

Welcome to your community report,  
reflecting on Council's achievements over  
the last 12 months and meeting some of  
the people that make it happen.

# your community report


2011/2012

# my environment

## Achievements

- **Bushcare and Community** celebrate 22 years of the volunteer bushcare program with 800 volunteers restoring 71 hectares at 123 different sites.
- **Community Nursery** increased production by 20% and propagated upwards of 50,000 native plants for use in our reserves and community programs.
- **Habitat** ongoing restoration of the One Tree Reach wetland at Laughtondale, providing a habitat for five endangered vegetation communities and wetland fauna. Funding received for a boardwalk.
- **Bar Island** new jetty operational improving access and three Keep Australia Beautiful Clean Beach Awards received.
- **Hornsby Heritage Depression era steps** completed following significant restoration work.
- **Free guided bushwalks program** over 400 people attended 35 free guided bushwalks during the year.
- **Rural Lands Incentives Program** 250 people attended six workshops and 166 property owners restored 51,000m<sup>2</sup> of bushland including endangered ecological communities.
- **Bushfire** completed 2011-2016 Manual Hazard Reduction and Fire Trail Maintenance Program.
- **Parsley Bay Rain Gardens, Brooklyn** completed construction of four new 'rain garden' bio-filters. Designed to filter pollutants, sediment and oil from stormwater running off the surface of the Parsley Bay car park.
- **Stormwater quality improvement devices** completed construction of six new devices at Mt Colah, North Epping, Hornsby, Hornsby Heights and Cherrybrook.
- **Removing Pollutants from Local Waterways** more than 1,100 tonnes of waste captured by 423 stormwater quality improvement devices which filter and treat polluted stormwater before it ends up in our waterways.
- **Estuary Management Program** ongoing actions and initiatives to improve and clean up the Hawkesbury River.
- **Water Quality** continuing to monitor the water quality of our creeks and estuaries and provide real time temperature, salinity and chlorophyll information. Successful lobbying to stop Sydney Water from increasing the nutrients discharged from the Brooklyn Sewage Treatment Plant.
- **Waste reduction workshops** approximately 560 residents attended events including bus tours, hands-on workshops covering a range of topics including composting, eco gardening and keeping chooks in your backyard.
- **Ready Set Grow schools program** 20 schools creating sustainable veggie gardens. 32 school visits assisting with reducing waste, composting education and creating veggie patches
- **Returned to Glory Recycled Art Competition and Exhibition** 53 artworks entered celebrating the reuse and recycling of waste through art.
- **Recycling** – 54% of all waste materials collected (equating to 35,418 tonnes) was recycled. 130 tonnes of old computers, TVs and accessories have been dropped off at Council's Thornleigh Depot, to be recycled. The long awaited federally funded industry recycling scheme will take over this service as of 1 July 2012.
- **Illegal dumping** – 291 lots of dumped rubbish has been recovered, including 96 mattresses and 80 tonnes of wood mulch, resulting in three fines issued and a cost to Council of thousands of dollars to recover.



A woman with dark hair and sunglasses on her head is smiling. She is wearing a blue long-sleeved shirt under a black and white patterned vest. She is holding a yellow plastic bin lid with her right hand. In the background, there are trees and a red mailbox.

As Council's Domestic Waste Contract Supervisor, Jenny plays an important role coordinating the contractor to collect your bins efficiently and make everything run as smoothly as possible.

“

I start work earlier than most usually 7.30am but as early as 5.30am some days! Each day I check that the drivers are servicing the area properly and that bins are put out correctly. Sometimes people overfill their bins, or put them in a place that's not easy to access so I'll often speak to people or leave a card to call me. Then back in the office I answer calls about the collection service, dates, ewaste, chipping services etc. I've worked at Council for six years and enjoy serving the community and working in our beautiful bushland shire.


