

Bayside News



MARCH 2023



Photo by Shannon Elise Photography

**ANZAC Day | Community Spotlight | Bayside at Work
Caring for the Environment | What's On**

Message from the Mayor Dr Christina Curry



There has been so much happening across our beautiful Bayside area over the last few months. I do hope that you've been able to participate in some of our wonderful events.

Council will continue to focus on improving all aspects of our presentation right across our Local Government Area during 2023 and at the same time we'll work hard to improve the experience across every interaction you have with Council.

My fellow Councillors and I are committed to making the Bayside LGA the best place to live in Sydney. We are just so proud of our amazing area with its natural beauty, modern facilities, cultural diversity and of course our highly valued people.

We're excited for the future upgrade of the Botany Aquatic Centre. Community consultation will commence soon with an anticipated project start in May 2024.

We recently held our own International Women's Day event, and we are very proud of our progress with Meredith Wallace as our General Manager and 7 of your 15 Councillors are women.

We all have a role to play in addressing gender inequality. Some of the ways Council provides support include our strong stance against domestic violence, our early learning centres and our Bayside Women's Shelter.

Council is again supporting our local RSL Sub-Branches to commemorate ANZAC Day.

It is always a very special day where we commemorate the lives of Australians and New Zealanders who served and died in all wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations.

We also pay tribute and express our gratitude to all who continue to serve.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to wish Mr George Stephens a very happy 100th birthday! I met with Mr Stephens recently and he encapsulates the spirit of our ANZACs.

I encourage everyone to attend one of our local ANZAC Day Services.

Thank you to everyone in our community who volunteers their time to support and provide opportunities for others.

As always, please reach out to me or my fellow Councillors if we can assist you with any Council matter.

Dr Christina Curry
Mayor



SERVICES

PRE-ANZAC DAY MARCH SUNDAY 23 APRIL 2023

Mascot RSL Sub-Branch & Bayside Council

2:15pm: March from Mascot Library to Memorial Park.

2:40pm: Wreath Laying Service, Cenotaph Ceremony, Mascot Memorial Park, Coward Street, Mascot. Contact: 1300 581 299.

ANZAC DAY DAWN SERVICES TUESDAY 25 APRIL 2023

Botany RSL Sub-Branch & Bayside Council

6am: Memorial and Wreath Laying Service, Cenotaph Ceremony at Booralee Park, corner Bay and Daniel Streets, Botany. Contact: 1300 581 299.

Arncliffe RSL Sub-Branch

6am: Memorial and Wreath Laying Service, Cenotaph Arncliffe Park, 71B Wollongong Road, Arncliffe. Contact: 9567 3966.

Bexley RSL Sub-Branch

6am: Memorial and Wreath Laying Service at the RSL Club, 24 Stoney Creek Road, Bexley. Contact: 9502 1966.

Brighton Le Sands RSL Sub-Branch

6am: Memorial and Wreath Laying Service at the Memorial next to the RSL Club, 251 Bay Street, Brighton Le Sands. Contact: 9567 5157.

Earlwood / Bardwell Park / Marrickville RSL Sub-Branch

6am: Dawn and Wreath Laying Service at the RSL, 18 Hartill-Law Avenue, Bardwell Park. Contact: 9335 9999.

Kingsgrove RSL Sub-Branch

6:30am: Assemble at the corner between Shaw Street and Kingsgrove Road.

7am: March to Kingsgrove Memorial Park.

7:15am: Service. Contact: 9336 1500.

Ramsgate Rockdale RSL Sub-Branch

6:30am: Assemble at the Sans Souci Literary Institute corner Campbell Street and Ramsgate Road, Ramsgate.

7am: March to the Ramsgate RSL Club for Memorial and Wreath Laying Service at 7:30am. Contact: 9504 8000.

Bayside WWII veteran turns 100



George Stephens celebrated his 100th Birthday recently.

It's eight decades since George went off to war as a young 20-year-old to defend his country, enlisting for WWII as a young man in April 1943.

"I enlisted with about a dozen friends at an army barracks in Kogarah. Not all of us made it back. I spent two and a half years in New Guinea and it was enough. I saw many things that I don't want to see again," George said.

George is well known to many. He was born in Kogarah and started his working career at Dunkley's Hat Mills (now Akubra) at Zetland.

