



A SNAPSHOT OF OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT
JULY - NOVEMBER 2017



A SNAPSHOT OF OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

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 July to November 2017.

Highlights of this period include:

- Ku-ring-gai elected a new Council following local government elections in September 2017.
- The NSW Government abandoned its policy of forced council mergers, following the Council's victory in the Court of Appeal against being forcibly merged with Hornsby Shire.
- The \$28 million North Turramurra Recreational Area was completed, with the Council awarded the NSW Local Government Minister's 2017 Innovation in Engineering Award for the project.
- Consultation commenced with residents on refreshing the Community Strategic Plan.
- A Destination Management plan for the sustainable management of tourism in Ku-ring-gai was adopted.
- The Council approved expansion of BioBanking, a scheme which offsets the environmental impacts of new development by investing in other land for biodiversity conservation.

■ The fourth St Ives Medieval Faire was held in September – the most successful yet for ticket pre-sales and visitor numbers.

■ The Council's Vacation Care program was rated as Exceeding the National Quality Standard, placing them in the top percentile across Australia.

■ The Council's Director of Strategy & Environment Andrew Watson was presented with an Excellence in Leadership Award from the LGNSW, the peak body for local government in New South Wales.

■ The Council also won awards from Parks & Leisure Australia for the Activate Ku-ring-gai program of urban renewal and from the LGNSW for its native bee hive distribution program.

Details of these highlights and other items of interest during July to November 2017 are contained within.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John McKee', with a stylized flourish at the end.

John McKee
General Manager, Ku-ring-gai Council



The award-winning North Turramurra Recreation Area viewed from the air



The Council's vacation care program has been recognised as exceeding national benchmarks

A SNAPSHOT OF OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

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

Ku-ring-gai recognises that children are the most important aspect of our community's future, needing high quality care services as well as events specifically for them. In October, children and educators at the Thomas Carlyle Children's Centre celebrated the Hindu festival of Diwali, with cooking activities, crafts, and visitors in traditional clothing.

Our Family Day Care Scheme continued to include exciting activities for children, with visits from petting zoos and an excursion to the Wildflower Garden in St Ives to learn from the Rangers there. To celebrate Grandparents Day, grandparents were invited to playgroup to help encourage meaningful connections across generations.

In recent months, several locations from the Ku-ring-gai Vacation Care program were rated as Exceeding the National Quality Standard, placing them in the top percentile across Australia.

During the planning of the 2017 St Ives Medieval Faire, special attention was paid to ensure that children of all ages would enjoy the activities at the event.





Youth

Ku-ring-gai Youth Services strive to support young people in the community with activities designed to help them prepare for life beyond school, as well as fun ways to de-stress and make new friends.



In August, Youth Services teamed up with a local artist and students from Pymble Ladies College to transform a drab water tank into a beautiful work of art. The newly colourful water tank at Howson Oval drew the attention of several local newspapers, as well as praise from the community on social media. As a result, more murals are being planned for 2018.

During the HSC, Gordon's AWOL Youth Hub became a chill-out zone where Year 12 students could grab a snack, play video games, or have a game of table tennis. Staff from StreetWork were also invited to teach students helpful relaxation techniques.

In September, Recreation Services teamed up with Youth Services to run a table tennis tournament at the AWOL Youth Hub. The tournament was a casual drop-in afternoon affair, with young people competing to win gift vouchers.

A parent forum was held during November, with police representatives from the Ku-ring-gai Local Area Command and the Hornsby Ku-ring-gai PCYC on hand to answer questions about risky behaviour and how police can assist families.

Seniors

A range of interesting seminars and excursions are run for local seniors throughout the year, with the popular Seniors in Action program designed to educate, engage, and entertain. Over the past few months, older residents have taken part in fitness classes tailored to their needs and health goals; the Qi Gong and Fallproof classes in particular have been very popular.

Seniors in Action has also run excursions to the Titanic Exhibition at Moore Park, to Rhodes Shopping Centre and to Barangaroo.





