

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

It's important that everyone in our community gets the most out of life here in the Sutherland Shire, which is why Council is so keenly invested in ensuring there are opportunities for local residents to get together and build connections, whatever their stage of life.

There are an extraordinary array of events currently underway for local seniors as part of Council's annual Seniors Festival, and we have already seen local seniors leaping into activities such as workshops on mindfulness, watercolour painting classes, aqua aerobics and walks in our beautiful local reserves learning about gathering Aboriginal bush tucker. There are still a few days of celebrations to go, including our traditional Seniors Concert, so make sure you keep an eye out for what's on offer for local seniors and get involved!

For the youngest members of our community, there is always plenty on offer at Council's libraries with a range of regular events aimed at allowing parents to spend quality time with their children and foster a life-long love of learning.

Much loved weekly events such as 'Rhymetime', targeted at children from birth to two years old, 'Together Time', which provides a fun atmosphere for parents to help their children develop early literacy skills, and the ever-popular Storytime sessions, aimed

at children aged three years and up, are always popular with local families. Make sure you head online to check out how to take part in these events, or to seek out details of the many other amazing activities staff at our libraries have for you and your family to enjoy.

One amazing initiative that Council has been incredibly proud to support is 'Heart and Soul Stories', an eight week long program which saw students from Sylvania High School and residents of a local aged care facility come together to learn from each other and build connections that span the generations. This program had an amazing effects in fostering bonds between local teens and seniors – two of the groups within our community most likely to face feelings of isolation.

I've been lucky enough to see the film completed as part of this program, 'The Ripple Effect', which features some truly touching moments of the strengthening connections developed between those young people and seniors who took part in the initiative. The film will be screening at Gynea Tradies this



Saturday as part of our Seniors Festival program of events, with further details available via Council's website.

And of course, another way that many of us will be connecting with one another in coming days is through taking the opportunity to spend time with family and friends either locally or further afield over the Easter holiday break.

For those of you who will be hitting the road to enjoy time with family and friends, I urge you to travel with care, stick to the speed limit and ensure the safety of you and those you love.

For more information on any of the wide range of events and activities supported by Council throughout our community and details of how you and your family can get involved, head to Council's website via:

<https://www.sutherlandshire.nsw.gov.au/events>

Sutherland Shire Mayor Councillor Carmelo Pesce

Council Meeting - Monday 22 April 2024 at 6.30pm

Residents who are interested in attending ordinary Council Meetings as part of the Public Gallery can register their interest via Council's website. For more information regarding attendance, meeting dates, and to read Council Meeting minutes and business papers visit: [sutherlandshire.nsw.gov.au/council-meetings](https://www.sutherlandshire.nsw.gov.au/council-meetings)

