



A SNAPSHOT OF OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT
JANUARY – JUNE 2019



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GENERAL MANAGER'S MESSAGE

Dear Councillors,

Every six months we publish the General Manager's Report. This is a regular snapshot of operational milestones and other projects for your information and interest. This issue covers the period from January to June 2019.

Highlights of this period include:

- ◆ The draft Local Strategic Planning Statement was adopted for public exhibition until August 2019.
- ◆ The Council selected a shortlist of preferred tenderers for the Lindfield Village Hub project.
- ◆ The permanent continuation of the 5% Ku-ring-gai Environmental Levy was approved by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART).
- ◆ Ku-ring-gai Council became one of the first in Australia to trial road asphalt composed of up to 35% recycled waste products including green waste, plastics and glass.
- ◆ The first art exhibition for artists with a disability was hosted at Ku-ring-gai Arts Centre in Roseville, attracting nearly 70 entries.
- ◆ Major changes were made to Council meetings to meet new state government requirements to increase transparency and accessibility. These included a monthly Public Forum and live streaming of Council meetings over the Council's website.
- ◆ A customer satisfaction survey was completed, with initial results showing 90% of customers surveyed were satisfied with the Council's performance.
- ◆ All development applications in Ku-ring-gai can now be lodged paper-free, with printed copies of plans and other documentation no longer required.
- ◆ Consultation got underway on creating an 'eat-street' style area in St Johns Avenue Gordon.

- ◆ A new playground was completed at Wahroonga, work got underway at a new park and playground in Turramurra as well as designs for a new regional playground at St Ives Showground.
- ◆ The new Blair Wark community centre at East Lindfield opened to the public.

Details of these highlights and other items of interest during January to June 2019 are contained within.

I hope you enjoy reading the report; if you have any questions please get in touch with me or the Directors.

John McKee
General Manager, Ku-ring-gai Council





THEME 1 COMMUNITY, PEOPLE AND CULTURE



A healthy, safe, and diverse community that respects our history and celebrates our differences in a vibrant culture of learning



Children

During this period over 40 walking maps for local school students were created to help them walk safely to and from school.

The maps were created with the input of school principals, with the aim of encouraging students to walk more. Over 40 local schools participated in the idea, with the maps now online on the Council's website

Maps have been created for the participating schools showing estimated walking travel times, bus stops, train lines, pedestrian crossings, and school pedestrian entrances.

The maps include an indicative walking radius around each school to encourage parents to park further away from the school gate and walk the rest of the way.

On Tuesday 9 July children's illustrator Ann Snell hosted a story-telling workshop for children aged 5-8 years of age at the Wildflower Garden.

Ann has worked as an art professional since graduating from

National Art School in Sydney. Using pencil, watercolour, crayon and ink Ann guided children in illustrating the children's book 'The crocodile who found his smile' by local author Hancy Pancy.

Gordon Library hosted a special Dreamtime story-telling session on Wednesday 10 July between 10am and 11.30am, presented by the Featherdale Wildlife Park. Children met native animals and heard indigenous stories along with Wildlife Park rangers.

Vacation Care centres were kept busy during the January school holidays, with centres at St Ives, Pymble and West Lindfield all booked to near capacity. The centres offered children aged 5 to 14 a wide variety of arts, crafts, games, sports and excursions.

The Wildflower Garden has introduced new child-friendly features to broaden children's understanding of the natural environment, particularly native animals. Specially constructed enclosures for turtles and blue-tongued lizards have been installed in the Garden's educational area.



Youth

Ku-ring-gai celebrated Youth week in April with the St Ives skate competition, a free concert, water based fun at the Fitness and Aquatic Centre and putt putt golf.

The skate competition was at St Ives Skate Park on the Village Green between 11am and 4pm on Saturday 6 April. Organised by Skate Park Leagues, contestants chose between BMX bike riding, skating or scooter riding to be in the running to win great prizes.

On Saturday 13 April the ShoreShocked music festival brought together young people from across the North Shore to St Leonards Park North Sydney between 11am and 5pm.

On Wednesday 24 April an excursion to City Golf Gordon for a game of putt putt was followed by a BBQ lunch at the AWOL youth centre behind Gordon library.

During the April school holidays the Ku-ring-gai Fitness and Aquatic Centre in West Pymble offered free activities for primary school students and older teens to celebrate Youth Week. A free swimming lesson, a Twilight Yoga class and water based fun with giant inflatable pool toys were all on offer.

Following refurbishment the Council's third youth centre at Turramurra reopened during this period, initially for one day a week. The Landings operates at the rear of Turramurra library at 5 Ray Street Turramurra.

Young residents aged 12 to 24 were invited to a four week course on recording and producing their own music in May. The Fitz youth centre at St Ives offered the course and has a fully optioned recording studio supervised by a professional producer.

The four week course in May allows young people aged 12 to 24 to learn the art of studio recording and music/audio production.



According to the Council's youth services team, the course is ideal for those wanting to break into the music market as a DJ or music producer.

The Council's other drop-in youth centres at St Ives and Gordon continued to offer after-school and school holiday activities during this period, including free BBQs, games, live music, bubble soccer, movies and milkshakes.

A \$56,000 grant was awarded through the NSW Government's Community Building Partnership program for an upgrade of the youth and community centre. The project will see the St Ives youth centre upgraded and a new skate park opened, as well as a new children's play space linked to the Village Green by a central promenade.

The design for the recreation precinct has been developed with the community's help, with young people and local residents contributing their ideas to the project as part of the consultation phase.

In May author Catherine Greer joined clinical psychologist Mary Arlington-Watt to discuss Catherine's latest novel Love



Lie Repeat. Through her novel, Catherine Greer cleverly articulates the pattern of behaviour in friendship cliques among teenage girls, while at the same time delivering a gripping thriller.

Mary Arlington-Watt specialises in a range of clinical support including anxiety management, parenting, relationship counselling and emotional regulation. Mary discussed some patterns of behaviour that can be seen in teenage girls – and what to do about it.

A new series of talks for parents and carers called It Takes a Village was launched during this period, with the first to take place in early September on surviving the HSC.

Seniors

In May two leading experts discussed how to create a dementia-friendly community and lessen the personal risk of developing the disease. Local resident and dementia care specialist Tim England offered suggestions on developing De-caf cafés which provide a much-needed social outlet for carers and their loved-ones. Professor Ralph Martins from Macquarie University presented his research-based recommendations of lifestyle changes to reduce the risk of getting dementia.