Events

In September, the fourth St Ives Medieval Faire took place, with close to 20,000 people flooding through the gates at the St Ives Showground. A strong pre-event marketing campaign ensured that advance ticket sales were their strongest ever.

In October, the annual Twilight Concert in the Park returned to Wahroonga Park, this year taking on a 1980s theme. Over three thousand music lovers brought picnic blankets to the park, where they enjoyed dinner from the food vendors (or brought their own from home) and danced along to the sounds of the eighties.

Since the beginning of July, Council has hosted three citizenship ceremonies, welcoming 211 new citizens to Australia in the Council Chambers.



The Arts

The Ku-ring-gai Art Centre is a haven of creative energy in Roseville, with classes ranging from drawing for beginners to bronze sculpture workshops. The centre also offers classes for budding guitar players and those looking to express themselves through creative writing.

During the school holidays, a full program of activities and classes was run for school-aged children, including pottery workshops, printmaking, jewellery making, sewing, drama, writing, and gardening.

October saw the culmination of 18 months' of work when the Art Centre unveiled a beautiful mural wall in its courtyard garden. The mural tiles were created by over 150 local children during 2016 and 2017 school holidays and were curated by Art Centre staff. The mural was assembled by Council operations staff and then unveiled by TV personality Indira Naidoo at a family event.

Libraries

Ku-ring-gai Library's four branches are more than just a place to borrow books. The libraries regularly host authors for intimate audiences with readers, with recent guests including Dr Roanna Gonsalves, James Colman, Tony Park, and Amanda Hampson.

During September, Gordon Library hosted 'Life in Ku-ring-gai', a fascinating display of local history curated from interviews conducted with local seniors during the 2017 NSW Seniors Week Festival.

The Library also participated in the fun of the Medieval Faire at Gordon with an interactive afternoon for school children in the lead-up to the event. The Library set up an activities tent at the Faire, with staff and local authors Isolde Martyn and Felicity Pulman helping to make history come alive for young children.

Recently, Gordon Library threw open its doors over three nights for HSC students, with staff making themselves available after hours to help with last minute revision. The evenings were run in tandem with Youth Services' stress buster events, making sure that students had a place to chill out, and were well fed for their study sessions.

Recreation

The award-winning \$28 million North Turramurra Recreation Area was completed in July, one of the largest sporting complexes the Council has ever built. The synthetic field is already being used for regional soccer games with the turf fields currently used for training until the winter season.



The new amenities building, public toilets and cart shed are all open. A netball training court is planned adjacent to the car parking area.

The golf course is now well established and attracting higher visitor numbers due to its 18 hole championship layout. The Council's recreational staff are working with the golf pro to establish a junior golf program by early 2018.

The Active Ku-ring-gai Program encourages people of all ages and fitness levels to participate in fun physical activity. The range of activities and sports on offer stretches from Pilates and Tai Chi to tennis and a 'gym without walls'. Since the beginning of Term 3 in July, the program has had over 300 participants, including around 50 children. The popular 'Gym Without Walls' class is trialling night sessions with a view to increasing participation numbers in 2018.

