

Willoughby in COVID-19: let's capture this moment in time



Through Willoughby City Council's "Have Your Say" residents shared their experience of the Covid-19 Pandemic. Community feedback – stories and images were received from March 2020 to December 2020.

Willoughby City Library provides the following Digital Display of those contributions along with contributions directly to the Library that help us document this extraordinary moment in our history for future generations.

We thank all contributors.

Remembering ANZAC Day 25 April 2020



We shall remember them

The dawn service in front of our residence was different but no less heart felt this year. One by one a few neighbours joined us as we listened and watched the live streamed service - from a social distance. As an officer that still serves my husband would only ever wear formal attire out of respect for the fallen no matter how or where the service was held. In the silence of the morning it was a moving experience to hear the last post coming from a number of households around the neighbourhood. Lest we forget.

*Willoughby City Council
uploaded on behalf of resident*

Remembering ANZAC Day 25 April 2020



ANZAC banner in empty Chatswood

Photo Willoughby City Library



Dawn service - Rex Hoare from the Willoughby Council Band played his trombone

Carr Street Chatswood

6.14am

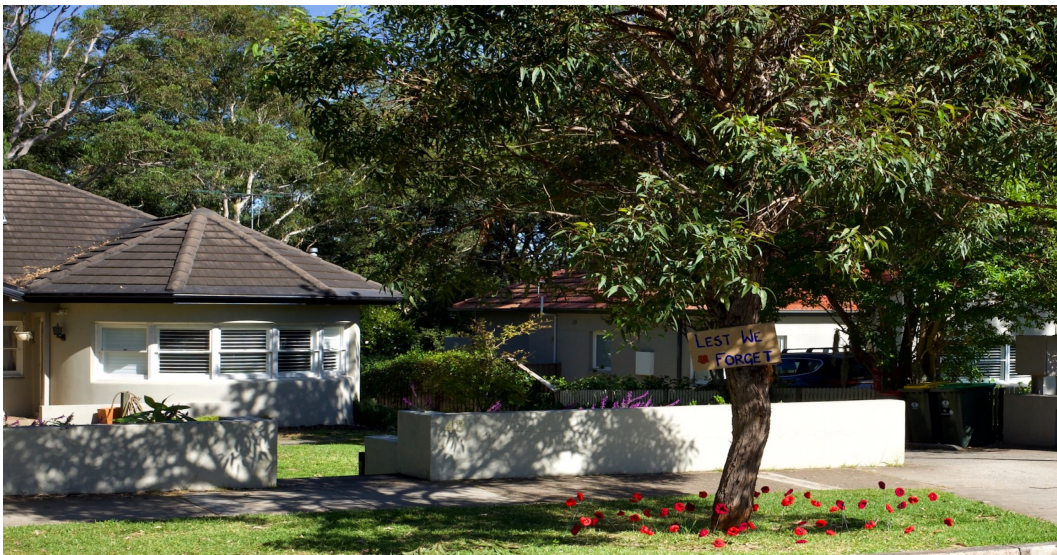
*Willoughby City Council
uploaded on behalf of resident*

Remembering ANZAC Day 25 April 2020



On the balcony instead of the big event. If found it very moving and I hope to do again next year. Sometime small and thoughtful works

Photo: Rosemany



Poppies in street in West Chatswood

Photo: janecoz



Showing Respect on ANZAC Day Dawn

Photo: Willoughby resident

Business Responses to Covid –19



Yeah toilet paper available at Coles, Chatswood. Get in Quick!



Social Distancing Officer -
a job of the times.
Chatswood Chase

Photos: Willoughby City Library

Business Responses to Covid –19



Home delivery bikes
waiting for orders.
Chatswood Mall
looking West



Hospo Market -
Chatswood Station
offering click and collect

Photos: Willoughby City Library

Business Responses to Covid –19



ISO Barbie

Someone has too much isolation time on their hands and got creative!

Photo: Willoughby City Library

Business Responses to Covid-19

Wilkes Avenue, Artarmon in the time of Corona

Cafes and shops in Wilkes Avenue are getting creative, not just serving takeaway coffees.



Photos: Janecoz

Business Responses to Covid-19

Wilkes Avenue, Artarmon in the time of Corona



Photos: Janecoz

Personal Reflections



Thank you to our wonderful community volunteers

Our "At Home With Willoughby" team, who provide in home services including Meals on Wheels, received some beautiful thank you roses today.

Mr William Wingrove is a Meals on Wheels client. He practises social distancing by placing a basket outside his front door for our volunteers to drop his meals in. Today he was waiting at the front door with a bouquet of home grown roses for our staff and volunteers. It's heart-warming gestures like these that makes it possible to stay positive during these difficult times.

Photo: Willoughby City Council

Personal Reflections



今天主日崇拜后,十二点三十分查經

(照片是在查經中拍的)

Photo of Sunday worship bible study; and a message of thanks.