Residents aged 55+ were invited to the Everything for Seniors free expo-style event showcasing services, activities and entertainment for older people in Ku-ring-gai. Everything for Seniors Day was held on 19 February at St Ives Village Green and the Community Hall. The event was part of Seniors Week activities in Ku-ring-gai held during February and March.

Nearly 50 community organisations, clubs and groups were there to offer information, advice and 'come-and-try' activities such as chair yoga and dancing. There were also stalls with home support staff and talks by professionals about other health-related services.

Petrea King from Quest for Life gave a presentation as will other health specialists on different aspects of healthy ageing. A talk on home support services was translated into Mandarin by the Chinese Australian Services Society. Entertainment was provided by the Eco-pella choir, Bollywood singers and Chinese performers. All the activities at Everything for Seniors Day were free and residents could travel to and from the event on a free shuttle bus from North Turramurra Golf Club.

All Ability

Young people aged 12 to 30 with a disability were invited to dance the night away at the St Ives Community Hall on Friday 5 April at the Discobility dance party. The evening started with a light dinner and snacks, followed by dancing until 9.30pm with music provided by DJ Andy. Entry was \$5 per person, with parents and carers attending free of charge.

Exploration, Ku-ring-gai's first art exhibition featuring the work of artists with a disability opened in July at the Ku-ring-gai Arts Centre in Roseville.

A total of 69 artists contributed works to the exhibition, ranging from ceramics and paintings through to drawings and photographs. The exhibition was put together with the assistance of the Ability Links and Settlement Services International organisations.

In June the four-year Disability Action Plan was reviewed and



updated to ensure the Council is on track to make its services and facilities as accessible as possible. The plan was on public exhibition for comment until 29 July.

Events

Events during this period got underway with Australia Day on Saturday 26 January at the Council's free community event in West Pymble.

The annual Australia Day celebrations included a citizenship ceremony, entertainment and games for the whole family.

Ku-ring-gai's Australia Day Ambassador for 2019 was Clyde Campbell, founder of the Shake it Up Foundation. The Foundation is raising funds to find a cure for Parkinson's Disease.

Stars of the day were ABC TV's Bananas in Pyjamas with their live stage performance. Bush band Reel Matilda, an Aussie reptile show and performances by Korean fan dancers. Games, amusement rides, sheep shearing, sheep dog demonstrations and roaming performers were also part of the event.

After the event ended at 2pm, the public were invited to the Ku-ring-gai Fitness and Aquatic Centre next to Bicentennial Park for an afternoon of pool entertainment and activities.

This year's Festival on the Green at St Ives came alive with Nickelodeon's Paw Patrol and other great family entertainment on Sunday 5 May, with a crowd of around 15,000 attending.

The Paw Patrol performed live shows on the main stage at 11am and 1.30pm, with young fans also getting to meet their favourite characters Chas & Marshall at a meet and greet opportunity.

The event hosted performances from local schools and community groups, as well as free activities including laser tag, rock climbing, animal farm, circus workshops and a 9D cinema.

Young festival goers met native wildlife with the Ku-ring-gai

Wildflower Garden rangers, and face painting and amusement rides were also available throughout the day.

A range of food stalls, community and market stalls capped off a well-attended Festival on the Green.

Planning was underway for the Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden's annual spring festival in August. The 2019 Festival will feature plant sales, walks and talks, market stalls and live entertainment.

Other highlights of this year's Festival include wildflower displays, a sculpture walk, food and drink stalls, a trackless train, pond dip netting, music and dance, children's craft workshops and an Australian wildlife display.

The St Ives Medieval Faire was launched with early bird ticket sales during the month of June offering up to 20% off the normal gate price. This year's Faire will be held on on Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 September. Featuring over 200 historical reenactors and jousters creating a completely authentic event focused on the Middle Ages. The 2019 Faire will include:

- ◆ International solid lance jousting tournament.
- ◆ Birds of prey demonstrations.
- ◆ Battles featuring Vikings, Normans and Anglo-Saxons facing the might of the Byzantines.
- ◆ Special edition ales at the Tilt and Counter Tavern.
- ◆ Casual dining featuring tasty themed food.
- ◆ The Medieval Village featuring five key areas travelling through the Vikings, Byzantines, Crusades, the Hundred Years War, the Wars of the Roses and the 17th Century.
- ◆ Longbow archery displays.
- ◆ Trebuchet catapult firing watermelons into the sky.
- ◆ Crafters & artisans markets plus workshops throughout the day.
- ◆ Live music & entertainment.
- ◆ Kids activities including play battles, puppetry, dress-ups, face-painting, animal farm, juggling, dance lessons, craft and stories.

Three Ku-ring-gai events were hosted for the Gai-mariagal Festival in July. The festival is an annual celebration of indigenous culture in northern Sydney. An illustration workshop for children, a bush tucker walk at the Wildflower Garden and a





storytime at Gordon Library featuring live native animals were all booked to capacity. The Wildflower Garden also introduced new activities to celebrate indigenous culture, including Aboriginal arts and crafts; Dreamtime stories and music and boomerang throwing. Another new activity introduced is a workshop for young cooks called Campcraft and Woodfire Cooking, where children learn to cook an entire meal including dessert over the coals.

Art Centre

During the January and July school holidays Ku-ring-gai Art Centre hosted a full program of activities and classes for school-aged children, including pottery workshops, printmaking, jewellery making, sewing, drama, writing, and gardening.

Several exhibitions were held during the period including Every Day in February, an exhibition dealing with the nature of life as lived every day and the differences between what is familiar, common or ordinary. Bitter and Sweet was held in March and April, with artworks based on the theme of both happy and sad. In May the Famous Masters exhibition was hosted which invited artists to create a work based on the style of one of their favourite master artists/practitioners. In June artists were invited to articulate or give a material or evident form to an idea, quality or emotion through the Embodiment exhibition.

Libraries

In May the Ku-ring-gai Libraribus celebrated 30 years of service to the local community. This unique outreach service assists housebound local residents to borrow library items. The Libraribus first took to the road at the end of May 1989 and Ku-ring-gai Council was the first in NSW to set up such a service, with the Libraribus preceded by a public 'bookmobile' service which started in 1946 as part of efforts to expand library reach in Ku-ring-gai.

The Libraribus is now a fully customised 9 seater bus with a wheelchair lift and access and operates a door-to-door service

three days a week between Mondays and Wednesdays. The Libraribus will pick up residents anywhere in Ku-ring-gai and take them to their nearest library, before returning them home again. The service can be booked by calling the library on 0401 972 461.

During this period Ku-ring-gai libraries at Lindfield and Gordon hosted weekly drop-in sessions for the public to discuss the Lindfield Village Hub project.