After returning from the war he settled in Rockdale with his wife Betty (now deceased) and raised two sons Malcolm and Gary. His keen interest in gardening was put to work, helping him progress to Parks Foreman at Concord Council and greenkeeper at Moorefield Bowling Club. In 1964, he joined Rockdale Municipal Council and continued to work there for the next 24 years until his retirement in 1988.

George also served on the Board of the Rockdale RSL as one of the Directors. He is currently a member of the Ramsgate RSL and admits to having seen a lot of changes over the years.

ANZAC Day has also changed for George.

"I haven't been to the march in the city for the last 3 years, even though I have been invited and offered a car and everything," said George.

"I used to go to the Rockdale RSL ANZAC service in the morning, although Ramsgate also has a big service now," said George.

Back in time

If you've tuned in to the ABC TV program, *Back In Time For The Corner Shop* (available on iview), you might have recognised an unassuming former shop in Botany.

An episode featuring the Botany War Memorial at Booralee Park was filmed on ANZAC Day 2022. The producers wanted the name of a local lad, who might have bought sweets at this corner shop, who fought at Gallipoli and whose name was engraved on the war memorial.

Council's Local History Librarians did a substantial amount of research for the show and were able to put them in touch with Alfred Benham's relatives. Alfred Benham grew up in Botany and died of wounds received at Gallipoli on 15 August 1915. He is commemorated on the Botany War Memorial.

An ornately decorated *Certificate of Thanks*, which he received from the Botany Municipal Council in 1919, will be display at Mascot Library in time for ANZAC Day.

Coincidentally, another Bayside Librarian lived in the back of this corner shop from 2000-2018 running the shop with her husband.



RSL Sub-Branch

The Returned Services League of Australia (RSL Australia) was formed in 1916 in response to the lack of a unified approach to the organisation of repatriation facilities and medical services for those returning from the Great War.

Local Sub-Branches were formed at different times in the years after World War I to represent and provide for the needs of local servicemen and women. The local Club Buildings and Memorial Halls were typically built some years after the formation of the local Sub-Branches, usually by the fund-raising efforts of local members.

RSL Clubs are usually large public licensed club buildings in New South Wales and shouldn't be confused with Sub-Branches.

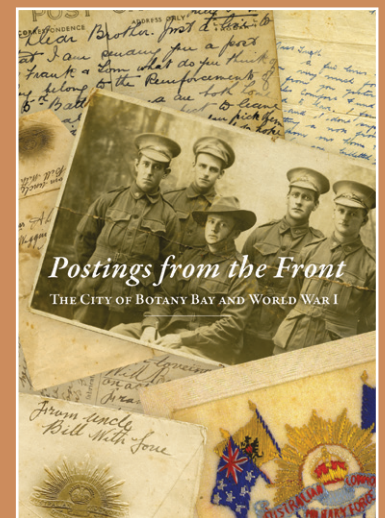
Licensed clubs were initially formed to help Sub-Branches provide services to their members including protecting and promoting of the ideals of our ANZAC spirit and heritage.

RSL NSW is a member-based charity comprising over 320 Sub-Branches providing support to veterans and their families.

Each evening at 6pm the *Ode of Remembrance* is read, followed by one minute's silence to honour those who died serving their country.

Postings from the Front

Posting from the Front examines the effect of the war on the local communities of Botany and Mascot and details the experiences of a number of local men - and women - during the Great War.



The book is available for sale (\$30) or loan from Eastgardens, Mascot and Rockdale libraries.

International Women's Day

Bayside Council celebrated International Women's Day with an informative networking evening at the Bonnie Doon Golf Club on Friday 10 March.

Community members and staff were invited to celebrate the incredible achievements of women while having important conversations about equity, diversity and inclusion.

A special thank you to all our exceptional speakers:

- ▶ Aunty Barb, Welcome to Country
- ▶ Sally Rewell, Sydney Water
- ▶ Nolene Timbery, La Perouse Land Council
- ▶ Jacqueline Milledge, Magistrate and our MC, Rachael Smith.



Vinnies Van



Mayor Dr Christina Curry and Councilors joined volunteers from the Vinnies Van in Eastlakes to help with the BBQ and food service for locals in need.

The Vinnies Van is a community outreach program which provides meals and help for those doing it tough.

