

Celebrating our local area

# Woollahra News



Autumn 2024

[woollahra.nsw.gov.au](http://woollahra.nsw.gov.au)

**Lyne Park inclusive playground renewal underway**

**Shoot some hoops**

**Bellevue Park pathway upgrade**

**Apply for a grant**

**School holiday fun at Woollahra Libraries**



Vaocluse resident Rob Hitchens visits our beaches nearly every day to collect litter. Be like Rob and pick up litter when you see it to help keep our harbour clean and beautiful.



## Get a closer look at migrating whales with our new public binoculars

The Vaucluse coastline is one of the best vantage points in Sydney for whale watching, and it's about to get even better with the installation of three sets of free binoculars along the coastal walk.

The binoculars can be used to get a closer look at the migrating whales, as well as our diverse birdlife.

The binoculars are due to be installed for this year's whale season and will be located at Gap Park, Christison Park and Lighthouse Reserve. There will also be signage to provide more information about humpback whales and their migration patterns.



You'll soon be able to get an even better view of passing whales from Gap Park.

Mayor of Woollahra Richard Shields, Deputy Mayor Sarah Swan and artist Sally Ryan unveiled a portrait of Brenda 'Dutchie' Backhouse, Woollahra Council's first female Mayor on International Women's Day.

The portrait is a tribute to an inspiring woman who dedicated her life to public service and our community.







Artist impression: Court Road, Double Bay with current dwellings and an overlay of the proposed changes.

## Have your say on NSW Government planning changes

The NSW Government is proposing to implement extreme increases to building density and height across Woollahra and NSW.

If these changes go ahead they will override all of our local planning controls which exist to preserve the beauty and amenity of our area, ignoring heritage significance and introducing dwellings with height, bulk and scale that far exceed any good strategic planning.

Some of the changes include:

- Increases in height for apartments of up to 8 storeys within 400m of “town centres” (locations with supermarkets) and 6 storeys within 800m
- Local controls of bulk, scale, floor space ratio and setbacks would be disregarded

- No guaranteed protection for heritage significant sites, conservation areas or environmentally sensitive land.

“It’s the biggest assault on our local area I’ve ever seen. Council has lodged a formal submission of opposition and I encourage you to also do what you can to help protect our area now and for future generations,” Woollahra Mayor Richard Shields said.

Our submission can be viewed at [yoursay.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/housing](https://yoursay.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/housing) and you can share your concerns and feedback with the NSW Government by emailing [lowandmidrisehousing@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:lowandmidrisehousing@planning.nsw.gov.au) and [premier@dpc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:premier@dpc.nsw.gov.au)

## Apply for a grant

We’re looking to support programs or projects that work towards a connected, liveable, vibrant and creative community in the Woollahra LGA.

Our next round of grant applications open from 1 April!

This year there are four grant categories:

1. Community and Cultural Grants
2. Placemaking Grants
3. Environmental Grants
4. Business Sector Support.

Small Grants of up to \$3,000, Large Grants up to \$7,500 and Business Sector Support Grants up to \$10,000 are available. Get your application in before 5 May.

Read more: [woollahra.nsw.gov.au/grants](https://woollahra.nsw.gov.au/grants)

In 2023, Goodstart Early Learning in Double Bay received an Environmental Grant to reduce their waste and teach their students about recycling.



## Free guided walk – Keeping our Harbour Clean

Learn how we can all work together to keep our harbour, water and beaches clean.

Tuesday 30 April,  
11am–12.30pm  
Rose Bay beach and foreshores  
[woollahra.nsw.gov.au/events](https://woollahra.nsw.gov.au/events)





Mayor Richard Shields at the new pedestrian plaza on Bay Street, Double Bay.

## Mayor's Message

One of my priorities during my term as Mayor is ensuring our parks, reserves and open spaces become even better locations for residents and visitors to enjoy.

Over the last few months I've been delighted to open the new mini courts at Harbourview Park and Moncur Reserve; the Bay Street upgrade which includes the fabulous new pedestrian plaza; and the new accessible pathway through Trumper Park.

I'm also excited to see the new inclusive Lyne Park playground on the way. It's never been more important to have places where local kids can play outdoors.

We hope you enjoy these improvements and they give you even more reasons to get out and about during Autumn.

**Councillor Richard Shields  
Mayor of Woollahra**

## Bellevue Park pathway upgrade

We recently completed an upgrade to make it easier and safer to use Bellevue Park in Bellevue Hill.

We've added new, wider pathways throughout the park and improved access from Birriga Road and Banksia Road with upgraded pathways and steps.

The highlight is a new circular pathway around the top half of the park, which provides an enjoyable and accessible flat walk to the lookout point. Take a seat and stop to take in the spectacular view which stretches from Sydney Harbour to Manly, and North Head to Bondi.



Families, like Alina's, are loving the new footpaths.



Rose Bay resident Andrew Kirsh recently upgraded to an Electric Vehicle.

## Go electric and pay less for your bills

Rose Bay resident Andrew Kirsh recently installed rooftop solar at home and upgraded to an Electric Vehicle. He says the savings have been "astronomical".

