

THE PADDINGTON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2025



Dear Subscriber,

Welcome to The Paddington Society December 2025 Newsletter.

A warm welcome to all our new and returning members! I invite everyone to join us for our Festive Season Celebration at Juniper Halls front garden on Sunday December 7th. **Tickets are available now.**

Our **AGM will be held at the EJ Ward Centre** 18g Underwood Street on Monday 17th November commencing at 6pm. We encourage all members and associates to attend and join the discussion after the meeting. If you have concerns or want to find out more about what is happening locally now is the time to come along, meet other members and find out more about how you can stay informed.

There is so much happening locally including a controversial proposed development at 160 Oxford Street, please make sure that you complete the survey on the developer's website to ensure that your voice is heard. More info below or email preservingpaddington@gmail.com.

There are still opportunities to tour Victoria Barracks before the end of the month and find out more about this important site which is currently under discussion for potential divestment. **The Society believes that the best Heritage outcome** for the site would be to retain ADF ownership and ongoing usage, with the option of allowing more community access to its green spaces. Australian Army Museum etc without compromise to defence activities and security.

Take this last chance for the year to join the fascinating free tour of Victoria Barracks Paddington from the Corps of Guides during November. Tours take place every Thursday from 10am to 12pm, starting again in February 2026. Entry is via the Pass Office on Moore Park Road with photo ID. This is a great chance to see what lies behind the sandstone walls. Kids are welcome too.

We'll continue sharing updates as they unfold. In the meantime, you can continue to track local development applications via the **City of Sydney** and **Woollahra Municipal Council** websites and please help spread the word by keeping your neighbours informed.

We trust that you will find this issue interesting and useful to learn about just some of what is happening in and around Paddington. Please forward this newsletter to friends, family, and neighbours. Everyone is welcome to **subscribe** or **join**. The more voices we have, the stronger our community becomes.

Esther Hayler
President
The Paddington Society Inc



160 Oxford Street Redevelopment

A proposal for a State Significant Development at **160 Oxford Street** Paddington has been lodged with the DPHI. Located opposite the gates to Victoria Barracks in the Heritage Conservation Area it includes demolition of existing buildings on Glipps, Shadforth and Oxford Sts. We will be preparing a submission outlining our concerns about the proposal. To learn about the community campaign contact: preservingpaddington@gmail.com

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Oxford Street Revitalisation Project

Transport for NSW is proposing to revitalise Oxford Street through public space improvements and a new separated bike path. Feedback from businesses and the community included considerable opposition. **The Society and WMC continues opposition to the cycleway** along Oxford Street. After consideration and amendments, the TfNSW plan to create greener spaces and improved streetscapes may not address all the concerns.

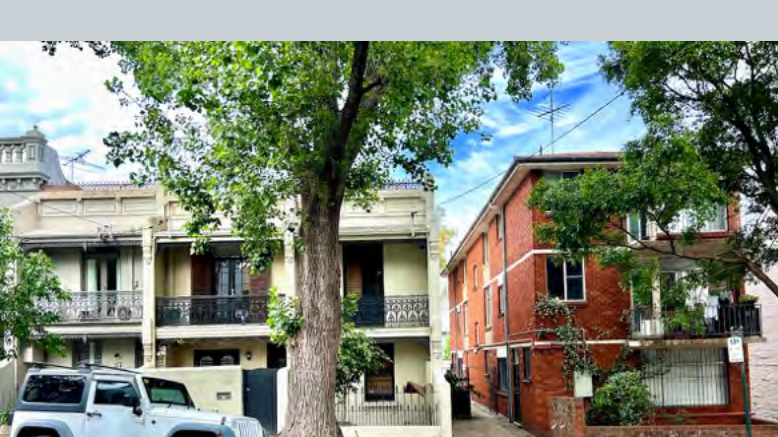
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Hordern Pavilion and Royal Hall of Industries and Entertainment Quarter

The Royal Hall of Industries and the Hordern Pavilion have been added to the NSW State Heritage Register following strong recommendation from the NSW Heritage Council. The NSW Govt. has also opened a tender process for the Entertainment Quarter Redevelopment. The tender seeks to create spaces that can host substantial audiences for live performances, with 15–20,000 seats as part of the vision.