Ying has written a message in Chinese about her thanks to the Government during this period of time especially for the seniors, during her online workshop, she thanks and prays for God for Australian Government to keep the Australian people safe.

See next page

Photo: Ying

Personal Reflections

疫情中的感想

我在澳洲生活了 40 年，我的三個孩子在澳大利亞-這塊神的迦南美地，長大成才。我的長孫今年將在悉尼大學畢業。

我已經退休十餘年。享受著美好的晚年生活。不幸的是今年年初以來，瘟疫在整個世界爆發。很多人在這場新冠病毒中被感染。老年人更甚。

當這病毒流入澳洲時，我們都有些恐懼。尤其是病毒傳到了老人院，有些老人失去了生命。而且，日常生活用品被搶購一空，造成了恐慌。這時我們的政府出臺了一系列的措施，尤其是對老年人生活各方面的關懷，而且每人給與 750 元的補貼，還有社區政府，由梁珣燕女士經常在微信上的問候，使我們感到非常的溫暖。這些都深深刻在我們的心中。

爲了控制疫情，保障人民的生命，得病的人很快被檢測和住醫院，得到積極的救治。在社會各個企業，都得到了政府的補貼。爲了控制疫情，我們在 3 月 22 號開始，對病人進行隔離。沒有病的人也盡量留在家中。許多有工作的人都在家上班。所以，澳洲的疫情很快得到控制。

我們的教會也在網上進行主日崇拜。而且每天在網上查經和禱告。在禱告中我們得到了喜樂和平安。我們在禱告中，祝福澳洲政府充滿著從神而來的智慧和能力。在和病毒的這場戰爭，取得了可喜的成果。我們也祈求主耶穌基督保護澳洲的人們得平安。我們在疫情中每天都得到了更新。每天跟神相交。神的國度降在我們的心中。過一個敬虔和喜樂的生活。有上帝的祝福，我們相信澳洲政府一定能領導我們打贏這場疫情的戰爭。

Many Ying Chan

Ying

Personal Reflections



LifeSource Church moves online

LifeSource Christian Church had to adapt all its services and programs online. Services were streamed live, lots of content was recorded and uploaded onto media platforms, groups met via zoom or other platforms, and suddenly the congregation had participants joining in from all around the globe. The current challenge has expanded our reach and we are eagerly anticipating what it will look like when the pandemic is officially over.

Photo: Anne Iuliano

Personal Reflections



Juzhen's story:

我和我先生都七十左右年令，免疫力比效低的人群，疫情期间已有一个月没出门，Woolworth在疫情期间服务老人为老人免费配送物品，儿子在网上为我们预订好食物用品，为执行政府规定的社交距离，送货青年把货物放在我们准备好的前院桌子上。和谐社区，倍感温暖！🌹”

English Translation:

My husband and I are 70 years old and in the vulnerable group. During the COVID-19, we haven't gone out for a month. Their son ordered their daily necessities online for them and Woolworth provided free delivery service to elderly people during COVID19. They follow the Government's guideline on social distancing. The young delivery man placed the daily necessities on the chairs they put in their front yard for them to pick up later. They feel the community is in harmony and feel warm at heart.

Willoughby City Library uploaded on behalf of resident

Personal Reflections



Celebration of a graduation

With universities postponing all graduation ceremonies we thought we celebrate Caitlin's completion of her Masters' Degree isolation style. Our academic neighbour went through what a graduation ceremony would entail from the safe distance of her front yard. Our family donned in academic gowns attended over the fence and celebrated with some bubbles and a special lunch at home. What are neighbours for!

Photo: Janecz

Personal Reflections



THE CRAG

A voice for the community since 1925

ISSN: 0814 2054 No. 208 MAY 2020

Sitting on the rock of the Bay

I see fire and I see shark. Story p6.

Skeletons of Sugarloaf

Bringing comedy and cheer. Story p7.

Lockdown in the Crag

The word that best describes the leadup to and first half of 2020 would have to be UNPRECEDENTED! I'm sure we're all sick of hearing it, but it does ring true. From the drought and subsequent water restrictions to the horrendous bushfires to the north, south and west of us creating smoke-filled days over Summer, to the outbreak of Covid 19, it's been a tough time for many people.

Here on the peninsula (with our Moratai and Sugarloaf Crescent fingers) there is a notion of feeling very grateful for living where we do. Compared to the rest of the world, we are doing exceptionally well. Compared to Sydneysiders who live in high rise or inner city with no garden or outlook but high walls, we are blessed. We can freely walk our streets and bush tracks. We have 8 local restaurants and cafes still serving us with a mix of delicious take-aways and home deliveries. How good is that! For the children, households have embraced the 'teddy in the window' concept which has brought joy to many. Whilst acknowledging that there must be people locally who have lost their jobs, there is much to feel grateful for. In this special online *Corona Crag* you can read about what some of our neighbours have been getting up to during lockdown.



This government public health campaign poster was illustrated by May Gibbs in 1919 during the Spanish Flu pandemic from which an estimated 13,000 Australians died.

