



GEORGES RIVER COUNCIL

# COMMUNITY

SPRING EDITION 2019

Community creativity  
prevents graffiti vandalism



 @grcouncil

 GeorgesRiverCouncil

 WWW.GEORGESRIVER.NSW.GOV.AU

## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

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I am proud to continue to serve the Georges River community following my re-election as Mayor of Georges River Council by my fellow councillors in September 2019.

Councillor Con Hindi was elected as Deputy Mayor and I congratulate him and thank Councillor Sam Elmir for his service and outstanding work as Deputy Mayor of Georges River Council over the past year.

Council recently opened the much-anticipated Oatley Park Inclusive Adventure Playspace following consultation with the community, and I am delighted that the playground is already getting lots of use.

We also recently unveiled Meade Park Adventure Playground, which is designed to accommodate children of all abilities. I have no doubt that these fantastic new playgrounds will be highly utilised by our community as the weather continues to warm and people make the most of the longer days in the coming months.

In some exciting news, Sydney Sixers will return to Hurstville Oval on 30 November and 1 December 2019 with matches starting from 2.00pm. You'll have the opportunity to witness some of the world's finest cricketers including Ellyse Perry, Alyssa Healy, Ash Gardner and Erin Burns, and fans can meet their favourite players after the game.

It is sure to be a great day out, with a range of activities to keep the kids, big and small, entertained. There will be family friendly physical challenges, music, a slide and a range of photo opportunities to get supporters in the spirit before the toss.

Finally, there's still time for you to share feedback on Council's proposed rate restructure online at Your Say Georges River, or at the Georges River Council Civic Centre in Hurstville, with community consultation closing on 17 November 2019.

Kevin Greene,  
Mayor Georges River Council

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**Georges River Council acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land in which the Georges River Local Government Area is situated - the Bidjegal people of the Eora nation.**

Cover image: Blakehurst Public School students Mia Parlett, Christian Vasilerski, Ana Vasilerski and Samira El Sayah.



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**YOUR  
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Get involved in important projects by contributing to Council decisions that shape the future of the Georges River area.

Your feedback matters! Register via Council's website at [yoursay.georgesriver.nsw.gov.au/](https://yoursay.georgesriver.nsw.gov.au/)

# Changes to your rates

**G**eorges River Council is undertaking extensive community consultation about Council's proposal to apply to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) to seek approval for a Special Rate Variation (SRV) as well as the creation of a consistent minimum rate for all ratepayers.

This would increase the total rate income by 10.6% (8.1% special rate variation and 2.5% annual rate peg), and if approved these changes would come into effect from 1 July 2020.

Mayor of Georges River Council, Kevin Greene said since the amalgamation of Kogarah and Hurstville Councils in 2016, we have been required to maintain two rating systems for the Georges River area.

"We must create one consistent rating system and our proposed approach will ensure a fairer approach for all ratepayers.

"The impact on ratepayers will vary and on average, ratepayers will pay between \$1.00 and \$3.00 extra per week.

"Council is facing a number of cost pressures with providing services to our community," said Mayor Greene.

"To provide a snapshot, over \$150 million worth of additional community assets over three years has led to a 33% increase in the costs of operating and maintaining assets.

For information on how to share feedback please visit [yoursay.georgesriver.nsw.gov.au/SRV](https://yoursay.georgesriver.nsw.gov.au/SRV). You can also call Council on 9330 6400 or email [yourrates@georgesriver.nsw.gov.au](mailto:yourrates@georgesriver.nsw.gov.au)



Mayor of Georges River Council Kevin Greene with Deputy Mayor Con Hindi

## Kevin Greene re-elected as Mayor of Georges River Council

**C**ouncillor Kevin Greene has been once again elected Mayor of Georges River Council following an Extraordinary Council meeting on Monday 23 September 2019.

Labor's Kevin Greene will be joined by Councillor Con Hindi as Deputy Mayor who will retain the position until the next Council elections are held in September 2020. Mayor Greene, who received the only nomination for the Mayoral position, thanked Councillor Sam Elmir for his service and his outstanding work as Deputy Mayor over the past year, and said that he is delighted to have been re-elected to serve the community.