In March Gordon Library was the centre for a series of workshops and discussion groups asking for the community's ideas on what a new library in Lindfield could look like.

The new enlarged library will be a centrepiece of community facilities in the Lindfield Village Hub project, located on the site of the Woodford Lane car park.

The public discussed ideas for what a library of the future could look like and an 'our say' web page was set up to take feedback from residents about the new Lindfield library.

As part of its Seniors Festival, Ku-ring-gai library service invited residents over 60 with an interesting life story to be part of a unique oral history project during March.

The Tell Your Story project began in 2017 and has been continuing since then as part of a program by local studies librarians to capture the history of long term residents of Ku-ring-gai aged over 60.

Through interviews and recordings, Tell Your Story helps paint a picture of life in Ku-ring-gai during the 20th century.

The interviews were held at Gordon Library between 19 and 28 March and will ultimately be added to the Library's collection of several hundred oral history recordings.

Ku-ring-gai libraries held a variety of activities for children during the January and July school holidays.

In January Turramurra Library offered a special one-off workshop on animation for children aged 9 years and older. The Claymation workshop taught children how to use a storyboard and film their own stop motion animated video

using an iPad. St Ives and Gordon libraries both offered coding workshops during the January holidays for children aged 7 to 9 years old.

To mark the end of the 2018-2019 financial year, a series of free talks were hosted at libraries on estate planning, superannuation and submitting a tax return.

Recreation

The Active Ku-ring-gai Program continued to grow with residents of all ages and fitness levels participating in free or low-cost physical activity. The range of activities and sports on offer stretches from Yoga and Tai Chi to tennis and outdoor fitness classes.

Planning was underway during this period for the annual Sports Forum with local sporting groups to discuss issues and projects affecting them.

The Forum is held every year for Ku-ring-gai's sporting groups and associations to meet Council staff, raise issues and get updates on major projects.

Around 50 sporting representatives attended this year's forum on 15 July with a guest speaker from the NSW Office of Sport to discuss the state government's grant program for sporting groups and associations. Council staff discussed proposed sportsfield upgrades, existing projects already underway and an overview of the maintenance program and bookings procedure.

Planning was also well advanced for community consultation on converting the Rofe Park (Mimosa Sportsground) at Turramurra from a grass surface to an all-weather synthetic surface. The synthetic field would be used primarily for soccer, with some capacity for other sports such as cricket, touch football and Frisbee. Parks and sportsfields with synthetic turf promote year-round activity on safe and resilient surfaces.

Council had originally investigated converting Norman Griffiths Oval at West Pymble to a synthetic field. However as the Oval is a flood prone area, this project is no longer viable. Increased community sporting demands in the local area means that Rofe Park is being investigated as an alternative site for a synthetic turf field.

The Council is partnering with the Northern Suburbs Football Association and West Pymble Football Club on this project. Both the Association and the Club have obtained a number

of NSW Government grants to contribute to a synthetic turf field at Rofe Park, should the project proceed. Consultation with local residents and stakeholders will be carried out during August.

In May the car parking area at the North Turramurra Recreation Area was used to create extra training courts for local netballers.

The full size court was converted into two junior size courts through interchangeable line marking. Also available are adjustable and portable netball goals, extra fencing and lockable gate entry. The courts are available at selected periods during the evening with lighting already installed.

The aim of the training courts is to take pressure off the netball courts at Canoon Road Recreation Area and Lofberg Road and will allow local clubs associated with the Ku-ring-gai Netball Association to access the courts for training Monday to Friday up to 9.30pm.

The project was funded by the Council's sporting improvements budget, with additional funding provided through a \$20,000 grant from the NSW Government's Stronger Communities Program.

In April decisions were made by Ku-ring-gai Council in relation to the proposed indoor sports centre at St Ives High School and the future of Barra Brui Oval also in St Ives.

Council voted to accept a report noting the 'Statement of Intent' with the Department of Education for the proposed joint use indoor sports centre at St Ives High School.

Council also approved funds to be brought forward from 2020 into the March 2019 Quarterly Budget Review to complete the design and documentation for the two courts and adjoining car park.

The Council also accepted the findings of a report on a proposed synthetic sportsfield at Barra Brui Oval St Ives. The report outlined progress on securing a prospective site for hockey at Barra Brui, with the Council agreeing to a Draft Funding Agreement between the NSW Office of Sport and the Northern Sydney and Beaches Hockey Association.

Council voted to reallocate development funds known as Section 94 contributions towards the environmental assessment, planning approvals, consultation, and other services for the Barra Brui project, which have yet to be defined.





A SNAPSHOT OF OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

THEME 2 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Working together as a community to protect and enhance our natural environment and resources



West Pymble Community Garden

Environmental Levy

In April IPART announced that Ku-ring-gai Council had been successful in gaining a permanent environmental levy. The announcement followed an extensive community consultation program held over several months to determine community support for the permanent continuation of the levy at the current 5%. An application was submitted to IPART in February.

Residents were also consulted on which programs and services should be prioritised as a result of the permanent continuation of the levy. Work is now underway to establish new programs and activities that reflect the results of the community consultation.

During this period Ku-ring-gai's environmental levy funded fourteen community-based environmental projects ranging from native bee hives to restorative work on creeks and local bushland.

Distributed to individuals, schools and community groups, the Environmental Levy Grants will deliver community-based projects in local neighbourhoods. Twenty two applications were received for this year's round of funding, with the Council nominating fourteen projects for grants worth \$47,637.

Among the beneficiaries were Terrum-bine Bushcare group in Killara which received \$4471 to create habitats for native wildlife; \$2392 to WIRES North Shore to care for sick and injured native birds and animals; \$3000 to Pymble-Turramurra Pre-School to build a home for frogs and tadpoles and \$4564 for West Pymble Community Garden to maintain and extend their garden.

Climate change adaptation

The Climate Wise Communities program continued to be promoted through digital platform at www.climatewisecommunities.com.au and workshops for the public



during this period. The online tool enables residents to assess their vulnerability and develop action plans to strengthen resilience to extreme weather events such as bushfire, floods, storms and heatwaves.

The secure website invites residents to enter data about their property, individual circumstances and location which in turn generates a personalised report card on their preparedness for an extreme weather event. Each report assesses the likely impacts of a range of natural hazards including bushfire, severe storms, flooding and heatwaves. The website was put together with the assistance of the Rural Fire Service, SES and local police. Residents can also ask emergency service providers questions via the website.

In June the Council offered a free workshop with two experts on retrofitting homes in bushfire prone areas to make them safer. Bushfire specialist architect Ian Weir and BAL rating expert Graham Douglas discussed fire-proofing homes with low-cost solutions including guttering, window replacements and fire-resistant plants.

