



Residents' Panel Newsletter

Residents' Panel Membership: 2,208



MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

On behalf of the Residents' Panel team at Parramatta City Council. We would like to wish all panel members and their families a happy, safe and prosperous Christmas and all the very best for 2009. The Residents' Panel team look forward to seeing you and your families at the Annual Australia Day Residents' Panel BBQ.

We would also like to thank all Residents' Panel members for their feedback and participation over 2008.

WELCOME TO ALL NEW RESIDENTS' PANEL MEMBERS

The Residents' Panel team would like to extend a great welcome to all new panel members on board to the Residents' Panel. We look forward to receiving your feedback and ideas.



Neighbourhood Consultation November 08

Just over 750 Residents' Panel members completed the Neighbourhood Consultation Survey conducted in November, which was an excellent result overall. Of the surveys completed there were great representivity from a range of different suburbs, age groups and people from non-English speaking backgrounds.

Recently Prime Minister Kevin Rudd has unveiled a plan to distribute across every local council in Australia a piece of the \$300 million fund to build new infrastructure, from pools to libraries. This fund will help facilitate local neighbourhoods to deliver better services to their communities.

Currently we are in the process of finalising coding of all open ended questions. In particular a focus of the Neighbourhood Consultation was to understand the level of satisfaction with local neighbourhood facilities, the following is what was understood from residents:

- 80.2% of respondents indicated they are satisfied with local parks, where they enjoy a relaxing time
- 65.1% of respondents indicated they are satisfied with local sports facilities, where they participate in sports or individual exercise
- 19.2% of respondents indicated they are dissatisfied with cycle ways in their local neighbourhoods
- 17.1% of respondents indicated they are dissatisfied with their local bus stops
- 24.5% of respondents indicated they are dissatisfied with their local roads
- 65% of respondents indicated they are satisfied with their local shops
- 35.5% of respondents indicated they are dissatisfied with footpaths

Ferry Fight Consultation

In October 2007 the Report of the Special Commission of Inquiry into Sydney Ferries Corporation (The Walker Report) recommended the current Parramatta RiverCat service be terminated at Rydalmere. Parramatta City Council's opinion on this matter is to keep the ferry service and to expand its operation.

Negotiations were been made with Julie Owens and Tanya Gadiel to keep the ferry. The state government has decided not just to keep the ferry but to also expand its services into commuter services.

The Residents' Panel coordinated research on this matter and the following is what was determined through two different data-gathering methods used which were face to face interviewing and online interviewing:

The demand for a full Parramatta RiverCat service

- 72% of all people interviewed said they would consider using the ferry service to Parramatta if this service ran from 6am to 7.30pm.

The number of people using the current Parramatta River-Cat service

- Parramatta wharf is the most frequently patronised wharf along the Parramatta River after Sydney City.

Support for the Parramatta RiverCat service

- 90% of all people interviewed support the community's call in maintaining the ferry service to Parramatta.

Ways to increase the Parramatta RiverCat service patronage

- 70% of all people interviewed said they would use the ferry more if there was an extended evening service.

The economic impact on Parramatta's Tourism and Economic situation

- 81% of those interviewed use the Parramatta Ferry service for pleasure/tourist activities.
- Almost 3,900 people (weekday plus weekend count) weekly use this means of transport to travel to Parramatta.



Management Plan Planning Process

The results from the Management Plan consultation which was conducted in June/ July have now been reported to all major Council business areas across the board with a particular focus on the development application process, local neighbourhoods, sustainable transport and managing growth. All seven program areas which include the Culture and Leisure program, Community Care, Environment, Regulatory, City Development, City Leadership and the Roads, Paths, Access and Flood Mitigations are been analysed in order to formulate services and increase satisfaction.

Parramatta City Council is looking to draft certain actions in late January to early February into appropriate services. The draft Management Plan for exhibition will be in late May to early June 2009, at this stage.



Community Engagement at Riverbeats Festival Parramatta Foreshore



The Riverbeats Festival held at Parramatta Foreshore on Saturday 15 November 2008 was a great success. The festival was filled with great entertainment, magnificent lighting, water and sound shows on the river and it finished off with a spectacular fireworks display.

The Residents' Panel team had the great opportunity of being present at the Riverbeats Festival, where they were also able to communicate with current panel members about various consultations. The Residents' Panel team also had the great opportunity to communicate with other residents of the Parramatta Local Government Area about the benefits of being part of the Residents' panel.

Over the course of the event the Residents Panel team spoke to many existing panel members and members of the community where over 36 residents showed initial interest in the panel (the first step in a two stage recruitment process) which was a great result!



Upcoming Westmead Consultation 2009

Westmead is going to undertake a significant development change, developing it into a regional and community hub suburb. Parramatta City Council is heading to consult the community on upcoming developments in the area. Residents, business owners and also the department of health will be invited to give valuable feedback.

This consultation will take place in February 2009.

Community Engagement at International Day of People with a Disability Event

The Residents' Panel Team attended the International Day of a Disability event which was held between 10am and 2pm in front of the Parramatta Town Hall, on Tuesday 2 December 2008.

The Residents' Panel team were given the opportunity to interact with members of the community from all walks of life, and also spent an enjoyable day watching great entertainment and performances such as Christmas carols, belly dancing and the basketball competition which took place throughout the course of the event.

Through being present at this particular event, more members from the community were able to gain an understanding of the Residents Panel and therefore showed initial interest to be part of the Residents' Panel.



Residential Development Strategy Consultation 2009

The Residential Development Strategy sets the direction for the future location, density and character of housing within the different residential areas of the Parramatta Local Government Area. The Residential Development Strategy (RDS), Local Environmental Plan (LEP) and Development Control Plan (DCP) will focus on strategic land use over the next 5-10 years.

In 2009 Council will seek further direction from the community on the Residential Development strategy. Currently Council has completed various stages. Of the six stages, Council has completed the following four:

- Discussion paper on RDS
- Identify study areas
- Analyse study areas
- Adopt draft RDS document for exhibition

Council however still needs to complete the following two stages which will be carried out in 2009:

- Public exhibition of RDS, LEP & DCP. Also adopt LEP & DCP for exhibition
- Adopt final RDS, LEP & DCP



For information on all reports, visit our website:
www.parracity.nsw.gov.au/residents/residents_panel

Has your feedback made a difference?

Visit the Residents' Panel Website. Keep up to date with the latest consultations, results, reports and upcoming activities.

Inform family and friends of the Residents' Panel where they can join and have their say in the community. Every opinion counts.

Please visit us on our website:

www.parracity.nsw.gov.au/residents/residents_panel



Look out for us!

Come and say hello. The Residents' Panel Team will be out and about to chat with Resident Panel members, discuss current and completed consultations over the year and to recruit new members to the Residents' Panel.

Date	Activity
26 Jan 2009	Residents' Panel Australia Day BBQ

CONTACT US TO UPDATE YOUR DETAILS!

The Residents' Panel Team can contact you and send you surveys by email.

If your address, email or contact number has changed, please call us on 9806 5777 or email us at: residentspanel@parracity.nsw.gov.au