



# Report on Progress

July - December 2016

DELIVERY PLAN 2013-17  
OPERATING PLAN 2016-17



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*Photos front cover, clockwise from top.*  
*Over 30,000 people attended Concord Carnival, enjoying a day out with family and friends.*  
*New building, The Connection, Rhodes.*  
*Ruby the robot will be part of the program at the Learning Space at The Connection, Rhodes.*  
*This page and next, left to right.*  
*A Korean drummer at the Rhodes Moon Festival, ladies from the knitters group at the Five Dock Library, Abbotsford Public School students studying the Bar-tailed Godwit which migrates from the Northern Hemisphere to the mudflats of Parramatta River each year, Cabarita Swimming Pool, children enjoying activities at Concord Carnival.*





## Report on Progress

This Report on Progress provides an update on the Council's implementation of the 2013-17 Delivery Plan and 2016-17 Operating Plan from 1 July 2016 until 31 December 2016.

The Report also takes the opportunity to celebrate the 16 years of the City of Canada Bay.

# Councillors



Tony Fasanella  
Deputy Mayor  
Councillor from 2004



Tanveer Ahmed  
Councillor from 2012



Mirjana Cestar  
Councillor from 2008



Neil Kenzler  
Councillor from 2000



Michael Megna  
Councillor from 2004



Marian Parnaby  
Councillor from 2004



Pauline Tyrrell  
Councillor 2000-2004  
Councillor from 2008

*Main photo.*

*A view over Massey Park Golf Course,  
across Parramatta River, towards  
Sydney City.*



Helen McCaffrey  
Mayor June 2016 -  
Councillor from 2004

## Mayor's message

**I am pleased to present this Report on Progress on the first six months of the 2016-17 Operating Plan and to reflect on the achievements of the Council over the past 16 years since it was proclaimed on 1 December 2000.**

As of the 31 December 2016, the proposed merger with Burwood and Strathfield Councils was unresolved. I would like to assure you that my fellow Councillors and I will continue to represent the community, respond to the challenges of the future, and ensure the organisation can continue to deliver high quality infrastructure and services as we have done in the last 16 years.

Since the merger of Concord and Drummoyne Councils in 2000, the City has responded positively to the challenge of rapidly increasing population and to the important needs of the whole community. Just some of the achievements throughout the 16 years include:

- We have welcomed over 25,000 new people to live in our City
- The western part of Rhodes has changed from a predominantly industrial area into a quality, high density, residential area with a shopping centre, quality open space and playgrounds, a new community precinct (The Connection, Rhodes) and easy access to the Parramatta River foreshore

- Victoria Avenue School and Children's Centre Precinct was developed in partnership with the Department of Education and Sydney Local Area Health
- The continual upgrade and improvement over many years, with the assistance of the Roads and Maritime Services, of the multi-million dollar shared pathway, the Bay Run, which included the building of the Iron Cove Creek Bridge in 2015
- The building of the Five Dock (2004) and Concord (2007) Libraries
- The major upgrade of the Drummoyne Oval (2010-2013), now attracting first class, televised, sporting events
- The award winning Livvi's Place café and playground which provides a range of opportunities for people with disabilities to enjoy outdoor recreation
- The revitalisation of our town centres to ensure active and vibrant streets for commercial and public enjoyment.

It's been a very rewarding 16 years and I look to the future knowing we have a great place to live and work.

Helen McCaffrey  
Mayor

# A 16 Year Snapshot

## THOUSANDS OF NEW RESIDENTS AND CITIZENS WELCOMED

Since 2000, over 25,000 people have moved into the City of Canada Bay. This has made it one of the fastest growing local government areas in Australia.

During this time there has been an increase in people speaking languages other than English at home, and an increase in the percentage of the population having United Kingdom, Chinese, Korean and Indian cultural backgrounds.

## CULTURAL HERITAGE ACKNOWLEDGED AND CELEBRATED

An extensive program of events and festivals are now held across the City with Ferragosto Festival and Concord Carnival attracting tens of thousands of people each year.

These Council-organised events, along with many community organised events, have grown out of the desire of the community to celebrate the rich cultural heritage and diversity that the City enjoys.

Public art programs that engage the community in their development, and which celebrate heritage, have also been a feature of the program.

## ACTIVE AND ACCESSIBLE PUBLIC PLACES AND SPACES

Council uses a place-based approach to develop and revitalise major public spaces and places. This means working and consulting with businesses and the community to plan for and implement upgrades and improvements to town centres, as well as to develop and coordinate quality events that ensure town centres are active and friendly.

Cabarita Park, Chiswick, Concord and Concord West, Drummoyne, Five Dock, North Strathfield, Rhodes and Wareemba have all benefitted from this extensive program.

Ferragosto Festival 1997-2016



Growing cultural diversity 2000-2016



North Strathfield 2013



Livvi's Place 2009

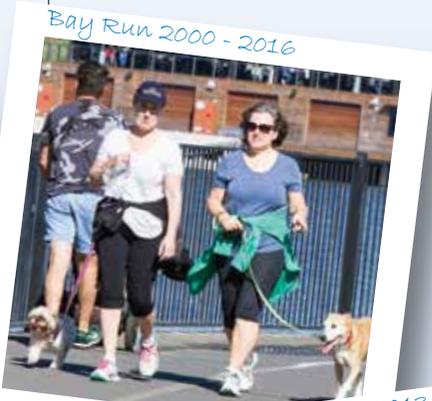


Public Art - Brays Bay 2006



## A CITY LINKED FOR PEDESTRIANS AND CYCLISTS

Council has worked hard to link the City with shared pathways for pedestrians and cyclists. This has resulted in the continual upgrade of the Bay Run around Iron Cove, pathways from Concord to Edwards Park, the Millennium Walkway, the Kokoda Memorial Walkway, and links to neighbouring Council areas. Each week thousands of people of all ages and ability enjoy these shared pathways, which provide for recreation as well as ways of getting from one area of the City to another.



Bay Run 2000 - 2016

Drummoyne Oval Lights 2013



## RECREATIONAL AND SPORTING FACILITIES BUILT OR UPGRADED

Over the 16 years, the Council planned for and redeveloped many recreational and sporting facilities across the City.

Five Dock Library was built in 2004 and Concord Library in 2007.

The Drummoyne Oval was upgraded with the building of the Greg Davis grandstand and lighting that enables first class sporting events to be held and televised.

In more recent times, Cintra netball courts have been upgraded and the hockey field was moved to St Lukes, providing a new facility.

Many parks and playgrounds have been upgraded or built, with playground equipment now more accessible and usable for children and families.

Libraries - Five Dock 2004 - Concord 2007



## REBUILT AND REVITALISED SUBURBS FOR NEW COMMUNITIES

Rhodes West, Breakfast Point and Mortlake have all been redeveloped or are being revitalised from predominantly industrial areas, into suburbs that now accommodate thousands of residents in medium to high density housing.

To achieve quality residential areas Council has worked closely with other government agencies to plan not only for new housing, but for transport, roads, active and passive open space, schools, community services and facilities, and commercial centres to cater for the new communities.

Breakfast Point 2012



## PARTNERSHIPS TO ACHIEVE BENEFITS FOR A GROWING POPULATION

Council has worked with many partners to ensure quality planning, infrastructure and services for the growing population. This has seen involvement in:

- Planning for major developments such as WestConnex, Parramatta Road Corridor Urban Transformation, and the redevelopment of the Rhodes Peninsula
- Building Victoria Avenue school and children's centre to cater for population growth
- Major upgrades to the Bay Run including the Iron Cove Creek Bridge
- Improvements to the foreshore of the Parramatta River and the quality of its water.

Victoria Avenue Precinct 2015



## FOCUS ON A HEALTHY AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY

A major commitment was made to ensure that Canada Bay became a sustainable City – one that uses energy wisely as well as considers the impacts on the environment in terms of waste and recycling.

All of Council's facilities have been fitted with energy efficient technologies resulting in the reduction of greenhouse gas.

Over 188 megalitres of stormwater are being recycled onto open space, innovative white road pavement is being used in Concord West to reduce road heat by up to 16 degrees and Council coordinates an extensive range of educational workshops relating to sustainability practices. Council has won multiple awards for its sustainability practices.

Sustainability Award 2016



# A Smart City

Since 2000, the Council has invested significantly in becoming a Smart City with the use of innovative technology and sustainable programs. This has been driven by the need to enable community members to have better access to Council services and information; and to enable Council to become more efficient so resources can go further, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to reduce our impact on the environment by using less and recycling more.