May Gibbs (1877–1969) is one of Australia's most treasured illustrators, artists and children's authors. Her bush fantasy world has captured the imaginations of Australians for over a century, creating a uniquely Australian folklore that holds a special place in the hearts of a nation.

May Gibbs left a lasting legacy to thousands of children and adults with disability. Upon her death in 1969, May Gibbs left the copyright of all her works jointly to The NSW Society for Crippled Children (now known as Northcott) and the Spastic Centre of NSW (now known as Cerebral Palsy Alliance). We appreciate permission to publish this image. The generosity of May Gibbs will continue to assist the works of these charitable organisations through the royalties on sales of May Gibbs books and associated products: <https://maygibbs.org/shop/>.

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POSTPONEMENT OF CPA GENERAL MEETING

The AGM of the CPA has been postponed until further notice due to Covid-19.

Members will be advised by email.

We hope to take up the planned discussion regarding 2021 Centenary of Griffin's Castle Crag and hear from Anne Watson, Curator of Museum of Sydney's Castle Crag Centenary Exhibition, which has also been postponed to a later date.

THINK LOCALLY! SHOP LOCALLY! EMPLOY LOCALLY!

The Corona Crag

For the first time, the local magazine *The Crag* has been published online. It features lots of local lockdown stories and photos. Here's the link:

(External link) <https://castlecrag.org.au/wp-content/uploads/Crag-No-208-Corona-May-2020.pdf>

Photo: Lindy B

Personal Reflections

Living in the midst of a pandemic

Living in the midst of a pandemic has been a very new, strange and bit unsettling to begin with. I somehow thought I couldn't find the words or visuals to describe my experience but slowly as I delved into it I could put the complexities of the sudden unfolding of events into simple prose which defined my account of witnessing these unprecedented times.

I had heard of Covid-19 and saw some grim images of its devastation in Wuhan China on Television but it remained too far-fetched to affect my life! We were beginning to get a bit cautious about our going about of life but that was it.

For me the rollercoaster ride of experiences and emotions started on what now seems way back; seemingly eons ago, on March 10th 2020; when I had to urgently travel to the US as my daughter had an emergency!

Even on the Delta flight to Los Angeles, things seemed hunky dory except for the couple of empty seats here and there on a rather busy sector of travel. But it hit me the moment I landed there, as there was shelter in place already mandated. By the time I had taken the connection to Boston, the seriousness of the situation and it's impact had hit me as we were just four passenger on the LAX - Boston flight and all the announcements were being personally addressed - "Mrs Ayyagari , Mr X , Mr and Mrs Y, Please fasten your seatbelts belt and pay attention to the safety instruction as we take off!"

My trip there and back is a blur as each day brought new and enormous paradigm shifts ; Cities shutting down completely, Universities going online; social distancing, throwing all of us off into a seemingly surreal, freakish; almost a Hollywood movies reality! The only silver lining was that I was heading home to Sydney with my daughter in tow and would land a few hours before the border was being shut for International travel! Unprecedented yet true! And it almost felt I was the protagonist in the Mission Impossible movie! Pandemic strikes! I literally had to google the word to understand it's brevity!

We landed in Sydney, tired and wiped out with the stress of travel during the outbreak of the pandemic yet euphoric of being home to what seemed like a more safer and protective environment. It was a bit intimidating signing the oath of self-isolation; especially for someone like me who is constantly on the move! Home became our sanctuary for the next 14 days. I enjoyed that I had no schedule and nowhere to be, no pressure to socialise or equip the home to keep everything running smoothly -which was usually my responsibility or business in our domestic set up! Slowly the boredom and a bit of restlessness set in. The self-isolation/ quarantine was more a mental challenge than a physical one. But by the end of my self-isolation, everyone was in a lockdown. It was bitter sweet - I could be out and about but not quite so either!

Our lives were changing surely and completely. Chatswood was getting quieter by the day! My frequent trips to the Westfield mall, Chatswood library, various coffee shops and restaurants on the Chatswood Mall and Interchange; with friends and family and my yoga class; my biweekly meets at Mosaic; every activity had been suddenly halted and stalled indefinitely. It was very disconcerting and unfathomable. Life was slowly falling into a kind of numbness, a routine of sorts. It was a huge adjustment of all sorts.

Slowly but surely we as a family, we all searched all corners of our beings and the far ends of our minds and souls and found our strengths and weaknesses; core values and beliefs and emerged and blossomed with new found resilience. I am very sure it was the same for everyone.

I began enjoying the quietness of Chatswood and its surrounds. I was beginning to hear more of the birds than the hustle bustle of people. I did step out occasionally for my physical and mental well-being; to enjoy a walk in the Oval or down the deserted Victoria and Albert Avenues.

