

THE PADDINGTON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

MAY 2026



Dear Subscriber,

Welcome to the May 2026 edition of The Paddington Society Quarterly Newsletter. If you are reading this now is the right time to join the Society for a few dollars a year. Your membership keeps us viable and enables us to hold talks and events and campaign on behalf of the community. Please consider **joining now**.

The photo above of the Original Officers Quarters situated at the eastern end of Victoria Barracks illustrates the significance of the Barracks. The Paddington Society believes that Defence has an obligation of ongoing stewardship of this important site. The reasons for this include:

- Victoria Barracks construction was commenced by the British Army in the 1840's and has been in continuous military occupation for 185 years.
- It is the most significant military site in Australia.
- It played a significant role in the establishment of Paddington as a Victorian suburb.
- It is listed on the Commonwealth Heritage List and the Register of the National Estate.

In the future, we maintain that to protect the site's significance:

- The ADF could readily increase the existing public access to Victoria Barracks.
- Any new development should be for Defence or community purposes only.
- Any new development should be restricted to 3 storeys.
- No development should project above the ridge on the main barracks building as viewed from the main Oxford Street gate.
- Any new work should be undertaken under the guidance of a comprehensive peer-reviewed Conservation Heritage Study and Management Plan.

Allegra Spender has announced a meeting to discuss outcomes for the Barracks. Details are below:

Defence Community Information Session
5pm to 7:30pm May 7th, Paddington RSL,
220-232 Oxford Street, Paddington
Come along and share your views directly with the Government.
Defence to address with Q&A from 5:30pm Session

Please also consider **completing Allegra's survey** and voice your opinion on the future of the Barracks.

The City of Sydney report: *Victoria Barracks Guiding Principles*, **available from our website** gives some insight into how the local community responded to the CoS invitation to share ideas for the site.

You can still visit the Barracks for the **2026 Victoria Barracks Sydney ANZAC Day Commemoration** or join the fascinating **free tour of Victoria Barracks** from the Corps of Guides. Tours take place every Thursday from 10am to 12pm. This is a great chance to see what lies behind the sandstone walls before any changes begin. Kids are welcome too.

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

We trust that you will find this issue interesting and useful. Please **forward this newsletter** to friends, family, and neighbours. Everyone is welcome to **join The Society**. The more engaged we are and the more voices we have, the stronger our community becomes.

Esther Hayter
President
The Paddington Society Inc



Victoria Barracks - Management of Defence Estate Assets

The Society has made a submission regarding Victoria Barracks in response to the Senate Parliamentary enquiry Item e. *"the heritage significance of Defence estate assets and the adequacy of measures to protect that significance during and following divestment, including the impact on veteran and community connections to sites of military service."*

[READ THE SUBMISSION](#)



160 Oxford Street Redevelopment

Read the Society's submission against the State Significant Development at **160 Oxford Street**. The community is still waiting for the response from the Developers after over 300 submissions were lodged. To learn about the community campaign and to stay informed visit our website or contact: preservingpaddington@gmail.com

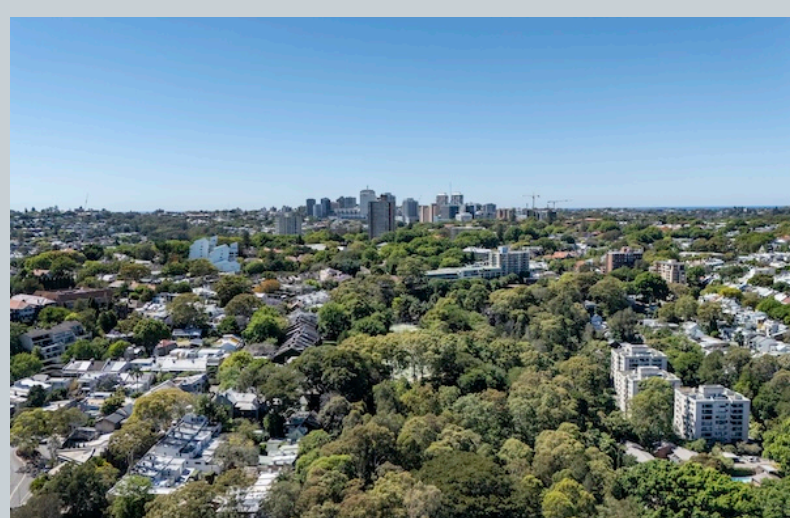
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160 Oxford Street Redevelopment Forum

Alex Greenwich MP and Harriet Price invite you to celebrate the phenomenal community efforts that secured over 300 objections to the proposed development at 160 Oxford Street. All supporters are welcome as we regroup to discuss next steps. The Village Inn Tuesday May 19th 6-7pm.