”

# my community

## Achievements

- **Wallerobba Arts and Cultural Centre** opened in late 2011. The centre has held 16 exhibitions, offers two free open studio sessions each week as well as other weekly classes and is a permanent home for the Hornsby Arts Society.
- **Healthy Living Festival** featured 235 events by partnering with local services, promoting a healthy lifestyle from guided bushwalks to cooking classes for seniors.
- **Festival of the Arts** showcased the Shire's creative community producing almost 300 events, with 250 works on show for the Hornsby Art Prize.
- **'Rock (and Vox) the Block 4'** young performers from across the Shire took centre stage for this popular competition.
- **Children's Voices for Reconciliation** 10 schools participated and 200 people attended.
- **Digital Photo Competition** received over 600 entrants, with voting online for the first time.
- **736 new citizens** have been granted Australian Citizenship at Citizenship Ceremonies.
- **Mobile website launched** improving the way we communicate and providing wifi access in the Council Chambers.
- **Council website** received 700,000 visits in the last year, the mobile site has over 63,000 users, 1,200 twitter followers and 5,000 people receive the monthly enewsletter.
- **Home modification and maintenance** service delivered to over 700 clients, providing services for frail aged, people with a disability and their carers.
- **'Be Safe Be Prepared' project** delivered seven workshops to inform the community of internet safety, safety at home and in the neighbourhood and scams.
- **Settlement Services Program** helps new migrants to settle and adjust to their new life in Australia. A multicultural soccer match with people from Spain, Iran, China and Korea attracted 400 people.
- **Local partnerships** help Council to deliver a range of healthy lifestyle activities such as Tai Chi, Heart Moves, Line Dancing, Skateboarding workshops, seminars about dementia, hearing and vision, through to promoting mental health.
- **Council's Donations Program** helps over 30 local organisations to address social and community issues through the provision of small grants.
- **Aboriginal Programs** aimed at supporting Aboriginal community members through education, aged care, home and community care, family support, events and activities. This includes the successful launch of the "Our Kids, "Our Mob" project. Providing social and cultural support to non Aboriginal families that provide care for Aboriginal children.
- **New regulations** for child care centres have resulted in staff at all four of Council's child care centres being trained to a minimum Certificate 3.
- **Community Centre and Child Care Facility at Storey Park, Asquith** proposed and under review.
- **NSW Local Government Week Award** for "Most Innovative Youth Week Program" presented to Hornsby Shire Council in recognition of Youth Week 2011.
- **Hornsby Shire Council's libraries** welcome 1 million visitors per year, have 70,000 members and lent over 1.2 million items.
- **Over 10,000** children attended 300 story-time sessions during the year.
- **Hosted two Sydney Writer Festival events** with over 300 attendees at Hornsby Library.
- **Over 100,000 computer bookings** with 89 people attending one on one training sessions.
- **Over 300 audio and ebooks** downloaded since being launched in May 2012.



A woman with dark hair and glasses, wearing a black top, is smiling and holding a stack of books. The background shows library shelves filled with books.

As Council's Manager of Library and Information Services, Cheryl knows what an important role the library plays in the community.

I have worked in the library for 18 years and enjoy the diverse nature of working in a public library service providing collections, services and programs to all members of the community. No two days are the same. We have over 70,000 members across the five locations Hornsby, Epping, Pennant Hills, Berowra and Galston. The Library is an important part of the community – a place where everyone is welcome.

# my calendar

## AUGUST

### Living with teenagers

Information series for parents/carers covering topics including surviving study stress, transition to high school, healthy body image and cyber strategies

1, 7 and 22 August, 11 September, 16 and 24 October, 7pm-8.30pm. Hornsby CBD (1 and 22 August, 24 October), Galston (7 August, 11 September, 16 October). Free. Bookings essential, call 9482 1366.

### Andria Stillitano's exhibition research

View and enjoy Andria's exhibition. Andria will be donating all money received for the sale of her work to aid cancer research

Friday 3 August to Monday 20 August. Please call the library for viewing times on 9847 6614. Hornsby Central Library. Free.

### Hornsby Library Knit In

A fun and colourful community morning supporting making knitted or crocheted squares and blankets for Wrap With Love.

Friday 3 August, 9am-1pm. Hornsby Central Library. Free. Bookings not required, further information call 9847 6804.

### Exploring our waterways

Enjoy a three hour bus and walking tour exploring local creeks, catchments and stormwater quality improvement devices.

Saturday 18 August, 9am-12pm. Bus departs Hornsby. Free for Hornsby Shire residents. Bookings essential, spaces are limited, call 9847 6998.

### Chipping for mulch day

Bring along materials for chipping and take home free mulch.