The Council invited local businesses to complete a survey to help ensure they can recover, plan and adapt to severe weather events. The survey was coordinated by the Institute for Sustainable Futures on behalf of the NSW Government.

Water

Water Smart rebates continue to be offered to residents to make improvements which reduce their water bills and improve the local environment. Rebates of up to \$1000 are available for installing green roofs, rainwater tanks, rainwater gardens and permeable surfaces around their home. The rebates program is funded by the Environmental Levy.

The Council actively promoted Level 1 water restrictions which

came into effect on 1 June through social media, the website and e-news.

In June a free creek workshop was held for residents living with creeks on their properties or nearby to teach them how to keep them healthy and flowing.

Energy

Council has expanded its Energy Smart rebates to include a broader range of energy management solutions for the home. Rebates of up to \$2000 are now available for solar panels and batteries, solar hot water, insulation and window retrofits. The rebate program is funded by the Environmental Levy.

Residents were invited to a free talk about electric vehicles on 30 July with the option to test drive one in September. The test drive is on Sunday 8 September at the HART driving site, 451 Mona Vale Road St Ives, either at 9am or 10.30am. A range of vehicles will be available to test drive under the guidance of HART driving instructors.

Both events are being held as part of Ku-ring-gai Council's Towards 2040 series of community education activities designed to help residents live more sustainably.

Ku-ring-gai Council has signed an agreement with Ausgrid to install over 3500 LED lamps into streetlights during this period. Ku-ring-gai is one of the first northern Sydney councils to enter into the project, which will ultimately see thousands of streetlights upgraded to more efficient LED lighting across the upper North Shore. The new LEDs are more energy efficient, easier to maintain and last up to 20 years. The project will lower Council's carbon emissions by 1,055 tonnes a year and also provide an annual energy saving of 996 MWh.

Ku-ring-gai's first LED lights for sportsfields were installed at



Lithium powered golf carts at Gordon Golf Course

Primula Oval in Lindfield. LED lights will reduce maintenance and energy costs and be progressively rolled out to other sportsfields. The new lights were installed at a cost of \$255,000 as part of Ku-ring-gai Council's energy-saving program across its facilities and services.

LED lights on four foldaway 25 metre poles replace halogen lights mounted on nine timber poles that previously provided lighting at Primula Oval. The LED lights offer superior quality lighting for training and games and less light spill on nearby properties and bushland.

The LED lights are controlled remotely from the Council's administration centre through a cloud-based timing control system, eliminating the need for keys to turn the lights off and on and ensuring the lights are only used when needed.

The lights are anticipated to generate more than 30% savings in the Council's energy costs. Maintenance costs are also expected to be halved as the foldaway poles mean light globes can be replaced without the need for cherry-pickers to carry out the job.

The cost of the installation was partially offset by a \$20,000 grant from Football NSW under their 'Let's Light Up Football' grant program. Primula Oval is a key training and fixture location for local soccer clubs.

Ku-ring-gai's environmental levy provided a further \$40,000 in funding for the project.

The public golf course at Gordon is now the proud owner of 14 new golf carts powered by lithium batteries, which could deliver up to a 40% reduction in energy costs each year. They are powered by the latest generation lithium ion batteries,

which have a faster charging time than conventional lead-acid batteries.

This means the golf carts will be low-maintenance, more reliable and conserve energy to improve the overall performance of the Council's vehicle fleet.

Community

Through the Council's Loving Living Ku-ring-gai program, a range of community workshops and events were delivered during this period.

These included sessions on winter warming for the home, native plant propagation, small space productive gardening, creating fauna habitat, sustainable building design, solar and battery storage, weed awareness and rainwater tanks.

Ku-ring-gai Council actively encouraged residents to contribute to the nationwide effort to keep Australia rubbish-free on Clean Up Australia Day in March.

Around 650 Bushcare, Streetcare and Parkcare volunteers at 150 sites contributed over 6,400 volunteer hours to bush regeneration activities.

An invitation to artists to create artworks out of sustainable materials for the Wildflower Festival sculpture walk was again issued during this period. This has been a very popular event in past years, with some excellent artworks created that carry powerful messages about the impact of waste on our natural environment and ways we can mitigate it. Entries to the sculpture competition were open until Monday 15 July

Waste

Residents were invited to complete an online survey during January and February to help guide how waste services will be delivered in Ku-ring-gai in the future. It followed an independently conducted telephone survey in December 2018 with a cross-section of local residents.

The key objective of both surveys was to measure satisfaction levels with waste services, understand current patterns of use across all the services and identify attitudes towards recycling. The survey findings will provide a basis for a new waste strategy and associated services later this year.

The strategy is being put together by the Council against a backdrop of concern expressed by NSW councils over the future of waste recycling.

Free events during the Food Smart challenge in February helped Ku-ring-gai residents prepare tasty meals while minimising food waste. Food Smart is part of the Environment Protection Authority's Love Food Hate Waste program. It aims to help people make the most of their food, save money and reduce food waste.

Participation is free and every household receives a toolkit with resources such as bag clips, food huggers (silicone preservation covers for fruit and veg) and a menu planner to help reduce food waste. To measure people's success, participants completed surveys to show how their habits around food waste had changed. The Council's sustainability team supported the program with 'how-to' events including chef-hosted cooking demonstrations.

Residents were invited to dispose of hazardous household chemicals free-of-charge at a Chemical CleanOut at St Ives

Showground in May. Planning also got underway for an e-waste collection in August.

The Council celebrated Plastic Free July on Wednesday 10 July with a visit from the acclaimed author Erin Rhodes, who presented her latest book called *Waste Not Everyday*. This is a step-by-step guide to 365 easy changes that will help people manage their everyday waste and its effect on the planet.

Biodiversity

Council continues to restore vegetation in 38 of its highest priority bushland reserves, covering 60 hectares. Three ecological burns were recently conducted in Sheldon Forest, Bicentennial Park and the Ku-ring-gai Flying-fox Reserve, covering 2 hectares.

Grey-headed Flying-fox numbers are being monitored and roosting locations mapped in the Ku-ring-gai Flying-fox Reserve. Council staff and residents are also working together to monitor local pygmy possum populations.

Council is participating in the national frog identification week coordinated by the Australian Museum, which will focus on frog activity in Ku-ring-gai's Pool to Pond monitoring sites.

The site management plan for the 99 hectare BioBanking site at Sheldon Forest, Comenarra Creek Reserve and Rofe Park is being reviewed since the site's creation five years ago. This will align the site management plan with the new Biodiversity Stewardship Agreements under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*. Annual monitoring is also being conducted to evaluate improvements to biodiversity values.