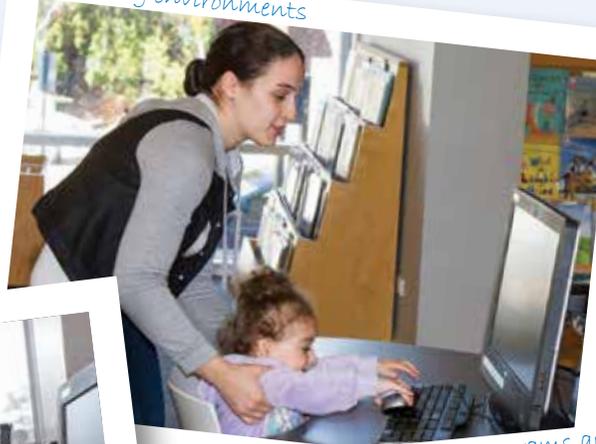
At the same time as the Council has been implementing Smart approaches and technologies, the Council has shared its knowledge and has been willing to partner with businesses and the community to bring about lasting changes for a more sustainable future.

Some of the Smart initiatives are listed here.

## SMART LIBRARIES AND LEARNING

- 24 hour access to: online library collections, e-books, digital magazines, MP3s, streamed music and films, reference libraries and family history
- Digital local studies material including documents, oral histories, photographs, short videos and community stories
- Free WiFi to support personal device use at libraries
- Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) Technology for the return and checkout of books
- Smart Membership Cards so members can pay for items online
- Online learning with a suite of self-paced video tutorials
- The Learning Space at The Connection, Rhodes, is focusing on digital learning programs and resources, as well as providing digital exhibition spaces.

Learning environments



Public access to Internet and WiFi



Digital learning programs and printing



Robotic interaction



## SMART PLACE INFRASTRUCTURE

- Electricity costs and greenhouse gas emissions reduced with the introduction of solar powered LED lighting in parks and neighbourhoods, the introduction of photovoltaic cells in street lights, variable lighting levels to control brightness on all sports fields and the transition to low energy LED lights
- Retrofitting lighting, heating and air-conditioning in existing buildings to lower energy use
- Introducing parking sensors in new community precincts, such as Rhodes, which connect to an app so parking availability can be easily identified
- Electric car charging station in Rhodes
- White bitumen, using recycled printer cartridges to reduce ambient temperatures in Concord West.

Communicating with customers



## SMART COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION

- A range of e-services for making online payments, applications, property searches, appointments and booking venues
- Minute Manager electronic program has been introduced to support real time recording of the decisions of Council, agendas and minutes
- A cloud-based roster system that can be used with tablet, smart phone and SMS to notify and confirm casual staff availability at the Five Dock Leisure Centre
- Communicating Council business via social media on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram
- The use of e-surveys for feedback and input into consultations.

Multi-functional contact centre



Stormwater harvesting to recycle



## SMART COUNCIL SERVICES

- Online services for Council's Children's Centres clients allow for registrations, payments, virtual tours of centres and daily diaries for parents of a child's learning development
- Digital health records for Five Dock Leisure Centre patrons to monitor fitness progress
- Two apps are being piloted for paying for metered parking
- Rangers now have wearable technology, smartphone and PDA technology to instantly record infringements
- Audio apps have been developed to lead drivers and walkers along trails. For example for the Convict Trail along the Great North Road and walks around the Bay Run, Yaralla, Abbotsford and Cabarita Parks
- An app is now available for residents to report dumped rubbish.

Smart checkout and return of books

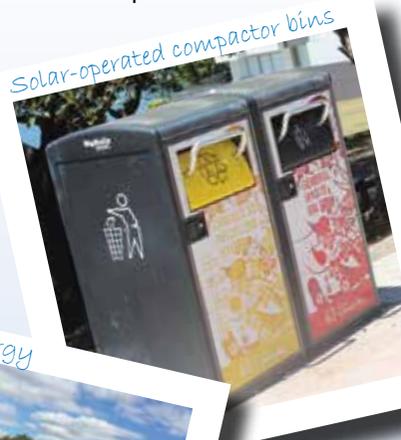


## SMART ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

- Efficiency programs and infrastructure upgrades to manage and reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions
- Technology to measure water use to identify savings and sensors and weather programs to control irrigation when its raining or dry
- Technology that links lighting on sports fields with bookings
- Water for Our Community harvests and recycles 188 megalitres of water to recycle over 220 hectares of open space
- The e-waste recycling program sees over 14 tonnes of waste diverted from landfills

- Solar powered waste and recycling bins, which hold up to five times the amount of normal bins, use the sun's energy to power a compactor to compress waste and advise through cloud technology when they are full
- The use of Data Analysis – Envizi software – to measure energy and sustainability, carbon use and consumption.

Solar-operated compactor bins



Solar energy



White asphalt to lower ambient temperature



# Report on Progress

This Report on Progress provides an update on the Council's implementation of the 2013-17 Delivery Plan and 2016-17 Operating Plan with reference to the Themes set out in FuturesPlan20 (the Council's Community Strategic Plan).

Highlights on how the Council has achieved progress from 1 July 2016 until 31 December 2016 are provided.

The following pages are divided into the four themes arising out of FuturesPlan20. They are:

- 1. Active and vibrant**
- 2. Sustainable spaces and places**
- 3. Innovative and engaged**
- 4. Thriving and connected.**

*Photo.*

*The Connection, Rhodes, a new multipurpose community precinct on the Rhodes foreshore, was built to provide learning, meeting, event and all day dining spaces for the community.*





Gary Sawyer  
General Manager

## General Manager's Message

**This Report on Progress of the six months from July to December 2016 provides me with the opportunity to review our achievements as we look towards the next six months.**

Throughout this six months the Council has concentrated on planning for services and infrastructure across the Council Area as well as planning for population growth over the next 5-10 years. This includes, for example:

- We have commenced the development of a Disability Inclusion Action Plan that, with the input of the community, will identify how the Council can improve access to its services and infrastructure to allow people with disabilities to participate in everyday life as much as possible
- We are working closely with NSW Government on planning for the revitalisation of East Rhodes and the urban transformation of the Parramatta Road Corridor
- Planning continues, with public consultation, on the Station Precinct and foreshore park area in Rhodes and the Five Dock Park sports field lighting.

Our capital works program is well underway, with key projects completed, well into the planning phase or construction having commenced, for example:

- Upgrades of playgrounds were completed at Wellbank and Victoria Avenue Children's Centres

- Upgrades of Cabarita and Drummoyne Swimming Pools took place during the off season
- The Connection, Rhodes, was effectively completed in December, with the official opening taking place on the 21 January 2017
- The road rejuvenation program was completed with the final pour on the Crane Street Carpark in December
- The widening of the Bay Run leading up to the Iron Cove Creek Bridge was completed and opened in November
- The Five Dock Public Domain upgrade continued with road, kerb and guttering upgrades and public artwork installation
- A major upgrade of Livvi's Place playground was completed and was reopened on 18 November.

As well, our levels of services have been maintained to a high standard with 100% occupancy at both Wellbank and Victoria Avenue Children's Centres, and many programs run at Five Dock and Concord libraries and at Five Dock Leisure Centre.

I thank all of our staff who work hard to enhance the lifestyle of the citizens who live and work in the City and so visitors can have an enjoyable experience.

Gary Sawyer  
General Manager

# Key Activities and Major Capital Works

*Photo, next page.*

*The Parramatta Road Corridor is the subject of an Urban Design Strategy that sets out plans for increased residential housing and facilities.*

## ■ Fit for the Future ~ Proposed Merger

As of the 31 December 2016, the proposed merger of the City of Canada Bay with Burwood and Strathfield Councils was still pending. The outcome of the proposed merger is waiting on a court challenge against the proposal submitted by Strathfield Council. At this time, it is not known when the decision of the court will be handed down and when the next Council election will take place. In the meantime, eight of the nine members of the Council elected in 2012 will continue to form the Council.

## ■ Disability Inclusion Action Plan

■ Consultation and engagement commenced in November with the community on the important Disability Inclusion Action Plan for 2017-2021. The Plan will outline the key actions and strategies to be implemented over the next four years to improve access to services, facilities, systems and employment opportunities for people with disability. The Plan is due for adoption in June 2017.

Throughout November, Council in partnership with CRED Community Consulting undertook extensive consultation including a service provider focus group, four intercept surveys at Concord Library and Livvi's Place All Abilities Playground and a drop in session at Concord Library

Feedback from the community is also being received through an online survey open until the 3 February 2017. Consultation has also been undertaken with staff across all Council's business units.

## ■ Major Sporting Events

■ Council supported a number of major sporting events which brought participants and visitors to the City, such as, four Matador BBQ One-day Cup cricket matches, the Governor-General's XI and Women's Big Bash League cricket matches at Drummoyne Oval, four National Rugby Championship matches at Concord Oval; and, the Kings of Concrete National Skateboard Competition at Five Dock Skate Park.

