



Ordinary Council

Monday 26 August 2024

5.30pm

Minutes



Ordinary Council Meeting

Monday 26 August 2024

Table of Contents

	Page
1. Opening.....	527
2. Prayer.....	527
3. Acknowledgement of Country (Gadigal People and Birrabirragal People).....	527
4. Acknowledgement of the Sovereign of the Day (King Charles III)	527
5. Leave of Absence, Apologies and Attendance by Audio-Visual Link by Councillors.....	527
5.1 Attendance by Audio Visual Link.....	527
6. Confirmation of Minutes	528
6.1 Confirmation of Council Minutes - 12 August 2024	528
7. Late Correspondence	529
8. Disclosures of Interest	529
9. Petitions Tabled.....	530
9.1	530
10. Mayoral Minute	530
11. Public Forum	530
12. General Manager and Officer's Report	531
12.1 Report on the allocation of Grant Funding in support of the Bondi Junction Westfield Incident	531
13. Reports of the Committees	531
14. Rescission Motion.....	531
15. Councillor Reports/Councillor Updates (Section 8.4)	532
15.1 Opening Statement.....	532
15.2 Statement	536
15.3 Statement.....	536
15.4 Statement.....	538
15.5 Opening of Vaucluse Bowling Club.....	539
15.6 Statement.....	539
15.7 Statement.....	540
15.8 Statement.....	542
15.9 Statement.....	543
15.10 Statement.....	544
15.11 Statement.....	546
15.12 Statement.....	547
15.13 Friendship Walk.....	548
15.14 Statement.....	548
15.15 Lyndsay Fundraiser	549
15.16 Critical Path Awards	550
15.17 Queen Street & West Woollahra Annual Dinner	550
15.18 Statement.....	550
15.19 Statement.....	551
16. Notices of Motion	554
16.1 Notice of Motion - Litigation Protocol Policy	554

16.2	Notice of Motion - Promoting only Quality Construction	555
17.	Questions With Notice	556
17.1	Questions with Notice - Stormwater Harvesting	556
17.2	Questions with Notice - Boats trailers and Other Vehicles Overstaying their Welcome on Our Roads.....	557
18.	Supplementary Responses to Previous Questions with Notice	559
19.	Confidential Matters.....	559
20.	Conclusion of the Meeting	559

Ordinary Council Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting of Ordinary Council held at the Council Chambers, 536 New South Head Road, Double Bay, on 26 August 2024 at 5.30pm

Present: His Worship the Mayor, Councillor Richard Shields ex-officio
Councillors Sarah Swan (Deputy Mayor)
Sean Carmichael
Peter Cavanagh (joined at 5.47pm during Item 15)
Luise Elsing
Nicola Grieve
Mary-Lou Jarvis (via Zoom) (in person at 6.03pm for Items 1 to 15 only)
Harriet Price
Lucinda Regan
Matthew Robertson
Isabelle Shapiro (left the meeting at 6.39pm during Item 15)
Mark Silcocks (joined at 5.35pm during Item 6.1)
Merrill Witt
Susan Wynne

Staff: Jennifer Chenhall (Manager – Governance & Risk)
Rhys Johnson (Governance Coordinator)
Sue Meekin (Director – Corporate Performance)
Carolyn Nurmi (Governance Officer)
Patricia Occelli (Director – Community & Customer Experience)
Sue O'Connor (Governance Officer)
Tom O'Hanlon (Director – Infrastructure & Sustainability)
Scott Pedder (Director – Planning & Place)
Craig Swift-McNair (General Manager)

Also in Attendance: Nil

1. Opening

The Mayor declared the Ordinary Council Meeting of 26 August 2024 open and welcomed Councillors, staff and members of the public who are watching and listening to this evenings meeting.

2. Prayer

The Mayor read the Prayer:

Almighty God, you have given us a beautiful place to live in. We pray for your gift of wisdom that the decisions of this Council may benefit those we serve.

Be with us in our deliberations that this Municipality may know your blessing. Amen.

3. Acknowledgement of Country (Gadigal People and Birrabirragal People)

The Mayor read the following Acknowledgement of Country:

I would like to acknowledge that we are here today on the land of the Gadigal and Birrabirragal people, the traditional custodians of the land. On behalf of Woollahra Council, I acknowledge Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people attending today and I pay my respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

4. Acknowledgement of the Sovereign of the Day (King Charles III)

The Mayor read the following Acknowledgement of the Sovereign of the Day (King Charles III):

I also acknowledge, the King of Australia, King Charles III.

5. Leave of Absence, Apologies and Attendance by Audio-Visual Link by Councillors

An apology was received and accepted from Councillor Toni Zeltzer and leave of absence granted.

General Item No: 5.1 Attendance by Audio Visual Link

(Wynne/Swan)

154/24 Resolved:

THAT in accordance with clause 5.23 of Council's Code of Meeting Practice, Council approves the following Councillor participation in the Council Meeting of 26 August 2024 via Audio-Visual Link:

- Councillor Jarvis

Note: In accordance with Council's Code of Meeting Practice a Division of votes is recorded on this matter.

For the Motion

Councillor Carmichael
Councillor Jarvis
Councillor Shields
Councillor Swan
Councillor Wynne
Councillor Witt

Against the Motion

Councillor Robertson
Councillor Grieve
Councillor Elsing
Councillor Regan

6/4

6. Confirmation of Minutes

Item No: 6.1
Subject: **CONFIRMATION OF COUNCIL MINUTES - 12 AUGUST 2024**
Author: Sue O'Connor, Governance Officer
File No: 24/139870
Purpose of the Report: The Minutes of the Council of 12 August 2024 were previously circulated. In accordance with the guidelines for Committees' operations it is now necessary that those Minutes be formally taken as read and confirmed.
Alignment to Delivery Program: Strategy 11.3: Ensure effective and efficient governance and risk management.

(Wynne/Swan)

155/24 Resolved:

THAT the Minutes of the Council Meeting of 12 August 2024 be taken as read and confirmed.

Note: In accordance with Council's Code of Meeting Practice a Division of votes is recorded on this matter.

For the Motion

Councillor Carmichael
Councillor Elsing
Councillor Grieve
Councillor Jarvis
Councillor Price
Councillor Regan
Councillor Robertson
Councillor Shapiro
Councillor Shields
Councillor Silcocks
Councillor Swan
Councillor Witt
Councillor Wynne

Against the Motion

Nil

13/0

7. Late Correspondence

Note: Council resolution of 27 June 2011 to read late correspondence in conjunction with the relevant Agenda Item Notice of Motion 16.1.

8. Disclosures of Interest

Nil

9. Petitions Tabled

Petition No: 9.1
From: Tim Hirshman
Tabled by Councillor: Councillor Witt

The Petition was in terms, “We the undersigned members of the community respectfully petition Woollahra Municipal Council to:

1. *Note that as at 25 August 2024 more than 270 people have signed the online petition at <https://chnq.it/MYb7gFDqxb> entitled "Preserve Trumper Park Tennis Courts in Paddington NSW for tennis use only";*
2. *Acknowledge the concerns and opposition expressed by users of the Trumper Park tennis centre and by local residents in the Woollahra Municipality about the resolution passed by Woollahra Municipal Council on 11 June 2024 to:*
 - A. *Initiate a Request for Tender for the lease and operation of Trumper Park Tennis Centre at 1 Quarry St. Paddington, comprising the six courts and operation of the Kiosk in connection with use of the courts.*
 - B. *Include provisions in the tender to allow for multi-sports use of two courts, ensuring diverse activities can take place to optimise usage of the courts (referred to as the “Resolution”.*
3. *Rescind or otherwise vary the Resolution at the next Council meeting occurring after the receipt of this petition, so as to ensure that :*
 - (a) the Request For Tender does not include any provisions to allow for multi-sports use of two courts, or*
 - (b) if the Request for Tender has already been issued including provisions to allow for multi-sports use, that all parties who have received or expressed an interest in the Request for Tender and any other interested parties are promptly informed that such provisions no longer form part of the terms of the Request for Tender; and*
4. *Ensure that any new lease granted for the Trumper Park tennis centre contains the permitted use specified in the Plan of Management for Trumper Park, namely that the Trumper Park tennis centre tennis courts are for tennis play only.”*

There are 20 signatures on the tabled petition.

(Witt/Robertson)

156/24 Resolved:

THAT the petition lie on the table for fourteen (14) days and referred to the relevant Council department for consideration.

10. Mayoral Minute

Nil

11. Public Forum

Nil

12. General Manager and Officer's Report

Item No:	12.1
Subject:	REPORT ON THE ALLOCATION OF GRANT FUNDING IN SUPPORT OF THE BONDI JUNCTION WESTFIELD INCIDENT
Author:	Jamie Adams, Development Officer, Community & Culture
Approvers:	Vicki Munro, Manager Community & Culture Patricia Occelli, Director Community & Customer Experience Craig Swift-McNair, General Manager
File No:	24/129652
Purpose of the Report:	To provide an update on the use of Council's \$20,000 grant funding in response to the 13 April, 2024 Bondi Junction Westfield incident.
Alignment to Delivery Program:	Strategy 2.2: Understand needs of our community so that we can facilitate access to support and services.

(Swan/Carmichael)

157/24 Resolved:

THAT Council note and receive the report on the allocation of grant funding in support of the Bondi Junction Westfield incident.

Note: In accordance with Council's Code of Meeting Practice a Division of votes is recorded on this matter.

For the Motion

Councillor Carmichael
Councillor Elsing
Councillor Grieve
Councillor Jarvis
Councillor Price
Councillor Regan
Councillor Robertson
Councillor Shapiro
Councillor Shields
Councillor Silcocks
Councillor Swan
Councillor Witt
Councillor Wynne

13/0

Against the Motion

Nil

13. Reports of the Committees

Nil

14. Rescission Motion

Nil

15. Councillor Reports/Councillor Updates (Section 8.4)

Note: Councillor Reports/Councillor Updates are to be confined to condolences, congratulations, presentations and matters ruled by the Chair to be of extreme urgency (in accordance with Section 8.4 of Council's Code of Meeting Practice).