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WMC Net Dwelling Loss Concerns

Woollahra Council has resolved to support amendments to the Woollahra Local Environmental Plan 2014, to insert provisions to prevent net dwelling loss. This occurs when the total number of dwellings on a whole development site, arising from new development, is less than the number of dwellings existing on the site prior to the development.

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Youth Recreation Area at Rusheutters Bay Park Approved

In late September the Heritage Council of NSW approved the WMC application for the proposed recreation area, with the exception of use of synthetic turf and the proposed shelter in its current design. The Heritage Council emphasised the importance of regular maintenance of the skate park facility in order to protect the historic landscape of the park. Construction is due to start in 2026.

[MORE INFO](#)



Join Our Committee and Get More Involved

The Paddington Society has worked for over 60 years to protect and celebrate our suburb's unique heritage. By joining the Committee, you can share ideas, help shape local projects, and play an active role in keeping Paddington vibrant and distinctive. It's a rewarding way to connect with locals and make a real difference. Come along to a meeting if interested.

[CONTACT US](#)



Verona Cinema Site Redevelopment

Find out more about the State Significant Development proposal for a mixed use development with infill affordable housing planned for Oxford and Verona Street, Paddington. The proposal extends the existing DA to include three lots including 2 Verona Street, 17 Oxford Street, 13–15 Oxford Street.

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Moore Park South Project and Golf Course

In Oct 2023, the NSW State Government announced that 20 hectares of the Moore Park Golf Course will be transformed into a new public park, leaving a 9-hole golf course. More recently the community was asked to share views on the draft plan released in Oct 2025. Submissions are currently under consideration. \$60 million has now been pledged, with work due to start in Mid 2026.

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WMC DCP 2015: Draft Amendment 37 Housing in Accessible Areas

Woollahra Council strives to ensure that new buildings in our local area are designed and built with consideration of the surrounding environment, such as streetscape, heritage elements and nearby residences. The Society has been instrumental in shaping the DCP since the 1960s. The Jersey Rd - Sutherland St corner illustrates the outcome of uncontrolled development in decades past.

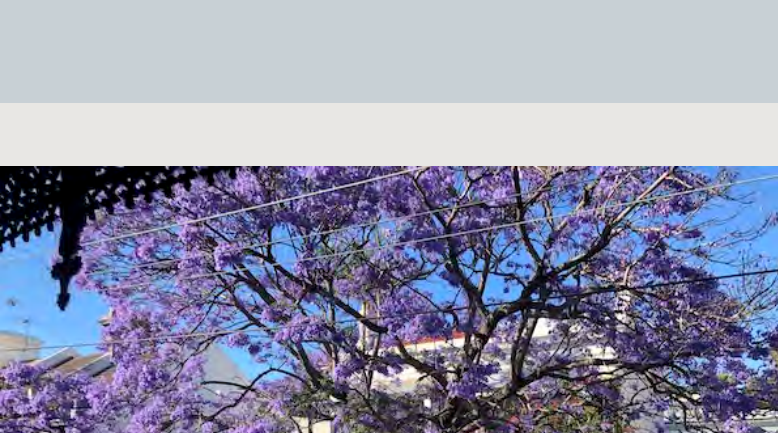
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NSW Govt Planning Reforms Must Deliver Housing Quality and Affordability

Clover Moore, Lord Mayor of Sydney, presented a Minute at the CoS Council meeting on October 27th 2025 addressing housing quality and affordability. The CoS notes that the Bill is the most consequential change to the planning system in a generation that aims to accelerate and increase housing supply.

