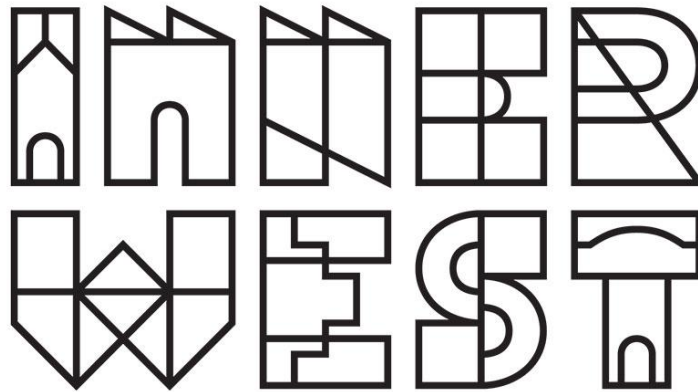


SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA ₂

Distributed on 14 September 2021



COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2021

6.30pm

MEETING AGENDA – PRECIS SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS

The following reports appear as late items as information required for the preparation of the reports was not available at the time of distribution of the Business Paper.

1 Mayoral Minutes

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Item No: C0921(2) Item 20
Subject: MAYORAL MINUTE: THANK YOU TO "PAPA JOE" A LOCAL HERO
From: The Mayor, Councillor Rochelle Porteous

MOTION:

THAT:

1. The Mayor and Councillors of Inner West Council write to Jo Panetta thanking him for his 57 years of service to the Balmain community and asking him to accept the title of "Local Balmain Hero";
2. A plaque acknowledging Joe's many years of service and his title of "Local Balmain Hero" be manufactured and presented to Jo; and
3. A story about Joe be included in the next Council newsletter.

Background

Giuseppe Panetta has run his much loved grocer shop on Darling St, Balmain for the last 57 years and we are so grateful that he has.

Last week he decided to hang up his apron, sell his business and retire.

Joe, his wife Maria and their three daughters Luisa, Loredana and Romina have contributed richly to their Balmain community. Joe has worked long hours to keep the store open 12 hours a day seven days a week. Joe has been there for everyone, whether for a paper, some flowers, some groceries or just a chat.

Jo makes everyone feel valued and welcome and he genuinely cares about the quality of his produce and his customers.

What kept Panetta going was his relationship with the Balmain community.

"I get on well with the customers", he said. "I always look after the customers and they look after me. You support them and they support you."

SMH 11/09/21

In recent Pandemic times Jo and his family have always kept their shop open for the Balmain community. Both through social media and in person he has helped us get through each day with a smile on our faces. His friendly chats and his kindness have really helped foster a sense of community here in Balmain.

We are glad that Jo and the family will still be living above the shop and we thank them and wish them only the very best for the future.

ATTACHMENTS

1. [SMH Article on 'Papa Joe' 11 September 2021](#)

14/09/2021

After a remarkable 57 years in his shop, Balmain icon 'Papa Joe' steps away from the counter

The Sydney Morning Herald

Politics NSW City life

After a remarkable 57 years in his shop, Balmain icon 'Papa Joe' steps away from the counter



By **Garry Maddox**

September 11, 2021 – 5.00am

When Giuseppe Panetta arrived from Italy in 1964, he remembers the plane taking three days to fly from Rome with “so many stops” on the way.

He was a 16-year-old who left Calabria, where jobs were scarce, hoping to make some money in Sydney and then head home.



“An icon”: Joe and Maria Panetta at Papa Joe & Co in Balmain. EDWINA PICKLES

His trip did not start well.

Not speaking a word of English, Panetta quit after just one day as a barber.

He reluctantly started work at his brother and brothers-in-law’s fruit shop in what was then the quiet working-class suburb of Balmain, full of pubs, Greek hamburger joints and Italian fruit

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/nsw/after-a-remarkable-57-years-in-his-shop-balmain-icon-papa-joe-steps-away-from-the-counter-20210909-p58...> 1/4

14/09/2021

After a remarkable 57 years in his shop, Balmain icon 'Papa Joe' steps away from the counter

shops serving the local wharfies and factory workers.

Panetta came to own the shop and expanded it into a neat and bright deli and supermarket. And now, after a remarkable 57 years of mostly working 12 hours a day for seven days a week, he is finishing up.

The lively 74-year-old has sold Papa Joe & Co.

He and his wife Maria, who has been cooking Italian takeaway meals including her own "Pasta Maria" in the kitchenette out the back, want to enjoy being grandparents and travel when borders reopen.

New owner Chris Montels, who lives across the road, calls Panetta "an icon in the area" and admires what he has done with Papa Joe's for so long.

"We're going to keep it the same and maybe add a few little things," he said. "Everything's great."

Much has changed in Balmain since Panetta served his first customer in Italian, pointing and using his hands to communicate before learning English.

For a start, "Aussies" could not pronounce his name so Giuseppe became "Joe". He had to put up with being called a "wog" for years but celebrates it now.

"I'm still a wog," he said. "Now they appreciate what the Italians and Greeks have done here. They brought different foods and different culture."



Smoke in mouth, a young Joe Panetta in the shop he is preparing to leave after a remarkable 57 years.
EDWINA PICKLES

As a teenager, Panetta remembers trying to meet girls at the old Italian-Australian Apia Club in Lilyfield but being rebuffed when they found out he came from such a rough suburb as Balmain.

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/nsw/after-a-remarkable-57-years-in-his-shop-balmain-icon-papa-joe-steps-away-from-the-counter-20210909-p58...> 2/4

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After a remarkable 57 years in his shop, Balmain icon 'Papa Joe' steps away from the counter

He had more luck on a trip back to his hometown in Calabria in 1974. He met Maria, they fell in love and were engaged and married within three months before flying back to Sydney together.

