## **MAYOR'S MESSAGE**

There's so much to love about life here in the Sutherland Shire, but it's the big occasions that draw us together which I think really brings out the best in our community.





As we launch into 2024 I hope each of you have enjoyed an incredible Christmas, spending time together with your family. And with the ringing in of the New Year, I am sure many of you will have enjoyed the chance to come together with friends to celebrate.

But with Australia Day almost upon us, we will soon have the opportunity to come together as a whole community to collectively take part in a range of free events, some of which have been a fixture on the local calendar for decades, and others which have become bigger and better year upon year.

We know that Australia Day carries a different significance for different members of our community. That's why we are proud to support the Sunset Cultural Ceremony again this year, offering local residents the opportunity to meet with local Elders and engage with the culture of our First Nations peoples.

There will be plenty of entertainment on offer as part of our annual Australia Day concert at Cronulla, with some of Australia's most celebrated performers, including Jon Stevens, Paulini, and Isaiah Firebrace set to grace the stage ahead of a dazzling fireworks display.

But, it's not just the big stars that will be given the chance to shine, with the 'Cronulla Vibes' concert to be held on Saturday 27 January offering our local music fans the opportunity to enjoy the very best of the incredible musical talent we have within the Sutherland Shire.

Local residents will also be able to experience the magic of our 'Cinema Under The Stars' evenings, with family friendly films to be screened in multiple destinations and dates across the Sutherland Shire. During the day on Australia Day, families can also make a splash at one of Council's Leisure Centres to enjoy a free pool entry with DJ on hand to get the party started.

And of course, I will again have the wonderful privilege of recognising the incredible contributions of some of our most selfless local residents as part of our Australia Day Awards ceremony, as well as welcoming over 160 new Citizens from over 41 countries as our newest Australian Citizens.

For full details on the exciting events lined up for Australia Day 2024, please visit **sutherlandshire.nsw.gov.au** 

I can't wait to see you all there, as we come together to celebrate the wonderful community we are proud to be a part of and the extraordinary individuals who shape it.

Sutherland Shire Mayor Councillor Carmelo Pesce



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