Note: Councillor Jarvis left the meeting (Zoom), the time being 5.45pm.

Note: Councillor Jarvis returned to the meeting in person, the time being 6.03pm.

General Item No: 15.1 Opening Statement
Tabled by Councillor: The Mayor, Councillor Shields

The Mayor Councillor Shields Advised:

Thank you to Councillors for your indulgence for me to address you on what will be the last in person meeting of this term. As you know I am not standing for re-election and I would like to make some remarks about milestone events that have occurred during the last 12 months of my Mayoral term.

I also want to take this opportunity to extend my gratitude to those who have helped us achieve so much this year, and to those who have offered their unwavering support during my time as Mayor.

It has been a great privilege to serve our community as Mayor of one of the most beautiful and unique municipalities In the world.

I have been outspoken in our community's opposition to the NSW Government's housing reforms. These reforms threaten the very fabric of our beautiful community by introducing unprecedented building density and height which will flow through to increased traffic congestion with no thought for the need to protect green canopy and no plans to grow vital infrastructure such as public transport, health and education. These plans will irreversibly change the character of our area.

I believe our planning strategies for Edgecliff and Double Bay represent the best way to balance the need for additional housing, with the need to maintain our local character, amenity and heritage protection.

I have also fought to protect the amenity of our municipality by opposing the plan by the NSW Government and Clover Moore to reduce one of our two major roads from four lanes to two. Make no mistake the Oxford Street cycleway will cause severe disruption to local businesses (doing it tough in this cost of living crisis). It will also cause severe disruption to everyone trying to move around the eastern suburbs.

I do see the need to move away from internal combustion engine vehicles and I am delighted to have seen the installation of additional EV chargers throughout the LGA, with the one's in Paddington being amongst the most popular in Sydney and to see the installation of 21 pole chargers powered by GreenPower. Although this decision was not popular with all I have practiced what we preach by retiring the Mayoral diesel Mercedes and replaced it with an EV.

I was pleased to support our Significant Tree register so we can protect our leafy giants and I am proud to be part of a Council that demonstrates its commitment to the local environment by adopting an ambitious and important tree canopy target through our Urban Forest Strategy.

There is no better place to get out and about than Woollahra and we have made some changes to make it even better. We have boosted outdoor recreation opportunities, Councillor Swan and I unveiled new mini basketball and netball courts at Harbourview Park and Moncur Reserve, we upgraded Spring Street playground and delivered an updated fitness station at Yarranabbe Park.

In the last few weeks we have seen the opening of Lyne Park playground, which has received enormous praise and we have opened for public use and hire, the beautiful Vacluse Bowling Club.

I am very proud of leading and delivering alternative revenue streams that will see growth of \$60 million over a 10 year period, which may go some way to address the outrageous level of cost shifting from the NSW Government that damages our community in the order of \$14 million a year.

Talking about good financial decisions my position is very clear on the upcoming referendum which will see the community decide if they want to reduce the number of Councillors from 15 to 9. This is also about reducing our costs, operating more efficiently, with the primary driver that we can focus on local service delivery and benefits. Smaller and efficient government is what the community expects from a Liberal led council.

At Woollahra we are one of the most over represented Councils per head of population in the metropolitan area. We have 1 Councillor per 3,593 head of population. Our neighbours – City of Sydney has 1 Councillor per 21,485 head of population and Waverley has 1 Councillor per 5,782 head of population

The reality is Australia is one of the most overly governed democracies in the world and Woollahra Council typifies this statement. We need less politicians not more and the ratepayers will benefit with more services. I have mentioned before that a small and efficient government is what ratepayers expect from a Liberal controlled Council and they also expect for Council not to meddle in the decisions of the individual.

I am particularly proud that we pushed back on the anti-gas zeitgeist that gives individuals the right to decide if gas appliances should be used in their homes.

I know we regularly grapple with the concept that local council should stay out of national and global affairs. Our jobs as Councillors first and foremost is to represent our community and if the community is affected by an issue, federal, state or local, then it is our job to be their voice.

Recently our community was heavily impacted by the worst single day of Jews being murdered since the Holocaust. As a Council we pretty much unanimously resolved to condemn the abhorrent and unprecedented attack on innocent Israelis by Hamas. We showed our support to the local Jewish community and to those killed, injured or taken from their loved ones, by choosing to fly the Israeli Flag as a sign of solidarity for all Jewish people here and abroad.

I shared the proudest moment of my political life with Isabelle Shapiro when I stood in front of most of you wearing a Kippah and reciting the Shema. I have recently received criticism for wearing two hats. My decision to remain as Mayor was a direct result of an unprecedented rise in anti-Semitism following October 7 and a widespread fear in our community to publicly express our Jewishness. When my own daughter expressed concern about displaying a mezuzah at our door, I knew there was a problem.

I remained as Mayor because I was pleaded with privately by community and religious leaders to be a beacon of strength in our local community's greatest hour of need. I am proud that all significant Liberal leaders, including Peter Dutton, supported me in this decision. I do not, in anyway resile from this decision.

In late July Woollahra Council endorsed and adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism. This was a Notice of Motion I tabled along with my colleagues Councillor Isabelle Shapiro and Councillor Sean Carmichael. The adoption of the definition is an important tool for Council to identify and combat antisemitism and is an extension of the support the Council has demonstrated to the Jewish community.

I am proud that we also actively campaigned against the Russian invasion of Ukraine by raising the Ukraine Flag to mark their Independence Day (which was on Saturday) and to place street blade signs "We stand with Ukraine" in close proximity to the Russian Embassy.

Our community was directly touched by tragic events at Westfield on 13 April. The police, emergency services, bystanders, staff and the public responded with such courage. In attending the site, with DM Sarah Swan we demonstrated our support for the community and our neighbouring Waverley Mayor. In the aftermath, I witnessed incredible moments of compassion and community strength. As a Council we responded quickly via a Mayoral Minute offering \$20,000 in grant funding to support the community following this tragedy. Successful recipients *Lifeline Eastern Suburbs - Bondi*, *Art of Living Foundation* and *Bondi Beach Cottage* will now be supporting the health and wellbeing of the community with the assistance of the grant funding.

Extending our support to the community during difficult times is something this Council has a strong track record of doing. We demonstrate our capacity to care and support those in need. I am proud of the work we have done in this space and I hope it continues long after we are gone.

To lighten up my remarks, the biggest joy of my Mayoral responsibilities was conferring citizenship on new Australians. There is no better feeling than seeing the look on the faces of new citizens that have made a conscious decision to become Australians. Our country is built around the principles of democracy, fair elections, free speech and association and an independent judiciary not to mention the ethos of hard work and a fair go and it is these principles that will always attract new Australians to our shores.

It was for this reason that I have always supported holding citizenship ceremonies on Australia Day, we must never forget our past and our ancestral custodians, but we should never be ashamed of the modern foundations of our country that make us the envy of the entire world.

Continuing this legacy of embracing our proud heritage it was a personal highlight to launch the inaugural Mayor's Anzac Day Writing Competition. I was incredibly moved by the way in which young school students shared stories and poems in respect of our service men and women.

I also want to mention a local school student Ayla Khater who is a new Australian who fled with her mother from war torn Syria. I met Ayla because she organised an art exhibition of her own work, at Woollahra Gallery, with the proceeds going to Syrian refugees. With the outstanding young people I have met in Woollahra, and of course my own children, I know that the future of our community is in good hands.

Going from future inspirations to past inspirations it was a highlight to unveil a portrait of Woollahra's first female Mayor, Brenda 'Dutchie' Backhouse with the Deputy Mayor on International Women's Day, 'Dutchie' was a trailblazer to all the incredible women who have served and continue to dedicate their time and energy to Woollahra Council.

I know that there have been a couple of you who have silently tutted with my wearing of the Mayoral chains at official events. I wear the chains to honour all Mayors, and by extension all Councillors, that have served this great municipality since 1860. The Mayoral chains represent the great individuals that have come and gone. I wear the chains to continue their legacy.

Some of the names that I wear on this chain are here today. My staunchest supporter, Toni Zeltzer, hopefully is listening. My community and personal adviser, Isabelle Shapiro. My great mate and community conscience Susan Wynne; and my oldest Woollahra friend and wisest financial counsel in our municipality's history, Peter Cavanagh. I hope that I have done you and every other Mayor on these chains proud.

There are some Councillors that don't make it onto the Mayoral chains but this should in no way diminish their excellent service and commitment to community and to this I acknowledge the retirement of Luise Elsing.

I would like to thank Councillor Sarah Swan who has been an outstanding Deputy Mayor. Her steady and consistent leadership and bi-partisan approach is to be commended. She has all the right qualities for a very successful community leader and I hope she too will have the chance to be Mayor of Woollahra. I also look forward to watching the continual progress of my friend Sean Carmichael, who I also have no doubt has all the attributes necessary to follow in the footsteps of those on the chains that I so proudly wear.

There have been some good times and some challenging times and I would also like to acknowledge the support across the aisle of Mark, Merrill, Lucinda and Luise.

I would also like to commend the General Manager, Craig Swift-McNair, the Directors, Tom, Scott, Sue and Patricia, and all staff. Their level of high quality advice and professionalism is second to none and we are lucky to have them. Thanks to Pat Vella who has managed my diary, correspondence and attendance at lots of community events. Her support is appreciated.

I would also like to thank in no particular order: Anne White, Zubin Marolia, Jody Rodas, Paul Fraser, Emilio Andari, and their teams, previous Manager of Governance Helen Tola, Jen Chenhall, Carolyn Nurmi, Sue O'Connor, Rhys Johnson, Danial Elahi, Justine Henderson, Alex McClintock, and Matt Frilingos.

I wish the next Mayor of Woollahra and the newly elected Council all the best. I hope you can continue the good work that has been set in place by all around this table, who regardless of party politics have been invested in the best outcome for Woollahra now and in the future. For those of you who are running again and are re-elected I wish you continued success.

