



# Cronulla Update

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## Cronulla High School upgrade milestone

Cronulla High School students are enjoying new facilities in term 1 2024, following the completion of the new “M Block” at the school.

On the last day of school for 2023, I joined student leaders, Principal Tony Ibrahim and Deputy Principal Susan Geldart for a tour.

The new block includes six advanced teaching spaces, new staff facilities, modern student restrooms, and a new canteen.

The rest of the school upgrade, announced in 2019, will be completed progressively in 2024 and 2025, including another new building (“L Block”) providing further permanent teaching spaces and core facilities, renovation of some existing buildings and extension of the school hall.



# Local project updates

## Kamay ferry wharves

Construction of new wharves at Kurnell and La Perouse, announced in 2018, continues. Following consultation with the community, crews are now working extended hours on Saturdays to speed up completion of their work.

This extended work on Saturday, until 6pm, will continue until around July 2024. Noisier work will still be completed before 1pm on Saturdays.

The new wharves are due to be completed by late 2024.



*Construction in progress on the Kurnell wharf*

## Kamay Visitor Centre

Construction of a new Kurnell visitor centre at Kamay Botany Bay National Park, announced in 2018, is expected to begin in mid 2024.

The new visitor infrastructure includes a new carpark, improvements to existing carparks, new amenity buildings, restoration of the freshwater stream, new picnic tables, BBQs and accessible pathways.

Subject to approvals and finalisation of the designs, work will begin mid year and is due to be completed by the end of 2025.

Work is expected to start shortly on the new replacement amenities block at Commemoration Flat, to be completed by mid 2024.



*A concept image of the new visitor centre*

## Sutherland to Cronulla Active Transport Link (SCATL)

Construction of Stage 2 East of SCATL (Jackson Avenue Miranda to Gannons Road Caringbah) continues in Caringbah. The work locations are Denman Avenue between Gannons Road and Banksia Road and Kingsway between Taren Point Road and Willarong Road, including the intersection of Kingsway and Willarong Road.

You may notice night work at some of these locations and Transport for NSW is sending information about this work direct to nearby residents.



*Artist's impression of completed SCATL on Denman Avenue*

## Great Southern Walk

Announced in 2021, the new Great Southern Walk from Kurnell to the Illawarra will be a 67km multi-day experience from Kamay Botany Bay National Park, through Royal National Park and into the Illawarra Escarpment State Conservation Area.

New sections of Cape Baily Track in Kamay Botany Bay National Park were completed earlier this year and I understand the feedback from walkers has been positive. Work on the Great Southern Walk is expected to be finished in 2024.



Cape Baily Track

## M6 Stage 1

Announced in 2017, this motorway is due to open to traffic at the end of 2025 to provide an underground motorway connection from President Avenue Kogarah north to the wider Sydney motorway network, including the CBD.

More than 60% of tunnel excavation for this project is now complete.



Construction at the M6 entry and exit, President Avenue at Kogarah (photo TfNSW)

## Welcome new police recruits

I was delighted recently to welcome the latest group of probationary constables to the Shire.

They started work with the Sutherland Shire Local Area Command after eight months of training.

The former Liberal Government funded 550 new police recruits in our last budget as part of a program to bring in 1500 new police between 2019 and 2023.

I thank our police and all frontline emergency service workers for their commitment to serving the community, especially over the recent holiday period when many in the community were enjoying time off work.



# Hungry Point clifftop walkway update

I'm disappointed to report that the Minns Labor Government has scuttled plans for a full clifftop walkway around the Hungry Point Cronulla site from the Esplanade to Darook Park. The previous Liberal Government had funded the entire walkway.

A dedicated community volunteer board (led by retired Sutherland Shire Council general manager John Rayner) had organised its detailed planning and approvals. The walkway was ready to go to tender.

The Government is relying on what I think are absurd 'operational' grounds to cancel part of the walkway, namely safety and security for Marine Rescue NSW operations. Marine Rescue volunteers do a wonderful job, but other rescue services like the SES, fire stations and surf clubs don't require the closure of public land around them. Marine Rescue supported a complete walkway when it was seeking to have a training academy built on the site and its own data suggest only several movements a day across a complete walkway.



The part of the walkway that will still be built will offer spectacular views and remains excellent news for the Shire community and beyond. However, the decision to cancel the rest of the walkway is a lost opportunity to have a complete walking loop around the South Cronulla peninsula.