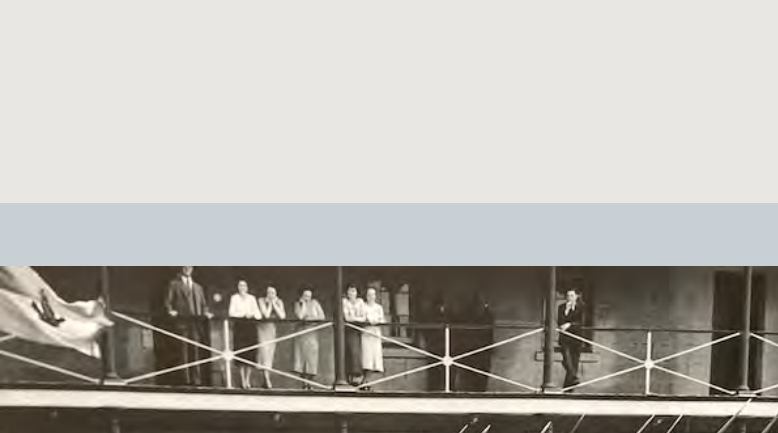
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WMC Urban Forest Strategy

One of the best things about our local area is our big and beautiful trees. They provide shade to cool our streets and homes, they clean the air, provide habitat for wildlife, and make our streets and parks look spectacular. To address the impacts of climate change and ensure that our community continues to benefit from tree canopy cover, WMC drafted an Urban Forest Strategy which proposed a goal of 30% tree canopy cover by 2050.

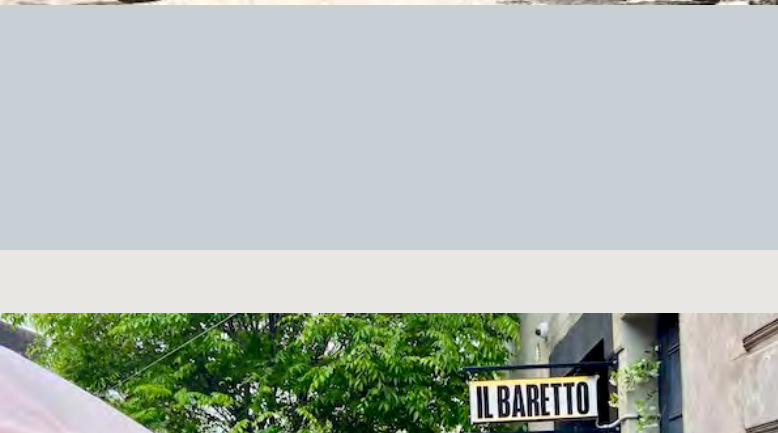
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Victoria Barracks History Tours

Want to find out more about Victoria Barracks? Join the fascinating free tour of Victoria Barracks Paddington from the Corps of Guides. Tours take place every Thursday in November from 10am to 12pm, starting again in February 2026. Entry is via the Pass Office on Moore Park Road, bring photo ID. A great chance to see what lies behind the sandstone walls. Kids are welcome too.

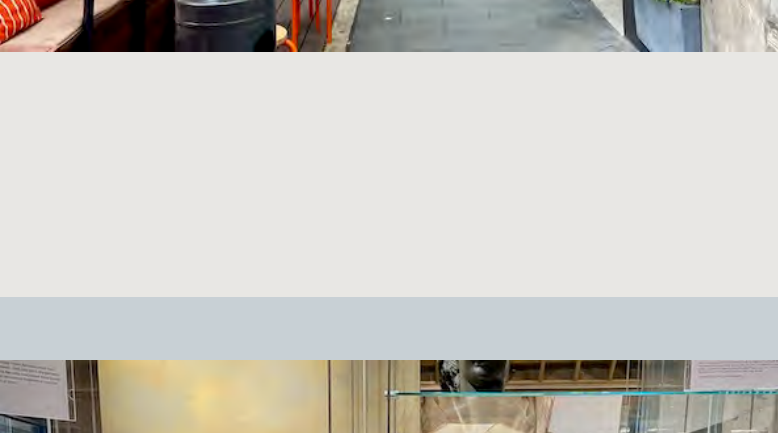
[MORE INFO](#)



William Street Festival 2026

The William Street Festival is returning in 2026 after a long pause since the last event. Next year the streets of Paddington will come alive again with music, food, art, and community spirit. To make the festival even better, organisers have asked for your feedback to help design an event that truly reflects our neighbourhood, its creativity, sustainability, and vibrant local culture.