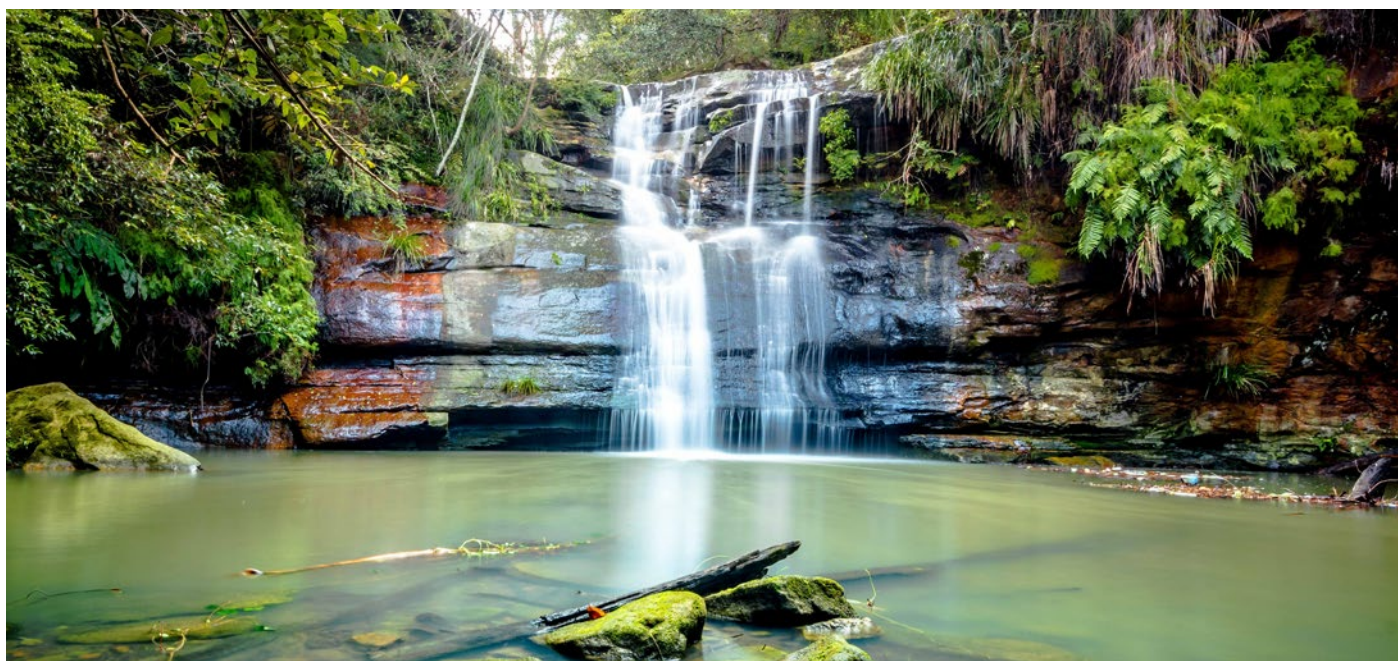




A SNAPSHOT OF OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

THEME 2 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

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



Climate change

Climate Wise Communities is a community engagement program delivering hands-on help for residents to plan for bushfire, storms, floods and heatwaves.

During this period Council staff developed a new online tool which will launch by December 2017. The Climate Wise Communities website will take residents through a series of questions to form a tailored picture of their personal circumstances and help them in planning for potential disasters.

The website also enables users to 'ask an expert', directly linking them with members of the Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC). People can also become a 'Local Community Leader' and have a council workshop held in their area to engage neighbours in a community plan for preparedness.

Water

Culvert remediation works were completed along Mona Vale Road St Ives, to improve water quality flowing into ecologically significant bushland.

Construction has begun on a gross pollutant trap (GPT) at the corner of McIntosh and Arthur Street, Gordon, which will treat stormwater runoff from Gordon town centre and nearby school and residential areas. The GPT will ultimately improve water quality in Rocky Creek which flows into Middle Harbour.

A biofilter system is being constructed to treat stormwater runoff at Wahroonga. The biofilter system will improve the water quality running into downstream bushland and the works will also include weed removal, revegetation of a large area of bushland and channel protection works.

The Blackbutt Creek Flood Risk Management Study and Plan and the Lovers Jump Creek Flood Risk Management Study and Plan are in development. These studies and plans will help develop an appropriate mix of management actions within Ku-ring-gai to deal with different types of flood risk.



Energy

During this period the Council continued to extend its solar panel installation in public buildings to reduce energy costs. 100kW of solar PV was installed at the Ku-ring-gai Fitness and Aquatic Centre increasing the Council's solar capacity by approximately 40% to a total of 343kW. This solar PV upgrade is expected to reduce electricity consumption by 7% at the Centre.

Since the completion of the smart building initiatives at Gordon Library earlier this year including solar PV 60% to 70% monthly energy savings have been recorded.

