Lord Mayor’s message

Welcome to the latest edition of Parramatta Pulse.

As we bid farewell to a long, hot summer of festivals and sunshine in Parramatta it’s always a delight to usher in the new season with one of Australia’s biggest multicultural celebrations.

City of many cultures

On the back of a phenomenal 2019 Australia Day, when we hosted the country’s largest citizenship ceremony, Parramasala fills our streets with colour, music, dance, flavour — and that wonderful sense of community that helps define our City. I congratulate the organisers and all who are taking part on another year of this signature event.

Growing our future

There is something for everyone in Parramatta this autumn as Council continues its commitment to making sure all our residents and visitors benefit from the exciting developments that will anchor our future. Parramatta Square continues to rise into the City skyline, preliminary work on the Light Rail is underway, and a new 30,000-seat stadium is set to open this year right here in Sydney’s Central City.

Museum design competition

Excitingly, the new Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences (MAAS) moved one step closer to reality in January with the launch of an international design competition to ensure it is the best facility of its kind in the world.

Parramatta has long been a hub for the cultural arts and it is outstanding to see our very own Parramatta Artists Studios expand with new satellite studios in Rydalmere. The new spaces will support more artists and exhibitions and encourage our already-thriving arts scene to flourish further.

Happy birthday, Sheila

A big congratulations to local Sheila Ashby who celebrates her 100th birthday on 14 March. The Old Toongabbie resident has lived through extraordinary change over the past century. I trust Mrs Ashby’s good health continues and I send her my very best wishes.

And I hope you all enjoy the cooler weather in our beautiful City this season, the time spent at your local park or reserve, and in the wonderful community in which we live.

Lord Mayor
Councillor Andrew Wilson

Light Rail gathers pace

Two major contracts to build and operate Stage 1 of the Parramatta Light Rail were awarded in late 2018 in a significant milestone for this City-changing project.

A joint venture of Downer and CPB Contractors was awarded the contract to build the light rail system, while the Great River City Light Rail consortium will supply and operate the network, as well as build the depot, light rail stops and power systems. These teams delivered the Newcastle Light Rail, Adelaide Coast to Coast, Canberra Light Rail and Gold Coast Stage 2 Light Rail, and supply the vehicles for the Inner West Light Rail.

The NSW Government is working with the new contractors to finalise a construction program in the coming months. Council will continue to work with the State Government and its contractors to advocate for the City and manage potential impacts on local businesses and residents.

The main construction works on Eat Street are not scheduled to begin until 2020, and a construction grace period will apply to the popular dining district each summer (from the beginning of November until the end of January).

Have your say in Parramatta’s future

Residents are invited to have their say when the City of Parramatta’s draft Operational Plan and Budget 2019/20 goes on public exhibition in May.

This draft is Year Two of Council’s Delivery Program 2018-2021, Council’s main business plan which outlines how it will deliver major services, activities, programs and projects.

The Plan summarises investment proposed for parks, recreation and culture, roads maintenance, footpaths and drainage, construction, library services, social and community services, engineering and traffic improvements, waste management and environmental sustainability projects.

You can download a copy from our website, or view printed copies at one of our library branches, or at Council’s main administration office. All submissions must be received by 5pm, Wednesday 28 May.

For more information visit cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au or call our Customer Contact Centre on 9806 5050.
New Epping community hall

City of Parramatta Council has bought the former Epping Masonic Centre in Rawson Street with plans to turn it into a much-needed community centre for the growing local population.

Upstairs, the landmark building has meeting spaces, a large function room and commercial kitchen, while downstairs it has offices and a potential performance space.

The existing Council community facilities at the Epping School of Arts and the Epping Creative Centre in Dence Park are experiencing increased demand, while the Epping Library branch is the second busiest in the City of Parramatta.

Council is preparing a report on the new community hall’s future uses, operating model and governance.

Turn Down the Heat

City of Parramatta has joined forces with seven other councils to tackle the issue of rising temperatures in our cities.