A SNAPSHOT OF OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

THEME 3 PLACES, SPACES & INFRASTRUCTURE

A range of well planned, clean and safe neighbourhoods and public spaces designed with a strong sense of identity and place.



Lindfield Village Hub

In March the Council announced the preferred tenderers for the Hub project, following an intensive evaluation of expressions of interest received last year.

Located along Woodford Lane and in the Lindfield local centre, the Lindfield Village Hub will be a combination of public spaces, a local park and plaza, community facilities including a new library and community centre, car parking, residential housing, retail and dining.

It is the first of several projects planned by the Council as part of a regeneration of Ku-ring-gai's town centres called Activate Ku-ring-gai. Other centres due for revitalisation include Gordon, St Ives and Turrumurra.

Eighteen development consortiums and companies expressed their interest in tendering for the Lindfield Village Hub last year.

After an intensive assessment of their capabilities, carried out by independent consultants and specialist Council staff, five have been invited to proceed to the Request for Tender stage.

The selected tenderers are:

- ◆ Aqualand Developments Pty Ltd
- ◆ Fabcot Limited (Woolworths Ltd)
- ◆ Frasers Property Australia
- ◆ Mirvac Residential (NSW) Developments Pty Ltd
- ◆ Planum Partners Pty Ltd and Billbergia Pty Ltd (consortium)

During this period extensive community consultation was carried out on the Hub, including surveys on retailing and the new library and drop-in information sessions held weekly at Lindfield and Gordon libraries. Planning staff also discussed the Hub with residents at various community events and hosted community bus tours of similar projects elsewhere in Sydney. Videos, social media and enhanced web pages were also used to promote consultation on the project.

The Council will consider the planning proposal for the Lindfield Village Hub at its August meeting.



Lindfield Village Hub

Lindfield Village Green

Council approved a two stage tender, commencing with an EOI, to shortlist the preferred contractors for construction of the Lindfield Village Green project. The selected tenderer to provide project management services for the Lindfield Village Green was also accepted.

In preparation for construction Council has engaged consultant engineers to carry out inspections of properties adjoining the site. They will be contacting local building owners to undertake pre-construction building inspections.

The purpose of these 'pre-construction dilapidation inspections' is to have a photographic record of the pre-construction current condition of infrastructure and properties next to the development. This record will be used to assess whether any construction activities have an impact on adjacent infrastructure and properties.

Heritage

Applications for grants of between \$1000 and \$5000 opened on 1 April and closed on 31 May. The grants were open for applications from local homeowners for heritage property projects that will be carried out in the 2019-2020 financial year.

Grants of between \$1000 and \$5000 will be allocated on a dollar for dollar basis, where Council will match the amount spent by the applicant up to the funding limit.

Examples of projects qualifying for up to \$5000 worth of funding include:

- ◆ Repair or replacement of original roof slates or tiles
- ◆ Repointing of brickwork or masonry
- ◆ Repairing decorative ceilings or pressed metal work
- ◆ Conservation of original fireplaces
- ◆ Conserving or repairing original timber detailing.

Twelve projects from a total of 20 applications obtained funding in the previous year. Applications are assessed by the Council's Heritage Committee and this year's funding will be awarded later this year.

Planning

A project of great importance for Ku-ring-gai is the preparation of new planning guidelines for how development and employment will be managed in the local area over the next few decades. All Sydney councils are required to complete a Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) by the end of 2019, under direction from the NSW Government and the Greater Sydney Commission.

The first step in this process was consulting the public on what makes up the character of Ku-ring-gai to help the Council prepare a Local Strategic Planning Statement. This was conducted during this period until the beginning of May. In June the Council adopted the draft LSPS which drew together the priorities and actions from Council's existing land use plans and policies to present an overall vision for land use until 2036. Among the topics covered in the draft LSPS:

- ◆ The location of future housing in Ku-ring-gai
- ◆ The future identity and character of local centres in Lindfield, Gordon, Turramurra and St Ives
- ◆ Requirements for community facilities and open space
- ◆ Future transport needs
- ◆ Support for the local economy
- ◆ Partnership opportunities with government agencies
- ◆ Managing bushland, biodiversity and waterways
- ◆ Adapting to climate change

Residents and business owners were also invited to information sessions at Ku-ring-gai libraries to discuss the draft Local Strategic Planning Statement.

These were held at:

- ◆ Gordon Library between 4pm and 6pm on Tuesday 23 July
- ◆ Turramurra Library between 3pm and 5pm on Thursday 25 July
- ◆ St Ives Library between 3pm and 5pm on Monday 29 July
- ◆ Lindfield Library between 3pm and 5pm on Wednesday 31 July.

The draft LSPS is open for public comment until 12 August.

The Council introduced the new system of paperless development applications after implementing sweeping changes to its DA process.

The new system means that development applications regardless of size can now be lodged without the need for printed copies of plans and other supporting documentation.

Previously, applicants were required to provide up to five printed copies of plan drawings and documents such as consultants reports.

The new online processing system was introduced in recognition of customer needs and to cut down on wasted paper. Other advantages of the paperless system are allowing multiple staff quick access to an application to accelerate processing times.

Public spaces

Council has begun discussing design ideas with the community and businesses in the St Johns Avenue and Henry Street area to create an 'eat-street' destination.

A planned upgrade for the area could include new landscaping, widened footpaths, street furniture and an improved layout and lighting for outdoor dining.

Council staff visited local businesses during March and April to gauge opinions on the planned upgrade and held community meetings to discuss the project. A draft concept plan was adopted by the Council in June for public exhibition.

During this period the Council received a progress report on the Gordon Town Centre Litter Improvement Program. March's litter assessment report recorded a 75.3% reduction in the litter count compared to April levels last year.

Improvements in the area have included upgrading of street furniture with new litter bins and mall seats, removing graffiti, installation of signage, re-painting of walls around the Wade Lane carpark, improving landscape areas with replanting of vegetation and engagement with local businesses.