**"I am honoured to be once again elected as Mayor of Georges River and I thank my fellow Councillors for their unanimous support," said Mayor Greene.**

"I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of Council to say thank you to all the Council staff for their outstanding work and commitment to achieving positive outcomes for the Georges River community.

"I look forward to working together with my fellow Councillors, as well as the community to continue to build on the many significant projects underway, which include environmental initiatives, new playgrounds, public amenities, sporting field upgrades and a new childcare centre just to name a few," Mayor Greene added.

Deputy Mayor Hindi was elected unopposed and thanked his fellow Councillors for their support. "I'm going to do the best job I can as Deputy Mayor and am looking forward to serving the community," said Councillor Hindi.

Georges River Council Standing Committee Representatives and Councillor Delegates for External Committees were also elected at the Council meeting. Councillors will represent the community on these Committees until September 2020.



Georges River residents have come together to prevent graffiti vandalism



Christian Vasilerski and artist Matthew Bramston

## Community creativity prevents graffiti vandalism

**C**ouncil has once again joined forces with Graffiti Removal Day to help combat the issue of illegal graffiti in the Georges River area. Matthew Bramston, who is employed by Council as an Operations Specialist, designed a preventative mural for the Carss Bush Park Public Amenities Block, which features tiles painted by local school children.

Mayor of Georges River Council Kevin Greene said that Georges River residents have come together to prevent graffiti vandalism in the community in a fun and creative way.

“Council’s very own professional painter, Matthew Bramston, who is employed by Council as an Operations Specialist, has designed a preventative mural for the Carss Bush Park Public Amenities Block this year,” said Mayor Greene.

“It is a fantastic way to get the whole community involved in the creation of a unique mural which also helps to beautify the Georges River area.

“I am proud to say that more than 500 children from Blakehurst Public School and St Joseph’s Catholic Primary School, and 75 kids from Council’s Childcare Centres have taken part.

“The significant participation in events such as this is a testament to the strong community camaraderie that we are lucky to enjoy in the Georges River area, and I’m sure the mural will be enjoyed by residents for many years to come.”

Stay tuned for the reveal of the mural in the Summer 2019 issue of Community Magazine!

### Congratulations to the St George Illawarra Women's Team

Council would like to congratulate the St George Illawarra Women's Team for their hard work in the lead up to the NRLW Grand Final and their admirable efforts competing against the Brisbane Broncos on Sunday 6 October 2019. Making it to the Grand Finals was an enormous achievement and we hope to be cheering the team on from the Grand Final stadium again next year!



Oatley Adventure Playground

# Two fantastic new parks to suit all ages and abilities

**T**hank you to everyone in our community who contributed their ideas to help in the development of our two latest all-inclusive parks – Meade Park Adventure Playground and Oatley Park Inclusive Adventure Playspace.

We're very proud of both parks which cater to people of all ages and abilities,

and offer new barbeques and picnic tables so families can make a real day of a trip to the park.

The Oatley Park Inclusive Adventure Playspace incorporates landscaping elements carefully designed to be sensitive to the park's beautiful bushland setting, and includes

nature-based play elements, while Meade Park Adventure Playground offers a sensory-focused play zone with stimulating and imaginative activities which allow for social play and sensory learning. We've seen the evidence – kids absolutely love them (parents do, too)!

If you haven't yet visited these parks, put them on your to-do list today.

## New synthetic field in Peakhurst

**T**he new synthetic field at Peakhurst Park, the first of its kind in the Georges River area, was officially opened on Saturday 14 September 2019.

This project has focused on improving recreational sporting facilities within the local area by constructing a FIFA standard synthetic football surface, drainage and pavement, four sports lighting towers and a new amenities building at the park.

The new field makes it possible for year-round activity on a safe and resilient surface

Total budget for the synthetic field was \$2 million, with Georges River Council contributing \$1.4 million, and the NSW Government funding \$300,000, an amount which was matched by the St George Football Association.

The new amenities building cost of \$1,219,000 and was funded through a combination \$919,000 from the NSW Government's Stronger Communities Fund and \$300,000 of Council funding.



Sydney's first metropolitan cricket and community facility opens in Georges River

# World class Norm O'Neill Cricket Training Facility in the heart of Penshurst

The first metropolitan cricket and community centre constructed in Sydney in partnership with Local Government, Cricket Australia and Cricket NSW opened in Penshurst in June 2019, with Council allocating \$5.5 million towards the project, and a further combined \$400,000 in funding from Cricket Australia and Cricket NSW.