I began discovering the beauty of the buildings, the juxtaposition of old and new, the high rises standing tall and witnessing the silence of the surrounds with regal panache! I started enjoying the eager and effervescent faces and smiles of all humans I encounter and interface in course of my walks. I miss the chime and the bustle of the city, the weekly markets on the Mall but the dancing of the sunlight and the jaywalking of birds added new found grace to the place.

Life goes on, albeit with most humans on a much deserved, slower pace. It has indeed been a time of deep catharsis; where most of us had the time to relax, reflect, rejuvenate, rework our priorities. Friends and distant family became the core of existence and sustenance for many of us. With much introspection came the discovery - what mattered and who mattered and why!

It was in a way very freeing. I am very grateful that most of us here in Chatswood are staying healthy and handling the change well. I am extremely thankful to the city of Chatswood, and all its people, in keeping our lives running smoothly: whether it's the availability of all essentials, uninterrupted supply of all utilities, essential services like transport etc. we're running to clockwork precision. The city was kept clean, garbage was collected on time. Coles, Woolies, the Indian grocery store and other essentials were open and catering to all our needs! It's been remarkable, the way the country and our city quickly adapted and reorganised to all the social distancing and other parameters of the pandemic in keeping us safe and help control the spread of the virus. Grateful to our city and its officials for constantly working in ensuring the wellbeing of all its residents and visitors, in all aspects of life -physical, mental and social.

The Prime Minister, Our Premier and Our Mayor have been doing an excellent job in communicating regularly and working tirelessly towards the wellbeing of the Nation in all aspects.

On a lighter note I was also among the lucky few who didn't have to scramble for toilet rolls! Or hoard pasta and pasta sauce!!

Last but not the least, I am enormously grateful to each and every one living and working here and conveying in their own way that we all are in this together and together we shall overcome!!

Surekha Ayyagari- Resident of Chatswood since March 2017

Personal Reflections



Ukulele Group- BUSK

Hi we are continuing to meet with our Ukulele Group- BUSK during the outbreak. Our usual Dougherty Centre monthly meetings have been replaced with on line Zoom sessions. Steve Lockwood our intrepid leader and his son Tim have compiled all our individual recordings of the same song into one cohesive song. Its is very challenging as not everyone is in time! We have done two parodies so far the first one was My Gov (to the tune of My guy) and I wanna wash my hands (to the tune of I wanna hold your hand).

He has put them up on Facebook for everyone to see. So we have a group zoom meet and then practice our parody and then send our own recording to Steve to compile. We also get a few people to lead a sing a long but everyone except the singer is muted so its not the same as hearing everyone in full voice.

So far we have found that it keeps us all in contact, forces us to keep practicing and we are now working on our new songs post Covid. Cheers

Photo: Janet France : co coordinator of BUSK UKULELE group

Personal Reflections

Life in Castlecrag during the COVID-19



My daughter Cara during homeschooling. It was a lovely sunny day and she set herself up outside!

Photo: Willoughby City Library uploaded on behalf of a resident

Personal Reflections



Our dog Oji which captures the need to slow down and relax during this time.