Sunday 19 August, 8am-2.45pm. The Old Dog Pound, next to 8 Warrigal Drive, Westleigh. Free for Hornsby Shire residents. Strict conditions apply. For full details, call Council's Waste Hotline on 9847 4856.

### Jacqueline Harvey is coming to Hornsby Library

Come and meet award winning and bestselling author Jacqueline Harvey who will talk about her popular Alice-Miranda books.

Tuesday 21 August, 6.30pm-7.30pm. Hornsby Central Library. Ages 7-12 (children 7 and under must be accompanied by an adult). Free. Bookings call 9847 6813.

### Recycling tour

Learn about the recycling sorting process and what goes in what bin on this fun and informative tour!

Tuesday 21 August, 8.45am-12.30pm. Chullora Materials Handling Facility. Bus departs Hornsby 8.45am. Free for Hornsby Shire residents. Bookings essential, spaces are limited, call 9847 4856.

### Gala night of books, fun and entertainment!

Celebrating Children's Book Week and the Year of Reading join us for three hours of reading fun and a fantastic concert.

Saturday 25 August, 4pm-7pm. Hornsby Central Library. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Free. Bookings call 9847 6813.



### Compost and worm farming workshop

Get the dirt on how to recycle your kitchen and garden waste! Help your garden thrive, and save money and the environment.

Sunday 26 August, 10am-12.30pm. Eco Garden gazebo, Eco Garden, Fagan Park, Galston. Free for Hornsby Shire residents. Bookings essential, spaces are limited, call 9847 4856.

Friday 31 August, 9.30am-11.30am. Wallarobba Garden, Wallarobba, Edgeworth David Avenue, Hornsby. Free for Hornsby Shire residents. Bookings essential, spaces are limited, call 9847 4856.



Below are some of the highlights for the next few months. For full details of all events visit

**hornsby.nsw.gov.au/whatson**

## SEPTEMBER

### Hornsby Heights camera club's photographic exhibition

View, enjoy and get great tips and ideas from this exhibition.

*Tuesday 4 to Sunday 16 September. Please call the library for viewing times on 9847 6614. Hornsby Central Library. Free.*

### Chipping for mulch day

Bring along materials for chipping and take home free mulch.

*Sunday 9 September, 8am-2.45pm. Council Depot, Johnson Road, Galston. Free for Hornsby Shire residents. Strict conditions apply. For full details, call Council's Waste Hotline on 9847 4856.*

### The Bushland Shire Festival

Join us for a fun day out for the whole family. Food, market stalls and entertainment featuring the Lazy Town Zumba Fiesta.

*Sunday 16 September, 10am-4pm. Fagan Park, Arcadia Road, Galston. Free entry with \$5 donation for parking.*

### Native plant giveaway

Ratepayers from the following rural suburbs only are invited to pickup six free native plants Arcadia, Berrilee, Canoelands, Dural, Fiddletown, Forest Glen, Galston, Glenorie, Laughtondale, Lower Hawkesbury, Maroota, Middle Dural, Singletons Mill, Wisemans Ferry.

*Saturday 22 September, 1pm-3pm. Picnic shed at Galston Recreation Reserve (next to Galston Aquatic Centre), Galston Road, Galston. Free. Strict conditions apply for more information call 9847 6832 or visit our website.*

### Kids activities in the Eco Garden

Make your own herb mix for dinner or learn lots about worms! Activity is aimed at primary school ages, will run for approximately one hour and all children must be accompanied by an adult (parent).

*Tuesday 25 September, 10am-1pm. Eco Garden Gazebo, Fagan Park. Arcadia Road, Galston. Free for Hornsby Shire residents. Bookings essential, spaces are limited, call 9847 4856.*

### Evening storytime

Be entertained with stories, songs and food. Come in your pyjamas and bring your favourite bedtime friend.

*Tuesday 25 September, 6.30pm-7.30pm. Pennant Hills Library. Family event. Gold coin entry. Bookings essential, call 9847 6100.*

### Holiday storytime

Be entertained with stories, songs, craft and food.