## ■ Public Art

To raise cultural awareness and highlight the City's diversity and heritage, Council has coordinated an extensive program of public art and recorded histories for the City. Of note in this six months was the completion of artworks in the Five Dock Town Centre and at The Connection, Rhodes.

## ■ Awards for Excellence

Council's Hey Tosser! program, which saw an increase in litter enforcement and aims to grow community pride as a deterrent to littering, won the Litter Action Award at the Keep NSW Beautiful Blue Star Sustainability Awards.

Council's Customer Service team was recognised at the National Local Government Customer Service Annual Awards. They received a Highly Commended for Customer Contact and were an Excellent Award Finalist for the Customer Service Team of the Year.

The gymnastics program at Five Dock Leisure Centre reached an all-time high of 1,280 enrolments and the Centre was nominated for the Club Excellence in Inclusion Award from Gymnastics NSW.

The Victoria Avenue (Concord) road pavement project, which used white asphalt to reduce the ambient temperature by two degrees won the 2016 Australian Asphalt Pavement Association State and National Awards for Pavement Innovation.

Engineering excellence was recognised by the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia NSW with the Council the winner of the Environmental Enhancement Award for stormwater harvesting and Highly Commended for Road Safety Engineering on the Bay Run upgrade.

Council's Your Health Matters event won Best Event Organised by a Team at the 2016 Local Government of NSW Personal/ Executive Assistants Conference.

The Phoenix Park playspace in Rhodes won a Highly Commended in the National Playspace Awards.

## ■ Planning

Strategic Plans, Technical Studies, Development Plans, Master Plans and Plans of Management for such areas as Rhodes East, Rhodes Station Precinct, Concord Community and Recreation Precinct, St Lukes and Cintra Parks, Wangal Park, and Concord West are in development and will contribute to the future development of the City for its growing population.

## ■ Affordable Housing

With the purchase of two new properties, Council now has 27 affordable housing properties and has advocated for affordable housing to be included in planning for the revitalisation of Rhodes East.

## ■ Parramatta Road Corridor Urban Design Strategy

The Parramatta Road Corridor Urban Design Strategy was released in November 2016. In December, Council resolved to work with Burwood and Strathfield Councils, concentrating on Homebush, Kings Bay and Burwood precincts, to prepare background studies to inform the rezoning of land, development controls and funding for community facilities and infrastructure.

## ■ The Connection, Rhodes

The Connection, Rhodes, a \$21 million community facility, has now been completed. It consists of four unique spaces: The Learning Space focused on emerging technologies, The Event Space, The Meeting Space, and an all-day dining restaurant.

## ■ The Conservatory, Cabarita

The Cabarita Park Conservatory, an adaptive arts and cultural facility is nearing completion. The completion of this facility will complement the existing Federation style pavilion and provide space for events, exhibitions, workshops, performances and outdoor functions.

## ■ Renovations to Children's Centres

Renovations were carried out to the yards of both Wellbank and Victoria Avenue Children's Centres to maximise space and to introduce nature-based elements that stimulate participation by children.

## ■ Five Dock Town Centre

Extensive work has taken place in the Five Dock Town Centre where major upgrades include improvements to the streetscape and landscaping, along with the installation of public art in such places as Fred Kelly Place, Waterview Street carpark, on the wall outside of Coles and at the rear of Five Dock Hotel.

## ■ The Bay Run

The completion of the upgrade of the Bay Run between Iron Cove Creek/Dobroyd Parade and Arthur Street means that a separated cycle and pedestrian path now runs for all of the Canada Bay component of the Bay Run.

## ■ Footpaths & Kerb and Guttering

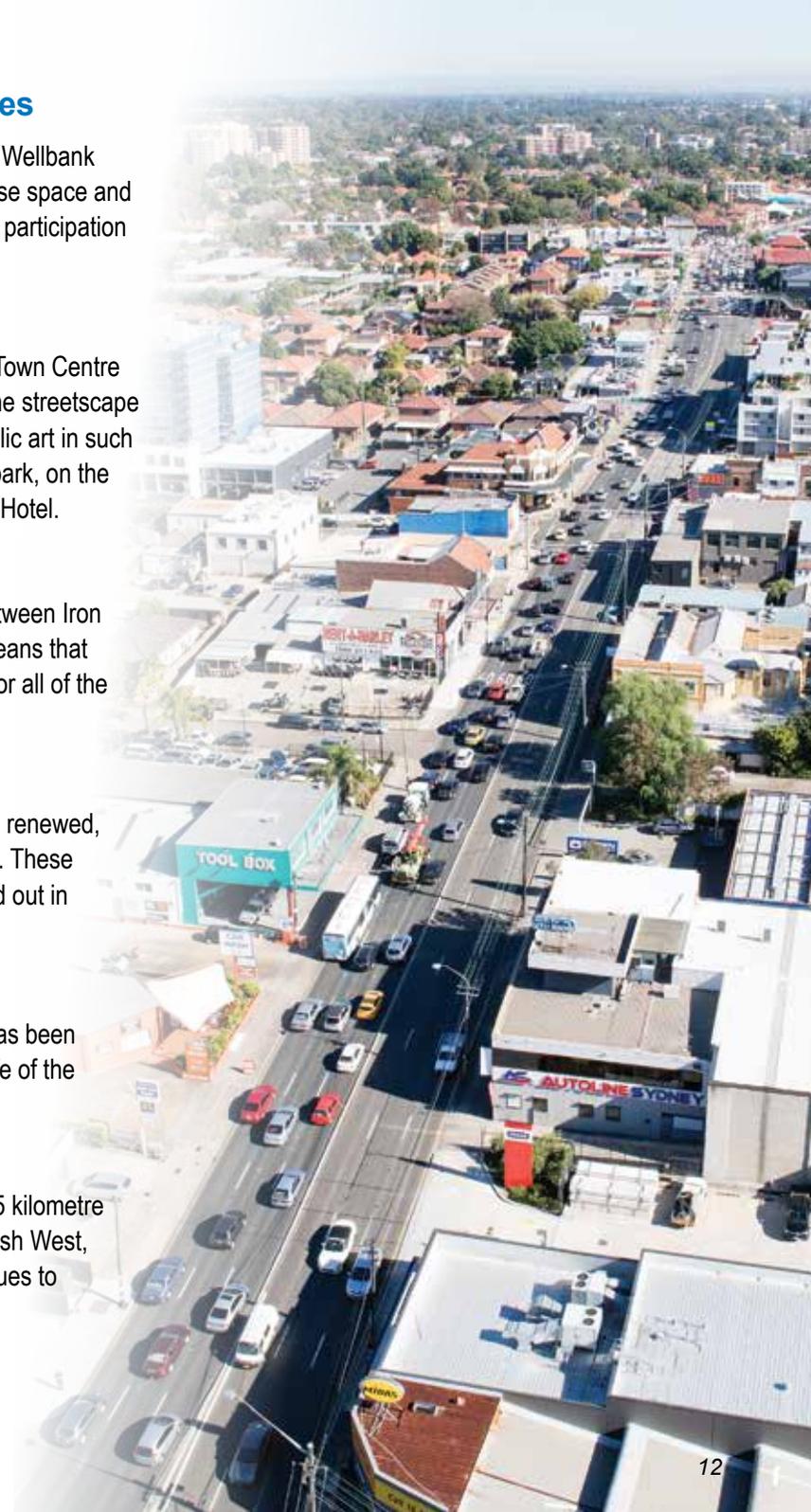
Over 2,455 square metres of footpaths have been renewed, along with 554 linear metres of kerb and guttering. These works, across the City, were predominantly carried out in streets also programmed for resurfacing.

## ■ Road Pavement Rejuvenation

Over 119,000 square metres of road pavement, has been completed at a cost of \$500,000, increasing the life of the existing road pavements.

## ■ WestConnex

With the commencement of construction of the 5.5 kilometre WestConnex tunnel from Concord Road, Homebush West, to Frederick Street, Haberfield, the Council continues to represent the interests of the community.