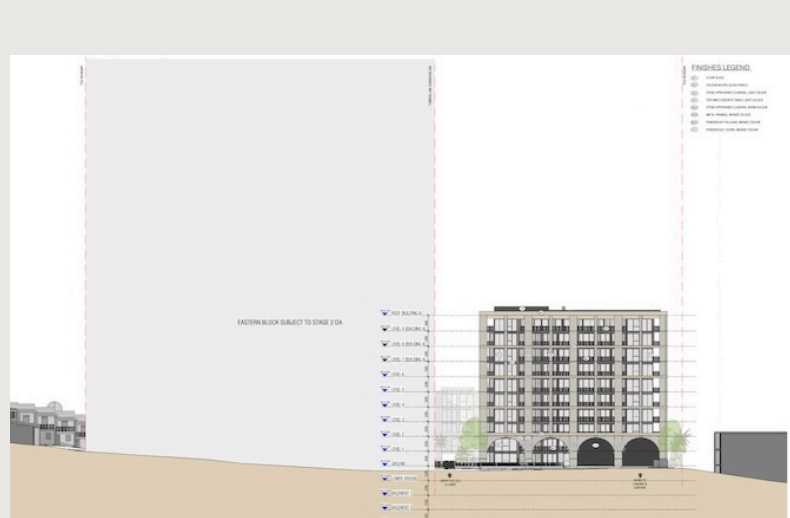
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New Approach to Strategic Planning

The NSW Government recently exhibited a Discussion Paper that sets out a proposed three-tiered planning framework for NSW (State, Region and Local) to make the planning system easier to understand and more consistent. Read more and the Society's submission noting our concerns.

[READ OUR SUBMISSION](#)



8-10 New McLean Street

A **new application for the site** has very recently been lodged with the NSW Planning Department. **Read the Society's submission**, noting that the Conclusion on page 12 outlines reasons we believe the proposal should be refused in its present undefined form. Woollahra Municipal Council Submission for SSD-80626208 can also be viewed on our website.

[READ OUR SUBMISSION](#)



Exploration at Woollahra Station

In August last year, Premier Chris Minns announced the **planned revival of the Woollahra Station**, which was abandoned as a stop on the Eastern Suburbs Line in 1970. Exploration has begun on the project, which is the centrepiece of the Woollahra Station Activation with an estimated price tag of \$200 million.

[Read more from Allegra Spender.](#)



Significant Tree Nominations now Open

WMC is home to some of Sydney's most wonderful trees. Our area's rich heritage of private and publicly owned trees provide much of the beauty, character and history that makes our LGA such a desirable place to live. Protecting Woollahra's significant trees is important. **Council's Significant Tree Register (STR)** was originally developed over 30 years ago and is accepting nominations.

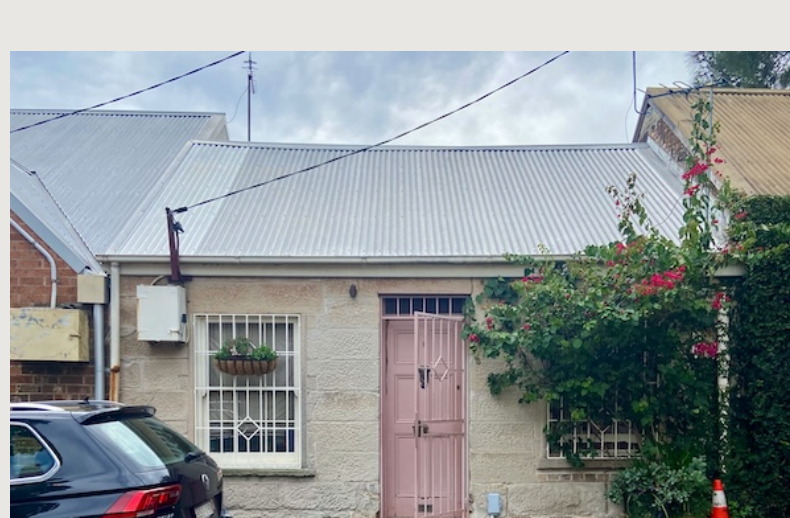
[MORE INFO](#)



Treasurer and/or Bookkeeper Needed

Do you have some free time to help with The Paddington Society's accounts? By getting involved, 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.