Lighting at St Ives Library and the adjacent Early Childhood Centre was replaced with LED lights, with energy costs expected to reduce by 75% as a result.

To date, Ku-ring-gai Council's energy efficiency program has reduced its greenhouse gas emissions by around 13%. The overall aim is to reduce emissions by 2020 to those comparable with the year 2000 through a program of improvements to the Council's vehicle fleet, street lighting and public buildings.



Community

Council's Bushcare, Streetcare and Parkcare volunteers at 152 sites contributed over 6,000 volunteer hours over the past 6 months to bush regeneration activities that improve our natural environment. Council continues to offer residents tailored home sustainability and garden advice – this service is offered to residents five days a week and can be booked online or by calling Council.

Environmental grants worth \$50,000 were on offer from July to community based organisations and individuals. The maximum funding for each project is \$5000 and the scheme is funded through the Council's environmental levy. Examples of projects funded include the purchase of native bee hives and greenhouses, bush regeneration, weed removal, bird surveys and recycling projects.

The Council's native bee distribution program won the LGNSW Excellence in the Environment Award for community engagement in October. Native bees are important pollinators of our gardens and food crops and since the program began, 1000



bee hives have been distributed, which are free of charge to Ku-ring-gai residents.

The Wildflower Garden Festival's popular sculpture walk was once again the centrepiece of the day. As in previous years, entrants were asked to consider the theme of environmental sustainability and to use sustainable materials in their creations.

Waste

Two specialist waste investigators engaged earlier this year are continuing with their role of finding persons responsible for dumped household waste and mulch and vegetation left in local parks and reserves. The investigators have been engaged through grant funding from the NSW Government through its Better Waste & Recycling Fund.

A chemical waste collection was held at St Ives Showground in October. This allows residents to drop off paint tins, household chemicals such as fertilisers and pesticides free of charge for safe disposal.

Bushfire

The update to Ku-ring-gai's Bush Fire Prone Land Map was certified by the Rural Fire Service and adopted by Council. This replaces the previous map which was prepared in 2008. The new map formally identifies areas of land affected by bush fire hazards, acting as a legislative trigger for appropriate planning and development controls. The adopted changes result in the addition of bush fire prone status to a small number of properties. However the net result is the removal of approximately 400 hectares of land previously designated as bush fire prone.

Major fire trail resurfacing and stabilisation works have been completed in the Fox Valley area with funding assistance from the RFS Bush Fire Risk Mitigation and Resilience Program. The bushland team has taken advantage of favourable conditions to carry out a series of pile burns during the cooler months.

Fauna

During this period Ku-ring-gai Council put together a survey to help record the movements of a group of Gang-gang Cockatoos, which has not been sighted in the Hornsby or Ku-ring-gai area since late 2016. Listed as an endangered population under the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016, the group is believed to be at high risk of extinction.

The online survey is also being conducted by Hornsby Council and has the support of the NSW Office of Environmental Heritage through its Saving Our Species program. The survey is at surveyMonkey.com/r/ganggang



BioBanking

After consulting the community during July, the Council has approved expansion of a scheme which offsets the environmental impacts of new development by investing in other land for biodiversity conservation.

The scheme – known as biobanking - works by landowners securing funds through the sale of 'biodiversity credits', which are then used to pay for the ongoing management of biobanked land.

Currently around 100 hectares of bush owned by Ku-ring-gai Council are covered by a biobanking agreement, in bushland reserves between Turramurra and West Pymble in the area known as Sheldon Forest, Rofo Park at South Turramurra and Comenarra Creek Reserve, also in South Turramurra.

Under the agreement, a biobanking trust fund for these sites provides permanent annual management payments of between \$100,000 and \$130,000 for the first 20 years of the agreement, and about \$40,000 each year after that. The funding is used for a variety of land management practices, such as weed control, revegetation and removing feral animals.





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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.