For more information please visit www.vinnies.org.au

Bay Street Closures Brighton Le Sands

The first round of trial closures of Bay Street, is now complete. The streets were taken over with people enjoying the outdoor dining provided by Bay Street Traders, kids riding their bikes, chalk art on the roadway, and buskers entertaining crowds.

A big thank you to all the local businesses for your participation!

Working with Transport for NSW, Council is now evaluating the impact of the closure on community access, hooning, trading, and the impact of traffic on surrounding areas will be taken on board.

The final round of 3 trial closures is scheduled for May/June this year.



2023 Bayside Seniors Festival

As part of our Bayside Seniors Festival, Council held the first ever Young @ Heart Expo in the Rockdale Town Hall. It was a great success and showcased our local seniors groups and the great activities and programs they offer.



Robert Cooley and the Gamay Rangers also joined us on the shores of Botany Bay (Gamay) to talk about how they are working to sustain and protect the Bay. Mr Cooley also led a walk along the foreshore and told us about some of the Indigenous traditions associated with this area of our LGA.



Our closing Seniors event was held at Kyeemagh. The Kamay Koori Kook-Up gave our seniors an opportunity to learn more about our First Nation people's culture and history whilst also savouring a traditional meal cooked by the team from the Goanna Hut.

Bayside Council Citizens of the Year

Four inspiring residents have been named as recipients of the 2023 Citizen of the Year awards. Thank you to the independent panel of judges representing various Bayside volunteer groups who made the difficult selections from this year's outstanding nominees.

Thank you also to Rachael Smith our outgoing 2022 Citizen of the Year for her outstanding contribution and ongoing work in our community. **Congratulations to our winners!**



Joan Bowering
Citizen of the Year

Joan Bowering has been recognised and awarded for her 40 years spent caring for foster children who need specialist support.



Elias Hanoun
Young Citizen of the Year

Elias Hanoun has been recognised and awarded for his work as a volunteer with the SES and mentor to the Kingsford Smith Scout Group.



Lachlan Chappell
Sportsperson of the Year

Lachlan Chappell has been recognised and awarded Bayside Sportsperson of the Year for his outstanding achievements in athletics and Oztag.



Ella Clayton
Sportsperson of the Year

Ella Clayton has been recognised and awarded for her outstanding achievements in swimming, tennis and athletics.

Mascot Oval to be upgraded

Plans are underway to upgrade Mascot Oval with work now commencing on preliminary designs, community consultation and development approvals.

The proposed upgrade will include new and larger amenities, accessible changing rooms and toilets, upgraded grandstands, a walking track, improved safety and improved entry and exits.



Funding boost for our footpaths

As part of the Get NSW Active program run by Transport for New South Wales, Council was awarded a \$2.4m grant which will be used to fund:

- ▶ 9 new footpaths;
- ▶ 12 footpath widening projects; and
- ▶ 2 shared cycleway/footpath projects.

Construction is already underway in the following suburbs: Kingsgrove, Monterey, Pagewood, Ramsgate Beach, Sans Souci and Turrella.

Grants for road repairs

In more good news, Bayside Council has secured a \$4 million grant under the NSW Government's Regional and Local Roads Repair Program (RLRRP).

This funding will go towards repairing roads within Bayside that have been heavily impacted by potholes as a result of the extreme weather last year. This funding is in addition to the approximately \$4m Council has already allocated to asphalt road resurfacing and rehabilitation in its current budget.

Barton Park upgrade grant

Council successfully applied for a further \$10 million in funding from the NSW Government's Accelerated Infrastructure Fund that will go towards the major Barton Park upgrade that is currently underway.

This brings total grant funding for the project to \$18 million. The Barton Park project is estimated to cost \$47.8 million.

The upgrade is set to deliver a community recreation precinct including 3 full size grass

soccer fields, 4 tennis courts, 2 multipurpose courts, a cycleway and connecting walkways suitable for walking circuits and 4 changing rooms with showers

and toilets. This funding grant also means Council will be able to fund several smaller projects across the LGA much sooner than anticipated.



Memorial tree program

Residents will soon be able to have a tree planted in memory of a loved one.

Our draft Memorial Policy seeks to give residents another option to create a living memorial while further extending the green canopy of Bayside.

This policy will also help guide future community requests for permanent memorials. There will also be an option for members of the public who might prefer to donate a park or garden seat to commemorate the passing of a family member.

