

KEY EVENTS STAGED

in a Covid-safe way!



Fireworks light up the Harbour



Winning Lunar New Year poster designs displayed by the artists

After two tough years, we ended 2021 and began 2022 with a range of Covid-safe major City events, drawing people back into the city, boosting local businesses and giving Sydneysiders something to celebrate!

Through the City's community recovery program we decorated the CBD and our villages to celebrate Christmas, marked New Year's Eve with stunning fireworks displays and to welcome the Year of the Tiger, staged almost 100 events, including street music, displays and concerts for Lunar New Year.



Summer Streets in Crown Street attracted people and pets
Photo credit: Katherine Griffiths

Launching the Progress Pride flag and Mardi Gras



Christmas 2021 in Martin Place

STANDING WITH PEOPLE ...

IN UKRAINE

In the face of Russia's brutal and terrifying invasion, we #StandwithUkraine.

This offensive has caused a devastating humanitarian crisis and the fastest-growing refugee movement in Europe since World War II, and is condemned worldwide.

We have been flying the Ukrainian flag over Sydney Town Hall and lit the building façade in solidarity.

The City has also been in discussions with the Ukrainian Council of NSW (UCNSW), and Lord Mayor Clover Moore has asked Council to endorse financial support for a UCNSW fundraising event at Sydney Town Hall on 28 March.

Funds raised will be used for critical humanitarian aid, including food, clean water, emergency housing and medical help. Those wishing to donate can do so through the Ukraine Crisis Appeal at www.ukrainecrisisappeal.org



The Ukrainian flag was raised above Town Hall and the building's façade lit in solidarity
Photo credit : the Ukrainian Council of NSW - ОУГ ННБ

ELSEWHERE IN OUR STATE

Over recent weeks large areas of northern NSW have been devastated by incessant rainfall, causing widespread flooding, property damage and the tragic loss of lives.

Cleaning up and rebuilding can take months and cost millions of dollars, requiring the coordinated efforts of all levels of government.

The City is in contact with the Office of Local Government and the Local Government Emergency Recovery Support Group to confirm we are ready to respond to requests for help from affected Councils as we have done in previous years after the bushfires.

Locally, because of the extreme weather, we activated the Emergency Response for Rough Sleepers Protocol with the State Government to ensure people sleeping rough are appropriately housed.



Flooding at Green Square in April 2015 before the City's extensive flood mitigation works

AND HERE AT HOME

An inspiring new social enterprise restaurant has been opened on Crown Street Surry Hills. Refettorio is an innovative collaboration between OzHarvest founder Ronni Kahn and world-renowned chef Massimo Bottura and his charity Food for Soul, with financial support from the City of Sydney.

Covid has increased the need to deliver quality food to the city's most vulnerable, and donations, including those from the City, have enabled the restaurant to open.

Money made from the restaurant goes toward free and nourishing meals for people in need.

Through the pandemic, the City provided more than \$3 million in financial support to OzHarvest and other food charities to help feed thousands of vulnerable people. Before Refettorio opened to the public, the space served as a community kitchen providing free food hampers and take-away meals to those in need, with funding from the City.



Cafe Refettorio opens and supports people in need
Photo credit: Nikki To

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 (CMIT) / Emelda Davis (CMIT) / Robert Kok (CMIT) / Jess Scully (CMIT) / HY William Chan (CMIT) / Shauna Jarrett (LIB) / Lyndon Gannon (LIB) / Linda Scott (LAB) / Yvonne Weldon (IND) / Sylvie Ellsmore (Gr)



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Crown Street comes alive as part of our Summer Streets program
Photo credit: Katherine Griffiths

MARCH 2022

SYDNEY CITY NEWS

THANK YOU CITY OF SYDNEY!

I am honoured to be re-elected Lord Mayor of Sydney for a record and historic fifth term. Your vote of confidence ensures continuation of strong and progressive leadership of our global city.

This was a challenging election, both in the on-and-off run-up to election and the day as we navigated new ways to vote safely in a pandemic. Face-to-face engagement was limited during the campaign and voting delayed twice due to Covid. Voters were frustrated on the day by lengthy queues at polling places, and volunteers were not allowed to distribute how-to-vote cards within 100 metres of booths, although it seems those rules were not uniformly applied. And the NSW Electoral Commission's i-vote system crashed. So, thank you to all who persevered to cast their ballot!

Most importantly this election result allows us to seamlessly develop vital strategic plans for our city's future. Begun in 2008 with Sustainable Sydney 2030 and now being extended to Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision, the plans were developed via extensive consultations with diverse communities, business, sporting and cultural sectors.

Action to address climate change is a top priority, and substantial cuts in our emissions and that of our city business partners have already been achieved.

Parallel with this are resilience plans involving metropolitan Councils to address climate change impacts already occurring such as bushfires, floods and loss of biodiversity.

More immediately, we need to create initiatives to speed our city's post Covid recovery.

We know the cities that will do best post-pandemic are the ones providing varieties of working spaces and cultural offerings, walking, cycling and late-night public transport, activated streets and laneways, late-night activities as well as affordable housing.

Many of these goals require the commitment of all levels of government and last month I attended a State forum to discuss ways to recharge our struggling CBD and village high streets.

Our suggestions to the forum are canvassed more fully in this newsletter.

As well as ongoing city-building challenges, there remains the State threat to local government developer contributions which currently finance parks, playgrounds and facilities such as

pools and libraries. Worse still is the threat that decisions on facilities and amenities that Council can provide will be taken away from democratic representatives in consultation with their communities and be given to IPART, an unelected government appointed body.

Overshadowing all this is the brutal attack on the people of Ukraine. Our City stands with Ukraine in spirit, their flag flies on the Town Hall and we are in discussions with the Ukrainian Council of NSW about practical support we can give.