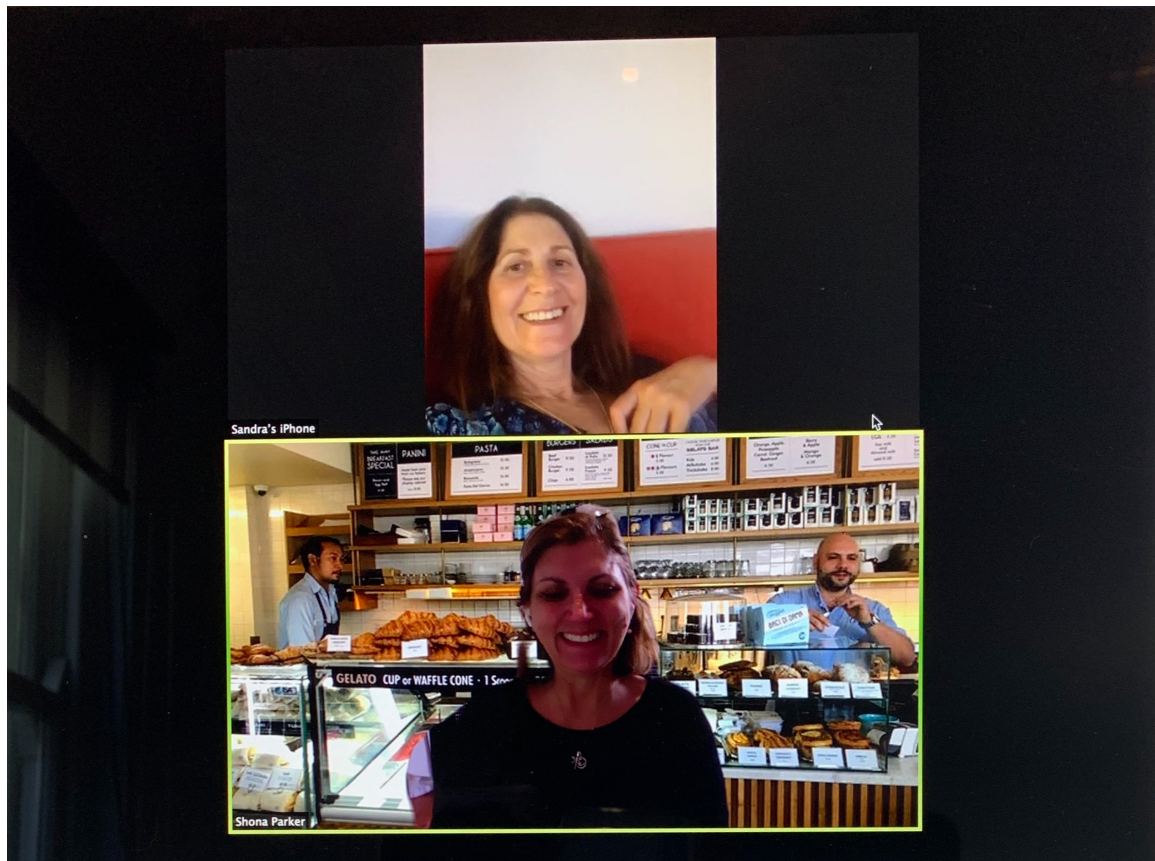
Photo: T Sheeran



Chalk Art in my driveway to cheer people up.

Photo: Magdalene

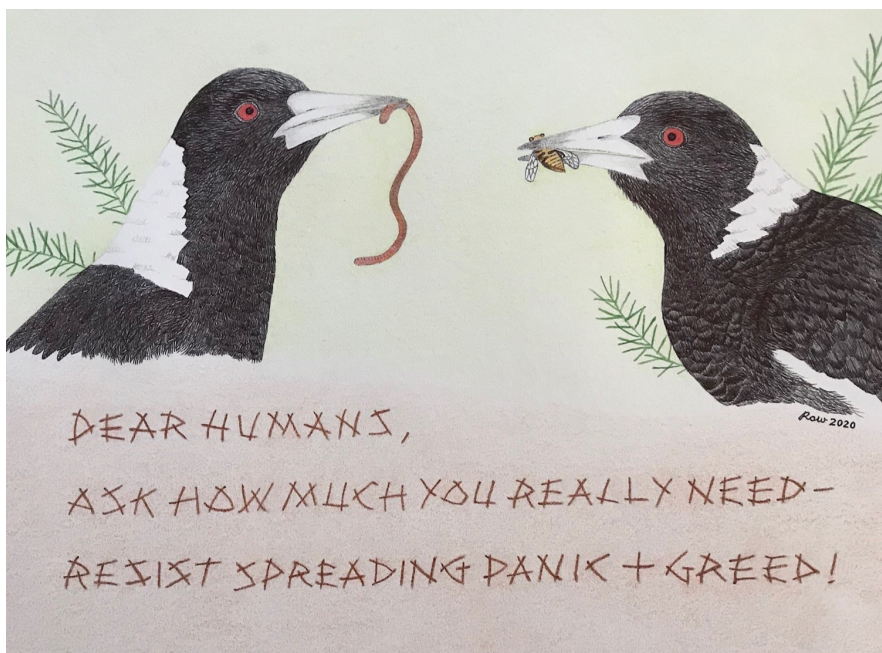
Personal Reflections



My friend and I missed our regular coffee catch ups so we did them on Zoom and I added a background of the cafe we go to, taken off google.

Coffees online

Photo: zparkers



I usually attend the Workshop Arts Centre which is currently closed, so I've been drawing and painting subjects from my surroundings.

This message about the pandemic is based on local magpies who I observe, chat to and photograph. Befriending them ensures they won't attack during the breeding season!

Photo: Rowena

Personal Reflections



A Baringa Rd west caterpillar brightened the footpath down the street and kept a mother and three daughters busy. We all loved it! Thank you!

Photo: Marilyn



So close and yet so far

Due to Covid social distancing, I can walk past North Shore Private but unable to visit my brand new grandson, born on 17 April 2020

Photo: lisiang1960

Personal Reflections



Easter dinner in isolation at St Leonards 2020.

Missing University of 3rd Age talks which contribute to mental health of older people.

Zoom works but no substitute for physical gatherings.

Photo: John Flint



Couldn't find a restaurant, cafe, shop or library open so we decided to rob a bank.

Photo: John Southgate

Personal Reflections



Street libraries

With local libraries closed, visits have increased to our street library.

Mayerfamily

Lockdown for a big household

Having extended family move in with me only weeks before lockdown could have been a problem as four now worked from home. Instead, a run through of our local residents to see if any needed help. A program of exercises to start the day and entertainment for at least 3 nights included board games, films and, at the end of the week a brief presentation by each one about what we have learned about ourselves, what we learned from others and what we will leave behind.

Muttama. No image



Learning to draw while stuck at home.