*Photos, this page,  
top to bottom.*

*Livvi's Place playground in  
Five Dock received a major  
renovation and was reopened  
in November 2016.*

*The new Edwards Park  
playground was built adjacent  
to the new park facilities  
building.*

*Photo next page.*

*Both Drummoyne and  
Cabarita Swimming Pools  
were upgraded in time for  
the commencement of the  
swimming season.*



# Theme 1

## ACTIVE & VIBRANT

Theme	No.	Goals	Directions
<b>An active and vibrant city that captures the energy, diversity, pride and potential of its community. It should be a place where there are strong community relationships, good social support and healthy residents. People should be able to enjoy a range of cultural and social opportunities, recreation facilities and be actively involved in the life of their City.</b>	AV1	I feel a sense of health and wellbeing	We will access projects and programs that improve health and wellbeing
	AV2	There are places for me to participate in sport and other outdoor recreation	We will support a range of local recreation facilities
	AV3	There are services that meet my needs	We will provide and advocate for accessible and relevant services
	AV4	I have a great lifestyle and feel part of an active and vibrant community	We will create and foster a range of local opportunities which encourage community connection and celebration
	AV5	I feel like I belong and my story is celebrated	We will celebrate our established and emerging communities
	AV6	I have awareness and respect for local Aboriginal heritage and culture	We will support a range of programs to encourage awareness of local Aboriginal culture
	AV7	I live in a creative City, inspired by diverse cultures and innovative ideas	We will champion opportunities for involvement in arts, culture and lifelong learning

# HIGHLIGHTS

## ACTIVE AND VIBRANT

### JULY - DECEMBER 2016

#### Health and Wellbeing

In November, consultation and engagement commenced on the important **Disability Inclusion Action Plan** with a service provider focus group, four intercept surveys at Concord Library and Livvi's Place All-abilities Playground, a drop in session at Concord Library and interviews with Council staff. Feedback is also being received through an online survey which is open until the 3 February 2017. The Plan, for 2017-2021, will outline the key actions and strategies to be implemented over the next four years to improve access to services, facilities, systems and employment opportunities for people with disability. The Plan is due for adoption by June 2017.

Council adopted the **St Lukes and Cintra Parks Master Plan** which will see the investment of \$1.7 million into upgrading the sports fields and amenities.

The following **playgrounds** have been renewed: Majors Bay Reserve, Edwards Park and Livvi's Place at Timbrell Park. Playgrounds currently under design for construction in 2017 include Sibbick Park and Rothwell Park.

**Chiswick Community Garden** was constructed and is being enjoyed by the community and **Rhodes Community Garden**, in Hoskins Reserve, was opened in September. The gardens have a focus on recycling organic waste, worm farming, growing organic produce, providing a green refuge and social interaction for local residents.

The following **major sporting events** were supported:

- Four Matador BBQ One Day Cup cricket matches, the Governor-General's XI and Women's Big Bash League cricket matches at Drummoyne Oval

- Four National Rugby Championship matches at Concord Oval
- Kings of Concrete National Skateboard Competition at Five Dock Skate Park for its 10 year anniversary, which approximately 250 people attended.

Information relating to **Children and Family** on the Council's website was updated including the Playground Quick Reference Guides.

All 52 **public health complaints** lodged with Council were investigated and action taken where appropriate.

300 **food premises** were inspected, plus 40 re-inspections were undertaken. Council's Poor Performers Program continued to target repeat offenders and, at the same time, the 'Scores on Doors' program was promoted on Council's website.

All 55 **registered cooling towers** and 21 **skin penetration** premises were inspected and deemed compliant.

#### Recreation

The **Environmental Remediation Action Plan** for Powell's Creek Sports Field 2 was completed. This Field will be remediated in early 2017.

**Sports field lighting** for Majors Bay Reserve was completed.

**St Lukes sports fields 2 and 3** were rebuilt due to WestConnex occupying the fields. The works included levelling the fields, new drainage and irrigation. The turf cricket wicket was replaced with a synthetic wicket.

The new **Edwards Park playground** was completed and construction of **Rothwell Park playground** commenced.

The **gymnastics program at Five Dock Leisure Centre** reached an all-time high of 1,280 enrolments and the Centre was nominated for the Club Excellence in Inclusion Award from Gymnastics NSW. New classes were introduced for **group fitness** following the purchase of 30 new technology-enabled spin bikes.

*Photos, next page,  
top to bottom.*

*The Matador BBQ One Day Cup was one of the major cricket matches held at Drummoyne Oval.*

*The Council received a \$200,000 grant from the NSW Government to contribute to the upgrade of St Lukes Oval.*

*Mayor Helen McCaffrey joined in the fun at the Wellbank Children's Centre.*

**Five-year Licence Agreements**, which allow use of sporting fields at specific times and dates, were signed with 28 winter and 27 summer sporting groups.

Planning for the **Concord Community and Recreation Precinct** commenced, with Council endorsing a vision for the redevelopment of Concord Oval. The vision reinforces the Precinct as a key community and recreation asset for both the growing local community and Inner West Region.

Following a tender process, a new golf professional was appointed at **Barnwell Park Golf Course** in September. Golfing clinics for junior players were initiated, the pro shop was refurbished and a fleet of new skate caddies was purchased. Plans are underway to trial FootGolf in 2017. A new Director of Golf was appointed by **Massey Park Golf Club** to look after pro-shop operations.

## Community Services

Construction of **The Connection, Rhodes**, a new community facility in Rhodes, was completed and trial events were held in the Learning, Event and Meeting Spaces. An open day for the public is planned for 21 January 2017.

**Wellbank and Victoria Avenue Children's Centres** continued to operate at 100% occupancy.

Staff at the Victoria Avenue Children's Centre worked in partnership with the University of Sydney to implement the **Teaching Interaction, Communication and Literacy Program** — a 10 week program facilitated by qualified speech pathologists, to enhance Teachers' skills in children's language development. Staff also worked with the Sydney Olympic Park Authority to adapt the Authority's kindergarten to year 12 **sustainability and aboriginal programs**.

Discussions were held with the Department of Health regarding **bus services to Concord Hospital** and, in conjunction with the Access Committee, a petition was circulated regarding the adequacy of bus services in this area.

The 2015 **Access Audit** of Council buildings and open spaces was reviewed and priorities were identified for consideration in future works. Actions were reviewed in the Positive Ageing Strategy and the Senior's Services Directory was updated.

## Connection and Celebrations

Council welcomed 300 people as new **Australian Citizens** in five ceremonies from July to November 2016. The top three regions people immigrated from were United Kingdom (22%), China (14%) and India (12%).

**Carols in the Park**, Five Dock, was hosted by Communities for Communities and sponsored by Council.

Over 100,000 people, half of whom live in the local area, attended **Ferragosto Festival** in Five Dock, and enjoyed over 160 stalls. 85% of attendees rated the event as excellent or good, with the most liked aspects being the atmosphere, food, community spirit and culture. The event was promoted extensively through nine media releases, two newspaper front covers and 68 facebook posts which reached 62,000 people.

**Concord Carnival** was also very successful with around 30,000 people enjoying a family day out, the entertainment, which this year included Paw Patrol, and the wide range of food from some of the 88 stalls.

An expanded summer events program (December 2016 - March 2017) was developed for **Revel @ Rhodes**, which is supported by the Sydney Olympic Park Authority and Rhodes Waterside. Along with regular events for all age groups, the program also features many new creative activities, coordinated by Council and the community, at The Connection, Rhodes.



## Belonging

Council co-ordinated and supported the **Access Committee** and **Drummoyne Oval Event Advisory Group** as well as participated in the Inner West Disability Forum, Inner West Youth Alliance, Inner West Community Care Forum, Concord Men's Shed Management Committee and the Child and Family Local Government Association Forum.

To ensure the community could participate in **Council's Library Services**, a number of programs were coordinated, including:

- The Council's Libraries' **e-newsletter** continued to be the strongest marketing and communications tool with the subscriber's list growing by 42% in the six months. Free events for children were booked out within 24-48 hours or within a week of the e-newsletter being distributed
- **PressDisplay**, a popular newspaper and magazine subscription available to library members through an app and the website, launched a most effective marketing campaign resulting in an increase of traffic by 20%
- **Snapchat** was launched to reach more young people through social media
- Two social workers from Anglicare brought their passion and ideas to the **Youth Drop-In** at Five Dock Library. Strong connections were formed with the youth and numbers steadily rose to average 28-30 participants with the majority being from High Schools.

## Cultural Awareness

To raise cultural awareness and highlight the City's heritage, Council coordinates an extensive creative program of **public art and recorded histories**. Over the six month period, the following were completed or commenced:

### Five Dock Town Centre

- **La Piazza Paralante** (Italian Talkative Square), installations with audio on lightpoles, featuring the stories of over 20 local Italian migrants, in Fred Kelly Place

- **Fit Five Dock** a mural celebrating an active community, at the rear of the Five Dock Hotel
- A 16 metre-wide mural by **the artist Mulga** with characters from his children's book, on a wall facing the Waterview Street carpark
- **What's for Dinner?**, a tile mural featuring architectural styles from around the world and celebrating multicultural diversity, adjacent to Fred Kelly Place
- Artwork to commemorate **convict works on the Great North Road**, foundation works installed on the corner of Great North Road and Lyons Road.