## Cost of living help

I've heard from Cronulla constituents and people around the state how the cost of everyday living, from groceries to fuel and utility bills, to higher mortgage payments and rents, is hitting people hard.

It is disappointing that amid a cost of living crisis the Minns Labor Government has axed the popular 'Back to School' vouchers. Under the former Liberal Government these provided \$150 per child for families to help them with the cost of school supplies, uniforms and technology. This is on top of the Government's decision to slash Active Kids, Creative Kids and First Lap vouchers.

Some of the rebates and vouchers established by the former Liberal Government can still be accessed by eligible families, couples and individuals.



Scan the QR code above or search online for NSW Cost of Living Hub to find out what rebates and vouchers might be available to you or how you can get help with this process by phone or with a specialist at a Service NSW centre.

# Local news in brief

## Community Building Partnership grants

The successful applications for this year's round of the popular Community Building Partnership grants program are due to be announced in May.

The new Labor Government has reduced the total amount available for each electorate by \$100,000 this year to \$300,000. Successful applications from recent years include playground upgrades at Kurnell Public School opened late last year.



*Opening of the new Kurnell Public School playground*

## State of the Beaches

Pleasingly all the Cronulla ocean beaches have maintained their “good” ([South] Cronulla, Boat Harbour) or “very good” (all others) water quality ratings in latest State of the Beaches report. Disappointingly, of our estuary beaches, Gymea Bay Baths have been downgraded to “very poor” and Gunnamatta Bay Baths to “poor”. Other Port Hacking beaches remain “good”.

## Kyeemagh to Sans Souci clearways

Extended weekday clearways and new weekend and public holiday clearways will no longer proceed on General Holmes Drive, the Grand Parade and Sandringham Street from Kyeemagh to Sans Souci. Detailed planning (including for offset parking) was undertaken and a decision made by the previous Liberal Government to introduce these clearways, to address congestion for the 70,000 motorists that use these roads each day. The new Minns Labor Government has cancelled the extra clearways and proposed no alternative.



## Train services

The new Transport Minister has been non-committal about delivering the 30% increase in peak hour capacity for the T4 Illawarra train line planned under the previous Liberal Government. The previous Government had been digitising signalling on the line to enable a boost in services (including from six to eight per hour each way to and from Cronulla in peak hour). I will continue to advocate for these service improvements for local rail customers.



*The new Metro interchange at Sydenham will open up new travel options for Illawarra train line customers*

In happier news, the Chatswood to Sydenham leg of the Sydney Metro opens this year. This stage of Metro was planned, funded and largely constructed under the previous Liberal Government and will offer new travel options for Illawarra train line customers.

There will be an easy interchange at Sydenham from Sydney Trains services to the Metro, offering travel to places like Waterloo, Barangaroo and Crows Nest.

# Community recognition

When NSW Parliament sits, I have the pleasure of delivering community recognition statements that recognise the achievements, work or dedicated service of people from the Cronulla electorate.

These statements record achievements and contributions in Parliament's Hansard, which is the written record of all proceedings and debates.

Thank you to the following people and organisations that I recognised in the second half of 2023:

- **2024 local high school leaders** (Woolooware High, Kirrawee High, Cronulla High, Caringbah High, St Aloysius College)
- **Grays Point Public School Senior Girls Soccer Team** (joint winners – NSW Primary School Sports Association Championships state knockout)
- **Grace Maher** (Red Cross volunteer for 25 years)
- **Cronulla Seagulls FC 18s Men's team** (age group winners – NSW Champion of Champions finals)
- **Julie McKinnery** (host – annual 'Julie's Pink Breaky' raising money for National Breast Cancer Foundation and breast cancer awareness)
- **Troy Willoughby** (540km walk to support Chumpy Pullin Foundation and youth mental health initiatives)
- **Schools Spectacular** (featuring artists from local schools)
- **Cronulla Girls Boardriders** (25th anniversary)
- **Late Geoffrey Forshaw OAM** (surf life saving community)
- **Nathan Waugh** (Cronulla-Sutherland District Junior Rugby League)
- **Civic Disability Services** (Employer of Choice, 2023 Australian Business Awards)
- **Ken Warburton** (Sylvanvale Pre World War II Vintage Car Show)
- **Sutherland Shire Football Association** (successful 2023 season)
- **Port Hacking Dragon Boat Club** (40th anniversary)
- **Caringbah High School open boys soccer team** (NSW State Open Knockout winners and first selective high school team to reach finals)