Photo: kilty

Deserted Areas



Peak time Lunchtime at Hawkers Lane, Westfield Shopping Centre

Photo: Willoughby City Library



'Real' retail therapy

During a lunch break stroll around 2pm noticing all shops closed and access to "real" retail therapy.

Westfield Shopping Centre

Photo: Willoughby City Council

Deserted Areas



Peak morning time Bus 533 coming into LGA



Peak time Lunchtime Ground floor Westfield Shopping Centre

Photos: Willoughby City Library

Deserted Areas

Peak morning time at Chatswood Railway Station



Photos: Willoughby City Library

Deserted Areas



Empty Westfield Shopping Centre at Lunch time



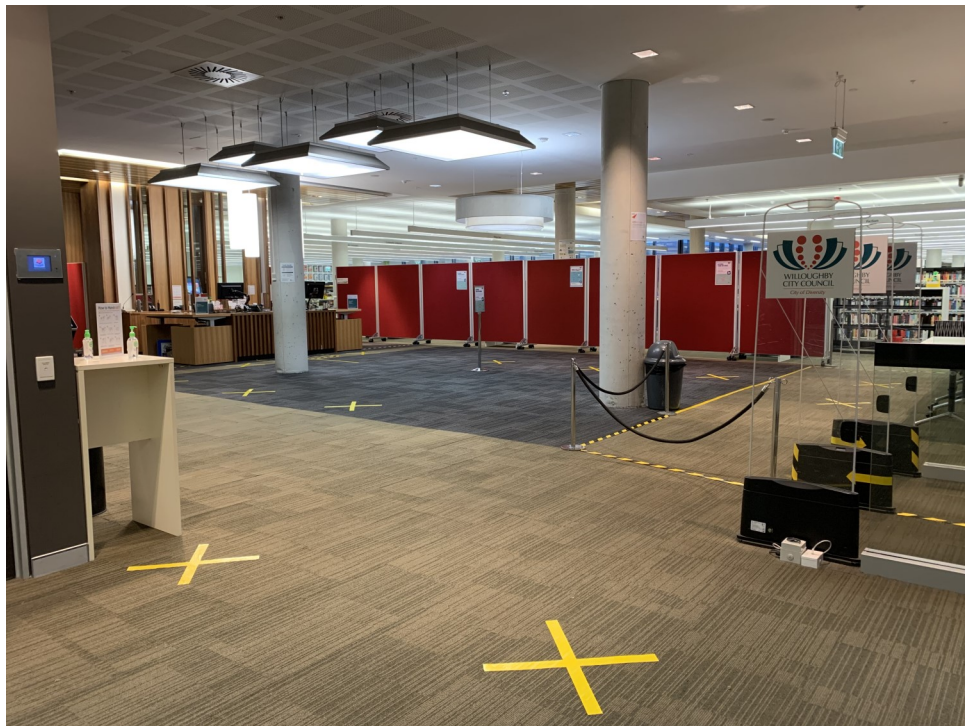
Morning Tia Chi exercising reduced to one at The Concourse

Photos: Willoughby City Library

Willoughby City Library Responses



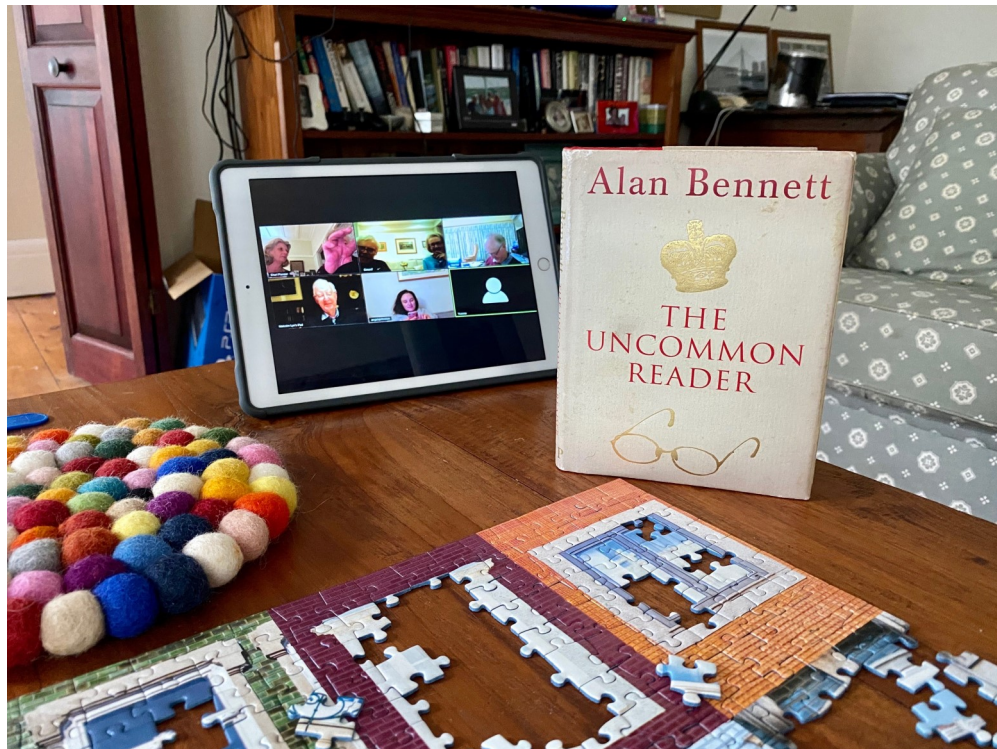
Willoughby City Libraries
initially closed to the Public
– Look to digital resources
on-line