### The Connection, Rhodes

- **In Motion**, by leading Australian artist Brook Andrew, which integrates the four buildings with their waterfront setting. The artist also completed the Art Rugs
- **Wired Space** and **City DNA/Canada Bay**, by the renowned Chinese artist Lu Xinjian, in The Learning Space
- **Wooden toys**, made by the Concord Men's Shed, for use in The Learning Space.

### Across the City

- **Comic Con-versations**, by Matthew Lin, at the Concord Library
- **Aqueous Rhodes** by Emma Anna, sticker artwork installed in partnership with Sydney Water at the Kiosk in Rhodes Foreshore Park
- **A Mural**, by Matt McLarty, commenced for installation on four Traffic Signal Boxes in Rhodes
- **Sea, Sediment and Surrounds**, public artwork on the Chiswick Community Centre
- A mural representing notable swimmers and the history of the **Drummoyne Swimming Centre**. As well, a more welcoming environment was provided with deck chairs, colourful cushions, hopscotch courts, a table tennis table and tables and chairs

*Photos next page, top to bottom.*

*The ceremonial lion and a Korean drummer perform at the Rhodes Moon Festival in September.*

*The Comic Con-versations Mural was launched in the Concord Library in July 2016.*

*Concord Carnival, held each year, provides a great day for all with rides for children and a variety of stalls selling food and goods.*

- Two murals **reflecting on themes of water and local history**, Cabarita Park picnic shelter restoration
- **Murals at Majors Bay Reserve**, artists engaged, in partnership with the Concord Comets (baseball) and Concord RSL
- **Concord West Shopping Centre mural**, an artist engaged
- **Canada Bay Stories**, a program of snapshot videos featuring City stakeholders and Council officers
- **Hidden Gems**, a series of short YouTube videos exploring Rhodes, Chiswick, Five Dock, and Concord West. This builds on the previous five for Drummoyne, Abbotsford, Concord, North Strathfield/Bakehouse Quarter and Cabarita.
- An **Audio Walking Tours app**, developed for four walks — The Bay Run, Yaralla, Abbotsford and Cabarita Park
- **Tulloch Memorial** restoration, commenced with contributing funds from the descendants of Tulloch Estate
- **Boat building WWII Parramatta River walking tour and app** (with Ryde Council and the Australian National Maritime Museum), consultants engaged; and, the **Homebush Bay Circuit Wayfinding Strategy and Masterplan** (with Parramatta Council, Sydney Olympic Park Authority, Roads and Maritime Services NSW), Expression of Interest advertised.
- **Pacific Campaign Walk**, discussions commenced with the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway Board to improve links to the ship building memorial Living Memory.

### A Creative City

Some of the creative activities provided at **Five Dock and Concord Libraries, and the Learning Space at The Connection**, Rhodes, included:

- New **early literacy toys** were introduced to the children's programs to promote play strategies to children and their parents or carers

- The **Home Library Service** was promoted in the e-newsletter and social media to raise awareness of the Service
- **Author Talks**, which attracted on average 50 participants per session, were held on a range of topics such as food, politics and media
- **Multicultural storytime** continued to be popular
- The **Youth Space** continued to draw regulars and new people who expressed how much they looked forward to attending programs. Numbers grew and now average 45 at Concord and 30 at Five Dock with an average age of 15
- The Libraries partnered with Word Travels to run very successful **poetry workshops** at Five Dock and Concord. Three contestants went on to represent Canada Bay in the final Sydney slam
- **Tech Savvy Seniors'** training on how to use ipads, internet banking and social media was delivered in partnership with Telstra. Further funding was received for sessions in Greek, Italian and Mandarin
- **Smartblade returns shelves**, and new self-check units, have been delivered to both libraries. The returns shelf is in operation at Five Dock Library with positive feedback and a new self-check unit is being tested. New systems will be fully operational in both libraries by the end of January 2017
- **Pop-up Libraries** at the Rhodes Moon Festival and Concord Carnival promoted Library Services
- A **Multicultural Library Services Officer** was recruited to support Culturally and Linguistically Diverse programs at the libraries and The Learning Space
- Planning for **The Learning Space** at The Connection, Rhodes, was well underway with one full time and two part time staff appointed and trialing programs. For example, robotics and 3D printing programs proved to be very popular.





*Photos this page, clockwise from top left.*

*Abbotsford Public School students studying the Bar-tailed Godwit.*

*Mayor Helen McCaffrey at the launch of signs, designed by students to appeal to dog owners to manage their dogs when the Bar-tailed Godwits are feeding and roosting on the mudflats.*

*A flock of Bar-tailed Godwits roosting on the shore near Halliday Park. The Godwits migrate to Australia for summer in the Southern Hemisphere from the Northern Hemisphere where they breed in the Northern Hemisphere spring and summer. The birds don't feed or roost at sea and rely upon mudflats for their survival.*

*Photo next page.*

*Aerial view of Massey Park Golf Course, which contributes to the open space and recreational needs of residents.*



# Theme 2

## SUSTAINABLE PLACES & SPACES

Theme	No.	Goals	Directions
<b>A City of sustainable spaces and places is one whose residents recognise and act on their collective responsibility to protect their environment and to preserve it for future generations. It is a city where natural assets are cherished and where the built environment is equally critical in creating a sense of identity, history and community. The buildings, streets, public open spaces and natural environment are all safe, protected and well cared for.</b>	SSP1	I am proud of and value my City's natural environmental assets	We will facilitate and protect the environmental, cultural and social value of open spaces and foreshore areas
	SSP2	I have access to a biologically diverse natural environment near where I live	We will protect and enhance biodiversity
	SSP3	I know what I can do to help the environment and make active day to day choices to support environmental sustainability	We will inspire residents and business to be environmentally sustainable
	SSP4	I live in a clean, healthy local environment	We will maintain and enhance streets and open spaces and operate an effective sustainable waste service
	SSP5	I feel safe and comfortable using community spaces	We will support projects and programs that address crime and safety and contribute to a safe community
	SSP6	My City has attractive streets, village centres and public spaces	We will enhance our local shopping centres, community spaces and residential streets and the infrastructure required to service them
	SSP7	My City has attractive landscapes with sustainable development and where heritage is conserved	We will encourage sustainable design and conserve and celebrate local heritage

# HIGHLIGHTS SUSTAINABLE SPACES & PLACES

JULY - DECEMBER 2016

## Protecting the Environment

Maintenance was performed on Taplin, Bayview and Rhodes **boat ramps**. **Seawalls** were renewed in Wiremills Park, Werrell Reserve, Walton Lane, Preston Avenue and in Five Dock Bay near the Bayswater Street boat ramp.

Council embedded **climate change actions** into all its Asset Management Plans. Some of the activities in the last six months included: renewal of Council's street lighting system with LED technology when renewal was due, trading in Energy Saving Certificates, recycling 100% of materials from the roads program, reusing 200 mega litres of recycled water per year to irrigate sportsfields and golf courses, and the use of recycled toner cartridges in Council's road program.

Council **undertook water use audits** at 17 sports fields and two golf courses to identify how to maximise water savings from the Water for Our Community stormwater harvesting irrigation system. Council undertook continuous monitoring at the Council depot and leak detection at all key operational sites. Audits were undertaken, and water saving action plans implemented, at Drummoyne Oval, Concord Oval, St Lukes Park and Campbell Park.

**Wangal Park Plan of Management** was exhibited for community comment. **St Lukes and Cintra Park Plan of Management** was consulted with the community. Proposed actions from the St Lukes and Cintra Park Plan of Management include the improvement of sportsfield lighting to meet the Australian Standard, provision of new amenities at St Lukes

Park North and St Lukes Oval and refurbishment of the amenities for St Lukes Field 2.

**Programmed maintenance activities**, such as aeration of sports fields, replacement of heavily worn turf areas and fertilising were part of the maintenance regime for active parks to ensure they were available for users. Irrigation was rolled out to active open space locations, including both golf courses.

## Biodiversity

**Bushcare Volunteers** donated over 256 hours at Prince Edwards Park, Lovedale Place, Sisters Bay, Quarantine Reserve, Cabarita Park and Fig Tree Bay Reserve.

**Yaralla Bushcare** recruited 10 new volunteers as a result of publicity from the Yaralla Festival, Concord Carnival, Bayside Bushcare News, Council's Website and e-news publications. A Greater Sydney Local Land Services Grant of \$30,000 supports the project to be completed by April 2017. Since July 2016, approximately 200 hours of work was undertaken on the site.

'**Dog Saves Bird!**' signs were designed by children from the Abbotsford Public School with the aim being to appeal to dog walkers who may not be aware that Bar-tailed Godwits, which feed and roost on the mudflats, are migratory birds easily scared by dogs. Seven signs were placed between Halliday Park in Five Dock and Henry Lawson Park in Abbotsford.