Grays Point Public School Senior Girls Soccer Team  
(Photo: NSW PSSA)



Julie's Biggest Pink Breakfast Caringbah

- **Peter Williams, Port Hacking Outrigger Club** (gold medallist, World Outrigger Canoe Titles in Samoa)
- **Dandelion Support Network** (supporting children and families in need)
- **Cronulla Polar Bears** (13th Australian Winter Swimming Association of Australia men's national title)
- **Vale Barry Ross** (late sports broadcaster, author, rugby league welfare volunteer)
- **Port Hacking Little Athletics Centre** (46th season)
- **Karlie Skyllas** – Kooba Kids (highly recommended award in SheCom Women in E-Commerce Awards)

- **Wondering Women swim school** (local swim school for women)
- **Rotary Club of Cronulla and So Shire** (monthly beach clean-ups at Wanda)
- **Joel Cochran** (selected for AFL Futures Match)
- **Hungry Point Reserve Land Manager Members** (volunteer board members)
- **Wanda Surf Life Saving Club** (51st Sutherland to Surf)
- **Jasynta Lampret** (2023 Commonwealth Youth Games Athletics Team)
- **Nicola Barge** (Australian Commonwealth Youth Games FAST5 netball team)
- **Bruce Watt** (published third history book 'Curious Eyes')
- **Sutherland Shire Junior Cricket Association** (2022-23 season and presentation day)
- **Cronulla Chamber of Commerce** (outgoing and incoming executive)
- **Carol Guest** (retirement after 42 years of service to Shire Christian School)
- **GyMEA Bay Cricket Club** (Sutherland Shire Junior Cricket Association Club Champions for season 2022-23)
- **Cronulla Seagulls Football Club** (three premier teams in Football NSW State Cup)
- **Wade Graham** (third player to reach 250 games for Cronulla Sharks, retired at the end of the 2023 season)
- **2023 Sutherland Shire Local Business Awards** (winners Acorn Building Solutions, Chopt Studio and Productions, Commercial Freight and Logistics, Antara on Wyralla Childcare and Preschool, BedsAhead, Empowered Living Care, Laserclinics Australia Caringbah, Dance Works Studio, Blushh Hair Bar in Cronulla)
- **Liliana Hernandez** (Business Person of the Year, 2023 Sutherland Shire Local Business Awards)
- **Jonathan Mosley** (winner of Police Commander's Certificate of Appreciation, fundraising for Lifeline)
- **Adam Blatch** (finalist and subsequently a winner in the Westfield Local Heroes Program)
- **GyMEA Anglican Church** (Spring Fair)
- **Graham Ethell** (service to Shire Woodworking Club)
- **Georgia Cowan and Jack Dransfield** (winners of The Youth Partnership Vocational Education and Training awards)
- **Reginald Mahoney** (NSW Southern Sydney Volunteer of the Year and Senior Volunteer of the Year)
- **Arts Theatre Cronulla** (60th anniversary)
- **Late Richard Grills AM** (King's Birthday Honour for service to community eye health and to the ophthalmic optics industry)
- **Graham Bruce AM** (King's Birthday Honour for service to surf life saving)
- **Dr Pamela Gower AM** (King's Birthday Honour for service to dentistry and to forensic odontology)
- **Robert Wilson ESM** (King's Birthday Honour for service to Marine Rescue NSW)
- **Carolyn Townsend OAM** (King's Birthday Honour for service to the community through charitable organisations)
- **Anne Caterson OAM** (King's Birthday Honour for service to surf life saving)
- **Late Dr Jean Leyendekkers** (local community service and world renowned mathematician)
- **Caringbah Garden Club** (70th anniversary)
- **Phillip Elwin** (Heart Foundation 2023 Golden Show Award winner)
- **Late Robert (Bob) Bouffler** (North Cronulla Surf Life Saving Club)
- **Tracey Corbin-Matchett OAM** (King's Birthday Honour for service to the arts and to people with a disability)



*Cronulla's Jonathan Mosley receiving Police Commander's Certificate of Appreciation*

# Out and about



*Cronulla Water Polo*



*Laguna Street Public School*



*Kirrawee High student leaders*



*Gymea Village Festival*



*Walk for Respectful Relationships*



*Wanda SLSC boat launch*



*Cronulla JRLFC 60th anniversary*



*Christmas hamper packing at Salvos*



*Cronulla Public School*



*Boree Regatta Kurnell*



*Gymea Anglican Church carols*



*Enough is Enough*

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