An updated draft policy will be presented at a Council Meeting before it goes on public exhibition.



See
something
Say
something
Report it



Bayside going greener

Adding to our efforts to increase our tree canopy, create more shade and beautify our streets, we will be planting a further 400 trees and be running a Woody Meadow pilot program.

This great boost to our environment will be funded via a Greening Our City grant of \$310,000 in addition to a Council contribution of \$100,000. The program will also allow residents to 'adopt a tree' that can be planted in front of their home.

Woody Meadows increase local biodiversity, beautify streetscapes, and reduce the need for maintenance.

They are created in areas where trees cannot be planted as an alternative to traditional street planting.

Council will be planting three plots of Woody Meadows; two in Astrolabe Park and one at the end of Page Street, Pagewood.

They will use a variety of flowering native plants that are hard pruned to promote flowering and increase density. Planting is expected to commence in Autumn 2024 and be completed in 2025.

The Greening Our City grants are proudly funded by the NSW Government in association with Local Government NSW.

Clean Up Australia Day

Bayside Council's ongoing support of Clean Up Australia Day is having a profound effect on the local environment.

This year volunteers at 13 sites across Bayside picked up about 100 bags of litter weighing about 500kg on Clean Up Australia Day.

Site organisers also reported finding less bottles and cans, as well as a noticeable reduction in large items.

Kayakers and walkers also picked up 100kg of rubbish from Scarborough Park and Tonbridge Creek waterways for the Georges Riverkeeper Paddle Against Plastic event.



What's On

WED 5 APR

Stannumville: suburb in the sand

History Talk by Leonie Bell.

2:00pm – 3:30pm
Mascot Library

MON 10 APR – FRI 21 APR

Holiday Program and Youth Week

For young people 12+.

Bookings at:
baysideyouthservices.
eventbrite.com

Various time & locations

SAT 15 APR

Ramadan at Bayside

Food markets.

7:00pm – 11:30pm
Walz Street, Rockdale

TUE 25 APR

ANZAC Day

Dawn services. See page 2 for detailed information.

Various time & locations

FRI 28 APR

Bayside's Youth Forum

Celebrating Youth Week.

10:00am – 12:30pm
Botany Town Hall

APRIL / MAY

Seniors High Teas

Council will host several high teas for seniors.

Dates and registration will be available shortly at:
www.bayside.nsw.gov.au

MAY

Mother's Day Tree Planting

A tree planting day to honour Bayside mums. Register at:
www.bayside.nsw.gov.au

SAT 27 MAY – SAT 3 JUN

Reconciliation Week

'Be a Voice for Generations'

TUESDAYS

Chess Club for Adults

3:00pm – 5:00pm
Mascot Library

WEDNESDAYS

Homework Helpers

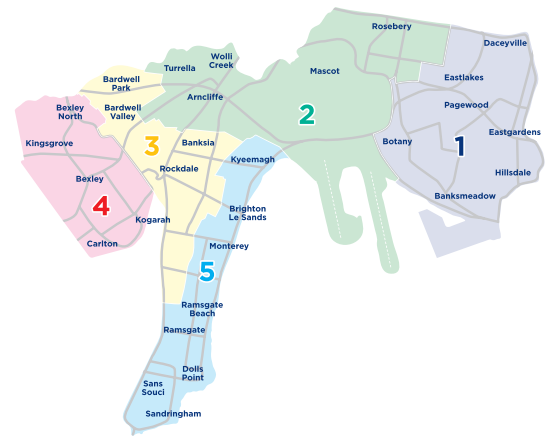
3:30pm – 4:30pm
Arncliffe Library

SATURDAYS

Justice of the Peace

10:00am – 12:00pm
Rockdale Library

Your Councillors



WARD 1



Dr Christina Curry
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Scott Morrissey
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Jennifer Muscat
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WARD 2



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Paul Sedrak
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Opportunities to have your say:

- ▶ Disability Inclusion Action Plan Working Group
- ▶ Kingsgrove Avenue Reserve Amenities

Visit: <https://haveyoursay.bayside.nsw.gov.au>

Bayside Customer Service Centres

Westfield Eastgardens, 152 Bunnerong Road
Rockdale Library, 444-446 Princes Highway
Monday to Friday 8:30am – 4:30pm

Phone **1300 581 299** | **02 9562 1666**



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