## Environmental Sustainability

**Energy saving projects** were completed at Majors Bay Road Shopping Village and Concord and Five Dock Libraries. Solar lights have been installed in Cintra Park, along the seawall in Exile Bay and in Wiremills Park.

The Victoria Avenue (Concord) road pavement project that used white asphalt to reduce the ambient temperature by two degrees to address the urban heat island effect, won the **2016 Australian Asphalt Pavement Association State and National Awards for Pavement Innovation**.

*Photos next page, clockwise from top right.*

*Mayor Helen McCaffrey and John Sidoti, Member for Drummoyne, at the opening of the Community Recycling Centre.*

*A sign for the Community Recycling Centre which is open from Wednesday to Saturday.*

*Despite Council providing many opportunities for people to dispose of household rubbish responsibly, some continue to dispose of unwanted goods illegally by dumping in the streets.*

*Massey Park Golf Course is one of the sportsfields being audited for water use to maximise water savings from the Water for Our Community stormwater harvesting irrigation system.*

*La Unica Hair Salon, which won a green award for sustainability, is one of 171 businesses participating in the Sustainable Business Program resulting in an increase in recycling and thus a decrease in waste going to landfill.*

A total of 171 businesses have been recruited and 273 first and second waste assessments completed as part of the **Sustainable Business Program**. The program has resulted in 615.5 tonne increase in recycling and 505 tonne decrease in waste during this period.

Over 1,200 households have committed to **WasteLess in the Bay** making over 7,500 individual commitments to minimise waste and to recycle. As part of the program:

- A further seven resource recovery videos were uploaded to YouTube in a variety of languages. These videos have received more than 830 views since being uploaded.
- A further 257 residents subscribed to the MyWaste app, resulting in a total of 1,277 subscribers.
- 226 residents attended one of eight WasteLess in the Bay workshops held since July 2016. Since their launch, the workshops have provided education for 1,208 residents.
- Approximately 1,223 people participated in the Garage Sale Trail in October 2016 as either a shopper or seller with 60 reported sales and 1,115 reported shoppers. There were 8,720 items listed for reuse.

A **household chemical cleanout event** was organised in October, with 1109 people attending and which resulted in the collection of 38,196 kg of chemicals.

Council ran eight **Treading Lightly Workshops** with 135 people attending.

Council is part of the **Compost Revolution Program** that offers compost bins and worm farms to residents at 50% off the recommended retail price. A further 49 households joined, bringing the total to 297 households involved, resulting in the diversion of over 82,000 kg of food waste from landfill which saves 130,000 kg of CO<sup>2</sup> emissions.

A further **13 free 660 litre paper and cardboard bins** were delivered to units in Rhodes Peninsula, and 10 delivered to the Chiswick area.



## Healthy Local Environment

**Design services** were provided to facilitate the delivery of Council's \$30 million capital works program. Design services completed included for the St Lukes Masterplan, Yaralla Street renewal, Timbrell Drive/Bay Run area and Preston Avenue seawall.

Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils and Council achieved an **agreement on pricing to implement LED lighting technology**. Changing over to LED lighting technology will achieve energy savings of up to 70%. This will enable Council to trade, with electricity retailers, in **energy saving certificates** from each notional megawatt hour of energy the project saves. Trading certificates will generate income to accelerate the changeover to LED technology.

**Stormwater drainage systems** were renewed in St Georges Crescent, Moore Street, Colane Street, Indra Street, Inverary Street, Alexandra Street, and at the intersection of Flavelle and Davidson Street.

**Council's Street Tree Priority Program** is in the fifth year of implementation. 17 trees were listed for attention with planting of trees to commence in autumn, which provides the most conducive growing time.

Approximately 10,000 tonnes of **waste** went to landfill. Recovered were 4,000 tonnes of recycling, 2,300 tonnes of garden organics, 1,500 mattresses and 21 tonnes of metal and whitegoods. 28 kg of batteries, 353.5 kg of gas bottles, 900 kg of oil based paint and 1071.5 kg of water based paint were recycled through the Community Recycling Centre.

The **WastEd Time Schools Education Program** reached over 340 school students across seven local schools or centres.

Over 1,200 **contamination management letters** were sent to residents. Approximately 13,000 calls were received by the **Waste Hotline**.

A **Litter Strategy** was adopted and implementation commenced. GIS mapping of bins was completed and school education commenced. A baseline litter behaviour and attitude survey was conducted with 335 respondents. Communications about litter was provided on social media, Council's website and in the Sustainable Living E-zine. The 'hit us with your litter shot' competition was launched.

## A Safe Community

231 incidents of **graffiti**, covering a combined 954 square metres, were reported and cleaned up.

The **Law Enforcement and Parking Team** continued to provide daily monitoring and took action where breaches were detected.

**Council's Swimming Pool Inspection Program** saw in excess of 950 inspections undertaken with 545 Compliance Certificates issued.

## Attractive Public Spaces

Council maintained a two-weekly **sweeping cycle for all streets**. In addition, shopping centre locations were assigned cleaning regimes based upon the level of commercial activity and pedestrian traffic.

A number of **wayfinding maps** were installed in Rhodes to provide a visual point of reference to key destinations including Concord Hospital, Rhodes Waterside Shopping Centre and Rhodes Corporate Park.

Council worked with the Department of Planning and Environment on investigations for the **Priority Precinct in Rhodes East**. Technical studies were completed in relation to traffic and transport, contamination, affordable housing, urban design, public domain, community and social infrastructure and feasibility. Feedback from staff and Councillors was provided to the Department of Planning and Environment as draft plans were developed.

*Photos next page, from top to bottom.*

*The white asphalt installed in Victoria Avenue in Concord West has reduced the ambient temperature by two degrees.*

*Council won an Environmental Enhancement Award for stormwater harvesting and a Highly Commended for Road Safety Engineering for the Bay Run upgrade.*

*The development of the Phoenix Park playspace in Rhodes won a Highly Commended in the National Playspace Awards.*

*The following photos, recording the history of the Drummoyne Amateur Swimming Club, were displayed at the Five Dock Library in September during the 2016 Olympic Games.*

*Olympians Jon Henricks, Murray Rose and John Devitt training at Drummoyne Swimming Pool in 1955.*

*Olympian Dawn Fraser also trained at the Pool.*

Following the preparation of a Master Plan and community consultation, new development controls were introduced in December 2015 for land known as the **Station Precinct, Rhodes**. Consultants have now been engaged to prepare detailed public domain plans to inform how the streets around the station may be improved in conjunction with future development.

The **Concord West Master Plan** was prepared to inform the rezoning of certain industrial land. Council resolved to defer the progression of rezoning proposals until concerns in relation to the upgrade of the Pomeroy, Beronga and George Streets intersection are addressed.

The **Parramatta Road Corridor Urban Design Strategy** was released in November 2016 by the NSW Government. In December, Council resolved to work with Burwood and Strathfield Councils to prepare background studies to inform the rezoning of land, development controls and funding for community facilities and infrastructure.

### Sustainable Design and Heritage

The cataloguing of **Council's realia objects** including awards, certificates, plaques, etc, was undertaken to enable items to be accessed through the Library Catalogue.

An exhibition of archival material including photographs, recording the **history of the Drummoyne Amateur Swimming Club**, was held at Five Dock Library in September to coincide with the Olympic Games.

The **Heritage Advisory Service** was run to support the conservation of local heritage and resulted in the Heritage Advisor reviewing 42 Development Applications, inspecting 63 sites and 12 maintenance and minor works.

A range of **videos and public art** was developed that feature our heritage. These are listed under Cultural Awareness on pages 17 and 18.





Photos this page, top to bottom.

Many environmental programs are run by Council, such as the Hey Tosser! program, that encourages people to dispose of waste responsibly.

Council takes information on its services to many community events such as Ferragosto Festival and Concord Carnival.

Photo next page.

The Five Dock Leisure Centre is just one of many properties for public use that Council maintains each year.



# Theme 3

## INNOVATIVE & ENGAGED

Theme	No.	Goals	Directions
<b>An innovative and engaged city one served by an effective local council that works with its community to balance the needs of its many and diverse stakeholders. It is a city where collaboration and two-way flow of information between council and residents is transparent; where community infrastructure is prioritised and where community celebration is valued.</b>	IE1	I have opportunities to participate in and contribute my opinion to local decision making through consultation and other forms of engagement with Council	We will openly communicate and collaborate clearly to respond to local issues
	IE2	I know where to find the services I need and feel comfortable in accessing them	We will promote local services in a variety of ways
	IE3	I know about events in the community and feel welcomed and encouraged to participate	We will promote local events in a variety of ways
	IE4	My City is well managed and my needs are met through high quality services and well maintained facilities and infrastructure	We will be innovative and apply good governance to meet community expectations and legislative obligations

# HIGHLIGHTS INNOVATIVE & ENGAGED

JULY - DECEMBER 2016

## Communication and Collaboration

New Customer Service contact software, **'live chat' and 'live email'**, were implemented following customer feedback to improve how Council can be contacted. Since implementation, there was an increase of 37% in 'live chat' and 44% in 'live email', which saw a decrease in the volume of direct calls.

