

Woollahra News



Winter 2025

woollahra.nsw.gov.au

**Plant a native seedling
with us on National Tree Day**

NAIDOC Week events

**New public art
in Double Bay**

**NSW Government
planning changes**



Mayor of Woollahra Sarah Swan
planting a seedling at Christison Park
with Archer.



**THE NEXT
GENERATION:
STRENGTH,
VISION &
LEGACY**
6-13 JULY 2025

NAIDOC Week celebrations

Join us during NAIDOC Week as we celebrate the oldest continuous culture on earth with a variety of free events.

Find out more and book your spot:
woollahra.nsw.gov.au/NAIDOC



Kyra Kum-Sing *My sovereign Malera Bandjalan and Mitakoodi body* (2014). Acrylic on archival cotton paper. 51 x 40 cm.



Explore our new garden
Thursday 10 July, 4pm–6pm
Woollahra Library at Double Bay
All ages

Enjoy afternoon tea in the library's new ecological garden, discover native plants and their cultural significance and learn how you can build habitat and connect with Country by growing Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub at home. Free event, bookings essential.



Boomalli takeover
Woollahra Gallery at Redleaf
2 July–24 August
(during gallery opening hours, Wed–Sun)

This July, Woollahra Gallery at Redleaf proudly presents works by senior and emerging Boomalli artists in an exhibition that honours over three decades of trailblazing First Nations creativity.

Boomalli artist talk
Saturday 12 July, 12pm–2pm
Woollahra Gallery at Redleaf

As part of their landmark exhibition at Woollahra Gallery at Redleaf, join us for a special Artist Talk with participating artists sharing insights into their practice, the stories behind their works and the legacy of Boomalli.



NAIDOC on the green
Saturday 12 July, 2pm–5pm
Redleaf terrace,
536 New South Head Road,
Double Bay

Join us for a family-friendly afternoon of song and dance on the Redleaf terrace, featuring a number of cultural acts including a traditional Yidiaki and Clapsticks performance by Gumaroy, as well as the Green Hand Band, a reggae fusion group from Redfern. Everyone is welcome. Free event, bookings essential. Light refreshments provided.



Mayor's Message

Over the last few months, our Councillors have been hosting community Ward meetings to hear feedback on a range of issues.

One of the biggest and most common concerns raised by the community, which we share, is the NSW Government's Low and Mid-Rise Housing Policy, which will dramatically change the character of our local area.

It is important to recognise that all local governments have a responsibility to deliver housing, which Woollahra, as one of the highest density Local Government Areas in NSW, has done year on year. However, through these reforms, the NSW Labor government has made one the wealthiest areas in the country even wealthier – overnight. This extraordinary capital gain, gifted by the Premier and Minister Scully, has gone straight into the pockets of existing landowners – this does not assist those trying to enter the housing market, especially young people. The creation of more luxury apartments will not address the housing affordability crisis.

There is a major distinction, which is often conflated, between housing, which is affordable to buy, as compared to affordable housing as defined by the legislation. These reforms will not make it easier or cheaper to buy into the market. These reforms will enable developers to establish for-profit

housing providers to lease a small percentage of units for a fixed period for the purpose of affordable housing, after which time, the tenants will be required to vacate so the developers can on-sell those units, with the benefit of the capital growth.

I am not critical of developers taking advantage of the system gifted to them by the Premier and the Minister. It is their right to make a profit. I am critical, however, of the one-size-fits-all approach which entirely ignores the importance of community consultation, our local planning controls, the need to protect our heritage, flooding concerns, traffic issues and lack of public infrastructure.

You can read more about the changes on our website. I encourage you to share your concerns with the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces via the QR code below.

On a positive note, we have lots of fun events coming up during NAIDOC Week and the July school holidays, head to our website to book your spot:

woollahra.nsw.gov.au/events

Councillor Sarah Swan
Mayor of Woollahra



Scan for more information

CONCEPT IMAGES: How Court Road, Double Bay could look under the reforms (top) and the bulk and scale of mid-rise development that could be constructed around the Rose Bay Centre and foreshore (bottom)





New public art in Double Bay

Our upgrade of Bay Street, which included a new pedestrian plaza with landscaping and seating, is now complete with the addition of a stunning new public artwork, our first commission by a First Nations artist.

Wadhangarii (meaning coastal banksia) by Gamilaroi artist Penny Evans is a 3.7m tall coastal banksia sculpture, crafted from bronze, set on a sandstone pillar and commissioned by the Woollahra Public Art Panel.

"My *Wadhangarii* sculpture is about remembrance and is also a sentinel, marker and signpost for cultural values inherent in Country," Penny Evans explains.

"The two arms connect harbour, coastal and neighbouring ecologies," she said.

Mayor of Woollahra Sarah Swan and artist Penny Evans, unveiled the artwork at a special event recently.

"The artwork's prominent position ensures it will be enjoyed by both residents and visitors, and will help to deepen connection to Woollahra's significant indigenous history," Mayor Swan said.