I would like to thank my family and friends and the community. They are my motivation and they are a constant reminder of why I chose to become a Councillor. It has been an honour and a privilege.

In closing I would like to say that putting yourself on a ballot paper to strive to make our community better is one of the highest callings in life.

The personal rewards are non-existent and the risks are large. It is the positive impact that we can have on our community that should continually drive us to be courageous and continue to put ourselves forward for public service. Thank you.

Other achievements:

- Safety nets for Trumper Park and Trumper Park access pathways
- National Tree Day planting
- Push Up Challenge promotion for mental health fundraiser to support Lifeline Bondi
- German Cultural Day
- Congratulating SES volunteers at their award presentation ceremony
- Oppose 25 storey tower New McLean St Edgecliff
- Chanukah celebrations
- Support for Moore Park Golf Course
- Protecting the democratic rights of the individual to choose what kind of appliances they have in their homes
- The delivery of more than \$260K in grants for organisations to bring great projects and events for community connection to life
- Further work to support women and families escaping and healing from domestic violence
- After conferring citizenship on Australia Day, this year I have had the great honour of conferring citizenship on 218 new citizens.

General Item No: 15.2 Statement
Tabled by Councillor: Deputy Mayor, Councillor Swan

Councillor Swan Advised:

In a few weeks we will be losing some 67 years' worth of corporate knowledge from this Chamber, which is very daunting from my perspective. We have Councillor Shapiro who has been with this Council for 16 years and Mayor from 2010 to 2011. We have Councillor Wynn also 16 years with a makeup of Mayoralties. We also have Councillor Cavanaugh who has been with this Council for 16 years and we have Councillor Elsing who has been here for 12 years. The Mayor, Richard Shields, who has done a stoic seven years and a very efficient seven years, particularly the last 12 months as we have just heard and what has been done in that short period of time. So of those Councillors leaving, there are four Mayors and we all owe a huge debt to each of you for all the incredible work that you each have done. Woollahra is a better place for all of the hard work that you each have done during your respective terms on Council and as Mayors. Councillors Wynne and Shapiro, you both embody what it means to be fearless female leaders. You have governed with integrity, compassion, and from a place of true utilitarianism, and we are all lucky to have been able to work with you this term and for many others in previous terms.

As I said, our community owes you a great debt. Councillor Cavanaugh, you have been a very strong advocate for the Paddington community in particular and I know many local businesses who are very grateful for the strong work that you have done and I know that our community is grateful for the strong financial management that you have deployed during your tenure on this Council. Councillor Elsing and I can only assume from your position on the ballot box that you do not wish to be re-elected, but you never know. My fellow Cooper Ward Councillor, it has been an honour to have represented our community.

I know many people in our community in particular, especially around Queen Street. They remind me often of your activism and your engagement over the last 12 years and I certainly have learned a lot from you in meetings and the way that you carry yourself, and I am very grateful for that. Thank you very much.

Your Worship, I was going to point out some of the highlights of your last 12 months, but since you have done so eloquently, I won't. But all I will say is that you have a very strong and distinct leadership style and I'm glad that you didn't pull back from that, even in the face of opposition during very difficult times. It's only with that attitude of being forthright in the way that you carry yourself, that you've been able to achieve so much in the last 12 months and I thank each of you for all of the work that you have done this term and in previous terms.

General Item No: 15.3 Statement
Tabled by Councillor: Councillor Shapiro

Councillor Shapiro Advised:

I would also like to be able to acknowledge the staff as such an important part of this Council.

I first joined Woollahra Council in 2004 for two terms and then followed by another two terms in 2017. I really feel that I'm leaving Woollahra in a much better place than when I started. I look back with pride at the initiatives which I was able to bring to fruition and the most important being Gap Park Master Plan for suicide prevention, a graffiti policy which still keeps Woollahra graffiti free and bringing public art to Woollahra, which will continue to enrich the LGA for many years to come. But I was also very fortunate to be part of the team which delivered Kiaora Place and the Woollahra Art Gallery.

But by far the most important part of my time at Woollahra are the people I have worked with and the many friendships I have made, which will always remain an important part of my life. Starting at the top, Mr General Manager, Craig Swift McNair. One of the best decisions we ever made was to hire you. Under your stewardship Woollahra has emerged from the difficult COVID years as a more professional and financially stable organisation and I thank you for that.

We are fortunate to have Directors of such high calibre and I particularly thank Tom O'Hanlon who has probably one of the most challenging portfolios. Trees, traffic and infrastructure. Please also pass my thanks to Emilio Andari, Zubin Marolia, Paul Fraser, Mark Ramsay and all the others who have assisted us over the years.

Another challenging area of course is planning, and I thank Scott Pedder for always responding to my endless requests and Anne White for running such an outstanding Strategic Planning department. My special thanks go to Nick Economou, who I've worked with since 2004 and Nick has taught me so much over those years.

The icing on the top has been my involvement in public art and working with the team at Community & Customer Experience under Patricia Occelli and Vicki Munro. Our art and culture is going from strength to strength and I know I leave it in good hands.

The Governance team under Sue Meekin has been such a pleasure to work with and I have made so many friends in that team and my thanks to you all, I think I am going to get very emotional. Justine Henderson has been a wonderful support and you have taught me so much over the years. I have really special memories of our time together and I thank you for it Justine, and of course the real power behind the throng and nothing happens without her, Patricia Vella. Could I call her the real boss? Thank you Pat for handling everything in such a calm, efficient manner. Nothing is ever too much for you and I will always treasure our time together.

To fellow my Councillors starting with the Liberal team, the current Liberal team has been a most cohesive team and I have enjoyed working with you all. My special thanks go to Sean Carmichael, our co-Bellevue Hill Liberal Councillor. It has been such a delight working together with you representing Bellevue Hill and I feel confident you will carry on as a great representative. Toni Zeltzer is not here, but Toni, Peter, Susan and I have all had four terms and created such a strong bond and friendship, my thanks to you all. Sarah, it has given me such pleasure watching you grow into your new role. Mary-Lou, you will be such an important part of the new team adding your experience and now to the two mayors from this term who have made such an important contribution.

Susan Wynne, I was so fortunate to serve as your Deputy in this final term and I acknowledge and thank her for her outstanding and longstanding contribution to this Council. Susan, I know we will always have a special bond and I treasure our time together. Richard, I have been so grateful to have you as Mayor over the past year and thank you for your excellent, strong and decisive leadership. It has meant so much to me.

Lucinda Regan, I enjoyed having you with us in Bellevue Hill and I also acknowledge the retirement of Luise Elsing and thank her. Thanks and appreciation to the other Woollahra Councillors who supported Richard and I following the Hamas massacre on October 7 and in the fight against antisemitism. As the LGA with the largest Jewish community, I'm proud that Woollahra provided much needed support to the community during these distressing times and I thank you all for it.

General Item No: 15.4 Statement
Tabled by Councillor: Councillor Regan

Councillor Regan Advised:

I do want to particularly thank staff very much for all their support and assistance that they have personally given me in the last term of Council and in the term before that. We would not be able to do anything without you guys. I am very thankful to our General Manager, to our Directors, Mr O'Hanlon, Ms Meekin, Mr Pedder, Jennifer Chenhall and all the support staff. Truly thankful. I think we have come a long way over the last three years. I think the retiring Councillors will probably have even come further. We have been through a whole COVID period, we have gone on to online streaming, I think you have seen a lot of changes and I am anticipating there will be more to come.

We are a team and I know a lot has been said about whether we are Liberal, Green, Independent or Labor, but we come together as team, we work as a team and I think that that's important to remember. The forward facing of non-Liberal Councillors, that we all work together to deliver outcomes that are very good for the community and there is good robust debate and we usually get it, I would say 99% right. I would also like to thank the outgoing Councillors for their service to the community and I wish them very well with their life beyond the Chambers. A special thanks to our outgoing Residents First Councillor, Luise Elsing who has worked tirelessly for her community as have the other outgoing Councillors since being elected as a Councillor in 2011.

In addition to her work on Council, Luise has been involved with the community of Woollahra as a Director of the Holdsworth Centre for some eight years and as active member of the Queen Street West Woollahra Association where she also found time to research and publish her book, *The History of Queen Street and West Woollahra* in 2013. Councillor Elsing's forward thinking of strategic vision has led to many great outcomes at Council, which are far too numerous to recount in detail, but we have much to thank Luise for in particular.

I just want to highlight a few things and one big thing that stands out for me is the implementation of our Domestic Violence Housing Program, which has helped families in our community escaping domestic violence and to get back on their feet. I think that that's something you should be incredibly proud of.

In addition, to now stand reporting in our Environmental Planning Committee, of Land and Environmental Court proceedings and the outcome of those proceedings so that we can keep track of how we are monitoring our development controls. The now standard reporting on our housing targets, to go to Mayor Shield's point about making a very good point to advocate, to have grounding and basis for advocating in relation to housing targets and strategic planning and also advocacy to retain open space in public hands, not only with the Vaucluse Bowling Club, but also with the community facilities that sit underneath the Redleaf Gallery. So she (Luise Elsing) has been a great personal mentor and I am hopeful that we can carry on, as a Council her good work and I wish her well in her future endeavours and I'm excited to see where it lands her, including in the crochet artwork.

General Item No: 15.5 Opening of Vaucluse Bowling Club
Tabled by Councillor: Councillor Regan

Councillor Regan Advised:

I did really want to mention my pleasure at being at the opening of the Vaucluse Bowling Club on the 17 August and I know I was there with Councillors Swan, Carmichael, Witt and Jarvis. I think that it is really, to me, indicative of one of the reasons we are all here. It took seven years to come to fruition and I am delighted that to see it has opened as a community facility and it wasn't so long ago that we asked as a Council, for investigation to be done on this asset to see if we could take it from the Crown Lands and back into community hands to make sure that we could keep it as community open space.