Urban spaces

The Activate Ku-ring-gai program has been recognised with a national award from Parks & Leisure Australasia. Ku-ring-gai Council won the Excellence in Open Space Planning Award. Activate Ku-ring-gai began in 2013 as a planning program to reinvigorate Ku-ring-gai's major centres in Gordon, Turramurra and Lindfield.

Located on the western side of the Lindfield Town Centre at an estimated construction cost of over \$120 million, the Lindfield Village Hub will be a new mixed use precinct with community buildings, boutique shops, cafes, restaurants, apartments and a below-ground supermarket. Negotiations continued with TfNSW for funding of 140 commuter car parking spaces to be located within the basement level of the proposed community hub building. Discussions were also held with the RMS concerning traffic management issues and solutions in the vicinity of the Hub.

A development application seeking consent for the Lindfield Village Green project was approved by the Sydney North Planning Panel during this period. Following representations from local residents and business owners, the Council has also

given in-principle support for a third level in the underground car park to provide additional parking.

Turramurra Community Hub project has completed its first phase of development including public consultation, completion of a design Masterplan and discussions with Coles. The second phase of project development is now underway, preparing a business case for third party agreements. The third phase involves a competitive tender for a delivery partner to undertake construction of the whole site. Construction is expected to commence in 2020 and be complete in 2023.

Heritage

The Council placed the proposed Middle Harbour Road heritage conservation area on public exhibition for comment.

During this period the Council advertised grants to owners of heritage properties for conservation and maintenance work. Grants ranging between \$1,000 and \$5,000 will be allocated on a dollar for dollar basis, where Council will match the amount spent by the applicant up to the funding limit.

Planning

The Council received approval from the NSW Department of Planning & Environment to amend the Ku-ring-gai Local Environmental Plan 2015 to include 13 deferred areas. These areas were deferred from the Ku-ring-gai Local Environmental Plan 2015 to allow Council to undertake a further assessment of the proposed zoning within these areas.



The areas have high bushfire evacuation risk, due to the number of dwellings within each area and the limited number of exit roads, impacting on the ability of people to evacuate safely in the event of a bushfire.

The approved amendment to the LEP provides appropriate land use zonings and associated development standards, recognising the high bushfire evacuation risks within these areas.

Playgrounds

The major upgrade at the park in Koola Avenue in East Killara was substantially completed. Completed works include an additional fourth field, field floodlighting, landscaping and improved fencing and a shared pathway around the perimeter of the park for cyclists and pedestrians, with outdoor exercise equipment stations. Planning and design for improvements to pedestrian access, car parking and the internal access road are progressing with construction to start in 2018.

Detailed designs were developed for the new park planned at the corner of Allan Avenue, Holmes Street and Duff Street in Turramurra and publicly exhibited. When built, the new park will be approximately 2,700m². Construction of the park is proposed for the 2017/18 financial year.

Ku-ring-gai Council's recent upgrade of the playground at Roseville Chase Community Centre has been completed, and



is now open to the public. The upgrade includes a range of new playground equipment, with inclusive play elements to make the space accessible for the wider community. The site's drainage was also improved in an effort to reduce erosion from run-off. Additional facilities – seating, a bubbler, accessible paths, and a perimeter fence – were also installed during the upgrade.

Concept plans for a major new regional playground at St Ives Showground were developed during this period and detailed documentation prepared for tender. This additional play area will be an inclusive and large play space for the Showground, in response to increasing population growth and visitor numbers. Funding for the playground upgrade has been assisted by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment through the Metropolitan Greenspace Grant Program.



Gordon golf course

The Council took over management of the golf course in April 2017 and is now responsible for green keeping, maintenance, course management, the pro shop and golf lessons. The Club will be responsible for functions, catering and members of the golf course.

A new website was created for the club and course, along with other collateral such as score cards and signage. New staff including a golf pro, team leader, trainee and casual staff were recruited during this period and are steadily increasing player numbers using the course.

Discussions and negotiations are continuing with Gordon Golf Club over financial matters relating to the lease the club has with Council.

Graffiti

The Council approved a five year package of funding to enable the continuation of the graffiti removal service in August.