Closer to home, our hearts go out to our fellow citizens in northern NSW who have lost homes and businesses in devastating floods. Again, the City has offered help via the Local Government Emergency Recovery Support Group.

Clover Moore

Lord Mayor of Sydney
@CloverMoore
@clovermooresydney

YOUR NEW COUNCIL

Your new City of Sydney Council was sworn in on December 23 and will hold office until September 2024. Your Councillors are (left to right): Sylvie Ellsmore, Linda Scott, HY William Chan, Emelda Davis, Lord Mayor Clover Moore, Deputy Lord Mayor Jess Scully, Robert Kok, Shauna Jarrett and Yvonne Weldon. Not pictured is Councillor Lyndon Gannon, who had Covid at the time of the swearing in.



CITY STRATEGIES FOR A STRONG PANDEMIC RECOVERY

Helping the city centre bounce back from the impacts of the pandemic will take the ideas and efforts of all levels of government. So, we've called on the NSW Government to work with us on joint measures to attract workers and visitors back to the city to help recovery.

Key proposals include working in partnership to deliver a year-round program of events similar to the City's successful Summer Streets program, which attracted thousands to our village high streets.

Transporting people safely into the city is another priority for joint action. Our proposals include free inner-city public transport on light rail and City Circle lines, and free rail travel into the CBD for families

with their bikes for 'Cycling Sundays' to encourage exploration of our beautiful city.

We have also asked Government to explore pop-up cycleways in surrounding Council areas which could link to the City's cycleway network. And to extend the pedestrianisation of George Street north from Hunter to Bridge Street. As well, we proposed investigating ways to utilise vacant property in the CBD for cultural and creative purposes.



George Street South being pedestrianised

COMPLETING THE PEDESTRIANISATION OF GEORGE STREET

We're continuing to transform George Street into a pedestrian-friendly world class boulevard linking Circular Quay to Central, as befits a global city.

Bathurst Street to Hay Street is now open, with the final section to Central due to open in October.

We've replaced car lanes with wider granite footpaths, created new spaces for outdoor dining, planted street trees, installed seating and lighting, and simplified intersections to reduce travel times.

And we're asking the NSW Government to consider the immediate temporary closure of George Street north from Hunter to Bridge Street, to allow outdoor dining opportunities to be expanded.



We're proposing that George Street North also be pedestrianised



The King Street cycleway (left) links Pitt Street (right) and major bike routes

MORE AND BETTER CONNECTED REGIONAL CYCLEWAYS

We are pushing ahead with separated cycleways on King and Oxford Streets making it safer and easier to ride through the city, and we've asked the State Government to support new cycleways in surrounding Council areas that link directly to the City's network, creating valuable connections benefiting residents and business across councils.

For example a cycleway along Todman Avenue in Randwick could connect to the bicycle network on Bourke Street Waterloo, giving better access to suburbs to the south.

Plans are also underway for the Federal Government to fund a separated bike network on Oxford Street east, connecting Taylor Square to Paddington Gates. This will provide a seamless connection to the City's Oxford west cycleway, as well as to routes in the eastern suburbs.

A decision by the State Government on the Bridge Road Glebe cycleway is expected in March. Trips have increased on the cycleway by 32 per cent to 2,800-plus per week since September 2020.



Longer term proposals for City South include a redesign and upgrade for Belmore Park (Artist impression Spackman Mossop Michaels)

REACTIVATING DIXON STREET AND CITY SOUTH

The City has committed to the revitalisation of Chinatown, beginning with Dixon Street.

Staff are consulting with local business owners and organisations including Soul of Chinatown, the Haymarket Chamber of Commerce and Haymarket Institute to discuss ideas for the street upgrade and suggestions for the broader precinct.

Feedback includes support for new seating and lighting and a refurbishment of the Dixon Street Gates.

Longer term upgrades include footpath widening on Sussex Street between Goulburn and Hay Streets, a separated cycleway and wider footpaths on Ultimo Road between Harris and Thomas streets, and wider footpaths and new seating on the east side of Harbour Street.



Celebrating Summer Streets in Potts Point
Photo credit: Adam Hollingworth

INVIGORATING OUR LOCAL HIGH STREETS AND VILLAGES

We closed six village high streets to cars and opened them to people for day-long street parties in January, February and March, transforming them into lively, fun and safe spaces for shopping, dining and gathering.

Our 'Summer Streets' program attracted thousands to the city's high street restaurants, bars and shops as we brought residents and businesses together to reconnect, celebrate and enjoy shared public community space.

And now we've called on the State Government to help us deliver year round programs of similar events, as well as a number of other exciting initiatives, to promote the CBD and attract workers and visitors back into our city and villages.

More than 5,000 people enjoyed the Summer Streets event in Crown Street Surry Hills, with large crowds enjoying similar events held in Darlinghurst Road and Macleay Street Potts Point; Redfern Street; Glebe Point Road; Harris Street Pyrmont and Stanley Street in Darlinghurst. A well attended night-time market was hosted at Green Square Plaza.

We organised musicians and performers, street stalls, and special events, and local businesses were encouraged to hold in-store events to entertain customers and patrons. This included talks, exhibitions, workshops, demonstrations and special promotions, extending trading and outdoor activities onto footpaths and road spaces.

Summer Streets is part of our community recovery plan to help business and communities adapt and thrive as we recover from the pandemic, with similar events planned throughout the year.

The Summer Streets events on Crown Street and Darlinghurst Road were funded by the NSW Government's The Festival of Place with support from the City.



Summer Streets in Redfern, Surry Hills and Darlinghurst
Photo credit: Adam Hollingworth and Katherine Griffiths