Turn Down the Heat, an initiative led by Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (WSROC), lays out a five-year plan for a cooler, more liveable Western Sydney. It aims to address the ‘urban heat island effect’, a term used to describe the fact urban spaces are often hotter than surrounding rural areas.

Extreme heat can affect health, infrastructure, emergency services and the natural environment. The Turn Down the Heat strategy brings together government and non-government groups to encourage better planning and land use to keep our streets cooler.

The strategy suggests a range of ways to deal with urban heat, including:
• planting trees
• protecting green spaces
• improving the reliability and affordability of power supplies
• heat-proofing transport and road infrastructure
• providing access to water in public places, and
• educating the community about how to stay cool and find heat refuges, such as shopping centres.

To get involved or share your experiences with urban heat, contact the WSROC Office on 9671 4333 or email info@wsroc.com.au

One City, one plan

Many residents have provided feedback on streamlining the City’s planning controls, which will help create a new draft Local Environment Plan (LEP) and a new draft Development Control Plan (DCP).

Council is reviewing the various land use plans that apply to different parts of our City with the aim of creating a single planning framework that applies to the entire Local Government Area (LGA).

The City now includes suburbs that were previously under other councils such as Auburn, Holroyd, Hornsby Shire and The Hills Shire, and each had its own planning policies. The Land Use Planning Harmonisation Discussion Paper suggested ways in which one uniform set of controls could be applied.

The Discussion Paper was on exhibition until 4 March 2019, accompanied by community drop-in sessions where residents could get more information.

The feedback will now be considered and draft land use plans prepared. Following that, there will be further consultation with the community.
Parramatta Artists Studios expands

Our City has long been a hub for a thriving creative community. But space and cultural arts infrastructure has traditionally been limited.

This is now changing rapidly. Council’s Parramatta Artists Studios (PAS) is expanding out from the Parramatta CBD to Rydalmere with six new, purpose-built studios for established artists to further their careers.

The warehouse-style studios on Mary Parade — made possible by the NSW Stronger Communities Fund — range in size from 25sqm to 45sqm. They have 24-hour access for the painters, sculptors, performers and multimedia artists to refine and develop their talents and work.

The six 2019 Rydalmere Studio residents, some of whom were supported by PAS in the early stages of their careers, are already bringing life, colour and the creative spirit to the new spaces. They are drawn from around Parramatta and across Western Sydney and the greater metropolis.

Liam Benson is a multi-disciplinary artist who uses performance, photography, video and textiles to discuss gender, identity and culture.

Emma Fielden is a multi-disciplinary artist based in Parramatta working across installation, drawing, sculpture, performance and video to examine the universe’s infinite and infinitesimal phenomena.

Mehwish Iqbal uses painting, printmaking, textiles, ceramics, sculpture and installation to highlight the roles and voices of women and children in modern society.

Ramesh Mario Nithiyendran grew up in Auburn and works with sculpture and installation to delve into the politics of sex, gender and religion.

Tom Polo’s practice uses painting, painted environments and text to explore how people interact with their social environment.

Yasmin Smith works with ceramics to create research-based installations that explore the history, ecology and culture of a particular site.

The Rydalmere residents join 14 new resident artists based at the existing Parramatta studios on Macquarie Street.

Parramatta Artists Studios is open for public programs and by appointment only. For more information call 9806 5230 or email studios@cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au

Eat, Talk, Dance
Thursday 2 May 2019
6.30pm–8.30pm
Parramatta Artists Studios, 68 Macquarie Street, Parramatta
Bookings are essential. Visit eattalkdance.eventbrite.com.au

The 2019 Rydalmere Studio Artists (L-R): Liam Benson, Mehwish Iqbal, Ramesh Mario Nithiyendran, Yasmin Smith, Tom Polo and Emma Fielden.
Photo: Jacquie Manning
Grounded at Riverside Theatres

Riverside’s National Theatre of Parramatta presents *Grounded* by George Brant 14 – 23 March

Fact and fiction begin to blur for a female fighter pilot in this psychological thriller.