Woollahra Council acknowledges that we are on the land of the Gadigal and Birrabirragal people,



Artist Penny Evans with her sculpture *Wadhangarii*

the Traditional Custodians of the land. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

The Bay Street pedestrian upgrade, including this artwork, was funded by a grant from the NSW Government's Public Space Legacy Program.

Read more: woollahra.nsw.gov.au/publicart

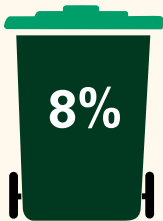


How much food waste are we diverting from landfill through our green bins?

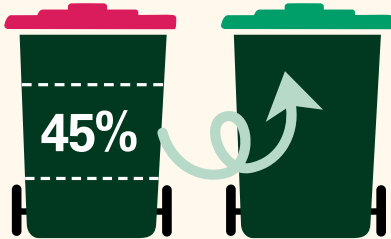
Since 2008, our community has been diverting food waste from landfill via our Kitchen to Compost program.

So how well are Woollahra residents using this system?

Food scraps make up approx. 8% of the contents of our green bins.



Nearly half of the contents of our red-lid bins is food scraps (45%) – which should go in the green-lid bin instead.



You can pick up a free kitchen caddy and roll of compostable liners from our Customer Service Centre.

For more information on what can go in your green-lid bin visit: woollahra.nsw.gov.au/kitchentocompost





Street sweepers Georgie, Jayden and Daniel

Keeping our streets clean and beautiful

Geordie from our street cleaning team says he loves his job because he gets to make a real difference in the community.

Our team of street cleaners are out in the local area every day, keeping roads, gutters and footpaths clean and free of debris. Their work plays a vital role in maintaining our drains and gutters to keep them functioning well during wet weather, and preventing pollutants from entering our waterways and harbour.

We clean streets and footpaths in business centres daily, and residential streets are swept on a regular cycle every few weeks. The team often work in the early hours, so you might not see them in action.

“We’re lucky to have so many beautiful, big trees in our area, but they drop a lot of leaves which can block drains if we don’t keep on top of it,” Georgie said.

“We have three large sweeping machines, and also a dedicated street sweeping team who use manual brooms and blowers to push out debris from the kerb, often in between parked cars,”

“There’s a real sense of pride amongst our team in keeping our streets and public spaces clean and beautiful — it’s a great feeling knowing our work helps make this such a special place to live.”

“You can help by keeping gutters clear of garden waste (put it in your green bin instead), and it’s also a huge help if you pick up litter when you see it,” team leader Georgie said.

To report an issue or request a street sweeping service, use the Woollahra Council App or call us on 9391 7000.



Join us on National Tree Day

**Sunday 27 July
9.30am–11.30am
Christison Park, Vaucluse**

Come along and help us plant more than 2000 seedlings!

Over the last four years we have planted more than 10,000 seedlings at Christison Park and many of them are now well established and part of our growing tree canopy.

All plants, gloves and tools are supplied. After your planting, stay for a snack and our interactive native wildlife program.

Let us know if you can make it at: treeday.planetark.org/find-a-site

Download the Woollahra Council App



New affordable housing unit for women

We've proudly partnered with the Women's Housing Company (WHC) to provide an affordable housing unit for low income working women in Rose Bay.

The one-bedroom unit will be rented at a discounted rate to a single woman over 55, or a woman living with a disability working at least 15 hours a week. It's our first entry into the provision of affordable housing in the LGA, and will be managed by WHC, who are also our

partner in providing 10 local properties for women and families escaping family violence.

"Housing in our LGA is often beyond the reach of low to moderate-income households, and our collaboration on the provision of affordable housing will ensure more women are able to stay close to their support networks and live and work in our area," Mayor Sarah Swan said.



Mayor Sarah Swan and Women's Housing Company CEO Nada Nasser

Find out more: [womenshousingcompany.org.au](https://www.womenshousingcompany.org.au)

Meet your Cooper Ward Councillors



Torsten
Councillor



Jeanette Mitchell
Councillor



Sarah Swan
Mayor

People living or working in the Cooper Ward are invited to meet with their Ward Councillors.

Tuesday 22 July 6pm–7.30pm
Woollahra Council Chambers
536 New South Head Rd, Double Bay

This event provides an ideal opportunity to hear from your Councillors and to share your ideas, concerns and questions.

To find out more and to RSVP, scan the QR or visit yoursay.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/ward-councillors



Unsure which Ward you live in? Visit woollahra.nsw.gov.au/ward

Woollahra Libraries

Winter school holiday fun

7–18 July 2025



Kids are invited to join our garden-themed events at our libraries these school holidays. There's a Seed Art workshop, Flower Power Craft, movie screenings and more.

Teens will love our Anime, Manga and street art workshops, robotics course and the gaming lounge.

Find out more and book your spot: woollahra.nsw.gov.au/schoolholidays



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: news@woollahra.nsw.gov.au

Subscribe to our free monthly e-news woollahra.nsw.gov.au/enews

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