The facility will offer great benefits to the community and significantly enrich the sport and recreation amenities in the local area to help foster community participation in cricket. The centre is named in honour of Norm O'Neill, OAM, a cricketing legend who grew up locally in Kogarah.

The facility includes six indoor synthetic wickets, six outdoor turf wickets, and

will allow local boys and girls to train alongside their heroes from the NSW Blues and Breakers and the Sydney Sixers, inspiring the next generation of dedicated young players.

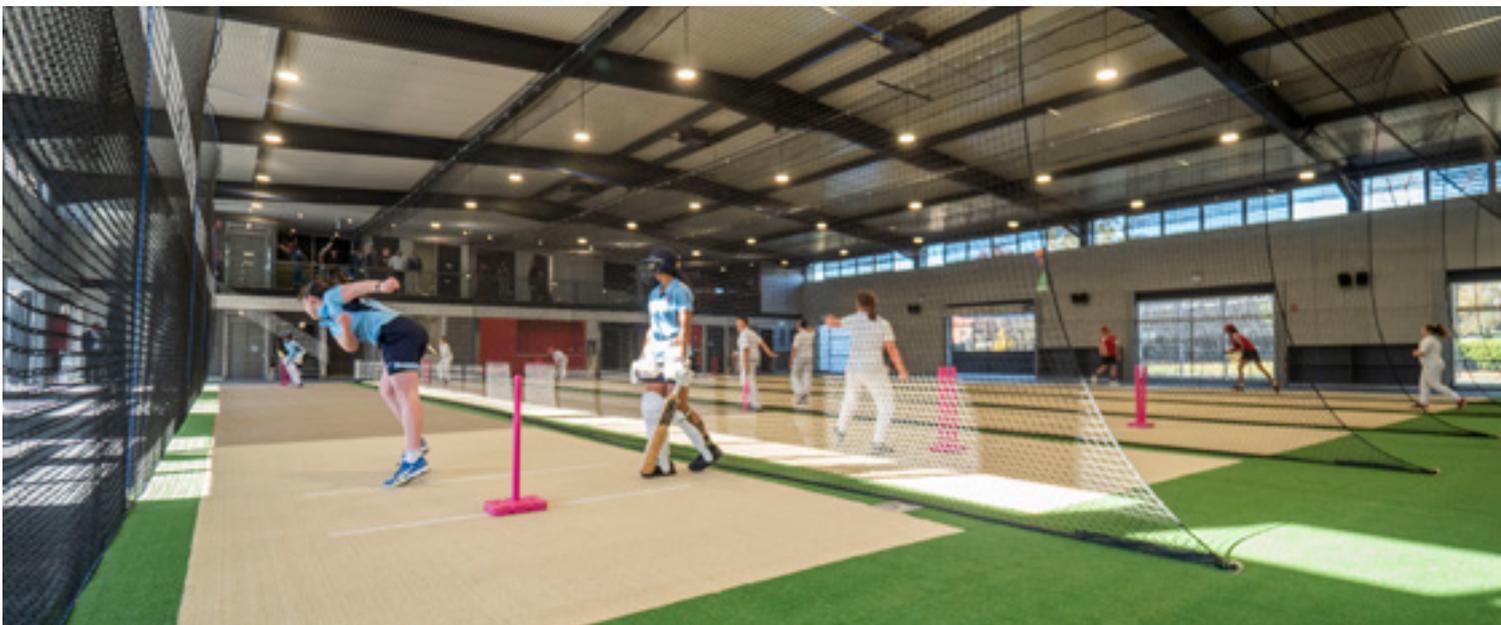
The cricket centre comprises Stage One of Council's Master Plan for Penshurst Park, which will see the site transform into a premium regional Sporting Hub.

Stage Two will include development of a synthetic field, grandstand, youth facility and additional open space elements, with Stage Three featuring expansion of the Hurstville Aquatic Leisure Centre.



COO of Cricket NSW Michael Dalton, Daughter of Norm O'Neill, Kristen Davidson and Mayor Kevin Greene

The centre is located at 1A Percival Street, Penshurst and will cater for a wide range of players, from club and community cricketers and school groups, through to elite male and female cricketers.