I am delighted that that's happened and I want to particularly thank Director O'Hanlon and his team including Mr Marolia for picking up on the Notice of Motion and actually putting it into action. It is all very well and good for us to have an idea come up, but it is the staff that really translate that into a deliverable. Not only did director of O'Hanlon and his team successfully negotiate the transfer and management of this Crown Land to Council, thus preserving the incredibly important open space for community use, but they are also able to negotiate and maintain a relationship with the Vaucluse Bowling Club for their access to the green as well. I think even after achieving this amazing outcome, Director O'Hanlon and his team also went on to successfully seek grant funding to upgrade the facilities to the amazing standard that they are and these grounds with amazing harbour views are now retained in community hands.

Councillor Witt further Advised:

On Saturday the 17 August, apart from being my sister's 60th birthday, it was just a remarkable day for the Woollahra community after attending the opening of the Vaucluse Bowling Club.

General Item No: 15.6 Statement
Tabled by Councillor: Councillor Carmichael

Councillor Carmichael Advised:

Thank you for being an outstanding Mayor this past year. It is with tremendous pride that I listened to you mention so many of your achievements. Although, I did note you left out one achievement that I am particularly proud of in post-October 7. It was a very difficult time for people who are gay and Jewish and I brought this to your attention that the Dayenu Group, who were having a difficult time with members, basically coping with this issue and I came to you and I brought this to you and with the raising of the progress pride flag, you very kindly invited a '78'er and the President of Dayenu to come along and stand with us on that. That was a double minority group that has been given representation by you in your push for social cohesion. So thank you in giving a home to a very substantial community in the Eastern suburbs.

More broadly, someone that came in here first in 2008, and had my 21st birthday party in the Mayor's office at the time I stand here having returned in 2021 and watching a great number of dear colleagues that I started with, such as Isabelle Shapiro, who I believe started in 2004, Susan Wynne, Peter Cavanaugh and Toni Zeltzer. All I can say is, as all of you depart from this place, we stand here on the shoulders of giants and in your leadership, but particularly with Isabelle Shapiro, we started together. Thank you so much for being such a tremendous mentor and friend.

Councillor Regan as well. I do want to say thank you for being such a tremendous colleague to work with. Councillor Peter Cavanaugh, I'm going to miss your outstanding friendship, your broaches, your lovely gold outfits and your amazing friendship. Thank you so much for everything.

Council Wynne “Madam Mayor Emeritus”, thank you so much as well. I actually must say to both you and to Mayor Shields, thank you for your support for the gay community. As someone that came out when I was 14 years of age, it was barely still just being tolerated even at that time. To have World Pride hosted in Woollahra Council was a very humbling experience.

Councillor Elsing, I remember as I was first leaving in 2012 your enthusiasm sitting in the Chambers watching Councillors making notes. That was not lost on me and I was proud to see you coming into the Chamber. Thank you to everybody coming into this Chamber, whether we consider ourselves first, best friends or consider ourselves ideologically different, I am thankful for all of you for being able to come together and work on issues of mutual interest to create good outcomes for our community.

As you said, Mr. Mayor, it is enormous risk and very little return to come and put your name on the ballot box. But we do it because it's the right thing to do, to stand up for what we believe in and to do the right thing by our community. Thank you all and those coming back or aspiring to come back. I look forward to working with you and to those leaving, have a lovely, lovely time.

General Item No: 15.7 Statement
Tabled by Councillor: Councillor Elsing

Councillor Elsing Advised:

Thank you so much for this opportunity to speak, I do want to say a few thank you's. I want to start by thanking Councillor Zeltzer. Without her, none of us would be here. She showed what she did when she was there, which I looked up was 2016 and together with Councillor Robertson and those around the table, Councillor Cavanagh and the other Councillors that were on Council at the time and Councillor Marano. It was the incredibly difficult thing for Councillor Zeltzer to do, she stood up to the Liberal Party, she got treated very badly and she was rejected.

All Councillors supported her in the resolution and also the General Manager we had at the time, Gary James, was very, very supportive and we were innovative and brave about the status. Without her we wouldn't be here, we wouldn't have Woollahra Council. I have always felt beholden to her and I will continue to do. I think that we need to somehow present that a lot more seriously. I want to pick up on our Ward Councillors. I really do believe the way you get things done is through collaboration and communication.

All of us are here to serve community. We have completely different ideas sometimes, how they are done and if we remain civil and on focus, that is when we deliver.

I wanted to thank staff, I particularly wanted to thank Nick Economou in Planning, Anne White and Sue O'Connor. Looking at everyone is fantastic on staff and I think it's something that we be grateful for is quality staff. Luckily, we've carried through that quality of Tom O'Hanlon and through everyone else.

I also want to thank the community. I'm going to be frank, sometimes the community is being too honest or have too much to say. It can be annoying, but thank goodness that they are engaged with this process. Even when I don't agree with their sentiments, I'm so grateful that they're engaged and that they care about what's happening in the parks. They care about the bike paths, they care about the skate parks, they care about the playing fields because that's why we're all here. Because that care and that engagement is what keeps the standards high and us responding to that engagement, whether we agree with it or don't agree with it, we have wonderful community members that are articulate.

I can remember when I first came on Council and people got up to speak and I was just blown away with how articulate they are, how they have a sense of the place in community and how they're prepared to advocate for what they want. Without that we would be nothing. The community groups, we've got obviously Queen Street West Woollahra, the Double Bay Residents Association, and Paddington Society. I'm going to forget somebody who's very important, but they're made up of incredibly high quality people and it is just an absolute joy to work with our community and even the people whose views I disagree with, I so applaud them for engaging with us in the way they do.

Having said that, sometimes we get mountains of information and we have been heard to grumble, but really it's not the way I feel. I'm so grateful for the community and their engagement.

I thought I had better speak about my family. I have been on Council for 12 years and it does take an impost on your family and what you're doing, and as we speak, my husband is recovering from an operation on his own. Someone's supposed to be with him. I hope this doesn't turn out as a cruel outcome, but it does take a toll on the family members and my family has been very supportive in my role here and particularly in election times. That's when they all roll out and I'm very grateful for my children, particularly who I like to think are well known on the 'hustings' have been quite effective supporters.

I have been 12 years on Council and I did pluck out a few things I thought that I was proud of and funnily enough, the thing that I'm proudest of are the smallest things, the seats, the footpaths in Edgecliff Road when I'm walking down there, the dog parks, whatever those things where the community says, oh, that we could improve our lifestyle if this was fixed up here and we can work with staff and they're normally responsive and that fabulous app we've got. I mean it really is one of my greatest achievements. It's just all of that stuff and I know Mary-Lou does a lot of that sort of work at micro level and it's very, very important and satisfying.

I think also the amalgamations was a big part of my life on Council, a really big part of my life. I think that was probably the most important thing that we did as Councillors with support through that process and worked together.

Protecting heritage, we all say we do it, I like to think I have done a lot of it personally. Heritage-listing Cooper Park and other things, sometimes being unsuccessful in my claims to heritage- list and also being proud that it is a way that we can protect the part of our community that's important to us and it is a very important part of our identity.

Like my colleagues, I'm very proud that we are part of a community that champions the rights of the LGBTQA+ community and the World Pride, and I thank Councillor Harriet Price because I think she really initiated that on Council and also the support for marriage equality, which all of us supported and it's great to work in that community.

And something I feel so proud of, initiating the *Racism Not Welcome*, which is probably one of my most hated initiatives. I'm so proud of it and I don't want to say it was really during COVID, but it's just when we're under pressure, there is a trend to move into that behaviour and I think we have to keep our mind's eye on managing that to work cohesively together. I know it's been mentioned already, but I want to recognise Councillor Robertson in supporting the initial movements in supporting Ukraine and the Russian invasion on the 24th of February 2022. I really thank you for that. I know that we've had discussions about it, but anyway, we've done what we've done and we are where we are as a result.

I was going to say initiating together with the Councillor Regan about domestic violence. I won't say any more about that, but the whole of Council has been so great in that and I really hope that that continues and that once again has turned out to be incredibly on-point when a society is under pressure, it's well known that these are the areas that suffer and we have to support our communities when they're under pressure and I suspect we're going into a big economic pressure zone. I suspect this will become a very big thing going forward.

Being on the EPC was important for me. I loved it. Environmental Planning Committees, I think I was on it for 10 years and I will say something political, it's the worst thing that happened, taking the planning decisions off Councillors and it was something that they're having a lot of problems trying to get the amalgamations unravelled and I don't know if they'll ever unravel this, but it was terrible because I think we did such fantastic work, and it's the fondest memories I have of being on EPC and with Councillor Marano, Councillor Robertson, and probably for Councillor Zeltzer.

The tools that we invented, the height poles, that was an achievement that I had forgotten about. I was very keen that people didn't utilise the thing where they have transparency through the fencing. And people came up with that very clever thing of doing it on an angle, and blades to try and stop you seeing it. I don't know how successful I've been. I know that the Turkish Consulate was a big success, but thank you.

I wanted to also say that it's a controversial issue about what Councillors do in relation to International affairs, but it was a great honour for me to support Councillors and their initiative in supporting Israel and the attacks from Hamas on the 7th of October 2023. I don't think us as a community have got over that. I think the hardship and everything we're seeing there is just incredible and an ongoing pain to us all, and it can be divisive and disruptive and I am proud to support Israel through this and I really, really appreciate the opportunity to do so.

Lastly, I'm going to finish off on the promoting the recognition of women in our community. My plan when I leave Council is to do a lot of work in that space in trying to get more recognition of the women in our community that are not recognised. I feel that quite strongly, you see women in positions of power being themselves, not just being excellent women, not just the brilliant women but the women who have just been working tirelessly. I think that as you see those women represented in day-to-day life and respected and recognised, we've got a long way to go in that area and I'd like to do more work on that. So thank you.

I say thanks to all my current colleagues for all your support. It has been a wonderful last term. I've particularly loved working with my Residents First Colleagues and I know that we have a bond that will go much further than Council life and I look forward to being an ongoing support to you and I know that you will achieve so, so much in the next term because it's going to be tricky. The next four years is tricky. You'll have a lot of new Councillors, you've got economic problems, you've got the State Government, there's some terrible planning controls and it's just going to be a tricky time. So thank you.