Turramurra Rotary will now coordinate all Council funding for local Rotary volunteers to continue removing graffiti from private property across Ku-ring-gai. The Council will continue to clean graffiti from public buildings, roads and footpaths.

Under a memorandum of understanding, annual funding of \$12,000 a year will be provided to the club over the next five years to distribute to other Rotary volunteers involved in cleaning up graffiti in Roseville Chase, Wahroonga, St Ives, Lindfield and Turramurra. Residents can get more information about the private graffiti removal service at turramurrarotary.org.au

Under the agreement, volunteers will take photos of graffitied areas before they are cleaned to forward to VandalTrak, which is an information sharing website and smartphone app, designed to help police track down and prosecute vandals.



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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.



Cycling

The Council won a \$20,000 grant to fund a study into options to improve access at the popular walking and cycling track called Browns Waterhole in South Turramurra. The grant was awarded to the Council under the NSW Government's Metropolitan GreenSpace Program, which supports local councils to improve regional open space.

Browns Waterhole Track is located in the Lane Cove National Park, crossing the Lane Cove River and providing a link between Ku-ring-gai and Ryde. The Track also connects to the Great North Walk which links Sydney and Newcastle.

The Track is popular with residents seeking a short cut to the Macquarie Park and University and also with cyclists and runners accessing northern Sydney from the upper North Shore. However in wet weather the track floods and becomes unusable, causing public safety issues.

The grant will fund a feasibility study into options to ensure the track remains open, such as elevating the height of the weir at its lowest point.

The Ride2Work Day event in Ku-ring-gai was held between 6.30am and 8am on Wednesday 18 October at Gordon Recreational Reserve, 65 Werona Avenue Gordon.

National Ride2Work Day is an Australia-wide event designed to encourage more employees to cycle to their workplaces.

Around 100 commuters cycling to the city and elsewhere dropped by for free bacon and egg rolls, coffee, juice or tea and bike checks, plus the chance to go in the draw to win a \$500 voucher from Pedal Plus bike shop at Gordon. Local resident Allan Cornish was the winner of the \$500 voucher.

Road Safety

During this period, the Council distributed copies of the 2018 road safety calendar produced in conjunction with other northern Sydney councils. It is available free for road users of all ages from Council Libraries, Customer Service and various community locations.

The Council installed 37 'hold my hand' signs at parks in busy locations throughout Ku-ring-gai. The signs are an initiative of the Blue Dinosaur Foundation, which was set up in 2014 to raise awareness of the need to keep young children safe in playgrounds situated near busy roads.

Planning was underway for the annual festive season campaign against drink driving, which will be launched in early December.



Capital works

An upgrade to the bridge on Lady Game Drive West Lindfield was completed during this period. As the bridge spans both Ku-ring-gai and Willoughby, a joint application that was successful was made to the RMS under the Block grant program for partial funding. The objective is to improve road safety for all users and extend the life of the bridge.

The overall Council capital works program for roads, drains and footpaths was delivered on target during this period.

Clearways through St Ives shopping centre during peak periods were implemented in March by the RMS. The Council has introduced the following measures to assist local shopkeepers and residents affected by the clearway:

- Extending the council car park on Mona Vale Road opposite Stanley Street to provide an additional 15 spaces
- Installing signage on Mona Vale Road to help customers find off-street parking
- Implementing two hour parking restrictions on Porters Lane from 9am to 6pm every day
- Implementing one hour parking restrictions on Mona Vale Road northbound between Denley Lane and Memorial Avenue from 10am to 3pm on weekdays
- Implementing one hour parking restrictions on Mona Vale Road southbound between Stanley Street and Rosedale Road from 10am to 3pm on weekdays and from 9am to 2pm on weekends
- Implementing two hour parking restrictions on Mona Vale Road southbound between Rosedale Road and Porters Lane from 10am to 3pm on weekdays
- Changing 12 spaces in the 'Old School' council car park on the eastern side of Mona Vale Road, and two spaces on Stanley Street to half hour parking.