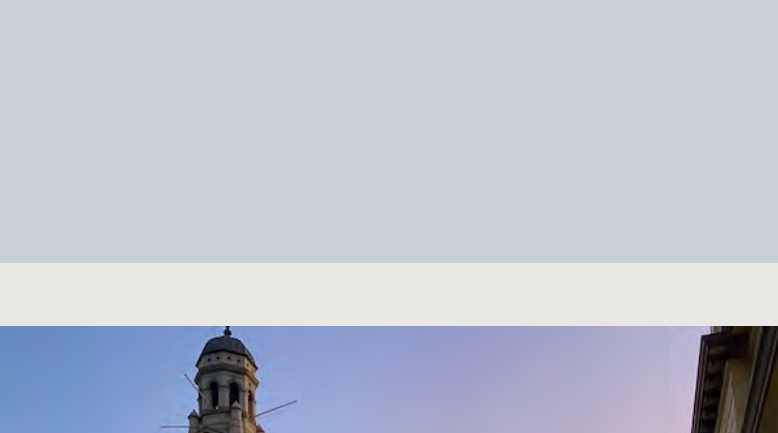
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Visit the Australian Army Museum of NSW

Established in 1976, the Australian Army Museum of NSW is located at Victoria Barracks. The museum is housed in the original 25-cell district military prison that was constructed in 1847. The focus of the museum is to tell the story of the Army, from the arrival of the First Fleet and the foundation of the colony of NSW to the present day. Open Thursdays in November, reopening in February 2026.

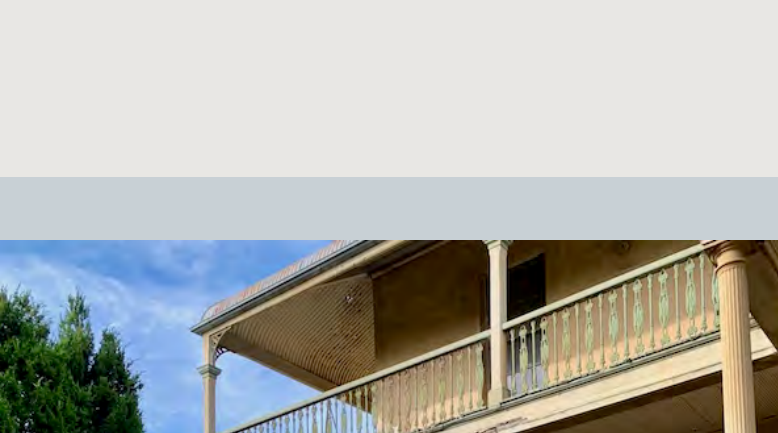
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Public Libraries Evaluation Network Project

Woollahra Libraries is part of the Public Libraries Evaluation Network (PLEN), helping to better understand how our libraries make a difference in people's lives. In May 2025, the community was invited to share their experiences through the annual *Library Use and Outcomes* survey. The results give valuable insight into how we use and enjoy our spaces, programs and collections.

[READ REPORT](#)



2025 Festive Season Celebration - 7 Dec

The Paddington Society invites you to celebrate the festive season with our members, friends, and supporters in the front garden of historic Juniper Hall. Please bring your family and neighbours, share good cheer, and catch up with old and new friends while we celebrate the season. Drinks and snacks are included. Sunday 7 December, 2025 @ 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

[GET TICKETS](#)



Local History: Dorothy Barnes - Daughter of EJ Ward

Dorothy Barnes was the daughter of Eddie and Edith Ward. She was born in Surry Hills in 1931, the year of Eddie's election to the House of Representatives in Federal Parliament. The Paddington Society had the opportunity to interview Dorothy in 2015 and hear her memories of growing up in Paddington.

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