Thank you for Councillor Silcocks and Councillor Price and Councillor Regan and Councillor Witt for all of your support to me and how we've worked with each other. I really appreciate it.

General Item No: 15.8 Statement
Tabled by Councillor: Councillor Grieve

Councillor Grieve Advised:

I want to thank Councillor Shapiro. I was elected with her the first time and then I had the pleasure of having a second term with her. I've much appreciated our mutual love of art and we bonded over that. Also, the Animal Advisory Committee. I took that pill for her and I think I successfully turned that from a dysfunctional committee to a functional committee in that first term. That was a great honour to be able to do that for her. She's always shown me great support and strength and has been an example to me. I will miss her because I have built up a very close bond with her over the years.

I would like to acknowledge my fellow Ward Councillor, Luise Elsing, who has done incredible things while she's been on Council. I think she is an exemplar of a community representative and why we do this. We do it for the community. We certainly don't do it for the money because it's almost non-existent and I acknowledge everything she's done.

I did particularly want to acknowledge the Domestic Violence Program. I know throughout our neighbouring Councils, it's held in high esteem and they are all going through the process of introducing similar schemes. So all credit and kudos to Councillor Elsing for that. Also, to the Councillors who supported it initially and backed it and the staff. Sometimes you have these ideas, sometimes they're good and sometimes they're not and it really does need the staff and all the Councillors to come together and make these things work. This is an example of what Woollahra is and why we are so fantastic. Because once we're elected, the Woollahra way is to let go of all of those political divides and work together for the greater of the community. So I want to say thank you for that. And also, *Racism Not Welcome* is another one of those brilliant thought bubbles that just turned into fruition and of the moment.

I would like to acknowledge Councillor Susan Wynne. I genuinely enjoyed your Mayoralty, your inclusiveness and, we have a friendship. We again shared that first term with you, and so I've seen two different sides, two different parties. And to Peter Cavanagh, for his sartorial elegance. I'm a bit sad you didn't wear the emeralds tonight. I wore my emerald for you. Now he's worn the purple for my daughter, Jacaranda. So I thank you for that. My first term on the Finance Committee with Peter was brilliant and he taught me so much. I feel very comfortable in that committee, thanks to that grounding. Also I know that Peter and I will stay friends afterwards.

Councillor Zeltzer, she's not here, but she can again reiterate what everyone else has said about the amalgamation. She took a political hit for that. She basically gave up her political career to save Woollahra. There's nothing more you can say better for somebody as a local representative, that they put the community first before everything else and so for that, I'm forever grateful. I'm sad she's not here because we would've had some "Toni-isms", and there's been some crackers over the years.

For all the retiring Councillors, I wish you well in your next phase of life. And for all of us that are contesting, I hope we all get elected and I very much look forward to working with you if I'm so lucky to be elected.

General Item No: 15.9 Statement
Tabled by Councillor: Councillor Price

Councillor Price Advised:

Thanks very much Mr. Mayor, this will probably be the last time we thank you. So thank you for your service to the community and I look forward to hearing what your next chapter involves.

Thank you to all the former Mayors. I know everybody has spoken of you and all the great achievements that you have done over the years that I've worked with you. Special mention to Susan Wynne. I know COVID was a tough gig, seeing all our faces on Zoom all over that time. I know it was very stressful for you, but you handled it with dignity and grace and I'll always thank you for that because a lot of people were going through really tricky times and you showed great leadership. I thank you for that. I want to also thank my fellow Ward Councillor, Peter Cavanaugh. We'll miss you very much on the 'hustings' on the 14th, the three of us staring at each other for nine hours, at 'The Five Ways' is always a true, true highlight. But thank you for your dedication to the Paddington community over the last 16 years. Seven years seems like a long time for me, only two terms, but it really is a commitment to your community and I do know that the Paddington community holds you in high regard for that. So thank you for your service.

To all the Councillors who are obviously going for the next election. I wish you all the very best.

Staff, you have all been absolutely fantastic for the last seven years. So thank you for your dedication and your work and I think obviously it's repeating what everyone has said, but we wouldn't be able to do what we do without your tremendous professionalism and dedication. So thank you. Thank you very much.

Mr. General Manager, it's been a pleasure working with you, getting to know you and I do echo Councillor Shapiro, I think it was one of the best decisions that we've all made. So thank you very much.

Councillor Elsing I think stole the show up there, so it's obviously very difficult to come after her in terms of highlighting some of her great achievements on Council. I did prepare something for the record. So I will read from this because I am immensely proud of what you've done on Council. Councillor Elsing represented the Cooper Ward for 12 years, which was three terms of Council. Her achievements and contribution to the Cooper Ward and also the broader municipality are impressive and admirable as we've all heard tonight. Councillor Elsing was a valiant activist. I would call her during the tougher times of the Council amalgamation. She was determined and unrelenting in her efforts. I would often bump into her up at the Supreme Court when she had just been in various briefings with Senior Counsel and I admired her then for her tenacity and her passion for such an important issue. Thank you for all that you did, so that we can all be here today and serve our community so well.

Councillor Elsing, as she's pointed out, and a lot of you have as well, she served diligently on the DCC (Development Control Committee) as well as the Sydney Eastern Planning Panel. Both those roles require focus, discipline, and lengthy time commitments. We all know as Councillors, the amount of time that we have to spend on it, but those particular endeavours put on a lot of pressure and time needed, and I think she was always extremely thorough and showed very sound judgement in relation to her deliberations there. So thank you for that.

As Councillor Regan mentioned, Luise served on the board of Holdsworth for many years and she contributed greatly to its reputation for providing exceptional community services. Luise is well-respected for her interest in heritage and heritage protection. She instigated many local heritage listings, her knowledge is well-documented and we've mentioned her terrific book, '*The History of Queen Street and West Woollahra*' should be on everyone's bookshelf. As we've all heard, Councillor Elsing is indeed a woman of many talents. She's recently completed her Master of Law as well as launching herself as artist extraordinaire with her debut crochet exhibition.

She never ceases to us to amaze us in terms of her energy and I suppose, wide interest from crochet to the Master of Law. Her smarts and intellect will be greatly missed around this table and so too will her flare and energy. On a personal note, Councillor Elsing, as many of you know is a very dear friend of mine and obviously, lots of other colleagues around here, but your support and encouragement over the years is something that I actually will never forget and I will cherish for a long time. I'll hold very dear, the memories of driving home after being around this table and sitting outside your house and dissecting what's happened on Council. I think my husband would often say, "How did the meeting go for that long?" and I said, "Well actually it didn't. We spent more time talking about it with Luise". As we all know, she's got the gift of the gab. It is very difficult to stop a conversation with her. So, thank you Councillor Elsing for your service to your community, your leadership, you are a fine example to women in elected office. Go well.

General Item No: 15.10 Statement
Tabled by Councillor: Councillor Robertson

Councillor Robertson Advised:

I apologise for turning my back on you, Mr. Mayor and the other deities, I won't be having anything to say about the staff.

So I want to begin by saying thank you very much Mr. Mayor, for the opportunity and for your service to our community over the past 12 months, and I want to thank everyone around the table for their contributions in what has been a short but productive term. I particularly want to call out your contribution, Councillor Witt because you were the only one who was a hundred percent new to Council and it's really tough. We had other people new, I beg your pardon, Councillor Swan.

I have been very impressed with the way that you've thrown yourself into the full policy gamut of Council and your engagement with community groups as far as my area. So I just want to acknowledge that and commend you, And also, Councillor Swan, rising to the heights of Deputy Mayor in your first term and serving our community. My congratulations to you.

It's a terrible shame Councillor Shapiro had to depart early. But I did want to say that I've had the very great pleasure of working with Councillor Shapiro over the last seven years. I have learned so much from Councillor Shapiro, from her very wise perspective that she brings on every issue and I want to say that I've really valued that, where we've disagreed we have done so with respect and what has brought us together as always is our common commitment to serve the people of Woollahra.

I want to acknowledge the very special contribution that Councillor Shapiro has made, both in the areas of the arts that's been spoken about widely, but as someone who's worked in community services for a long time, I want to underscore that Councillor Shapiro's work in the suicide prevention space is widely respected and to be commended. So if I am lucky enough to be re-elected and come back here, I'm going to miss that great wisdom that Councillor Shapiro has brought to this place. The grace with which she's made her contribution and the generosity of her spirit. So in her absence, thank you very much, Councillor Shapiro.

Councillor Wynne, you were the first person whoever welcomed me when I set foot in this building, when I was doing my research, too, Councillor Elsing 12 years ago. I will never forget the warmth of that welcome and the encouragement that you gave me because I think across party lines, you've always just been so passionate about Woollahra and you've supported everybody who's ever served here. You kept our community safe during COVID. You became the Mayor and your whole Mayoral term became interrupted by the biggest global disruption in a lifetime. But you kept us safe and I think it was your incredible leadership and support of our community through that difficult period.

Notwithstanding COVID, you usher in decades in the making, cultural change to our Council organisation through the recruitment and selection of our new General Manager. Your leadership is what put people at the centre of that change and it supported a smooth transition. Thank you and congratulations on what you've achieved for Council in terms of modernising and professionalising our organisation, the benefits of which our community will continue to reap for generations to come. I will miss serving alongside you, Councillor Wynne. I will miss drawing inspiration and enthusiasm from the dedication that you've shown our community over 16 years. You will be missed, but I do suspect you're going to be back in some form or another.

Councillor Peter Cavanaugh, I simply cannot imagine serving in Paddington without you anymore. For the last 12 years as Councillor Price said, we've stood at 'The Five Ways' every election, State, Federal, and Local. You have been a very central character in our Paddington democracy for such a long time. It's just going to feel terribly strange without you, and I'm sure it's going to be far less humorous throughout the generosity of your incredible wit, which has sustained me throughout many-an election day. In 12 years Councillor Cavanaugh, I don't think you could count on one hand the number of times you and I have voted differently on heritage matters. So I want to acknowledge your staunch support for the conservation of Paddington's heritage and that unwavering support, and to be able to work as a Ward in unity where we have all supported the same position on heritage has been very influential.