The vastness of flying military jets over deserts, where the pilot is at one with the blue, has been replaced by drones. Death delivered by remote control.

*Grounded* delivers a nail-biting climax as the pilot’s state of mind unravels in a fast moving world, technology speeding into the future unchecked. Buckle up and join us for the exhilarating ride!

For tickets visit [rshow.biz/grounded](http://rshow.biz/grounded)

“Gripping ... a searing piece of writing.”
– *The Guardian*
Neighbourhood improvements

Upgrades in your area

**Dundas**

**Yates Avenue shops**

The car parks will be re-lined to include shared zone and kerb ramp, while new trees will be planted at the front and western side of the shops. The footpath will be widened on the western side to allow for outdoor dining. The upgrade will cost $400,000 and is due for completion in mid-2019.

**West Epping Park**

A new sporting pavilion and greenkeeper’s facility are being built at West Epping Park at a cost of $2.1 million. Work commenced in February and is expected to continue through to July.

**Epping**

**Dence Park Master Plan**

Council undertook the second stage of consultation for the Master Plan this year. The Plan will guide improvement of the whole park, including the Epping Aquatic Centre and Creative Centre.

To stay up to date with the Master Plan progress visit cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au/dence-park-masterplan or email placeservices@cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au

**Rydalmere**

**Rydalmere Park Master Plan**

The Master Plan went on public exhibition in October and November 2018 and Council has reviewed the community’s submissions and updated the Master Plan. The final Master Plan will be reported to Council in March.

For further information email placeservices@cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au.

**Parramatta**

**Ventura Road shops, Northmead Access Upgrade**

The design has been finalised for this upgrade with much community support. The work, at a cost of around $380,000, will improve access from the adjoining reserve to the shops, and improve the streetscape and garden beds. Construction will begin in April.

**Station Road, Toongabbie**

The shops at Station Road and the entry to McCoy Park will receive an upgrade, including a re-sheeting of the road, new concrete kerb and gutter, a kerb ramp for improved access, tree planting to line the entry to the park, and signage. The project will cost $300,000 and should be completed by June.
Carlingford to Epping Cycleway

As part of the NSW Stronger Communities Fund, the cycleway will be constructed between Epping and Carlingford along existing routes and roads. The upgrade will cost around $1 million. Stage 1, expected to be delivered by December, will include painting bicycle logos on roads, installing signs and creating rest stops along the route.

For more information, visit oursay.org/cityofparramatta/activetransport

Carmen Drive

The final design has been completed following two stages of consultation and the project will cost approximately $900,000, with construction commencing in May 2019. The upgrade will include a new fenced playground, amenities block with baby change table, and a new car park, as well as an upgrade to the shop frontage.

Playtime for all at Ollie Webb Reserve

The City of Parramatta’s first all-inclusive playground and water play park has opened at Ollie Webb Reserve. The $1.8 million playground, which received $300,000 from the NSW Stronger Communities Fund, provides a place for children of all ages and abilities to play.

It features a variety of activities and equipment, including wide embankment slides, accessible carousel and sand pit, water play facilities, and a supportive swing.

There is also more disability parking on nearby Glebe Street, as well as accessible restrooms.

The Ollie Webb playground is the third water play park in the City of Parramatta, along with James Ruse Reserve in Harris Park and Philip Ruddock Water Playground in Dundas Valley.
How we celebrated summer...

Tropfest
8 February
Despite the last-minute venue change due to a storm, a huge crowd turned out for the world’s largest short film festival at Parramatta Park.

Year of the Pig
15 February
Lanterns, dragon dancers, and food stalls lined Centenary Square to mark Lunar New Year and celebrate the Year of the Pig. Performances from China, Vietnam and South Korea brought the community together and a pop-up farm gave kids the opportunity to meet a real-life pig!