Chatswood Library - set up and ready for Click and Collect Service.
1st Stage of Willoughby City Library's reopening. June 2020

Photos: Willoughby City Library

Willoughby City Library Responses



Northbridge Library's bookclub goes virtualand multitasking with puzzle

Janecoz



Chatswood Library, June 2020

Returned library items are quarantined and then sanitised before reissuing or returning to the shelves

Photo: Willoughby City Library

Willoughby Outdoors



An unexpected positive outcome from the COVID-19 pandemic

Our outdoor facilities have had some time to rest and recuperate during isolation and are now looking great! Our works team had the opportunity to give Chatswood Oval some TLC and it's now looking better than ever. It will be in great shape when sporting restrictions are lifted .



Night time lights on at Beauchamp Park to allow residents to exercise

Photos: Willoughby City Council

Willoughby Outdoors

Empty playgrounds and busy ovals in Willoughby during Covid-19



Photos: Janecoz

Willoughby Outdoors

Empty playgrounds in Willoughby during Covid-19



Photos: Janecoz

Willoughby Outdoors



Artarmon Community Gardens

Great to see the community gardens are being well tendered during this time of corona - one person at a time.

Photos Janecoz

Willoughby Outdoors



Ferndale Park Walking Track

A beautiful bush walk to Lane Cove River, and safe too!

Willoughby Walks App has a great self-guided tour on Ferndale Park worth listening to.

Photo : Janecoz

Willoughby Outdoors



Social distancing signage

We've popped up some reminder signs at our parks about social distancing, including these ones at Gore Hill. Thanks for your support. We're all in this together.

Photo: Willoughby City Council

Queuing and social distancing becomes normal



Morning queue outside Centrelink at Chatswood



Lunch time Queue -
Willoughby Seafoods
Penshurst St Willoughby
North (waiting for my
order)

Photos: Willoughby City Library

Queuing and social distancing becomes normal



Cordons for queuing - Coles Westfield



Lunch time Queue - M&G Butchery
(BBQ duck shop) Spring St Chatswood



Security guard monitoring how many
people go into Coles Westfield

Photos: Willoughby City Library

Christmas Eve seafood queues

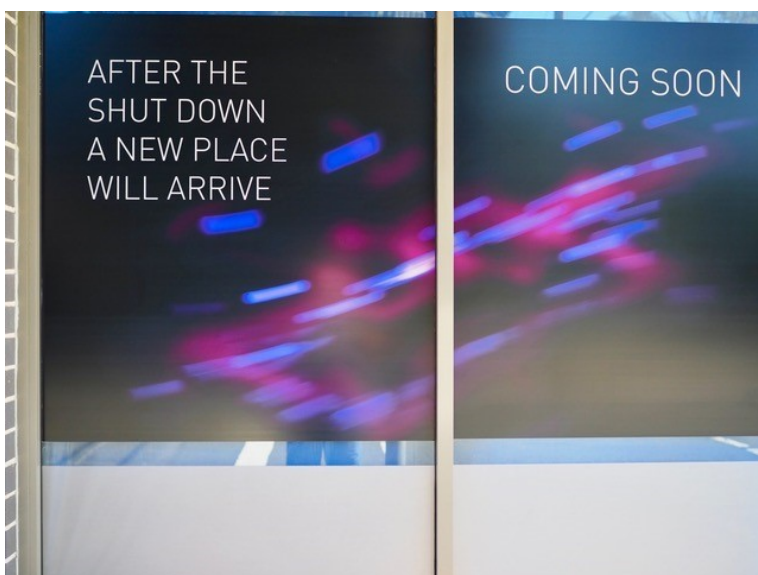


Penshurst Street fish shop at 8am saw queues stretch around the corner, a patient and good humoured two hour wait. Thanks to hubby!