A **brand framework** has been developed and is being tested for Council's corporate logo, The Connection, Rhodes, and the development of project specific identities. A simple guideline document, on the use of the Council's logo, has been developed for third parties.

Council's **social media presence** continued to build. Council now has five corporate social media accounts with a total online following of 8,147 as well as social media accounts for the Libraries, Youth Canada Bay, Five Dock Leisure Centre, Wellbank and Victoria Avenue Children's Centres and The Connection, Rhodes.

Council's Customer Service team was recognised at the **National Local Government Customer Service Annual Awards** held in October 2016. They received a Highly Commended for Customer Contact and were an Excellent Award Finalist for the Customer Service Team of the Year.

## Promotion of Local Events

**Communications Plans** were developed and implemented for a number of major Council projects including the consultation for the Disability Inclusion Action Plan, Matador BBQ One Day Cup cricket matches, Kings of Concrete skate event at Five Dock

Skate Park, Hidden Gems place videos, the Litter Strategy and The Connection, Rhodes. These help keep language across campaigns consistent and ensure timely release of information.

## Promotion of Services

Some of the results of **promoting Council Services** included:

- The Council works with the community to provide and gain **sponsorship** and to promote many events such as Ferragosto Festival and Concord Carnival.
- A partnership with the Sydney Olympic Park Authority and City of Parramatta to deliver the **Homebush Bay Circuit Wayfinding Strategy and Master Plan** was funded by Roads and Maritime Services and Council and is valued at over \$120,000. Ikea is sponsoring programs at The Connection, Rhodes, valued at over \$10,000 and Mirvac provide the use of its open space areas in Rhodes.
- Council approved 11 **street parties** and provided support with traffic management plans and closure of streets.
- Council processed over 6,500 **bookings for facilities** between July and December and provided 24 hour on-line information on the availability of sports fields. A quarterly newsletter including information on community grants, government funding and sporting forums was produced.

## Innovation, Good Governance, Continuous Improvement

11 **Council meetings** were held from July to December 2016.

The **2016/17 Rate Levy** was issued in July 2016 and amounted to \$50.9 million. IPART announced in November that the allowable rate increase of 1.5% will apply for the 2017-2018 financial year, which is 0.5% less than forecasted. This will impact upon Council's income in the 2017-2018 financial year.

At the end of December, **Cash and Investment Reserves** amounted to \$92.3 million. This amount is expected to reduce to around \$70 million by end June 2017, following the drawing

*Photos next page,  
top to bottom.*

*Both of the yards at the  
Wellbank and Victoria Avenue  
Children's Centres were  
renovated to include a variety  
of elements to stimulate  
curiosity and learning.*

*The Library Team took  
information relating to  
Library Services to a number  
of events to promote the  
many programs run for the  
community.*

*The Customer Services Team  
was recognised at the  
National Local Government  
Customer Service Annual  
Awards.*

down on reserves to fund the completion of major capital works, including The Connection, Rhodes.

From July 2017, Council will levy and collect the **Emergency Services Property Levy** on behalf of the NSW Government. Work commenced on categorising all non-government land into Residential, Public Benefit, Industrial, or Commercial categories, with details relating to the categories and Levy amounts to be communicated to land owners in April 2017.

Council received 257 **Access to Information Applications** with 95% relating to the pre-sale or renovation of properties.

38 **Public Liability Claims** were received with 15 denied, 3 paid, and 20 still active.

To ensure the workforce can continue to deliver high quality services, staff were supported with **training** and a health fair was held to promote a healthy work/life balance. Former Olympic champion, Lisa Curry, spoke on the importance of exercise, good health, mindfulness and well-being.

Significant projects relating to the management of **Council's property portfolio** included:

- **Renovations to the yards at both Wellbank (\$77,000) and Victoria Avenue Children's Centres (\$50,853).** The renovations maximised space and introduced elements of nature and areas that stimulate curiosity and participation by children
- **Replacement of 25% of the tiles at Cabarita Pool** and a portion of the Five Dock Leisure Centre's roof
- **Surplus properties** on George Street, North Strathfield, and Hilly Street, Mortlake, were listed for sale
- The building of **The Conservatory** at Cabarita was nearing completion
- The building of **The Connection, Rhodes**, was completed
- Work on **Rothwell Park** facility was 40% completed
- A portion of **10 Thornleigh Street** was sold to Roads and Maritime Services due to roadworks relating to WestConnex.

## Fit For the Future ~ Merger Proposal

Council continued to monitor the progress of the proposed **merger between Burwood, Canada Bay and Strathfield Councils**. In September, the Land and Environment Court handed down its judgement that Strathfield's case against the merger was upheld and ruled that the Delegate's Report to the Boundaries Commission failed to address two mandatory requirements and as such it did not comply with the requirements under the *Local Government Act*. The Delegate then resubmitted his Report. A second period commenced in December 2016 for the three Councils to make submissions related to the proposal. The submission period closes on 20 January 2017.

While staying abreast of developments, Council prepared, as much as possible, combined delivery, operational and long-term financial plans, as well as policies, websites and electronic systems, in preparation should the merger go ahead.

Burwood, Canada Bay and Strathfield Councils also continued to work together on major programs that impact upon all three Council areas, such as WestConnex and Parramatta Road Corridor Urban Transformation projects which will see a rapid growth in population along the corridor.





*Photos this page, clockwise from top.*

*The Conservatory, a new community facility in Cabarita Park, is nearing completion.*

*The streetscape along the Great North Road in Five Dock was upgraded with new landscaping, kerb and guttering and footpath improvements.*

*Fred Kelly Place in Five Dock has been enhanced with new pavement, seating, landscaping and public art.*

*Photo next page.*

*Inside The Learning Space, a floor to ceiling artwork by internationally renowned Chinese artist Lu Xinjian titled City DNA/Canada Bay, depicts the Rhodes streetscape as viewed from Google Earth's aerial perspective.*



# Theme 4

## THRIVING & CONNECTED

Theme	No.	Goals	Directions
<b>A thriving and connected city has successful local economic development and is served by well-functioning transport and roads. People in a thriving and connected city can get around easily in a variety of ways and have access to prosperous village centres and exciting destinations. A thriving and connected city enjoys a range of employment, educational and residential options for its residents.</b>	TC1	My City has a range of housing options	We will encourage and support the provision of a diverse range of housing stock which responds to changing needs
	TC2	I can walk or cycle on designated paths to a range of commercial, recreational and community spaces around the City	We will develop, enhance and promote walking and cycling facilities in the area
	TC3	I can get where I need to go safely without too much delay	We will maintain local roads and footpaths to ensure they are safe and accessible and lobby for better road networks
	TC4	I have good day to day public transport options which take me to the places I need to go	We will use and lobby for public transport and sustainable transport options
	TC5	I have access to an attractive village centre near where I live where I can socialise and shop for the day to day things I need	We will use local shopping centres
	TC6	I am able to expand my skills and strengths while still working close to home	We will nurture opportunities for local employment, education and skills development
	TC7	I live in a city with attractive tourist destinations	We will create and maintain sustainable tourism destination
	TC8	I have access to local businesses of a high quality, global standard	We will develop and support business parks and large enterprises based in our area

# HIGHLIGHTS

## ACTIVE AND VIBRANT

JULY - DECEMBER 2016

### Housing Options

Following the purchase of two new **affordable housing** units, one in May and the other in August 2016, the Council now has 27 affordable housing units which are managed by housing provider, Bridge Housing.

Council advocated for affordable housing to be included in planning for the revitalisation, in future years, of Rhodes East. **Rhodes East Affordable Housing Program**, currently being prepared, will allow Council to administer and receive developer contributions for the provision of affordable housing.

The **Greater Sydney Commission's Draft Central District Plan** was released in November 2016. This Plan forecasts an increase in population for Canada Bay of 32,000 people between 2016 and 2036. Following the finalisation of the Plan, Council will update its **Local Planning Strategy** to respond to the requirements for a range of housing types.

### Walking and Cycling

Rider Boulevard in Rhodes received an upgrade, with a **new cycle refuge and cycle lanes installed** to improve safety and encourage higher speed cyclists to utilise this infrastructure.

For walkers and cyclists, a **wayfinding program** with footpath decals was commenced, and an Expression of Interest was called for the development of a Wayfinding Strategy and Master Plan for the **Homebush Bay Circuit** (in partnership with Sydney Olympic Park Authority and Parramatta Council).