Australia Day
26 January
Parramatta hosted Australia’s largest-ever Australia Day citizenship ceremony at Parramatta Park this year. Almost 1,500 local residents took the oath and were welcomed to our inclusive, multicultural City.
Our 2019 outstanding citizens

The City is brimming with extraordinary people doing extraordinary things.

At the annual Australia Day awards, the community came together to honour just some of them for their efforts. Cancer research advocate and local volunteer Diana Mahony was named City of Parramatta’s 2019 Citizen of the Year for her support and dedication to raising funds for cancer research.

Kevin Hession, a founding and life member of the Parramatta Memorial Swimming Club, received the Lord Mayor Community Service Award, while Epping Senior Citizens Club President Fritz Berchtold was named Lord Mayor Humanity Award winner.

Other 2019 winners include:

- Senior Citizen of the Year Annette Douglass
- Young Citizen of the Year Pariselle Hughes
- Volunteer of the Year Kellie Darley
- Art & Cultural Award Yuting Zhu
- Sports Achievement Award Summer Giddings
- Community Group Award Lions Club of Parramatta Inc

Sydney Festival

Locals and visitors flocked to Parramatta as part of the Sydney Festival. Whether it was to learn Bayala, the first language of Sydney, explore Indigenous astronomy, or tuck into lunch at Chef’s Gallery, Parramatta was the place to be in January.

Culture-lovers also flocked up to see cabaret Shànghǎi Mimi and the new Circus Oz show Rock Bang at Riverside Theatres.
Library Activities

Local History, Local Author
Tuesday 12 March, 12pm-2pm, Carlingford Library
Thursday 14 March, 12.30pm-2pm and 6pm-8pm, Epping Library

LEGO Club
Thursday 21 March, Thursday 18 April, and Thursday 16 May, 3.30pm-5pm, Parramatta Library
Suitable for 11-14 years.
Bookings not required.

Understanding the Australian Taxation System in Korean
Saturday 30 March, 10am-12pm, Parramatta Library
In partnership with Australian Taxation Office. Bookings are not required.

YouthWrite 2019
Writing Competition
Monday 1 April to Sunday 28 April
Write a 400-600 word opinion piece on one of the following topics: Gender Equality, Mental Health or Social Media.
Entry forms will be available from Monday 1 April at any City of Parramatta library branch. You can enter in one of three categories: 12-14 years, 15-18 years or 19-25 years.

Tech-savvy Seniors
Mondays 29 April; 6, 13 and 20 May, 1pm-3pm, Parramatta Library

Girls Night Out with Paige Toon
Tuesday 30 April, 6.30pm-8pm, Jubilee Hall, Parramatta Town Hall, 182 Church Street, Parramatta
Cost: $15. Bookings are essential.

The Story Room
Every Monday from 6 May to 3 June inclusive, 4pm-5pm, Parramatta Library
Suitable for children aged 9-11 years.
Bookings are essential.

Law Talk on Wills and Power of Attorney
Monday 13 May, 6.30pm-7.30pm, Epping Leisure & Learning Centre.
Bookings are essential.

New Syllabus Maths and Chemistry Explained! Year 11
Saturday 27 April, Parramatta Library
Maths Advanced & Extension 1 - 10am
Chemistry - 1pm
Bookings are essential.

New Syllabus Maths and Chemistry Explained! Year 12
Saturday 27 April, Parramatta Library
Chemistry – 10am
Maths Advanced & Extension 2 - 1pm
Bookings are essential.

Night Time Story Time
Tuesdays 12 & 26 March, 6pm-6.30pm, Parramatta Library
Suitable for 4-7 years.
Bookings are not required, but spaces are limited.
Join your library to connect, participate and learn!

Did you know your library card gains you free access to thousands of books, movies, magazines and much more? Author talks, English conversation classes, health talks in other languages, internet access, story time and homework help are among the many services we offer. Your card is your passport to a whole new world of entertainment.