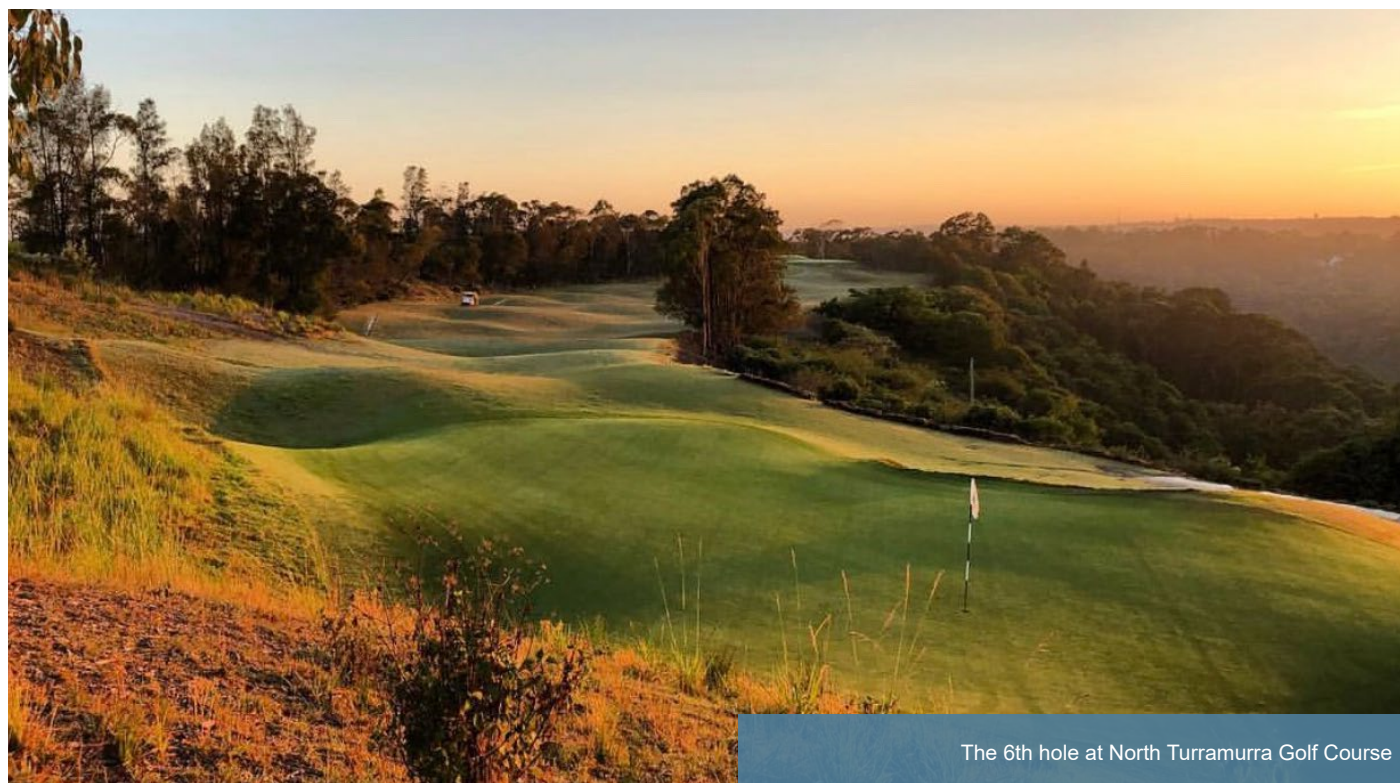
The Council's new community centre, named after Ku-ring-gai's First World War Victoria Cross recipient, opened on former Defence Housing Association land in Lindfield.

The community centre is the result of a partnership between the Defence Housing Association and the Council and opened for bookings in April.

The Blair Wark VC Centre is located in Dunstan Grove, off Eton Road in Lindfield. It features a large hall with dividers that allow the floor space to convert into two separate meeting rooms.

The centre includes an AV/PA system, tables, chairs and a modern semi commercial kitchen. Suitable for hire for both corporate and community events, classes and meetings, it also backs onto the Charles Bean synthetic sportsfields.

The centre honours Ku-ring-gai's Victoria Cross recipient Major Blair Wark, who received the highest award for bravery on the frontline at Bellicourt France in October 1918, in one of the last battles of the First World War. A large mural of poppies and a display case containing replicas of Major Wark's medals form a centrepiece of the building's entrance.



The 6th hole at North Turramurra Golf Course



Ku-ring-gai Council's 18-hole championship golf course at North Turramurra has received an accolade from Australia's golfers.

The 6th hole at the golf course has been nominated through a poll of Australian golfers as the best in Australia.

The poll was hosted by Inside Golf Australia, a national magazine for golf fans. Over the last few months it has asked readers to nominate their best 18 holes in public and private golf courses across Australia.

North Turramurra joins other prestige golf courses including Royal Melbourne and New South Wales in being nominated for the accolade, with the winner announced later this year.

In April the Council adopted a new graffiti policy that will see a coordinated approach to graffiti removal in Ku-ring-gai using the four principles of prevention, continuous removal, prosecution and education.

A team of specialist staff will be used to remove offensive or noticeable graffiti from public roads and buildings in a rapid response approach to keeping shopping and retail areas graffiti-free.

The removal of graffiti from privately owned properties will be carried out following consent from the owners or occupiers of buildings.

The Council will also work with NSW Police to identify and prosecute perpetrators of graffiti and also develop a community education program to raise awareness of the problem.

Parks and playgrounds

A playground upgrade was completed at the Morona Avenue Reserve in Wahroonga, with a focus on inclusivity. Accessible paths to and around the new play equipment were installed and the play facilities can be used by children of all abilities. New landscaping was completed and an accessible parking

space was installed.

Allan Avenue Reserve in Turramurra will be the site of the Council's latest new park, due for completion next summer. The new park is being built on land the Council has purchased as part of its Open Space Acquisition Strategy.

Features of the new park include a playground catering for a range of age groups and abilities; open areas of lawn with shade trees for relaxing; picnic tables and seating and an accessible pathway. The design for the new park has been shaped by community feedback, with local residents invited to comment on the design.

A large regional playground is being built at St Ives Showground. The new playground will replace the existing play equipment located south west of the main arena at picnic area 7. When completed, the playground will offer inclusive play for children of all abilities.

Areas for younger children aged 6 and under will include junior swings, a spinning carousel, a rocker, cubby house with low slide and an imaginative farm/showground play setting.

Areas for older children will have challenging rope climbing, high slides, elevated enclosed rope walkways, a double flying fox and a giant bird's nest swing.

Nature play areas will include logs, timber, boulders, a stone sculpture and other materials intermingled with plants, providing children opportunities for imaginative play. There will also be quiet places and a variety of sensory play opportunities.

Accessible parking and pathways will provide easy links between the new playground and surrounding parkland and toilets.

Council has won a \$250,000 Metropolitan Greenspace Program grant from the NSW Government to help meet the construction costs of the large new playground, which has a budget of \$2.24 million in total.