# Pride Month

Georgie the Dragon joining in the Pride Month 2019 celebrations



Rainbow lighting at Hurstville Plaza

**D**uring Pride Month you may have spotted the Rainbow Crossing on Forest Road Hurstville, or the spectacular rainbow lighting installation that transformed the new Hurstville Plaza. These were just some of the playful ways we tried to make our LGBTQI community members feel included, accepted and celebrated.

Charisma Belle, who took part in Rainbow Storytime at Kogarah Library, said that when local Councils celebrate different communities it allows for those outside that community to learn and see that, at the end of the day, we have more in common than we think. Charisma added:

**“Pride Month is not just about the LGBTQI community, it’s for everyone to celebrate who they are, because we should be proud of what makes us unique. Pride Month is about education and love, and with education comes understanding.”**

“Not everyone is comfortable with who they are, or understand what it means to be LGBTQI. Many of us are raised with very negative attitudes towards LGBTQI people, and who we are is not a choice and can’t be fixed. We worry about losing our family and it can be very isolating. These kinds of events and activities are proof that living an authentic life leads to strength and happiness. It also shows everyone that they are not alone.

“It’s very refreshing to see that so many amazing parents are now listening to their children, and as adults and leaders we can support, nurture, empower and most importantly, love unconditionally.”

# \$35,000 donated to local Salvos following Councillors' Charity Ball

This year's Councillors' Charity Ball was a hit with all who attended the fundraising event.

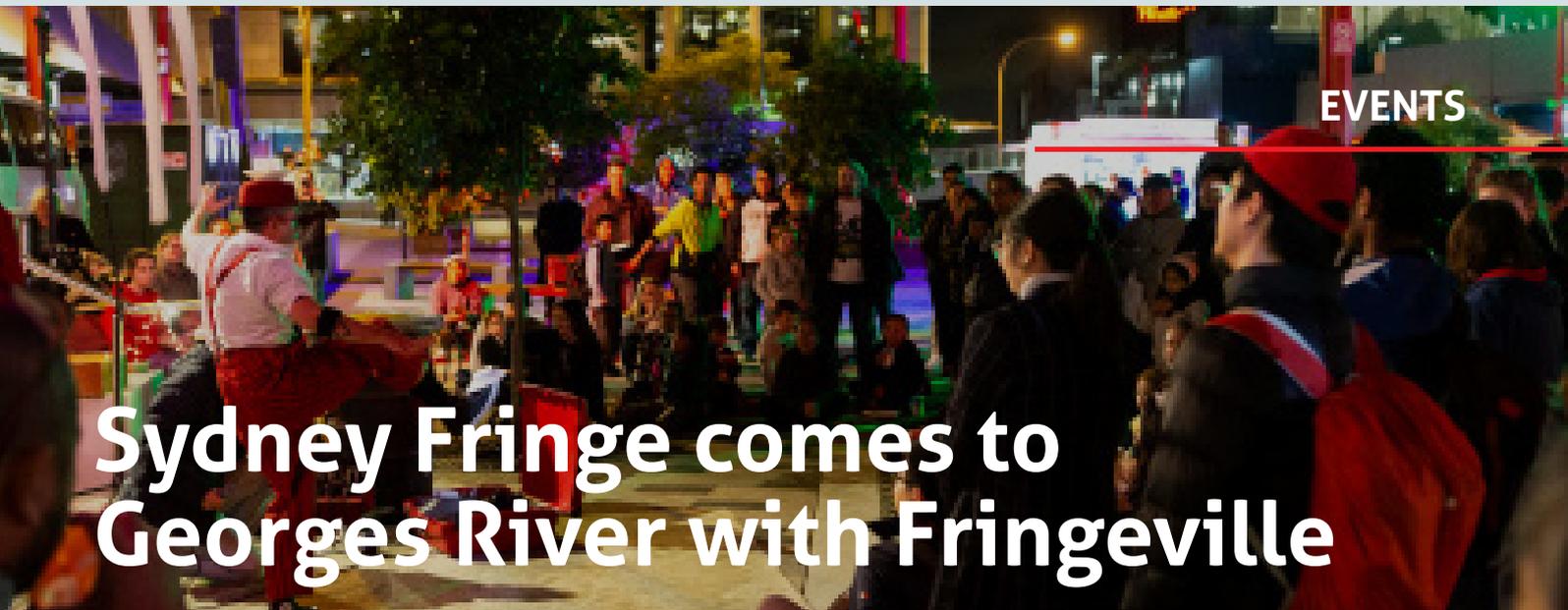
Captain Joyce McIver from the Salvation Army Hurstville was over the moon following a donation of \$35,000 which will go towards the Salvos' work with members of the community who are homeless.

