a greener, safer, calmer city, where communities can come together, and with our streets as destinations, rather than simply a means of transiting from one place to another.

AND CELEBRATING SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO SYDNEY

I recently presented two Keys to the City, the highest honour the City of Sydney can bestow, to arts patron and entrepreneur John Kaldor and Oz Harvest's Ronni Kahn.

Both have made significant contributions, promoting and shaping the cultural and social life of our city. The keys are rarely awarded, and I encourage you to read more about their work further in this newsletter.

Best wishes for a joyful Christmas and a safe and happy 2023.

Clover Moore

Lord Mayor of Sydney
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@clovermooresydney

SYDNEY WORLDPRIDE, JUST AROUND THE CORNER!

WorldPride 2023 will be the biggest celebration to come to Sydney since the 2000 Olympics. There will be over 300 events, including concerts, visual arts, sport, theatre, dance, music, a human rights conference, and more, beginning on February 17.

The City proudly supports Sydney WorldPride with \$1.7 million in funding, including a recent grant to add sparkle to Oxford Street by activating vacant shop fronts, and adding environmental lighting and public art. We have also commissioned bespoke artwork to cover construction hoardings and bring extra creativity and colour to the strip.

The City of Sydney is committed to making next year's WorldPride event a success that leaves a legacy well beyond the 17-day festival.

Happy World Pride, everyone!



CITY PROJECTS RECENTLY OPENED...



Image: Damian Shaw

Image: Damian Shaw

THE DRYING GREEN, GREEN SQUARE

The Drying Green, opened in October, is the largest of 40 parks the City is delivering in the Green Square urban renewal precinct. The 6,200 square metre park will provide a green lung and community meeting place, with lawns, trees, barbecues, and amenities. The roof of the barbecue awning has innovative solar glass panels that let light stream through during the day, and powers the illumination of Stream, a public artwork by Kerri Poliness, at night. The water feature, which collects and cleans stormwater, already has a family of ducks who migrated there and had their first ducklings! The trees planted on the lower lawn area include native Smooth-barked apple and Queensland Lacebark trees and we will soon plant Illawarra Flame trees to add more shade canopy. The name "Drying Green" refers to the wool-washing industry in the area and where as early as 1815 fleeces were spread over the ground to dry naturally.



Image: Matt Lambley

CLYNE RESERVE, MILLERS POINT

We have just completed a major renewal of the children's playground at Clyne Reserve in Millers Point. The play area features a new climbing frame, slides, play panels, a double swing set and a challenging nature play area with balance beams and steppers. We have also installed new seating, bins, and a bubbler with a dog bowl as well as more native plants and grasses, better boundary fencing and improved lighting. We re-used a lot of materials that were already on-site, such as the sandstone walls and paths and recently re-laid pavers, to ensure the renewal was as sustainable as possible.

LAWRENCE HARGRAVE RESERVE, POTTS POINT

We have renewed this park to make it safer and more welcoming. We improved sightlines into the park and made it more accessible, with new pathways and ramp access. We have also provided better protection from the road with informal walls and bollards. We have expanded the park's lawns and diversified the community garden with native plants. We are designing improvements to the public art shade structures to pay homage to Lawrence Hargrave, the aviation pioneer who lived in the area during in the late 1800's.



Image: Renee Nowyarger

CRYSTAL PLAZA, WATERLOO

In this popular and busy community plaza, we have built raised garden beds and replaced palm trees with mature Weeping Lilly Pilly, an Australian native with a generous canopy. The raised planter walls provide seating for people to relax and observe while at the same time provide clear access for pedestrians and cyclists using the plaza. The newly planted garden beds and trees create welcoming space for locals and visitors as well as helping to cool our urban climate. The Crystal Plaza project is part of the Greening our City grant program, which is part funded by the NSW Government in association with Local Government NSW.



MACLEAY STREET, POTTS POINT

The major upgrade of Macleay Street has preserved and enhanced the special character of the street while increasing trees and plantings, improving pedestrian amenity, and calming vehicular traffic. We widened the footpath, built a raised continuous footpath from Orwell Street to Rockwall Crescent, lifted the intersection at Macleay Street and Greenknowe Avenue and introduced new lighting, seating and street furniture. While Covid, availability of materials and the weather had significant impacts on the project, we remained committed to our staged construction approach to limit disruption.

AND PROJECTS UNDER WAY



Artist impression: FoodSlicer

LANDSCAPING A BIGGER WIMBO PARK

Surry Hills residents and visitors are a step closer to enjoying a bigger and better Wimbo Park, with our multi-million-dollar upgrade now underway. Wimbo Park was originally a small rest area on the Bourke Street frontage of a large apartment complex. But the NSW Government decided it would be the Eastern Light Rail route and the apartments were demolished. The City negotiated with Transport for NSW to ensure that the balance of any land not required would be dedicated back to the City for an expanded community park. Wimbo Park has grown from 1500 to 4600 square metres and the upgrade will include more shade trees and an open lawn, more casual seating, a play area with in-ground trampolines and softfall mounds, and the return of the twice removed Wimbo Park mural.



Artist impression of Foley Street

MAJOR OXFORD STREET REVAMP BEGINS

Our work to revitalise Oxford Street has also taken a great step forward, with construction starting on the Oxford and Foley development, which extends for three Federation building blocks between Crown Street and Taylor Square, now under way. The City, which owns the properties, has granted a 99-year lease to a major real estate investment group, which is now undertaking the first major restoration and repurposing of these buildings, in more than 25 years. Heritage shopfronts will be restored, and new office, hospitality and creative spaces delivered, helping breathe new life into the once fabulous strip and attracting additional investment in the area. The work is underpinned by the City's new Oxford Street Place Strategy, the first planning document of its kind in Australia, which sets out principles and priorities to recognise, preserve, and promote the significant connection the LGBTQIA+ community has with this street.



Artist impression: Virtual Ideas

MORE SPACE FOR PEOPLE ON GEORGE STREET!

We're proposing to extend the pedestrian boulevard of George Street further north toward Circular Quay, from Hunter Street to Essex Street, with more car-free areas in places to accommodate the high concentration of pedestrian traffic expected with the opening of Metro. This proposal builds on the success of the completed George Street boulevard between Hunter Street south and Rawson Place at Central and will provide 6,000 square metres of new pedestrian space, wider footpaths, new trees and additional street furniture. This will see our vision of a fully pedestrianised George Street from Circular Quay to Central a step closer, with over 20,000 square metres of former roadway reclaimed for people. You can find full details of the traffic changes in George Street and its surrounding streets on the City's website.



A NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL FOR GREEN SQUARE!

State Education Minister, Sarah Mitchell and Lord Mayor Clover Moore have turned the first sod on the construction of a new primary school, which will provide learning spaces for 600 children in the growing Green Square area. The City provided land for the school and has contributed \$24 million to enable an innovative design and give access for the wider community to school facilities, such as the communal hall and sports courts, outside school hours. Close to the aquatic centre, library and Early Learning Centre, Green Square Primary School will be an important addition to the area's educational, social and cultural life.