A SNAPSHOT OF OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

THEME 4 ACCESS, TRAFFIC & TRANSPORT

Access and connection to, from and within Ku-ring-gai provides safe, reliable and affordable public and private travel, transport and infrastructure



'Reconophalt' asphalt

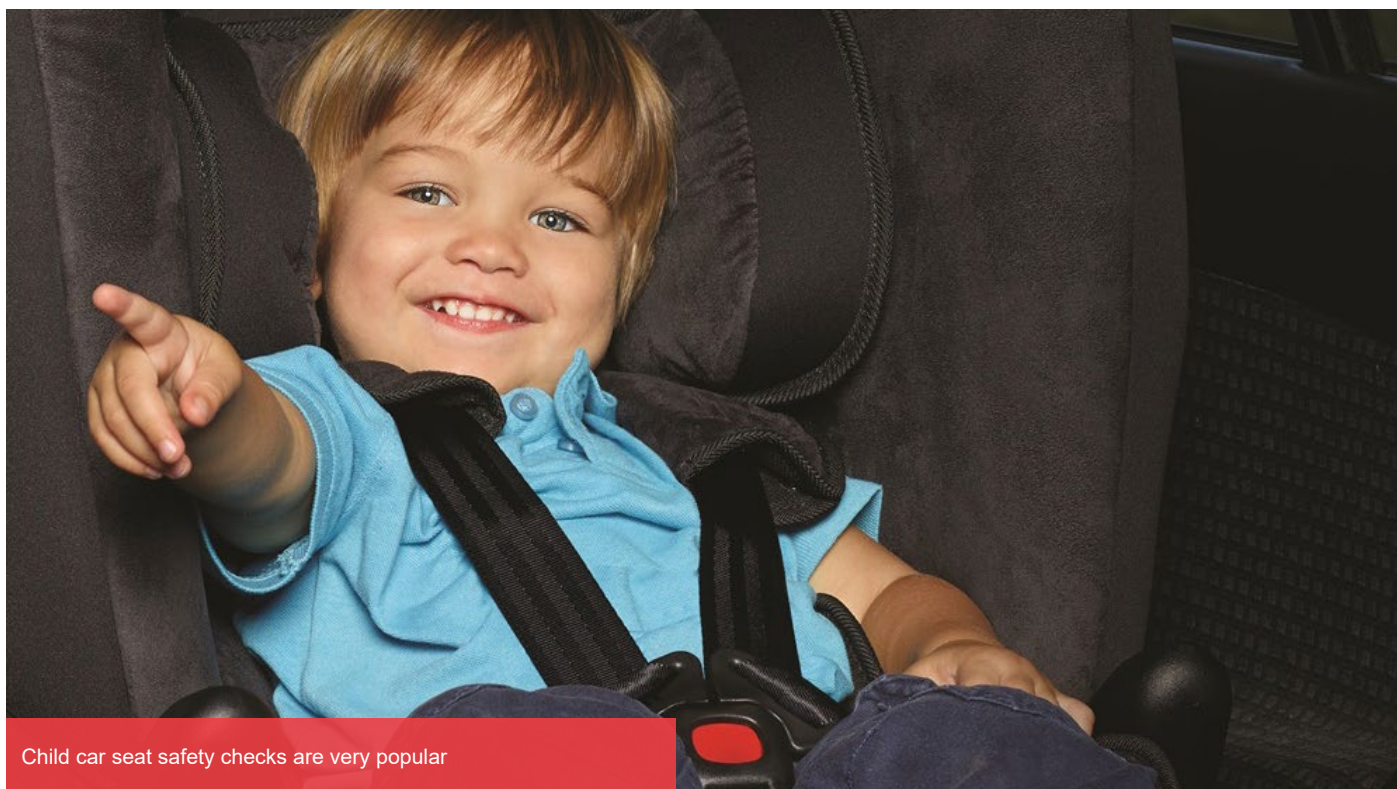
Roads

In March the Council adopted the updated 2019 – 2028 10 Year Traffic and Transport Plan, which prioritises the management and implementation of road upgrades.

Also in March, the Council made decisions on a number of a number of traffic related issues including:

- a. A detailed design be carried out for two lane angled slow points at four locations along Roland Avenue, Wahroonga
- b. To investigate the feasibility of a mid-block signalised pedestrian crossing on Link Road, between the roundabout at Link Road/Stanley Street and Newhaven place
- c. A detailed design be prepared for the widening of Tryon Road at Archbold Road, Lindfield
- d. That 'Left Only' restrictions be introduced on the eastern leg of Chelmsford Avenue at Archbold Road, Lindfield
- e. That 'No Stopping 8am-9.30am, 2.30pm-4pm School Days' restrictions be installed on the northern side of Park Avenue near Archbold Road, Roseville. The centre lines in Park Avenue at Archbold Road will also be modified.
- f. That 'No Stopping' restrictions be installed on Ortona Road at Eton Road, Lindfield
- g. That the BB lines in Acron Road on the northbound approach to Douglas Street, St Ives, be extended to a distance of 20 metres south of Douglas Street. Additionally, a short median island be installed in Acron Road, five metres south of Douglas Street, with an additional 'Stop' sign mounted in the median.

Ku-ring-gai Council is trialling two types of asphalt made from up to 35% recycled waste including plastic bags, glass and green waste.



Child car seat safety checks are very popular

In doing so, the Council becomes one of the first councils in Australia to take on the challenge of turning waste into useful by-products such as road asphalt and bitumen.

The products are being trialled by the Council as more sustainable options for road surfaces, compared with traditional crude oil-based asphalt.

The 'Biogenic' asphalt by Boral blends processed organic substances such as green waste to produce a component of the asphalt. In doing so it provides a new means for carbon sequestration, as well as disposing of organic waste and reducing the use of crude oil.

Laboratory testing has showed an increase in the strength and useful life of the biogenic asphalt compared with traditional asphalt mixes. The Council installed the biogenic bitumen in Saiala Road Killara in June 2018 and so far the road surface is responding well to normal traffic flows.

Ku-ring-gai Council engineers are also testing the use of the Downer-EDI product 'Reconophalt', which incorporates plastic bags, glass bottles and toner cartridges as a portion of the bitumen content.

Reconophalt is already commercially available while Boral's Biogenic asphalt is in the testing phase, with Ku-ring-gai the first Australian council to trial the product.

If the trials are successful, the asphalt will be used on other local roads.

In April a free workshop for those teaching learner drivers was hosted at the Council Chambers, with safer driver course vouchers also offered.

In May the Council offered free child car seat safety checks through an authorised NRMA representative, with the session fully booked.

The Council met with Roads & Maritime Services (RMS)

representatives during this period to discuss their proposal to create clearways in both directions along Pacific Highway from Turramurra to Wahroonga.