"If you're a Woollahra resident who's thinking about electrifying your house and going solar, the numbers stack up now," Andrew said.

"Same thing with electric cars. I'm lucky if I spend \$10 on charging during the week, and if I can charge at home during the day, I'm spending \$0.

"Once you get over the hurdle of whether it's worth it, you know you're doing the right thing. We're leaving the world in a better place for our kids," Andrew said.

If you're not able to charge an electric vehicle at home, there's a growing number of public EV chargers popping up across our local area – including a number of new chargers installed on streetpoles, through a partnership with Intellihub.

You can view the location of public EV chargers in our local area at:

**[woollahra.nsw.gov.au/EV](http://woollahra.nsw.gov.au/EV)**





Kids will love the flying boat plane feature in the new playground.

## New inclusive playground on the way for Lyne Park

Lyne Park Playground in Rose Bay is one of our most loved play spaces and we're excited to share that work has begun on its upgrade.

The new playground will provide inclusive, imaginative and flexible fun for all ages and abilities.

Thanks to everyone who provided feedback during consultation, which helped shape the design.

We think everyone is going to love the new flying boat plane feature, with climbing, sliding and swing elements.

To ensure the works can be carried out safely, the playground will be closed for approximately six months and we thank you for your patience.

Nearby playgrounds are located at Rose Bay Park, Bellevue Park and Thornton Reserve. Read more: [yoursay.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/lynepark](https://yoursay.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/lynepark)

## Hoop... there it is!



To help meet the growing demand for basketball and netball facilities in our local area, we recently unveiled two new mini courts, with both basketball and netball rings, at Harbourview Park and Moncur Reserve in Woollahra.

We're mindful that noise from basketball courts can be an issue for nearby residents so we've used noise-reducing backboards. At Harbourview Park, we re-located the court so it's further away from nearby residences.

Other courts are located at Christison Park, Vacluse, which has two full sized courts with both



basketball and netball rings; and Lyne Park, Rose Bay which has one full sized basketball court.

Deputy Mayor Sarah Swan and Mayor Richard Shields test out the new hoops with Jonathan and Aiden Suntup.

For more information: [woollahra.nsw.gov.au/parks](https://woollahra.nsw.gov.au/parks)

Woollahra Libraries

## Pets Rock these school holidays



April school holidays are just around the corner and Woollahra Libraries are running fun events for kids and young people.

There's a Pet Rock creation workshop, petting zoo, Code Club and pet themed film screenings.



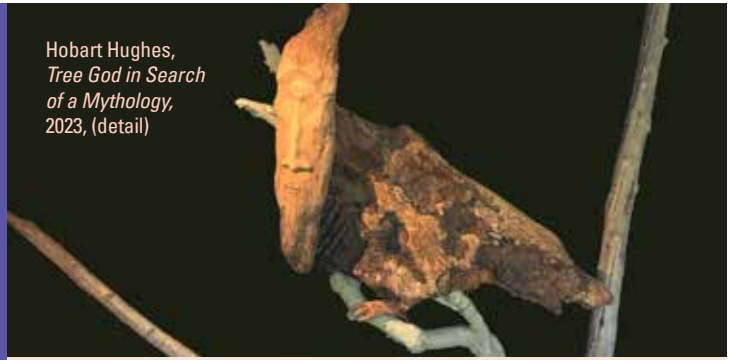
For teenagers, there's Virtual Reality, zine making and friendship bracelet making workshops.



To find out more and reserve your spot visit: [woollahra.nsw.gov.au/schoolholidays](http://woollahra.nsw.gov.au/schoolholidays)



Hobart Hughes, *Tree God in Search of a Mythology*, 2023, (detail)



## Have you visited Woollahra Gallery at Redleaf recently?

There's eight different exhibitions to explore between now and May, covering a diverse range of mediums.

Admission is free, open Wednesday-Sunday.

To see what's on, visit: [woollahragallery.com.au](http://woollahragallery.com.au)



**Woollahra Gallery**  
at Redleaf



## Save the date

### 2024 NSW Local Government Elections

**Saturday  
14 September 2024**

**Voting is compulsory**

[elections.nsw.gov.au/lge24](http://elections.nsw.gov.au/lge24)  
1300 135 736



WOOLLAHRA LOCAL HISTORY  
DIGITAL ARCHIVE P#001422

Amalgamation protest meeting at Wintergarden Theatre, Rose Bay, 1983. Site was commemorated with a plaque in 2018.

Do you know of a significant local person, place or event which has helped shape the history of our local area? Tell us about it via a nomination for the Woollahra Council Plaque Scheme.

[woollahra.nsw.gov.au/library/woollahra-plaque-scheme](http://woollahra.nsw.gov.au/library/woollahra-plaque-scheme)

### Acknowledgement of Country

Woollahra Council acknowledges that we are on the land of the Gadigal and Birrabirragal people, the Traditional Custodians of the land. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

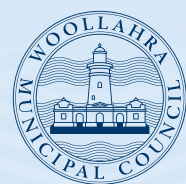
### Get in touch

Woollahra News is a Woollahra Council publication. Send your feedback or suggestions for stories to:

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