The **upgrade of the Bay Run** between Iron Cove Creek/ Dobroyd Parade and Arthur Street was completed and is now open to the public. Completion of this section of the Bay

Run completes a separated cycle and pedestrian path for the Canada Bay component of the Bay Run.

Council has undertaken **footpath renewals** in Lyons Road, South Street, Tranmere Street, Cavendish Street, Queen Street, Hospital Road, Flavelle Street and McDonald Street.

### Safe and Accessible Road Networks

Council is currently designing the **traffic, pedestrian and cycling upgrades** adjacent to the Station Precinct comprising, Gauthorpe, Walker, Mary and Marquet Streets.

All of **Rhodes 40 km speed zone traffic-calming infrastructure** was designed and costed and is awaiting developer-sourced funding for implementation.

Council prioritised the **renewal of failed sections of kerb and guttering** in streets also programmed for resurfacing. Kerb and guttering was renewed in: Ludgate Street, Kingston Avenue, Loch Marie Street, Richards Place, Patterson Street, Wilga Street, Gallipoli Street, Station Street, Cross Street (Concord), Shipley Avenue, Consett Street, Crane Street Carpark, William Street (Concord), Plunkett Street, Stuart Crescent, Mepunga Street, Harrowbrook Avenue, Hamilton Street, Heath Street, Alton Avenue, Northcote Street, Bertram Street, Lea Avenue, Myalora Street, Killoola Street and York Avenue.

The following streets received **road pavement renewal works**: Ludgate Street, Kingston Avenue, Loch Marie Street, Richards Place, Patterson Street, Wilga Street, Gallipoli Street, Station Street, Cross Street (Concord), Shipley Avenue, Consett Street, Crane Street Carpark, William street (Concord), Plunkett Street, Stuart Crescent, Mepunga Street, Harrowbrook Avenue, Hamilton Street, Heath Street, Alton Avenue, Northcote Street, Bertram Street, Lea Avenue, Myalora Street, Killoola Street, York Avenue, Hampden Road shoulders, Tulloch Avenue, Hospital Road, Brent Street and Braddon Street.

Overall some 2,455 square metres of **pathways** were renewed, along with 554 linear metres of **kerb and guttering**.

*Photos next page, clockwise from top.*

*Bay Connection and Active Adults bus trips for seniors provide outings to a variety of locations.*

*Wayfinding maps have been installed across the City to assist pedestrians and cyclists find their way around.*

*The upgrade of pedestrian crossings, roundabouts and streets are an ongoing part of Council's maintenance and renewal programs.*

**Traffic islands** were reconstructed at the intersection of Patterson Street and Addison Avenue, Concord. This followed cable-laying by AUSGRID.

To improve **safety and parking**, the following were implemented:

- **Speed Display Units** were purchased and installed as part of an education campaign to remind drivers not to speed
- The **Occupant Restraint Program** for vehicles, was ongoing with 75 child restraints being purchased
- Three **pedestrian safety workshops**, as part of the Stepping On Rehabilitation Program, were facilitated at Concord Hospital and Drumroyne Community Centre
- A trial of **parking sensors** outside The Connection, Rhodes, was commenced
- **Parking restrictions** were installed in the newly opened section of Shoreline Drive outside The Connection, Rhodes
- **Parking arrangements** in Rhodes West continued to be monitored.

Ongoing liaison with the **WestConnex Traffic Team** was undertaken to discuss staging and implementation of works, and input was provided into the **Parramatta Road Corridor Urban Transformation Strategy** to ensure the best possible outcomes for residents.

## Better Public Transport

Council's interests were represented in the **WestLine Partnership**, with Council lobbying for a light rail link to Strathfield and Rhodes. As well, Council worked with the Inner West Council to develop a feasibility study into light rail along Parramatta Road.

The **Station Precinct Master Plan and draft plans for Rhodes East** were prepared with consideration given to:

- Encouraging the use of public transport over the use of private vehicles

- Encouraging active transport through the provision of a high quality public domains
- Reducing on-site car parking in locations close to the train station.

A Council **Transport Strategy** has been drafted.

Discussions commenced with Roads and Maritime Services regarding the proposed **upgrade of Chiswick Wharf**.

Twenty two **bus stops** were audited and were upgraded to improve accessibility and promote increased community usage of public transport. The following streets received bus stop accessibility improvements: Lyons Road (10), Lyons Road West (2), Victoria Road (1), Hampden Road (6), Tennyson Road (2) and Bayswater Street (1).

**Bay Connection and Active Adults** bus trips for seniors ran at full capacity over the six months. Council is one of the few Councils in Sydney that provides this type of service for local seniors. Bay Connection outings have been operating for over 20 years and Active Adults for over 15 years. Bay Connection and Active Adults have visited a range of locations including Mangrove Mountain, Blue Mountains Botanic Garden, Bowral Tulip Festival and the Art Gallery of NSW.

## Village and Shopping Centres

The **Great North Road Streetscape in Five Dock** was upgraded adjacent to the business premises in the northern section of the shopping village. This, along with the provision of outdoor dining areas, shade, undergrounding of overhead cables, decorative lighting, landscaping and art, transformed and revitalised the village.

**Marketing training** was offered to all businesses in the City and was attended by 45 business operators.



**New banner designs** were developed for the City including for Ferragosto and Christmas.

A range of projects were completed in:

#### Chiswick

- **Splash 60th Commemoration**, with attendance by over 400 people and coverage in Inner West Courier.
- **Movies Under the Stars**, attended by approximately 400 people and led by Chiswick Community Activities group
- **Sea, Sediment and Surrounds**, a public artwork installed
- **Quarterly Newsletter**, published and subscriptions increased.

#### Concord West

- **Concord West Retail Action Plan**, launched
- **Façade improvement program**, launched
- **Bike racks**, installed on Victoria Avenue
- **Bench seats**, installed as a trial to improve amenity for increasing numbers of visitors around Queens Road café
- **Christmas Decorations**, installed in partnership with 15 local businesses
- **Mural at 17 Victoria Avenue**, an artist commissioned.

### **Tourism**

Nine **Hidden Gems** YouTube videos have now been created with Rhodes, Chiswick, Five Dock, and Concord West added to Drummoyne, Abbotsford, Concord, North Strathfield/Bakehouse Quarter and Cabarita. These videos highlight some of the sights and activities available in the neighbourhoods.

As well, a series of **guided apps** has been developed to lead pedestrians and cyclists around the City.

### **The Connection, Rhodes**

Developed at a cost of \$21 million, **The Connection, Rhodes**, has been completed. The Connection, Rhodes, consists of: The Learning Space that specialises in digital library resources and creative learning programs and includes a digital art gallery; The Meeting Space and Event Space that offer versatile venues with panoramic water views and dedicated outside areas; and a commercially leased waterside restaurant, Bare Witness.

The Connection, Rhodes, opened to the public in December 2016 in time for the school holidays and was officially launched on 21 January 2017 with an open day for the public.

The Council managed Learning Space has been fitted out to include high speed Wi-Fi, 3D printing, A0 plotter, die cutter, sound recording and rehearsal capabilities, photography and video studio equipment, robotics and electronics. Public artworks are a feature of The Learning Space as well as being incorporated into the whole development. An Art at The Connection, Rhodes, event was held on 17 December and featured digital art presentations on eight large screen LCD panels, an audio-visual presentation projection wall and integrated sound system and talks by artists who developed the public art around the buildings and grounds.

Council is incorporating the community's comments into the design of the foreshore park, which is planned for construction in the 2017-2018 financial year.

*Photos this page and next.*

*The brand new community facility, The Connection, Rhodes, opened to the public in December and provides a range of spaces, both indoor and outdoor, for studying, meeting, learning, events, conferences and recreation.*



Features of **The Connection, Rhodes**, include:

- Smart technologies installed in building and park infrastructure to enable real-time information and notifications to users about services such as parking, monitoring and activity planning
- Use of environmental technologies to reduce energy and water consumption
- Wi-Fi coverage across public and open spaces, power points or solar power points for visitors to recharge tablets, phones and other devices
- Smart parking technologies and flexible technology payment options, and real time parking information to enhance the on-street and off-street parking experience for users
- Interactive digital technologies that provide information, digital displays of local content, enhanced CCTV coverage for safety, and live event broadcasts
- The Learning Space has a digital innovation lab showcasing new technologies and online collections to further encourage community electronic literacy development, facilitate peer to peer training and support, and build communities of interest around new and emerging technologies.





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*Photos.*

*Top: The Connection, Rhodes, is situated to take advantage of the Homebush Bay foreshore and can be accessed via foreshore walking paths.*

*Bottom: The outdoor area of The Connection, Rhodes, features colourful artwork by artist Brooke Andrew. The work, In Motion, moves through the precinct as rubber softfall, a water play feature and LED light paths.*