Of course, I was always the one that took on the planning and your natural domain is the finance area and when I did have a very short tenure on Corporate and Works (Committee) a long time ago, I remember one meeting where there was a refinancing of the Kiaora Lands came up, and with this utter professionalism and efficiency, you completely and politely redirected the staff to what would be a multi-billion dollar saving. We all agreed and then it was the end of the meeting. So efficiency to the end, but a very quiet contribution in so many ways on the financials over so many years, Peter and that's not always what gets the headline recognition and that's why I'm saying it tonight.

However, in closing, I want to touch on your time as Mayor, which was anything but quiet. You were the Mayor for the times after we came through that 'Churchillian battle' under Councillor Zeltzer to retain our very existence as Woollahra Council. It was a time to celebrate everything that was wonderful about Woollahra and you turned on the pomp, you turned on the ceremony, you got the gowns on, and you made it special and you made people realise what is wonderful about this municipality. So I thank you for that out.

My nana has always had a fridge magnet that says who you spend time with is who you become. And I do want to acknowledge that you did turn me into an Elizabethan, but as a staunch Republican after so many years alongside Peter Cavanaugh for a brief time there, I was honoured. I'm back in order now. Thank you very much Peter for your contribution over the last 16 years. I don't know what Paddington will be like without you. I will miss your contribution. I will miss your wit and I'll miss your wisdom. Thank you.

Lastly, but by no means least I want to speak about my dear colleague, Councillor Luise Elsing. You and I were the last two, I think who started in that group in 2012 when we had 10 new Councillors come on board, so it was quite a changeover. I don't know how to sum up what to say about an incredible woman I've spent every Monday night with for the last 12 years. I don't know how to summarise that quickly, but I do want to touch on what you mentioned about the amalgamations. And I want to acknowledge that was a very difficult period and that you were a staunch support to Councillor Zeltzer as Mayor at the time, and that support was incredibly influential in achieving the outcome that we achieved. I want to acknowledge that alongside the Domestic Violence Policy that's been articulated already, that being blacklisted by President Putin alongside you, and then the Visa ban because of the advocacy we took for the people of Ukraine, is one of my most proud moments on Council. So I thank you very much for that and lastly, I just want to say that your intellectual contribution to Council has been enormous and I have sat across from you for 12 years always wondering and never knowing, what perspective you're going to take on any particular issue. You are an ideological mystery to me, and I love that about you and alongside your friendship, that's going to be something I'll miss the most.

So thank you again for the enormity of your contribution and wish you well in your future career as an artist amongst other things, and to all the Councillors who are retiring or not contesting again, then I'd say you can have your Monday nights back and all the best for the future.

General Item No: 15.11 Statement
Tabled by Councillor: Councillor Cavanagh

Councillor Cavanagh Advised:

Well, as most people around this table know, I have the reputation for holding the shortest Council meetings, so I will try and go out on the same basis. All I'd like to do is thank everybody in total, not one by one. You have all been very special in many ways. I will say one particular one, my adopted wife, she knows who that is. But other than that, it's been a great privilege to be on the Council. It was a great privilege to be Mayor. It's a wonderful, wonderful thing to make people citizens, to see the work that people in the community do that goes totally inherited.

Until I became Mayor, I didn't know many of these organisations and individuals existed and I tried to publicise that as much as possible and I think future Mayors will find that it's a very rewarding time to be Mayor. Certainly the two greatest years of my life and I thank everyone for the privilege, particularly Susan Wynne, who was so helpful in rounding up the troops and I wouldn't have missed it for the world and thank you to everybody and I'm not quite dead yet, so I am still around and I will still be interfering here and there where I can. But to all my Green colleagues who I am very friendly with, I'm happy to retire to France and chop down even more trees. Thank you all.

General Item No: 15.12 Statement
Tabled by Councillor: Councillor Jarvis

Councillor Jarvis Advised:

It is my pleasure to acknowledge the contribution of so many of those that are retiring tonight. I should start with Councillor Zeltzer, who was the one I first met. Councillor Zeltzer to me epitomises what is doing the right thing rather than necessarily the most popular thing. I recall driving with Councillor Toni Zeltzer, she was up to a State Council and you, Your Worship, where I think we were practising in the car, her speech to the State Council, which is a governing body of the Liberal Party, to try and persuade them to go along with the idea that there should not be amalgamations. And I think Mr Hughes, who is in the room here tonight, was the person that seconded that motion, which was to try and convince the Liberal Party that amalgamations were not the way to go. I want to acknowledge Councillor Zeltzer because she did show that leadership.

Councillor Wynne I think of not just as my Vaucluse Ward buddy, but the 'Mayor of Care'. She found herself thrown into the deep end with COVID and I think anyone that was closely aligned to Councillor Wynne at the time would know the tireless work that she did. And of course, the General Manager at that point had just put his feet under the desk and he and Councillor Wynne were having to react day-by-day if not hour-by-hour to the unfolding crisis. Because the problem then, of course, we did not know what we know now, that you did not know what was ahead. Councillor Wynne, I want to congratulate you for your leadership in that and also leading the Council for most of the time that I have been here since 2017.

I want to acknowledge Councillor Cavanagh because under Councillor Cavanagh, I had the honour of serving as his Deputy. Councillor Cavanagh was a fine Mayor. He virtually went to every single event, so I did not actually have much to do, but as everybody knows that Councillor Cavanagh is always impeccably dressed with his mother's diamonds and the like. One of my fondest memories with Councillor Cavanaugh was when we went up to National Tree Day and planted trees, and Councillor Cavanaugh does not know what to wear when he is gardening, but I'm pleased to say that back at National Tree Day, which some of us were at earlier on 28 July, we saw the fruits of some of your digging that day. Councillor Cavanagh, I am not sure that many things survived but some did.

Councillor Shapiro. Sorry that she is not here, but of course it is a mark of her that she is putting her mother first to be with her tonight. Councillor Shapiro was best known for her work on suicide prevention, the work at the Gap and also elevating our art to the standard we see today. The Linda Lee sculpture that we see in Blackburn Gardens now is testament to the work or a result of a lot of the work that Council Shapiro put in and of course, that is one of the finest artworks that we will see that I suspect in this municipality.

Councillor Elsing I must actually say, to echo Councillor Robertson's comments, it was at times a very frustrating thing to sit across the table from you or in particular, chair a meeting that you were wanting to say something. But I do want to say thank you because of your particular position that you took on things that basically made me and many others reconsider their positions. I think that the contribution you made to this Council should not be underestimated and that in fact, I would perhaps confess on occasions, very few occasions perhaps, but you persuaded me of the correctness of your position. That is of course what this Council is about. It is about to look at what should be said as well as what is said. So thank you for that Councillor Elsing, because sometimes it is easy just to stay quiet.

I also want to pay tribute to you, Your Worship. Under your leadership we set things on a right course on many occasions, and I want to say thank you for the opportunity you gave me to represent you on a number of occasions and to work with you. Behind the scenes, for example, the meeting we had with the Principals of Kambala, Kincoppal and Ascham recently, but also representing you at the Grants Awards on the 24 July, which was a grant that went to 52

organisations where we gave \$260,000.00 to help our community and partner with our community to improve our community and of course, a grant of \$20,000.00 is included in that to try and address the health and wellbeing of those affected by the tragedy of Bondi Junction that occurred earlier in the year.

It was my pleasure to represent you at the Rotary Changeover on the 30th of July where, following the comment about Bondi Junction, NSW Police Inspector Amy Scott was recognised for her bravery and her prevention of what was a dreadful tragedy on that day.

We had the opening of the Vaucluse Bowling Club the weekend before last, and that is an amazing facility. As I have mentioned that day, congratulations to Councillor Regan and others for identifying that we needed to get that out of Government hands and get it into Council-managed hands. I am most proud there to think that there is a baby facility, because some of you might be aware, I became a first-time grandmother this week, so I will be definitely able to use that facility.

I want to say thank you to everybody for this term. It has been one we can look back on with pride that we really did get an awful lot done and we took a position, I think, on things that was perhaps much needed in the current economic circumstances.

General Item No: 15.13 Friendship Walk
Tabled by Councillor: Councillor Jarvis

The Friendship Walk on Sunday 25 August where I represented you (Mayor) at Vaucluse Public School. People such as Rabbi Kastel were there. It was a great initiative to support young children with disabilities. We all went out in our purple t-shirts from Vaucluse Public School and went down to Watson's Bay. Those there included hopefully the future member for Wentworth Ro Knox and Rabbi Kastel, and locals such as Dr. Julian Parmegiani.

General Item No: 15.14 Statement
Tabled by Councillor: Councillor Witt

Councillor Witt Advised:

I know that everyone has said a lot already, but I did actually want to acknowledge first of all Councillor Cavanaugh, not only for his contribution to Paddington but to Vaucluse. Recently when I got involved with the community group up at Derby Reserve, it came to my attention how instrumental you were in actually fixing that up and making that a very usable space and one that the community up there are very proud of, so I thank you for that. I'd also like to thank Councillor Shields, the Mayor for his leadership and contribution and especially the way he runs meetings, He's been very tolerant of me sometimes not always getting things right, and letting me express my viewpoint. So I do thank you for that.

I would like to especially thank my fellow Ward Councillor, Councillor Wynne, who I knew from other outside circles. She didn't try to talk me out of not coming onto Council, so I thank her for that. I do remember at trivia night, we both attended not long before the election, and Councillor Wynne, was attentive to the game but also spent a lot of time answering her phone, responding to what she told me later were text messages related to Council business and I was like, "Oh boy, wow, what am I getting into?" So I really know that she worked overtime during her term as Mayor and I really want to thank you for your contributions, they are very much appreciated.

Of course, I do want to thank Councillor Shapiro, as you know, I have taken a real interest in arts and culture since I have been on the Council and have been so impressed with the enormous contribution that Councillor Shapiro has made over the years, especially with the Public Art program which is really exemplary.