Transport

Council is continuing to liaise with Transport for NSW to secure further additional commuter parking, associated infrastructure and bus interchange upgrades at the key local centres of Gordon, Lindfield and Turrumurra, as part of the Activate Ku-ring-gai local centres program.

A new fleet of double-decker buses and public transport routes was announced by the NSW Government, which includes improvements to Macquarie Park services. This specifically relates to enhanced services on the 197 route (Mona Vale to Macquarie, Park via Terrey Hills and Gordon) operated by Forest Coach Lines.

Further transport analysis and assessment of the Turrumurra Community Hub was completed during this period and the findings presented to Council. This incorporates the traffic and transport improvements identified in the Ku-ring-gai Contributions Plan 2010, as well as other improvements and refinements to increase transport accessibility.

Transport Access Guides for 47 local schools was developed by the Council to encourage alternative modes of transport. The guides focused primarily on mapping safe walking distances to schools as well as other transport features, such as pedestrian crossing facilities. The guides have been finalised and will be distributed in time for the new school year.





A SNAPSHOT OF OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

THEME 5 LOCAL ECONOMY & EMPLOYMENT

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



Business

During this period Council continued to support business through its business engagement program designed to provide top quality learning and networking experiences and access to useful information about other government programs and local business groups. In August a Networking Masterclass with Julia Palmer, a networking expert was held and around 100 businesspeople attended.

Ku-ring-gai joined the Responsible Cafes program which encourages cafes to offer a discount to customers who purchase hot drinks with reusable cups. Twenty local businesses in Ku-ring-gai have already signed up to the program and the scheme was promoted to other businesses in August.

Technology

During this period more applications and permits became available to residents online. Bookings for vacation care services were moved online in time for the July school holiday booking period.

The Council's online services page gives residents the ability to lodge a range of applications, pay their rates and book a service, class or event. To view the online services page visit kmc.nsw.gov.au/Services_facilities/Basics/Online_services

St Ives Precinct

A tourism strategy for Ku-ring-gai - the Destination Strategy - was adopted by the Council in July. It outlines ways to boost economic development and visitor numbers to the St Ives Showground and Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden until the year 2020.



The plan was prepared by tourism expert Dr Meredith Wray, who specialises in sustainable tourism. Over 100 people attended workshops on the plan and 27 submissions were received during the public exhibition. The plan focuses on five themes for developing tourism opportunities in Ku-ring-gai; nature-based tourism; major events; Aboriginal heritage; cultural and recreational experiences and architectural heritage.

The Art & Garden Festival took place in August, and saw the return of the popular sculpture walk competition. Local artists were called on to submit sculptures created with sustainable themes and materials. Ten sculptures were selected to form the walk through the garden, with all works created by female artists. Nine-year-old Dia MacNamara won second place for one of her entries, making her the youngest ever artist and prize winner in the competition.

September's Medieval Faire transformed the Showground into a hive of living history as thousands of residents and visitors flocked to see Australia's only solid lance joust competition, the authentic medieval villages, dozens of stalls selling handcrafted wares, as well as a thrilling birds of prey show, archery demonstrations, and live music.

At the Wildflower Garden, the Rangers continue to delight and educate youngsters through the Toddlers & Tadpoles and Junior



Rangers programs. Recently, the Toddlers and Tadpoles has looked at Plants that Bite Back, searched for Terrific Turtles, and buzzed about like Busy Bees, while the Junior Rangers have been working in the organic garden, learned about and met some bats and flying foxes, caught yabbies, and learned creative ways of reusing and upcycling rubbish during National Recycling Week.

Census

A community info session was held in July to advise the public of key findings of the 2016 Census. This information is essential for those involved in planning, research, policy decisions, business and community-based initiatives. Highlights for Ku-ring-gai of the latest Census are:

- Ku-ring-gai's population is estimated at 123,000, an increase of around 20,000 people since 2006.
- Ku-ring-gai's residents aged 0-19 years comprised 28% of the local population, compared with 24.5% of the rest of NSW.
- Ku-ring-gai residents are living longer, with over 13% aged over 70 years of age, compared with around 11% in the state.