"This is just fantastic – this donation will go towards a shower and laundry facility on our church premises to help those experiencing homelessness to wash clothing and have a nice hot shower," said Capt. McIver.

"It's the very practical support of partner organisations like Georges River Council, which sees dignity and respect provided for those in our local community who may be doing

life a bit tough. We really look forward to seeing the project come to fruition over the coming months," she added.

Council would like to thank its Principal Sponsor - Coombes Property Group, Major Sponsor - Ganellen, and Event Supporter - Bluefit, for their generous support which helped make the event such a success.



## Sydney Fringe comes to Georges River with Fringeville

The 10th Sydney Fringe Festival spilled gloriously into Hurstville this year with *Fringeville*, a feast of events which included three courses of free entertainment at Hurstville Plaza from 20-22 September 2019, as well

as a pop-up bar, food trucks and digital projections.

There was an amazing array of theatre, magic and comedy offerings for all ages both in the plaza and at ticketed shows at the Hurstville Entertainment

Centre's Civic Theatre. We hope to bring back more unique stories, artists, activations, adventures and experiences again for future Fringe Festivals and connect with our city in new ways.

## INNOVATION

Council making progress with Smart City

# Council innovation recognised in Smart City Awards



Nick Takos and Hayley Barnes

**G**eorges River Council's progress in harnessing smart city technologies for the local area has been recognised at the Committee for Sydney Smart City Awards 2019, with Council receiving a Highly Commended award for cross sectoral collaboration.

The awards celebrate projects and partnerships that address the fundamental challenges faced by cities, governments, industry and communities in Greater Sydney.

Mayor of Georges River Council Kevin Greene said that Council's collaboration on smart city technology has resulted in the delivery of first-of-their-kind public spaces for the community.

"I am delighted that Council has been recognised for its collaboration in smart city technologies, for its strong partnership with the University of New South Wales (UNSW) and

Street Furniture Australia," said Mayor Greene.

"By working closely with both organisations, Council will improve the lifestyle in the Georges River area and residents' access to smart technologies through the creation of three ChillOUT hubs which will be located in Mortdale, Kogarah and Hurstville.

"These new social spaces are aimed at reducing the temperature, facilitating social connections and activating public spaces through technology, shading and greenery."

Georges River Council, in collaboration with UNSW and Street Furniture Australia, has been successful in securing two consecutive grants to provide 'smart social spaces' for the Georges River community.

## ART AND CULTURE

Exhibition runs until 30 January 2020

# Georges River Art Prize

**T**he Georges River Art Prize is a biennial prize hosted by Hurstville Museum & Gallery and Kogarah Library and Service Centre with a prize pool of over \$20,000. This art prize provides a platform for local emerging artists to exhibit side by side with well-known national artists. Visit Hurstville Museum & Gallery to see the finalists of the painting and sculpture categories, or head over to Kogarah Library and Service Centre to view the colourful and emotive works submitted in the youth categories. While you're there, vote for your favourite artwork in our People's Choice Prize!



**WHAT'S ON**

To check out all of our events, please visit [www.georgesriver.nsw.gov.au](http://www.georgesriver.nsw.gov.au)

**SAY  
NO TO  
DOMESTIC  
VIOLENCE  
WALK**

Georges River Council has rebranded its annual White Ribbon Walk to the Say No to Domestic Violence Walk, following the unfortunate liquidation of White Ribbon Australia.

The event will see the Georges River community come together for the third time to march 1.5 kilometres, from Netstrata Jubilee Stadium in Kogarah, to the Kogarah Town Square.

Community members including schools, businesses, service clubs, registered clubs and sporting groups are encouraged to attend, so that together we can take a collective stand on domestic violence against women.