Parking

New car parks were completed at Howson Oval Lindfield and Koola Park Killara during this period.

In March the Council considered the results of the public exhibition of the parking draft strategy between 15 November and 13 December 2018. The Council agreed on paid parking 'in principle' as part of a suite of parking management tools. The next steps will be engaging with the community on the financial, location and timing aspects of implementation.





A SNAPSHOT OF OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

THEME 5 LOCAL ECONOMY & EMPLOYMENT

Creating economic employment opportunities through vital, attractive centres, business innovation and technology



Business

The Council continued to offer support to local businesses during this period through a number of free workshops and activities.

March saw the Better Business Partnership and the Council co-host a business networking event in Turrumurra. 50 local business people attended and made new friends and connections, hearing from successful local start-up Humanitix, winners of the Google Impact Challenge. Also in March, the Council hosted a workshop on business planning.

In May two popular workshops were held; one on visual merchandising for cafes, restaurants and small shops to give tips on how to use window displays and other visuals to attract more customers. The second workshop was the inaugural Women in Business session with business growth and sales specialist Maree Kirkpatrick. Maree discussed how female business owners can successfully grow their business while also having the flexibility to have a life outside work.

In June the Council hosted a workshop for Chinese-speaking business owners in Mandarin.

The Council offered congratulations to Roseville business Marros Living, which has won a federal government grant of \$189,040 to

commercialise and market its patented barbeque incorporating a cleaning device for the domestic and commercial market.

This provides convenient cleaning while eliminating the health risks associated with carcinogenic residues, cleaning chemicals and loose brush bristles.





THEME 6 LEADERSHIP & GOVERNANCE

Ku-ring-gai is well led, managed and supported by ethical organisations which deliver projects and services to the community by listening, advocating and responding to their needs



Council

During this period the Council agreed to hold Council meetings monthly instead of fortnightly, with the first monthly meeting to be held on Tuesday 23 July. Under changes brought in by the State Government require that speakers will no longer address Councillors at Council Meetings, although meetings will remain open to the public.

Instead, the public will be able to address the Council at the new monthly Public Forum, starting on Tuesday 16 July from 6pm. This is where residents can speak to the Council about agenda items or any other matters in the public interest a week prior to each Council meeting.

The business paper for each Council meeting will be available on our website from the Wednesday before the meeting, with printed copies available at our customer service centre in Gordon and Ku-ring-gai Library branches. The advantages of the new system are that Councillors now have two weeks to consider agenda items. They also have a clear week to consider any concerns or issues raised by residents at the Public Forum.

In line with state government policy on improving transparency and accessibility, the Council also agreed to livestreaming of

monthly Council meetings, with the first livestream taking place on 23 July.

During this period the Council consulted the community about the provision of customer service across the organisation, with residents invited to complete an online survey by 30 June. The findings of the survey will be used to develop a Customer Experience Strategy later this year.

Also during this period, the Council conducted a customer satisfaction survey to evaluate residents satisfaction levels with services across the organisation. Around 90% of those surveyed were either satisfied or highly satisfied with the Council's service levels.

Council staff

Following an extensive consultation process and presentation to all staff, the new organisational structure was implemented with key positions recruited. The Operations Division now contains four main areas - Waste and Cleansing Services, Traffic and Transport, Infrastructure Services and Technical Services.



During this period Council staff were appointed to expanded WHS committees, including an overarching strategic committee reporting to senior management on work health and safety issues.

A strategic review of organisation-wide customer service and IT was conducted during this period.

Also during this period, the 7 Habits of Highly Effective People program was extended with further leadership training for management and supervisors. The program is based on the work of Dr Stephen Covey and provides a structured range of skills, knowledge and attitudes to promote an increased level of emotional intelligence. The program has also been integrated into Council's induction program for new staff.

Reporting

Between May and June the revised Delivery Program and Operational Plan were on public exhibition for public comment.

The Delivery Program outlines how the Council will achieve the community's long-term objectives.

The Operational Plan outlines individual projects, services and tasks to be undertaken along with the annual budget showing how they will be funded. Also in the plan was the Council's draft set of fees and charges for 2019-2020 financial year.

Highlights of next year's Operational Plan include:

Specific funding for key capital projects and programs includes:

- ♦ \$23.3 million for the Lindfield Village Green project and upgrades to local centres
- ♦ \$13.3 million for upgrades to sportsfields, parks and playgrounds
- ♦ \$11.3 million for roads and footpaths
- ♦ \$2.6 million for the natural environment
- ♦ \$3.2 million to improve community buildings
- ♦ \$900,000 for drainage

Council adopted the Delivery Program and Operational Plan for 2019-2020 in June.

Ku-ring-gai Council has received a fourth gold award from the Australasian Reporting Award organisation for its 2017-2018 annual report. The Council received the award for the excellent standard of its 2017-2018 Annual Report in the government reporting category.

The Awards are open to all public and private industry sectors in Australia and Asia and provide an opportunity for organisations to benchmark their reports against world best practice for annual reports. According to Australasian Reporting Awards, the very high standard of gold award reports makes them model reports for other organisations to follow.

Community funding

In April community groups and organisations were invited to apply for grants that benefit the Ku-ring-gai community through the Ku-ring-gai Community Grants program.

Community groups can apply for grants under the following three categories: small equipment, community development programs and arts and cultural programs.

The community grants program helps organisations to deliver new and innovative projects and services. Previous successful applicants include multicultural resources in preschools to explore cultural diversity, camping equipment for scouts and guides, IT equipment for volunteer training programs, cooking classes for carers and music therapy for older adults.

In February the results of a unique fundraising drive sponsored by the Council were announced. The Ku-ring-gai Monopoly board game sold out within months of being launched late last year, with funds now being distributed to local charities and community organisations.

Coordinated by local Bendigo Bank branches, 2000 copies of the Ku-ring-gai Monopoly board game were produced and sold as a way of raising funds for deserving local organisations.

Ku-ring-gai Council voted to support the initiative with a sponsorship of \$10,000 and this, combined with sales and other sponsorships of the board game, produced funds of \$84,227 to be distributed to local charities and community organisations.

A total of \$60,000 was given to Lifeline Harbour to Hawkesbury, St Lucy's School Wahroonga, Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Women's Shelter and KYDS Youth Development Service. Local schools who helped promote sales of the board game will also receive around \$1500.

During this period the remaining \$22,787 will be distributed to other local charities and community organisations coordinating charitable projects, under a new program called the Community Chest Grant Program.



Ku-ring-gai Monopoly board game