Photo: janecoz

Signs everywhere

A Walk through the Neighbourhood



Photos: Robert Parnell

Signs everywhere



Sign outside Westfield Shopping Centre



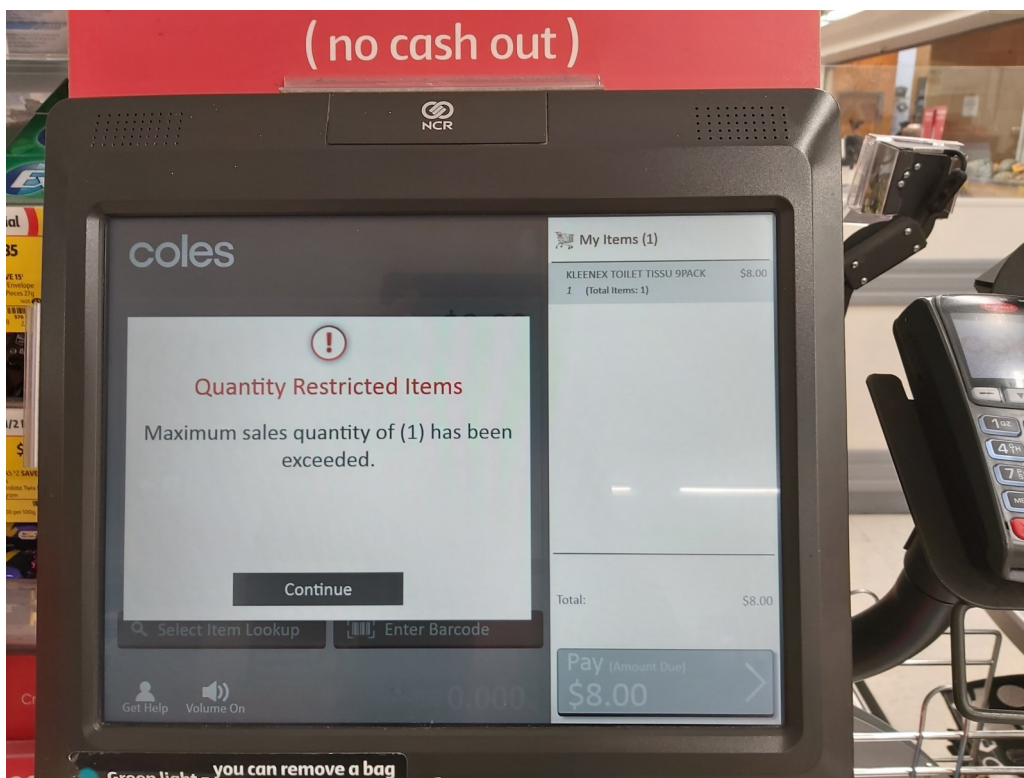
Chatswood Public School Signage Welcome Back

Photos: Willoughby City Library

Signs everywhere



Willoughby Emergency contact signage - Looking west Chatswood Mall

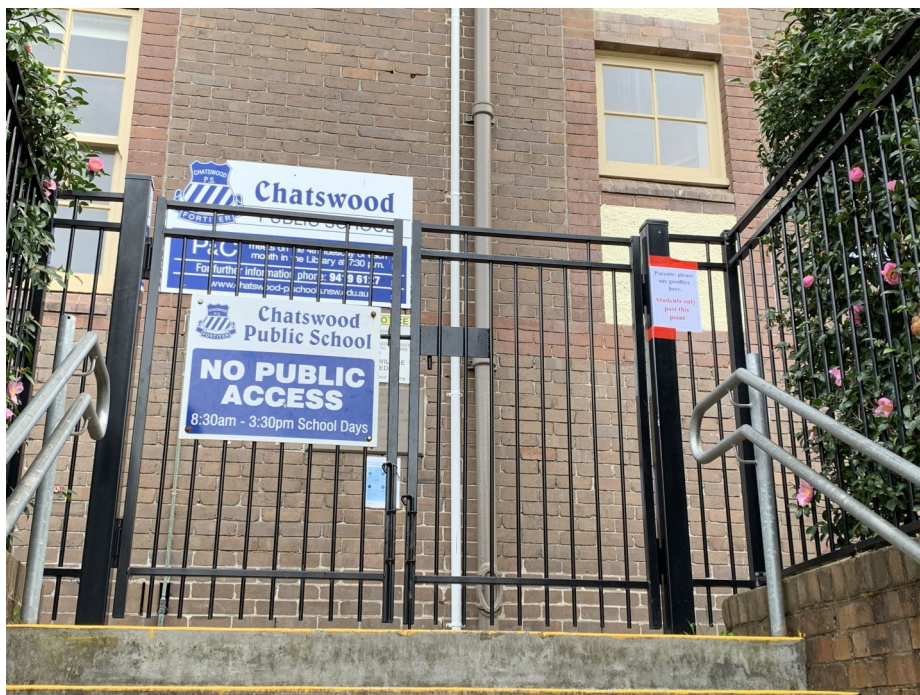


Remember the limitations on - purchasing - no hoarding

Photos: Willoughby City Library

Signs everywhere

Chatswood Public School Covid-19 signage



Photos: Willoughby City Library

Signs everywhere



Shops in Westfield keeping public safe

As shops reopen safety measures are being put in place - temperatures taken, hand sanitiser flowing.



Shops keeping public safe

As shops reopen in Westfield Chatswood measures are being put in place

Photos: Janecoz