For more information please call Council on 9330 6400 or visit [www.georgesriver.nsw.gov.au](http://www.georgesriver.nsw.gov.au).

Friday 22 November 2019  
The walk will commence at 10.00am  
Netstrata Jubilee Stadium, Kogarah



**DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY SERVICE  
INFORMATION SESSIONS**

**For building professionals**

Thursday 29 November 2019, 6.00pm - 7.30pm  
Dragon Room, Georges River Civic Centre  
Corner Dora and MacMahon Streets, Hurstville

**For residents**

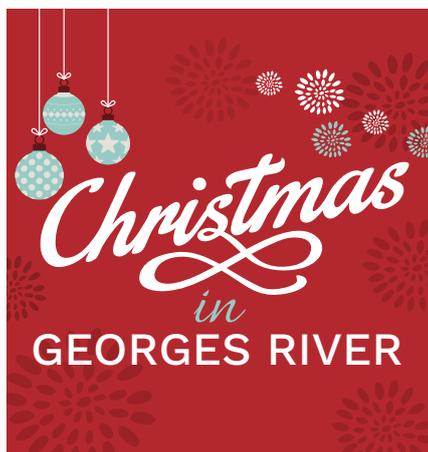
Tuesday 3 December 2019, 6.00pm - 7.00pm  
River Room, Georges River Civic Centre  
Corner Dora and MacMahon Streets, Hurstville

Bookings: Please contact Sue Matthew  
Team Leader Development and Administration  
02 9330 6033 or [mail@georgesriver.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mail@georgesriver.nsw.gov.au)



**SYDNEY SIXERS AT HURSTVILLE OVAL**

Saturday 30 November 2019, 2.00pm vs Adelaide Strikers  
Sunday 1 December 2019, 2.00pm vs Adelaide Strikers  
Tickets: adults \$10, kids under 16 free.  
[www.sydney-sixers.com.au](http://www.sydney-sixers.com.au)



**CHRISTMAS IN GEORGES RIVER**

Starting in November, there will be numerous events in each of Georges River's five wards with traditional Christmas decorations to get you into the festive spirit. Council will also be hosting free Santa photo opportunities across the Georges River area, Christmas productions at Hurstville Entertainment Centre and festive programs at Georges River Libraries.

**Georges River Council Christmas Lights Competition**  
Entries open Monday 11 November 2019

**Magic of Christmas Festival**  
Sunday 1 December 2019, Carss Bush Park

For more information on Christmas in Georges River, please visit the events page at [www.georgesriver.nsw.gov.au](http://www.georgesriver.nsw.gov.au)

Blakehurst

Hurstville

Kogarah Bay

Mortdale

Peakhurst



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## COUNCIL MEETINGS

Watch Council Meetings live via [www.georgesriver.nsw.gov.au/Council/About-Your-Council/Council-Meetings](http://www.georgesriver.nsw.gov.au/Council/About-Your-Council/Council-Meetings).

Monday 25 November 2019 Ordinary Council Meeting - 7.00pm  
Monday 16 December 2019 Ordinary Council Meeting - 7.00pm



### KEEP UP TO DATE WITH COUNCIL'S APP

The app is compatible with both iOS and Android devices and is available on the App Store and Google Play.

## CONTACT

Phone: 9330 6400  
24 hours, 7 days a week  
[www.georgesriver.nsw.gov.au](http://www.georgesriver.nsw.gov.au)

- georgesrivercouncil
- @georges\_river
- @grcouncil
- mail@georgesriver.nsw.gov.au

Language Assistance Service



**Georges River Civic Centre**  
Corner MacMahon and Dora Streets, Hurstville  
Open: 8.30am - 5.00pm, Monday to Friday

**Kogarah Library and Service Centre**  
Kogarah Town Square, Belgrave Street  
Open: 8.30am - 5.00pm, Monday to Friday

**After-hours Customer Service available at Hurstville Library**  
5.00pm - 9.00pm, Monday to Friday  
9.30am - 4.00pm, Saturday and Sunday

Stay up-to-date with the latest Council news and events by subscribing to our e-newsletter at [www.georgesriver.nsw.gov.au](http://www.georgesriver.nsw.gov.au)