Join online for immediate access to eBooks, eAudio and magazines, or drop in to one of our branches for free membership. To Join visit parra.city/join

For online bookings visit cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au/library

Connect with your City in Korean

You are invited to explore the places and spaces of our vibrant and evolving city with a friendly, professional Korean-speaking guide.

The ‘Connect with Your City’ Resident Tour introduces residents to the City’s rich mix of dining, cultural, retail and leisure experiences, as well as Parramatta’s natural parklands and heritage attractions.

Find out what makes our City such a great place to live, and explore the interesting stories that make this place unique.

The tour, available for the first time in 2019, is aimed at Korean-speaking new residents, visiting family and friends.

For more information and upcoming tour times, contact the Parramatta Heritage and Visitor Information Centre on 8839 3311 or book online at parramatta-programs.eventbrite.com

Active Parramatta

Active Parramatta delivers high-quality health and fitness programs and resources for our residents, workers and visitors to help them lead happier, healthier lives.

Fitness Program
Discounted and free fitness classes are offered year round in Newington, Winston Hills, North Rocks, Wentworthville, Telopea, Parramatta and Beecroft. Classes include Zumba, circuit training, boxing, Pilates and more.

Mums n Bubs
Bring along your bub and get fit alongside other mums! Classes are suitable for women of all fitness levels and consist of cardio, basic strength exercises and fun fitness games. Registration is essential.

Sturt Park, Telopea
Wednesdays 10.30am–1.15am until 10 April

Jubilee Park, Parramatta
Wednesdays 9am–9.45am until 10 April

Reg Byrne Community Centre, Wentworthville
Mondays 9.30am–10.15am until 8 April

For more information or to register your interest email JZaher@cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au or call 9806 5478, or check out the class schedule at activeparramatta.eventbrite.com
Environment & Sustainability

Keep our City clean

It only takes a few people to litter or dump rubbish and ruin the beauty of our City for everyone. Luckily, there are plenty of things we can all do to help.

- Book a clean-up for bulky waste. It is illegal and unsightly to place bulky waste on the kerbside without a pick-up booked. Residents are entitled to four free clean-ups a year. To make a booking visit cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au/waste or call 1300 580 811. If you see someone dump waste illegally, report them to Council by calling 1800 386 733 (1800 DUMPED).
- Put the rubbish in a bin or take it with you. You can also report someone throwing litter from a vehicle through the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) online.
- Leave shopping trolleys at the shops where they belong. If you see an abandoned shopping trolley you can report it:
  - Coles Trolley Collect (Coles, Kmart, Target and 1st Choice Liquor trolleys) Phone 1800 876 553 (1800 TROLLEY)
  - Trolley Tracker (Woolworths, Big W or Dan Murphy’s trolleys) Phone 1800 641 497

A safer CBD

Our City’s popular ‘Eat Street’ dining precinct just got even safer thanks to the installation of 52 new security cameras.

Council has around 140 state-of-the-art high definition CCTV cameras at busy locations throughout the Parramatta CBD, including areas such as Centenary Square, Prince Alfred Square, and around the courts and riverfront.

New cameras and improved LED lighting have been installed along Church Street between George Street and the Lennox Bridge under a Federal Government Safer Streets grant. There are a further 60 solar-powered rapid deployment cameras located in hot spots around the local government area that can be moved when needed, to assist with crime prevention and public safety.
Get FloodSmart

Sign up to Council’s new flood warning service at cityofparramatta.gov.au/floodsmart

This is your chance to:
• Find out if you are at risk of flooding
• Sign up to receive free flood warnings
• Tell Council if you have been flooded
• Find out how to prepare for flooding
• See local river level and rain gauge information.

The FloodSmart project is a partnership between Council, the NSW SES, Bureau of Meteorology, NSW Office of Environment and Heritage, and Sydney Water.

Environmental Excellence Awards

The City of Parramatta’s Environmental Sustainability Strategy has been recognised for excellence at the Local Government NSW environment awards.