*Wednesday 26 September, 10.30am-11.30am. Galston Community Centre (37 Arcadia Road, Galston). Family event. Gold coin entry. Bookings essential, call 9847 6160.*

*Thursday 27 September, 10am-11am. Hornsby Central Library. Family event. Gold coin entry. Bookings essential, call 9847 6813.*

*Friday 28 September, 10.30am-11.30am. Berowra Library. Family event. Gold coin entry. Bookings essential, call 9847 6140.*

*Friday 28 September, 10.30am-11.30am. Epping Library. Family event. Gold coin entry. Bookings essential, call 9847 6120.*

## OCTOBER

### The case of the missing chocolates

Be a detective and help our Visiting Detective find who took a missing basket of chocolates!

*Tuesday 2 October, 11am-12pm. Pennant Hills Library. Ages 5-12. Children 7 and under must be accompanied by an adult. \$10.00 per child. Bookings essential, in person with payment. No phone bookings. For further information call 9847 6100.*

### Escape of the monkey

Mocha the monkey has disappeared! Be a detective using clues to help our Visiting Detective find his hiding place!

*Tuesday 2 October, 2pm-3pm. Hornsby Central Library. Ages 5-12. Children 7 and under must be accompanied by an adult. \$10.00 per child. Bookings essential, in person with payment. No phone booking. For further information call 9847 6813.*

*All information contained in the events calendar is correct at time of printing. For up to the minute event information, visit [hornsby.nsw.gov.au/whatson](http://hornsby.nsw.gov.au/whatson)*

# my calendar

## OCTOBER

### Holiday storytime

Be entertained with stories, songs and food

*Wednesday 3 October, 10.30am-11.30am. Pennant Hills Library. Family event. Gold coin entry. For further information call 9847 6100.*

### Meccano

A hands on session where children use Meccano, teamwork and problem solving skills to create simple and complex machines.

*Thursday 4 October, 10.30am-12.30pm. Pennant Hills Library. Ages 8-12. \$15.00 per child. Bookings essential, in person with payment. No phone booking. For further information call 9847 6100.*

*Thursday 4 October, 2.30pm-4.30pm. Hornsby Central Library. Ages 8-12. \$15.00 per child. Bookings essential, in person with payment. No phone booking. For further information 9847 6813.*

### Science show – wonder of water

Explore the wonder of water. Magically transform water from a solid to a liquid and into a gas and other super cool experiments.

*Friday 5 October, 10.30am-11.30am. Berowra Library. Ages 5-12. Children 7 and under must be accompanied by an adult. \$10.00 per child. Bookings essential, in person with payment. No phone booking. For further information 9847 6140.*

### Science show – wild winds

Using science the audience will participate in fun demonstrations and experiments to discover how air can help and hinder us with its great power.

*Friday 5 October, 2pm-3pm. Epping Library. Ages 5-12. Children 7 and under must be accompanied by an adult. \$10.00 per child. Bookings essential, in person with payment. No phone booking. For further information call 9847 6120.*

### Kimbriki tour and eco gardening talk

See what happens to your garden waste after you place it in your bin and visit Kimbriki's Eco Garden.

*Tuesday 9 October, 8.45am - 2.30pm. Kimbriki Waste and Recycling Depot. Bus departs Hornsby 8.45am. Free for Hornsby Shire residents. Bookings essential, spaces are limited, call 9847 4856.*

### Eco garden basics workshop

A session covering the basics on no dig gardening, companion planting, permaculture, native plants, crop rotation and more.

*Saturday 13 October, 10am-12.30pm. Eco Garden Gazebo, Fagan Park. Arcadia Road, Galston. Free for Hornsby Shire residents. Bookings essential, spaces are limited, call 9847 4856.*

### Cooking class for Korean families

A fun and hands-on cooking class to learn how to make healthy lunch for your children and families.

*Friday 19 October, 11am-2pm. Hornsby Leisure and Learning Centre, 25 Edgeworth David Avenue, Hornsby. \$5.00. Bookings essential, spaces are limited, call Jian on 9847 6994.*

### Chipping for mulch day

Bring along materials for chipping and take home free mulch.

*Sunday 21 October, 8am-2.45pm. 5 Beaumont Road, Mt Kuring-Gai. Free for Hornsby Shire residents. Strict conditions apply. For full details, call Council's Waste Hotline on 9847 4856.*

### 'What's law' workshops

The workshop aims to provide basic information regarding Australian law and know how to deal with legal issues and where to get more information and support.