[CONTACT US](#)



Save genuinely affordable housing from new planning rule exploitation

The In-Fill Affordable Housing Bonus (AHB) is being exploited by developers to build luxury apartments while failing to deliver genuinely affordable housing. Across Sydney modest studio or one-bedroom apartments are being demolished, displacing lower-income renters. **Sign the NSW Legislative Assembly Petition.**

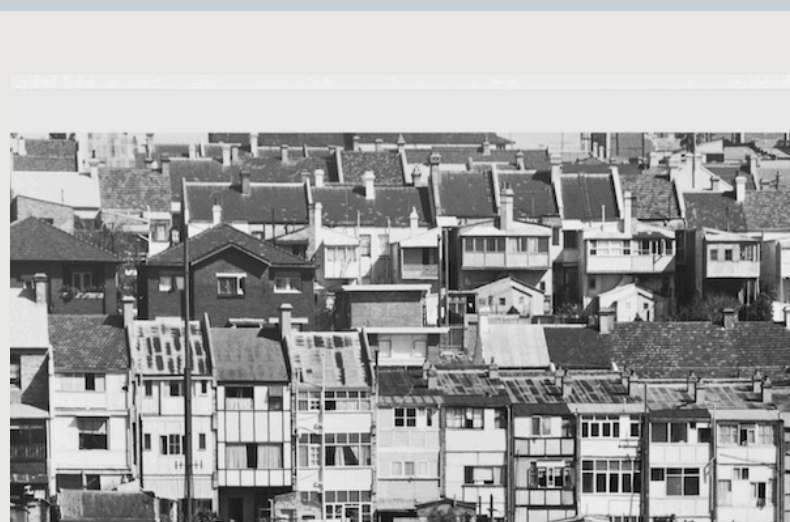
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"Views To Die For" with Mark Skelsey

Mark's recent talk at Paddington Library was a huge success with a long waitlist for tickets. If you would like to see this session repeated or have requests for other speakers that may be of interest, please let the Society know. Discover more about what Mark had to say on our website.

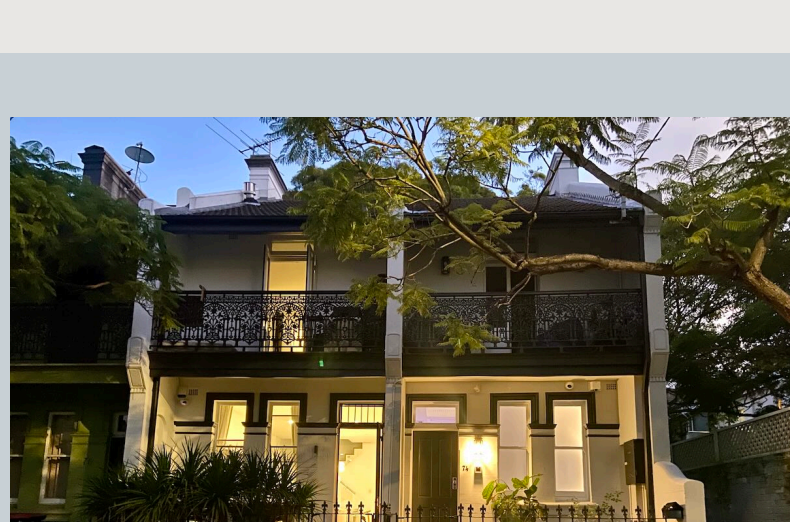
[MORE INFO](#)



Local History: Watch your back, you're in Paddington

Paddington resident Grahame John Bond AM is an Australian actor, writer, director, musician and composer, known for his many characters including Aunty Jack and The Ancient One in the first two seasons of the Beastmaster. Judy from the Society recently caught up with Grahame and his partner Kate.

[LEARN MORE](#)



The National Trust - Australian Heritage Festival

The Australian Heritage Festival is the nation's largest community-driven celebration of culture and history. Celebrated across cities and regions nationwide for more than 45 years, the Festival invites communities to connect with Australia's diverse stories, offering immersive experiences that bring heritage to life for thousands of people each year.

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