The Strategy, which won in the Local Sustainability category, aims to ensure Parramatta is nature-inspired, efficient and resilient – now and into the future. This means creating more green spaces, healthier waterways, energy-efficient buildings, and making Parramatta more friendly for walking and cycling.

In the Strategy’s first year, 11,087 trees were planted, the flood warning service FloodSmart was launched, and there was an increase in energy-efficient commercial buildings.

Council also won the Leading Behaviour Change in Waste category for Riverside Theatres’ “To bin or not to bin, that is the question” waste reduction campaign.

Get financially fit

If you are struggling with your finances or just want to be better at money management — paying bills or rent, a mortgage and other debts — help is available. Learn to be prepared for the unexpected with free services to help you find your way to financial independence and security. You don’t have to struggle.


Get into nature

Microbat Walk
Saturday 18 May 2019, 5-7pm
Darling Mills Creek, Northmead

Bring your torches and come along on this nocturnal walk as we use Anabat detectors to locate and try to identify different species of microbats. Learn about these amazing (and tiny!) creatures, why they’re so important, and what we can do to protect them. Suitable for adults and children aged over seven.

Registration for this event is essential as places are strictly limited. Visit Council’s Event Calendar at cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au or email bushcare@cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au or call 9806 8281.

Hazardous waste drop-off days

City of Parramatta
Rydalmere Operations Centre,
316 Victoria Road, Rydalmere

Chemical clean out
Sunday 7 April 2019, 9am-3pm
E-waste drop off day
Sunday 19 May 2019, 9am-3pm
Eels to kick off new stadium’s first game

The first-ever sporting event to be held at the brand new Western Sydney stadium will see the Parramatta Eels face the Wests Tigers.

The Easter Monday clash will be the first for the 30,000-seat Bankwest Stadium and the perfect opportunity for NRL fans to take in the sights, sounds and flavours of the City at the same time.

Get an early glimpse of the Stadium facilities at a free, ticketed Community Open Day event on Sunday 14 April.

Meet other supporters, explore the new sports and entertainment centre before the game season kicks-off – see the proximity of the seats to the pitch and experience the 360 degree views from the concourse – explore the venue and enjoy some of the food on offer.

A number of ticketed sessions are available: 9.30am-10.30am, 11am-12pm, 12.30pm-1.30pm and 2pm-3pm. Visit ticketek.com.au/openday to secure your tickets.

National Tree Day

Council is teaming up with Planet Ark for the annual community tree planting day. The 2019 event will focus on a big rehabilitation project at Third Settlement Reserve, where the third and final instalment of 10,000 native trees and shrubs will be planted alongside Toongabbie Creek.

Join volunteers and staff for a day of nature-themed fun, including entertainment, food, face painting, a wildlife display, and free sausage sizzle. Bring a hat, sturdy shoes, sunscreen, and a water bottle.

Sunday 28 July 2019, 10am–1pm
Third Settlement Reserve, Winston Hills (Edison Rd & Euclid St)

For more information and to register visit treeday.planetark.org/site/10020944
**Enjoy the good things in life**

Joan, 92, is a local resident and carer for her 49-year-old son, Tony, who has a disability. She's committed to supporting him and was excited about the support Council's Community Care Team could offer. With the help of the Social Inclusion Program, Joan was able to apply to the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) for a support plan for her son.

Now Joan has the time to get involved in craft activities and, with the help of a volunteer, attend group activities and socialise. She is reconnecting with her friends in the community.

Recent research shows the Social Inclusion Program is a resounding success; it gives participants the opportunity to enjoy the good things in life.

If you are aged, living with a disability, or care for someone who is, get in touch with our Community Care Team on 9806 5121.

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**Let’s Dine Out**

Let’s Dine Out provides affordable restaurant-quality food at breakfast, lunch and dinner, including cultural meals. The program helps people aged 65 and over, and people living with a disability, to stay independent.

Vouchers start from $7.20 and you can dine out at participating venues and receive a meal to the value of $15. Let’s Dine Out gives people the confidence to eat out and socialise.
