

# COMMEMORATING 150 YEARS OF BURWOOD



In 2024, Burwood Council celebrated its 150th anniversary, marking its official incorporation in 1874. The Burwood 150 Years Program has featured a yearlong series of special events and projects to unite the community and honour this significant milestone in our history. A summary of the key deliverables is outlined herein.

# KEY EVENTS UNITING THE COMMUNITY

## LIGHT A LANTERN

*3 February 2024*

The event featured the release of 150 handmade lanterns by members of the community on the Burwood Park pond, accompanied by 7 performances involving 92 local artists and cultural groups, and attracting over 1,000 attendees.

[Experience the event here](#)





# OFFICIAL OPENING - BURWOOD PARK POND, NATURE PLAY, SENSORY GARDEN AND BURWOOD NEST

*24 February 2024*

The event celebrated the completion of major infrastructure improvements in Burwood Park including the Burwood Park Pond upgrade, a new Nature Play area, Sensory Garden, and unveiling of a new permanent public artwork the "Burwood Nest." The event involved 5 performance groups, 11 artists and 6 community stalls offering free children's activities and engaging over 300 attendees.



## LAUNCH OF 'WILAY MULAA: SPIRIT OF LIGHT'

*28 March 2024*

Burwood Park was illuminated with a new public artwork featuring 10 handcrafted traditional Chinese lanterns reimagined by Wiradjuri artist Nathan Peckham and artist Nicholas Tory. The launch included performances by First Nations and Chinese musicians. The installation remained in Burwood Park from March - June 2024 and has since been installed in new locations across Burwood Town Centre.

[View the launch here.](#)





# BURWOOD STREET PARTY

*6 April 2024*

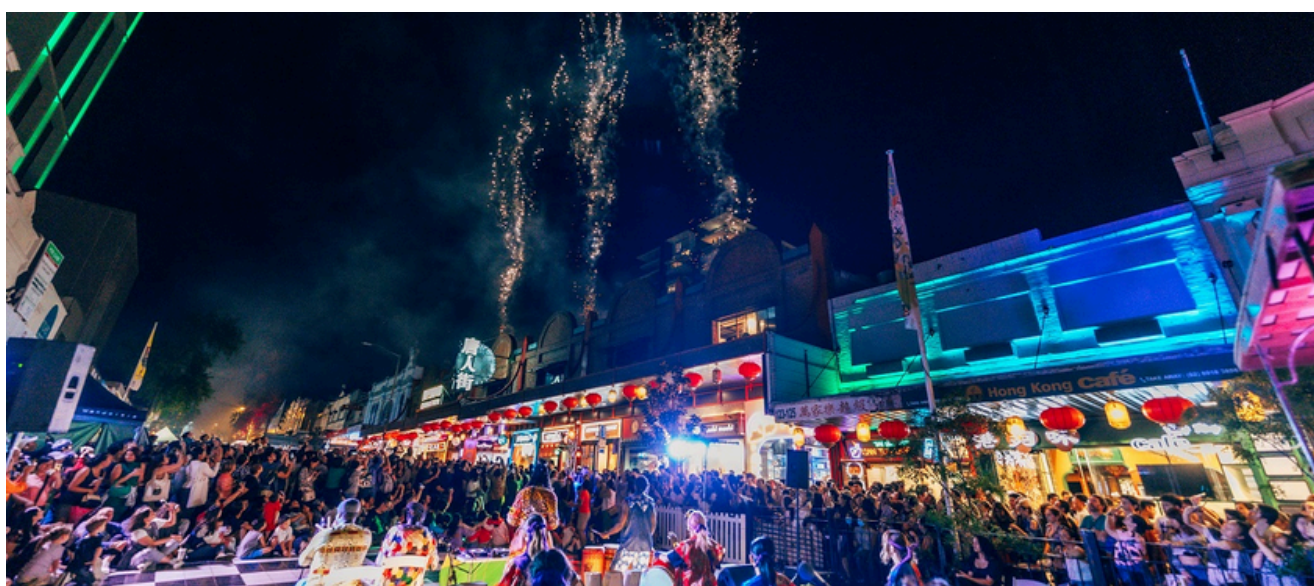
This large-scale award-winning event commemorated the 150th anniversary of Burwood Municipality with a lively and inclusive celebration of its rich history and vibrant present. Drawing 20,000 visitors, the event expanded the bustling Burwood Chinatown precinct with a dynamic 150-metre road closure of Burwood Road. With a captivating program including 17 performances involving 396 performers/artists, vintage cars, night markets, and an open-air dance party, the event culminated in a fireworks display from the Burwood Hotel Rooftop. A particular highlight was the 300-strong combined community and Adult Glee Club choirs performing a new AC/DC Medley commissioned by Council, honouring iconic former residents Angus and Malcolm Young, which has since toured Australia. The event generated a local economic impact of \$1 Million and an overall social media reach of 1.2 Million+.