*Wednesdays 24 and 31 October, 10am-12pm. Hornsby/Waitara Community Hub, 1 Coronation Street, Hornsby. Free. Bookings essential, call Jian on 9847 6994.*





# my lifestyle

## Achievements

- **Hornsby Aquatic Centre** following an extensive consultation process the construction of 'our pool' will soon be underway, due for completion in 2014.
- **John Purchase Field in Cherrybrook** renovated with cricket pitch training nets, full size soccer field, improved lighting, amenities building and car parking.
- **Hayes Oval, Galston** used for hosting sport at a shire-wide and regional level has been upgraded with a \$960,000 new amenities building.
- **New lights at Greenway Park** to enable night games of baseball and AFL.
- **Kangaroo Point in Brooklyn** to be revitalised with improved park facilities, picnic area, parking and a new restaurant, due to open in 2013.
- **Mountain Bike Trail** planned and approved.
- **Footpath improvements** in Berowra, Brooklyn, Carlingford, Cherrybrook, Epping, North Epping, Galston, Hornsby, Hornsby Heights, Mt Kuring-gai, Pennant Hills, Thornleigh and Westleigh.
- **Epping and Galston Aquatic Centre** maintenance underway.
- **Drainage improvements**, in particular at Cheltenham Oval with irrigation works and re-turfing which has stood up well to the wet weather in the 2012 football season.
- **Parks and playground** improvements at Wollundry Park, Pennant Hills; Fagan Park; Wisemans Ferry and Montview Oval BMX facilities; Pennant Hills Park netball court lighting; Dog off leash area improvements; Sportsground fencing; conversion of tennis courts to netball courts in Berowra; Galston Reserve; Greenway Park leash free dog park, Edward Bennett Oval playground improvements.
- **Building improvements** at Pennant Hills Community Centre, Epping Leisure and Learning Centre, Hornsby Nursery and Preschool, Roselea Community Centre, Cherrybrook Community Centre.
- **Local road improvements** in Arcadia, Beecroft, Galston, Glenorie, Hornsby, Mt Colah, Pennant Hills and Wahroonga.
- **Foreshore facility upgrades** at McKell Park tidal pool, Dusthole Bay Pontoon and Kangaroo Point seawall.
- **New Tree Preservation Order** protecting trees indigenous to Hornsby Shire and all trees within Heritage Conservation Areas. Outside these heritage areas, it is not necessary to obtain consent to remove trees that are not native species of Hornsby Shire, thereby reducing regulation.
- **30,000 people** have experienced Council's major events including the Bushland Shire Festival, OneWorld Multicultural Festival and Movies under the Stars.



Photo: After a swim, Claire Miles – Brooklyn

# financial statement

## Where the money came from

	\$m
Rates and charges <sup>1</sup>	79.53
Fees and charges <sup>2</sup>	14.49
Interest <sup>3</sup>	1.65
Grants and contributions <sup>4</sup>	13.41
External loans <sup>5</sup>	1.00
Asset sales <sup>6</sup>	2.03
Restricted assets <sup>7</sup>	2.24
Other <sup>8</sup>	24.4
<b>Total<sup>9</sup></b>	<b>134.27</b>

- 1 Rates and charges includes all ordinary rates, the Catchments Remediation Rate, Hornsby Quarry loan rate and garbage charges.
- 2 Fees and charges includes fees from Development Applications and revenue earned from aquatic centres, nurseries and preschools, commercial waste services, park and oval hire and property rentals.
- 3 Interest investment income received from Council's investment portfolio, overdue rates and annual charges interest.
- 4 Grants and contributions includes development contributions, the Federal Government's Financial Assistance Grant and numerous smaller amounts from governments for services including preschools, bushfire mitigation, children's services, various community services, libraries, roads, various environmental grants and pensioner rate subsidy.
- 5 External loans the amount of funds borrowed from a financial institution.
- 6 Asset sales proceeds from the sale of property, plant or equipment.
- 7 Restricted assets funds set aside in prior years for specific expenditure purposes in future years.
- 8 Other this includes many revenue sources such as fines, recycling income, private vehicle use fees and income from road closures. Depreciation Contra has been included in this category.
- 9 Estimates provided are based on the Original Budget 2011/2012.