The 2016 Census data is available at kmc.nsw.gov.au

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

In September 2017 a new Council was elected by Ku-ring-gai residents following NSW local government elections. A total of nine Councillors were elected for the five Council wards. Four former councillors – Cr Anderson, Cr. Citer, Cr Pettett and Cr Szatow were returned and five new Councillors – Cr. Clarke, Cr Greenfield, Cr. Kelly, Cr. Ngai, Cr Smith and Cr. Spencer were elected. At the first meeting of the new Council Cr Anderson was elected Mayor for the next two years and Cr Clarke Deputy Mayor for the next year.

Mergers

Following the Council's successful appeal in the Supreme Court in July Premier Berejiklian announced that the state government was abandoning its policy of council mergers.

There was subsequent conjecture that this might leave the door open to mergers after the state election in 2019, after some equivocal comments from the Minister for Local Government in August. However the Premier has made it clear in public statements since then that this is not the case and there will be no further council mergers.

Awards

During this period the Council was recognised through a number of awards. These were:

- The \$28 million North Turramurra Recreation Area won the NSW Minister for Local Government's 2017 Innovation in Engineering Award.
- The Activate Ku-ring-gai program of urban renewal and transformation won the national Excellence in Open Space Planning Award from Parks and Leisure Australasia. Parks and Leisure Australia is the peak industry association for professionals working in the parks and leisure sector in Australia, representing over 2500 members.
- Andrew Watson, the Council's Director of Strategy and Environment was recognised through an Excellence in Leadership award from the peak body for NSW local government the LGNSW.



- The Council's native bee hive distribution program won the Communication, Education and Empowerment Award at the LGNSW Excellence in the Environment Awards.

Volunteers

In August Ku-ring-gai Council approved a total of \$63,500 in sponsorships to volunteer-based community organisations.

The sponsorship program is one of three annual community grant programs the Council funds to assist organisations in providing events, services and activities for Ku-ring-gai residents.

The sponsorships awarded this year included:

- **The Welcome Basket**
\$5,500
- **Bare Events Pty Ltd (Bare Creek Trail Run)**
\$5,000
- **Bobbin Head Cycle Classic**
\$5,000
- **Ku-ring-gai Chase Fun Run**
\$5,000



• **Ku-ring-gai Philharmonic Orchestra**
\$25,000

• **Carols in the Park**
\$10,000

• **Wahroonga Food and Wine Festival**
\$8,000

The Welcome Basket is an initiative that welcomes new residents into the local area with a basket of information and small gifts.

The Bare Creek Trail Run is a new fun run in the St Ives area to raise funds for local charities and schools.

Staff

The Council's online learning management system has now been successfully implemented. Staff are now able to access over 40 e-learning modules in ethics, leadership, EEO, communication and personal development.

Leadership, management and personal development programs are being developed that will align to Council's values and complement and support the performance culture at Council. The first of these – Seven Habits of Highly Effective People – is being delivered as a training program for all staff between October 2017 and March 2018.

The new Events and Sustainability Risk Management Plan has been successfully tested during a number of events and is being introduced across the organisation.

Community Strategic Plan

In 2013 the Ku-ring-gai community and Council prepared the current long term plan for Ku-ring-gai, called the Community Strategic Plan. Following the election of the new Council, the Community Strategic Plan is now being refreshed with community input.

The Plan guides local decision-making by the Council. It also helps shape annual spending by the Council and what priorities the community wants us to focus on.

The Plan is based upon six key themes; Community, People and Culture; Natural Environment; Places, Spaces and Infrastructure; Access, Traffic and Transport; Local Economy and Employment; Leadership and Governance.

As a first step, the Council held a series of community planning sessions during October and November across Ku-ring-gai.

The Council is also seeking the community's views via a 'Have Your Say' web page, which will host live discussion forums, questions and answers and an online submission form.

For more information visit conversations.kmc.nsw.gov.au