We did a lot of work this term on an Arts and Cultural Strategy. It's been really exciting and I really hope that we can push initiatives forward in the next term to make Councillor Shapiro even prouder of her legacy. Finally, of course, I really do want to thank Councillor Elsing and I have to say when she spoke about community, it really resonated because I was one of those community members who would bug her a lot, even before I got involved with the Vaucluse Residents Association and the Double Bay Residents Association, I can kind of recall bugging her ear about saving Moore Park. She was always open to having these conversations, and what was amazing, I think given the number of phone calls that Councillor Elsing and Councillor Regan fielded from me before I got onto Council, they still encouraged me to come on board and I really appreciate that.

In preparing for some late correspondence for tonight I found some correspondence or a Notice of Motion we were working on together back in 2022 and how detailed it was and how much research and effort Councillor Elsing put into that and it's been a real inspiration for me. I've learned so much from working with her and I really do appreciate it and really wish you well in going forward and pray, hope that you will stay in touch because we will really miss her wisdom.

I do want to also thank the staff. I know I've been challenging at times because I'm a newbie and sort of learning the ropes and occasionally being quite strident in some of my views about things, but I think everyone's been just really, really professional. As Councillor Regan highlighted, it really shone through, especially with the opening of the Vaucluse Bowling Club, I can't congratulate you enough on that.

Mr Marolia reminded me, you secured from the previous State Government over \$3.7million in funding to fund that, and you can really see that reflected in the results, and kudos too for what you've done with the baby centre. I really wish I've had that one when my kids were little as it looks absolutely spectacular.

I wanted to thank Councillor Robertson for his very kind words, I have to admit he's probably been one of my biggest critics while I've been on Council, but it has helped me to certainly hone my skills and to hopefully get better at what I do and if I'm to be re-elected, I think that will serve me well in the next term.

I really just wanted to also thank Councillor Silcocks, Councillor Regan, all my fellow Residents First colleagues, and also, Councillor Jarvis because I know on many initiatives we've worked quite closely together and I certainly look forward to your contribution and I certainly have learned a lot about process and the procedures from Councillor Price. I think she makes an enormous contribution to the Council for the work she does, especially in that area. So thank you very much.

General Item No: 15.15 Lyndsay Fundraiser
Tabled by Councillor: Councillor Witt

Councillor Witt Advised:

I went to the Lyndsay Afternoon fundraiser of the Darling Point Society. It was such a fantastic day. The Sun came out, so many of my fellow Councillors were there Councillor Swan, Councillor Grieve, and Councillor Silcocks. It was a really wonderful afternoon and it was topped off by an invitation to attend the Critical Paths Cure Awards.

General Item No: 15.16 Critical Path Awards
Tabled by Councillor: Councillor Witt

Councillor Witt Advised:

I attended the Critical Path Awards. I don't know if anyone knows about Critical Paths, but I have only really learned about them recently. But they are a choreographic research group that was started in 2005 and they occupy the ground floor of Drill Hall, Sir David Martin Reserve in Darling Point, it is a spectacular space. The fact that the whole building at the moment is dedicated to performing arts. I hope that is something that we can continue to invest in going forward because I really do think it could be a real showcase for our community.

General Item No: 15.17 Queen Street & West Woollahra Annual Dinner
Tabled by Councillor: Councillor Witt

Councillor Witt Advised:

I attended the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association's Annual Dinner and I did pick up a copy of Councillor Elsing's wonderful book. So I think if you are still keen to get hold of one, you should definitely get in touch with the Society.

General Item No: 15.18 Statement
Tabled by Councillor: Councillor Silcocks

Councillor Silcocks Advised:

I'm not leaving and I'm never going to leave. I'm now never leaving because the leaving speeches are just far too intimidating. I'm not going to be able to follow that. There was one slight contradiction in your otherwise very erudite speech, Mr. Mayor, which was you talked about how Woollahra is the most wonderful municipality in the entire world and then you did slot in there that we are overrepresented by Councillors and may be the part, as well as our amazing staff, part of the reason it is such a wonderful place is because we have 15 Councillors and we might lose something by reducing that.

Certainly I feel like I've learned something from everybody who turns up here every Monday night and whilst 15 may seem a lot, it's amazing the diversity of views. It's very interesting to listen to everyone and it is amazing how often somebody will come up with something that nobody else has thought of that actually everybody ends up agreeing, so at our peril we reduce that representation. I'm not going to add to all the other things, I agree with everything that's been said but I will just thank Luise Elsing, she was the eldest statesman of our little group of residents first and so thank you but you didn't really tell us much though, I mean you were sort of there and you were kind of good, but you just went, just do whatever you want to do which we all like.

The three Mayors I would say who've been here whilst I've been on, because I know Toni and Isabelle were there before me, but whilst I've been here, the three mostly have all been very fair, I think throughout. When they've chaired meetings, they've always allowed people to have their say within reason, so they didn't talk too long, which I won't. So thank you very much.

Thanks to all and I don't know why we're all saying goodbye because you are all in the community. You're not going anywhere actually, you can still ring us up and complain.

General Item No: 15.19 Statement
Tabled by Councillor: Councillor Wynne

Councillor Wynne Advised:

Thank you, Councillor Silcocks for letting me have the last word. So through you, Your Worship, I'm going to be informal tonight. Thank you, Richard. I'm just going to start with some reflections. I thought I'd actually be standing here really, really happy and I've spent the whole evening trying not to cry because I do feel like I'm saying goodbye to family. You've all become such dear and close friends of mine. It seems like just yesterday that I remember turning up to the Mayoral Office and former Councillor Petrie was hosting drinks to welcome everyone. I can actually still remember what I was wearing, which was flair jeans, a white shirt and wedges, and not much has changed, except that I was a whole lot younger then and I had no idea what I was doing. I think I even had to look up where were Woollahra Council was.

So I've done four elections, four terms, and have most importantly built the most incredible friendships. I consider you all here tonight, friends and former Councillors, friends, and I just want to reflect on something I think it might've been, what Councillor Elsing said around family and the commitment that they give to each and every one of us. Certainly my children, I've watched them grow up through this time. I've watched Teddy grow up through this time, my favourite child and I just want to acknowledge the time and work that each and every Councillor puts into their commitment to the community. I think I've heard words like collaboration spoken a lot about and community. I've always believed that we are here to serve and this may be controversial, but I don't believe we're here to serve a political party.

I don't believe we are here to serve ourselves, but we are here to serve the community and when I reflect and think about the legacy I've left, I'm hoping that people will remember me as someone who has served the community above everything else, and just for those of you that are thinking about running again and hopefully you will be elected, I just ask you to remember that as you go forward and reiterate what Councillor Regan said around great outcomes are achieved through collaboration. So take that with you.

I have to acknowledge Isabelle who's not here, and Toni who are such dear friends, I'm laughing about Toni because when I was put next to her and poor Richard had to put up with us through many a meeting that Toni has saved this Council. We would not be standing here. We might be somewhere else in not so nice Chambers.

If it wasn't for her and the hard work and commitment and also all the Councillors who stood, I remember standing and aiming for those 10,000 signatures that we needed. But really, Toni has saved us, an incredible credit and I'm absolutely delighted that she has put her hand up to stand again. A tip to any of you if she starts to go a little bit crazy, just say, "Toni, too much Greek" and then she'll say, "Yes, yes, yes, you're right". That is my tip with Toni for you all.

Isabelle, I don't have enough words to speak about how wonderful Isabelle is and a true friend, and I think she's all taught us what it's like to lead with elegance and grace and kindness and compassion and she's a true person who serves the community. So I'm very sad she had to leave and my thoughts and prayers are with her and her family as well.

Peter Cavanaugh, I know you said it's the best two years of your life and I'm so very glad and I think you gave Woollahra Council the best two, one of the two years of its life served with elegance and in all your finery and you made it your own and you are an absolutely true and dear friend and I thank you for your service. I do feel like we are crossing between obituaries and the Oscars tonight.

I also want to thank my Vaucluse colleagues for everything. I know that you two are going to stand again so I know that Vaucluse is in good hands and it's always that time of when is it the right time to hand that batten on and knowing that you two will still be there makes me feel very happy and comfortable. So thank you.

To Luise who is leaving, it feels odd not watching you knit or crochet, but I do want to acknowledge everything that you have brought to Council, your intellect and the way that when every one of us was trying to pull sentences and words together, you would just step right in and really be able to articulate that perfectly. It is a huge loss that you are not going to be running again for the Cooper Ward and for the Woollahra community as well.

I'm going to go around Matthew and Nicola, you are dear friends of mine and I know that it will continue after Council.

Harriet, Lucinda and Mark, Residents First Councillors. I think there is an absolute importance of having a diverse group, diverse thinking, and that's what I love about a democracy, so I'm delighted that you are all running again. You're crazy perhaps, but I wish you well in your endeavours.

To Sean, thank you for everything that you have done and when we started in 2008 and now back again, I've watched my kids grow up, not that you're a kid, but I feel that way about you and it's just been wonderful to watch you grow through this.

To Sarah, our Deputy Mayor, what a privilege, as someone who likes to inspire women and encourage women, you have just done that so well and with such grace and I know and hope that you'll go onto bigger and even better things. I also know that in your heart it's all about community and you are committed to Woollahra like nothing I've ever seen.

The Staff, I'm not going to thank each and every one of you. You all know how I feel. I think my greatest sadness is not saying goodbye to Councillors, but saying goodbye to you all. I promise you, I will not be one of those people that rings up and complains about everything unless it's maybe Tom. I cannot thank you enough for your support and your passion for Woollahra.

I do have to acknowledge Gary James who supported me through that initial time of COVID. He also supported me when I was mayor in 2011 and 2012 as well and it was big shoes to fill, but what a great job we did with Craig, with you. I remember sitting in this room, we had Chargrill Charlie's for lunch. There were three candidates. It was COVID, Anthony Marano was more worried about where you lived and what your house looked like and that we were eating Chargrilled Charlie's, but I still remind him of that, there's just so many memories.

I don't actually know where to start and as I said, I thought I'd be celebrating and really happy, but I'm actually feeling quite sad.