Burwood Council was recognised at the NSW Local Government Week Awards 2024, winning the RH Dougherty Special Events Award for Innovation in Special Events for the Burwood Street Party – Celebrating 150 Years of Burwood.



For event highlights see:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pEWUBJApEy0>.

For a behind the scenes glimpse into the Community Choirs Project

see: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sBjo4Mxzp0A>



# SPECIAL SESQUICENTENARY COUNCIL MEETING

24 July 2024

This special event marked the 150th anniversary of Burwood Council's inaugural meeting, and featured celebratory music, the launch of the Burwood Pictorial History, unveiling of new Mayoral Portraits, and a photographic exhibit of Burwood's Grand Homes. Mayor Cr. John Faker presented a historic Mayoral Minute, with an address by The Hon. Ron Hoenig, MP, Minister for Local Government.

[Experience the event here.](#)



The community also delivered additional events with in kind and/or financial support provided by Council under the Burwood Council Community Grants Program. These events included:

- The St Nectarios Church Open Day (Saturday 31 August 2024);
- Enfield Public School Centenary Celebrations (14 September 2024); and
- The Miriam Hyde Concert at St Paul's Church (Sunday 6 October 2024) – an unforgettable afternoon of music and poetry in celebration of renowned Burwood composer Miriam Hyde (1913-2005) AO OBE at the historic St. Paul's Church in Burwood.

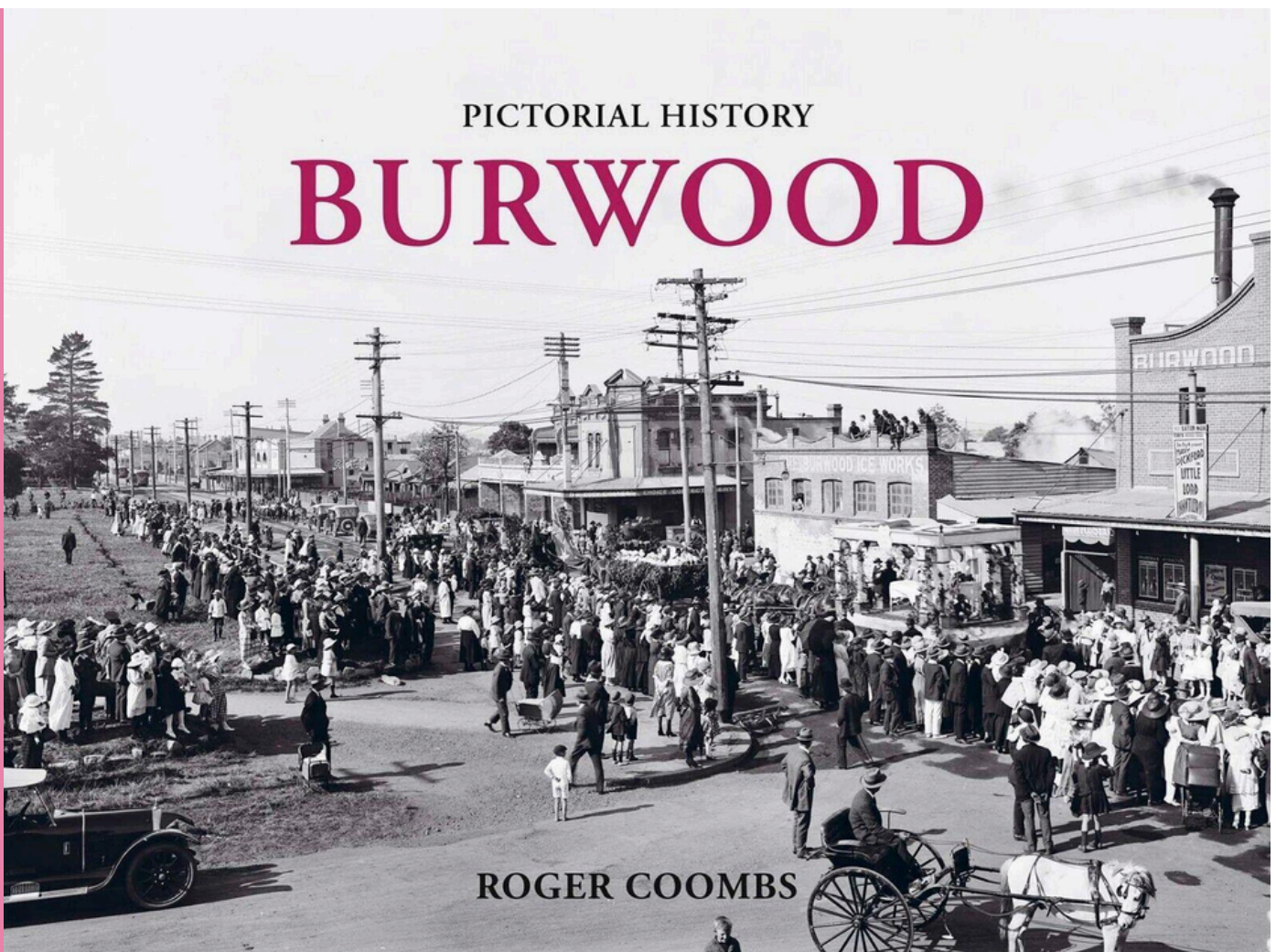




# SHOWCASING OUR LOCAL HERITAGE

## COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTED AND EXPANDED ITS LOCAL STUDIES COLLECTION THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, INCLUDING:

- The launch of the Pictorial History of Burwood by Roger Coombs, and published by Catherine Warne of Kingsclear Books. Commissioned by Council, the book chronicles 150 years of Burwood's development with over 180 carefully selected photographs, keeping our history alive and accessible to our community. 2,500 softbacks have been made available for sale and 500 hardbacks are being distributed to the community in an ongoing manner.



- Digitalisation of the Local Heritage Collection, now accessible online via the library catalogue with 1000+ images and 21 history books added to the collection.
- An initiative called “Your Story is Our Story” was launched to encourage donations from the community, with a procedure for future donations developed by library staff.
- A range of local history talks and tours were delivered or supported for the community, including:
  - 5 cemetery tours as part of St Thomas’ Church Open Days in 2023 and 2024
  - 4 Malvern Hill Estate Walks and a Civic Burwood Walking Tour in 2024 in collaboration with the Burwood Historical Society.
  - A further Enfield Walking tour coincided with the centenary of Enfield Public School in September 2024.
- 8 commemorative postcards were commissioned engaging 1 local artist and have been made available for sale to the community as a pack and printed on book bags for sale throughout the year.
- Council also delivered two engaging local studies focussed exhibitions: Resilience Captured (from March – May 2024), and the Grand Homes of Burwood exhibition (July – December 2024) in the Community Hub. Additionally, six local history displays were delivered in the Burwood Library throughout the year.





# CELEBRATING OUR STORIES THROUGH PUBLIC ART

## KEY PUBLIC ART PROJECTS DELIVERED INCLUDED:

- The Strand, Croydon Bin Wraps (temporary public artwork) engaging 1 artist (completed in December 2023).
- Burwood Nest in Burwood Park (permanent and temporary public artwork) engaging 2 artists (originally launched in February 2024 and to be launched with a second artwork on Wednesday 4 December 2024 as part of Council's rotating commissions program). The second commission, Happy Nest by Studio Artes in collaboration with Jeff McCann involved 22 artists.



- Wilay Mulaa: Spirit of Light - a collection of 10 hand-crafted traditional Chinese Lanterns, reimagined as contemporary art, conceived by Nathan Peckham and Nicholas Tory as depictions of the possum Wilay's spirit in the form of light.
- 3 new banner artworks commissioned engaging 3 artists, including application to Council bags, library cards and digital assets to commemorate 150 years of Burwood.
- ANZAC Day crosses installation in Burwood Park (temporary public artwork) engaging 2 artists and local scouts (completed in April 2024).
- Back in Black: AC/DC Mural (permanent public artwork) in Burleigh Street engaging 1 artist (completed in April 2024) and developed in consultation with global rock star Angus Young, reaching over 33 Million people online via AC/DCs official pages.
- Who Sat Here Before Me (temporary public artwork) engaging 1 artist (June 2024) installed across various public benches in the Burwood Local Government Area, celebrating 13 cultural icons of Burwood's past.
- The Mayors of Burwood portrait series by artist Suzanne Dias, presented permanently in the Conference Room, featuring long-serving or distinctive Mayors.





# FURTHER DOCUMENTATION

All activities have been continuously featured on Council's social media platforms and Council's website with an overview of key initiatives available at: <https://www.burwood.nsw.gov.au/For-Residents/Events-and-Activities/150-Years-of-Burwood>

The screenshot shows the Burwood Council website interface. At the top left is the Burwood logo with 'Inc 1874'. To the right is a search bar with the text 'Search our website' and a 'Search' button. Below the navigation bar, the breadcrumb trail reads 'Home / For Residents / Events and Activities / 150 Years of Burwood'. The main heading is '150 Years of Burwood' with a 'Listen' button to its right. The main image is a large photograph of the 'BURWOOD 150' illuminated sign at night, reflected in a pool of water. Below the image is the text: 'We're celebrating Burwood Municipality turning 150 with a yearlong series of special events and activities.' Below this are three featured articles, each with a thumbnail image, a title, and a short description.

**AC/DC and Burwood**  
Read about AC/DC's historical links to Burwood.

**AC/DC Choir Medley**  
Council commissioned an AC/DC Choir Medley, honouring iconic former residents, Angus and Malcom Young.

**Award Winning Program - Burwood Street Party**  
Burwood Council wins prestigious RH Dougherty Special Events Award

**PICTORIAL HISTORY BURWOOD**