## Where the money was spent

	\$m
Employee costs <sup>1</sup>	46.07
Capital expenditure <sup>2</sup>	16.38
Debt servicing expenditure <sup>3</sup>	4.95
Internal costs and depreciation <sup>4</sup>	19.23
Materials and contracts <sup>5</sup>	31.11
Other <sup>6</sup>	16.53
<b>Total<sup>7</sup></b>	<b>134.27</b>

- 1 Employee expense includes salaries and wages, leave entitlements, travel expenses, superannuation, workers compensation insurance, fringe benefits tax and training.
- 2 Capital expenditure includes infrastructure work such as drainage and property, plant and equipment.
- 3 Debt servicing expenditure principal and interest repayments required from external loan borrowing.
- 4 Internal costs and depreciation internal costs are initially recorded as various operating costs and subsequently recharged elsewhere as operating or capital expenditure in order to determine the full cost.
- 5 Materials and contracts includes all costs, other than employee costs, associated with the maintenance of parks, roads, buildings, nurseries and preschools, aquatic centres, drainage and the cost of waste services. Also included are environmental protection and plant operating expenditure.
- 6 Other these reflect Council's diverse operations and include such items as rentals, interest charges, consultants, contributions to Fire Brigade Services, street lighting, office equipment, legals, insurance, advertising, telephones and cash collection charges.
- 7 Estimates provided are based on the Original Budget 2011/2012.

## What's in our purse?

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \$69 \text{ Rates} \\
 + \\
 \$13 \text{ Grants} \\
 + \\
 \$12 \text{ Fees \& charges} \\
 + \\
 \$6 \text{ Other }^1 \\
 = \\
 \$100
 \end{array}$$

## Yearly shopping list for Hornsby Shire Council

**\$18** Improvements  
to local facilities

**\$17** Waste management  
and property cleansing

**\$16** Library, Community Services  
and Culture

**\$13** Planning and  
Development

**\$12** Maintaining roads,  
footpaths and drains

**\$9** Bushland, trees, waterways,  
environmental sustainability

**\$8** Parks and recreation

**\$4** Governance

**\$3** Contribution to State  
emergency management agencies

Based on budget estimates per \$100 for the 2011/2012 financial year with funding adjustments

1 Other = inter alia - Parking fines, Rental income, Interest, Asset Sales



# my council

## Achievements

- **Development Applications** Council remains in the top three metropolitan councils for applications assessed per staff ratio, with 86 development applications processed by each Assessment Officer.
- **The Housing Strategy** was gazetted in September 2011, providing opportunities for the development of over 2,600 new dwellings in Hornsby Shire.
- **Wahroonga North Heritage Conservation Area** was gazetted in September 2011 ensuring that the identified heritage qualities of the area are maintained.
- **Draft Hornsby Local Environmental Plan and Draft Development Control Plan** is currently on public exhibition, providing a new planning framework for development.
- **Over \$16.4 million** spent on improving and upgrading existing local facilities and providing additional footpaths across the shire.
- **Review of Council Services** completed with savings of over \$3 million identified.
- **New General Manager, Scott Phillips** appointed and new structure implemented.
- **Community research undertaken** to elicit opinion and feedback, major findings:
  - 98% of Hornsby Shire residents feel safe in their local area walking and using public transport during the day;
  - 63% regularly talk to their neighbours;
  - 79% of young families visit parks weekly;
  - We like to live here because of the general feeling of the bushland, the green space and leafy environment.





# The Bushland Shire Festival



**FREE  
ENTRY!!**

**FEATURING**  
SHOWS AT 11AM AND 1PM:

**LAZY  
TOWN**  
LIVE ON STAGE

**Sunday 16 September, 10am to 4pm**  
**Fagan Park, Arcadia Road Galston**

*Market stalls, rock climbing wall, V8 car simulator,  
laser skirmish, croc encounters and much, much more!!*

*Free entry with \$5 donation for parking*

*For further information visit [hornsby.nsw.gov.au/bsf](http://hornsby.nsw.gov.au/bsf) or phone 9847 6739.*

Festival proudly sponsored by:

Animal farm sponsored by:



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& UPPER NORTH SHORE



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