I want to finish up on you, Richard, because when you're the Mayor at the end of a term, it's quite weird because everyone's thanking each other and you are often overlooked for the work that you've done. So, Your Worship, I know that I've given you a hard time about wearing those chains, but what I would say is that they are very heavy and it is a commitment. I think it's a reminder of the weight of office, more so conscious of what you've been through in the past month and sometimes when you take on a position of leadership, then you are unfairly targeted. I heard you say that you were criticised about wearing two hats. To any person that wants to be the Mayor, I think you should be able to wear as many hats as you want. I would not make excuses for that. I think you've done an exceptional job. You've made the role your own in a very short space of time and I would just ask that you hold your head up high and reflect on all the incredible things that you listed in your speech, and as someone who's been in that chair, so many more things that people have no idea what you do behind the scenes.

I want to say, I'm sorry for what you've been through in the public domain. It just does come with the role and it is unfair. Never, ever apologise. You have been extraordinary and particularly your support of the Jewish community in Woollahra, you have left an incredible legacy and they are big shoes to fill. I want to thank you for your leadership, I know it's been short, but you have achieved so much. So please remember that and thank you on behalf of the community. Thank you.

16. Notices of Motion

Item No: 16.1
Subject: NOTICE OF MOTION - LITIGATION PROTOCOL POLICY
From: Councillors Matthew Robertson, Isabelle Shapiro and Susan Wynne
Date: 07 August 2024
File No: 24/139845

Note: Late correspondence was tabled by Councillor Merrill Witt.

(Robertson/Wynne)

158/24 Resolved:

THAT Council:

- A. Notes Council's adopted Litigation Protocol Policy has been in operation since late 2022.
- B. Requests that going forward, the General Manager present a six-monthly report in February and August of each year to Council (via the Environmental Planning Committee) on the operation of the Litigation Protocol Policy and any live legal matters captured by the Litigation Protocol Policy and any other related matters deemed appropriate by Councillors.

Note: *In accordance with Council's Code of Meeting Practice a Division of votes is recorded on this matter.*

For the Motion

Against the Motion

Councillor Carmichael
Councillor Cavanagh
Councillor Elsing
Councillor Grieve
Councillor Jarvis
Councillor Price
Councillor Regan
Councillor Robertson
Councillor Shields
Councillor Silcocks
Councillor Swan
Councillor Witt
Councillor Wynne

Nil

13/0

Item No: 16.2
Subject: **NOTICE OF MOTION - PROMOTING ONLY QUALITY CONSTRUCTION**
From: Councillor Mary-Lou Jarvis
Date: 13 August 2024
File No: 24/144130

(Jarvis/Carmichael)

159/24 Resolved:

THAT Council:

- A. Applauds the work of the Building Commissioner David Chandler OAM and regrets that his term as Building Commissioner expires in August. Woollahra Council particularly thanks him for his examination and action in relation to poor or defective building work in the Woollahra Council area.
- B. Request the Mayor writes to the Minister for Better Regulation and Fair Trading to:
- i. Urge the NSW Government to continue the important work of Project Intervene upon the appointment of a new Building Commissioner, noting that registrations for that project are now closed yet defective building work will continue;
 - ii. Note that given the target of 1900 net additional dwellings required by the NSW Government (which will be mostly apartment buildings and a handful of dual occupancies), we anticipate instances of defective work will no doubt multiply and it is important owners have redress;
 - iii. Support a future focus work by the Builder Commissioner on class 1 buildings as well (being single dwelling Housing) to ensure that defective buildings can be remediated.
- C. Request the General Manager writes to Charas Constructions Pty Ltd and advise that Woollahra Council notes that the Woollahra Council award that their website promotes does not appear to have been awarded to Charas Constructions and that it should remove all endorsement by or reference to the Council award.
- D. Request the General Manager table a report at a future meeting of Council detailing building works in the Woollahra Council area that have been subject to orders by the Commission so that the public and in particular owners or prospective property purchasers can be informed of relevant building work orders in our area.

Note: In accordance with Council's Code of Meeting Practice a Division of votes is recorded on this matter.

For the Motion

Councillor Carmichael
Councillor Cavanagh
Councillor Elsing
Councillor Jarvis
Councillor Regan
Councillor Shields
Councillor Silcocks
Councillor Swan
Councillor Witt

Against the Motion

Councillor Grieve
Councillor Price
Councillor Robertson
Councillor Wynne

9/4

17. Questions With Notice

(Wynne/Robertson)

160/24 Resolved:

THAT the Questions with Notice be received and noted.

Note: *In accordance with Council's Code of Meeting Practice a Division of votes is recorded on this matter.*

For the Motion

Against the Motion

Councillor Carmichael
Councillor Cavanagh
Councillor Elsing
Councillor Grieve
Councillor Jarvis
Councillor Price
Councillor Regan
Councillor Robertson
Councillor Shields
Councillor Silcocks
Councillor Swan
Councillor Witt
Councillor Wynne

Nil

13/0

QWN: 17.1
From: Councillor Robertson
Subject: Questions with Notice - Stormwater Harvesting

Councillor Robertson asking:

Would Council staff please provide an overview of Council's current approach to storm water harvesting and comment on future opportunities which could be pursued in this space with respect of the objectives of the following:

1. Managing Urban Stormwater Harvesting and Reuse, Department of Environment and Conservation NSW (2006).
2. Stormwater-harvesting-how-to-collect-and-re-use-stormwater-from-sw-stormwater-system, Sydney Water (SW9 07/13).
3. Rainwater harvesting in urban environments: solutions for limited space - Smart Water 18 August 2024
<https://smartwateronline.com/news/rainwater-harvesting-in-urban-environments-solutions-for-limited-space?srsltid=AfmBOosUgCn0jkvZQ8UYOjzPCP9IjKJbCsL7Ef52-nUT9FXiUhUdLqT>

Team Leader Environment & Sustainability in response:

Council's approach to stormwater harvesting is two-pronged.

For Council's own sites, rainwater tanks have been installed and we have a number of other stormwater harvesting systems. For example, currently we are installing a second large tank at Christison Park to increase the amount of stormwater we can capture and reuse on the playing fields. We are also capturing some extra water through drainage improvements in the area.

Recently, a water conservation study was completed for Rushcutters Park, Yarranabbe Park and Lyne Park, our highest water using sites. The Study identified a number of improvements to stormwater capture that will be undertaken over the coming year, including maintenance on existing rainwater capture systems.

Larger scale stormwater harvesting systems are not often feasible, due to substantial costs and the need for large underground tanks which are not possible to install from a topographic perspective. An example of a smaller system is the stormwater harvesting system planned for Collins Avenue Rose Bay, where stormwater will be diverted for use in the amenities block at Percival Park.

For stormwater harvesting on private property, Chapter E2 of Council's DCP has the objective 'to encourage ecologically sustainable stormwater management and the use of water sensitive urban design.' Controls include encouraging pervious surfaces to enable filtration of rainwater and the use of rainwater tanks to reuse rainwater onsite. In addition, the NSW Government BASIX standards (State Environmental Planning Policy (Sustainable Buildings) 2022) requires development to reduce potable water use by 40% from a benchmark. One way of achieving this is to use an alternative source of water such as rainwater or stormwater.

Council's Environmental Sustainability Action Plan includes actions relating to stormwater harvesting. For example, the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation section contains an action to install additional rainwater tanks and other water reuse systems at Council facilities where opportunities are identified.

QWN: 17.2
From: Councillor Jarvis
Subject: Questions with Notice - Boats trailers and Other Vehicles Overstaying their Welcome on Our Roads

Councillor Jarvis asking:

I refer to my question on notice answered on 15 November 2023 regarding action taken by Council regarding the Council boats and trailers parked on New South Head for weeks, possibly months and were being addressed under the Public Spaces (Unattended Property) Act and regulations.

Can staff please provide Council with updated figures from the last response provided by staff (November 2023) to the present time on the following questions:

1. How many fines by Woollahra Council have been issued since the Public Spaces (Unattended Property) Act and regulations since the date the last advice was given?
2. How many items of property have been impounded in our area since the new Act and regulations came into effect on 1 November 2022 and since the date of the last advice?
3. Of the overall investigations how many boat trailers or other vehicles have been found to be unregistered and what action has been taken since the last advice?
4. What is the total monetary amount of such fines imposed and any amounts recovered where property has been impounded since the last advice?

5. Is it possible to identify the cost of enforcement or at least the number of staff allocated to compliance within the Council area since the last advice?
6. More specifically in Vaucluse around Ray Reserve and Johnston's lookout, in response to the requests I submitted on 15 May 2024, on the Woollahra Council app (request 91173) where on 19 May staff marked 37 vehicles boats and trailers on New South head Road Vaucluse primarily between Ray Ave and Giralang; how many were eventually issued with infringement notices and fines (and the monetary amount) under the new rules, noting that in the last report 5 parking infringements were issued and a further 3 were being investigated as potentially "unattended vehicles".
7. Noting that on 21 June there were 35 such vehicles and by 24 June on New South Head Road the number had increased to 37 vehicles again, mostly boats and trailers but also one large truck and a caravan (12 around Johnston's lookout, 18 around Ray Reserve and 7 around St Michaels / Kincoppal). What action has been taken most recently?
8. More specifically on Wentworth Road on May 15 2024 (request 91175) regarding parked boat trailers, the advice on June 19 was that *"all trailers have been added to a separate IC each. This one will be finalised, the others are remaining open to send letters to registered owner"*. What action has been taken since then?

June 24 at Johnston's lookout



June 21 around Ray Reserve



Regulatory Coordinator in response:

A response will be provided at the next Council Meeting on 9 September 2024.

18. Supplementary Responses to Previous Questions with Notice

Nil

19. Confidential Matters

Nil

20. Conclusion of the Meeting

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 7.30pm.

We certify that the pages numbered 524 to 559 inclusive are the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Woollahra Municipal Council held on 26 August 2024 and confirmed by the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 9 September 2024 as correct.

General Manager

Mayor