The couple has three daughters: Luisa, Loredana and Romina. Traditional Italian names that have given way in a generation to less-traditionally named grandchildren Ashton and Archer.

Panetta remembers trade dropping off when Woolworths opened up the road in the 1970s but expanding into gourmet items for more gentrified customers kept the business going. Double-smoked ham, Italian bread and high-quality fruit and vegetables have long been popular.

And with more people at home during the pandemic, sales of Maria's meals and flowers have boomed.

"The last couple of years, we've never been so busy," Panetta said.

While open to adding whatever products Ottolenghi has popularised to the shelves, he balked at Luisa's idea to have a cafe inside the shop.

"There always was a cafe across the road and another coffee shop on the corner," Panetta said. "I didn't want to have enemies. If I put a cafe here, you're going to have two enemies."

Where once he struggled to speak English, some customers in recent decades would come into the shop to practice their Italian before heading on overseas holidays.



In the early years: Joe (left) and family in the shop. EDWINA PICKLES

What kept Panetta going was his relationship with the Balmain community.

"I get on well with the customers," he said. "I always look after the customers and they look after me. You support them and they support you."

Luisa, who joined them in the shop seven years ago, said she and her mum have cried about finishing up, but everyone is positive about the future.

14/09/2021

After a remarkable 57 years in his shop, Balmain icon 'Papa Joe' steps away from the counter

"They're happy people, my family," she said. "We're always happy. It takes a lot to get us down. I think that shows. The customers, they know."

The Panettas live above the shop so expect to be Montels' customers.

"If they need any help, I'm always here," Panetta said.

He has no regrets about working in the same job for so many years.



"They're happy people my family": Maria, Luisa and Joe in the shop. EDWINA PICKLES

"I did achieve what I wanted to achieve," he says. "I wanted to bring up my family in a good way. They always had food."

"My kids were in good schools, Catholic schools. I got a house. I didn't become a millionaire but I live comfortable."

Panetta's first plans after a handover period?

"Have a rest, mate," he said. "I'm very tired. Nothing but rest."

The Morning Edition newsletter is our guide to the day's most important and interesting stories, analysis and insights. [Sign up here.](#)



Garry Maddox is a Senior Writer for The Sydney Morning Herald. Connect via [Twitter](#) or [email](#).

Item No: C0921(2) Item 21
Subject: MAYORAL MINUTE: WELCOMING REFUGEES FROM AFGHANISTAN
From: The Mayor, Councillor Rochelle Porteous

MOTION:

THAT Council:

1. Notes Inner West Council and the three former councils of Leichhardt, Ashfield and Marrickville have a long history of welcoming and providing refuge and safe haven for people from other countries who are fleeing violence and political persecution.
 2. Notes Council is deeply concerned about the Afghanistan refugee crisis and notes that tens of thousands of Afghani people are now seeking refuge from oppression by the Taliban.
 3. Recognises the rich social, cultural and economic contributions of humanitarian migrants from Afghanistan;
 4. Recognises the historical contribution of Afghan migrants to Australia;
 5. Acknowledges the particular persecution, marginalisation and disadvantage now facing Afghans who worked with Australian forces over the past twenty years
 6. Commits to working with the Afghan diaspora in the Inner West to provide appropriate social and community support;
 7. Calls on the Australian Government to urgently:
 - a) Grant permanent protection visas to Afghan refugees who are on temporary visas already here;
 - b) Enable family reunification by granting financially accessible partner/family type visas;
 - c) Establish a resettlement quota for Afghans most at risk from the current unrest in Afghanistan and assist with their emergency evacuation; and
 - d) Increase the intake of Afghan refugees from 3,000 to 20,000 people on top of our existing humanitarian intake.
 8. Use its communication channels, including social media and e-newsletters to promote charities doing work to support Afghan refugees.
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ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

Item No: C0921(2) Item 22
Subject: MAYORAL MINUTE: LIBRARY CLICK AND COLLECT SERVICES
From: The Mayor, Councillor Rochelle Porteous

MOTION:

THAT Council:

- 1. Notes Council's commitment to library services and the important role it plays on the wellbeing of the Inner West Community;**
 - 2. Notes the exemption under Public Health (COVID-19 Additional Restrictions for Delta Outbreak) Order (No 2) 2021 under the Public Health Act 2010 (NSW) that libraries can be open to the public to provide a "click and collect" service for the community;**
 - 3. Officers work to open the click and collect service, ensuring the safety of the community and staff, as soon as possible; and**
 - 4. The offering of the "click and collect" service be widely promoted to the community.**
-

Background

Inner West Council is recognised for its commitment to delivering high quality library services to its community and values the vital role libraries play in promoting life-long learning and the community's overall wellbeing.

Council Officers received conflicting advice about the provision of public libraries' Click & Collect services. For the safety of the community and staff, Officers took the advice from the Inner West Local Area Command, which was to keep the library service closed and that Council cease providing the Click and Collect service. The Inner West Police Area Command advised that until there was an amendment to the Public Health Order occurs, a strict adherence by Inner West Libraries was required.

This amendment was granted on 13 September 2021 and Council can now operate the "click and collect" service.

It is requested officers open the click and collect service as soon possible, and the service be delivered with strict adherence to the relevant Public Health Order conditions, noting that the safety of the community and staff are paramount.

Once the date has been confirmed, ensure the reopening of the service is promoted widely to the inner west community.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

Item No: C0921(2) Item 23
Subject: MAYORAL MINUTE: ACCESS TO AQUATICS FACILITIES AND COMMUNITY SPORT
From: The Mayor, Councillor Rochelle Porteous

MOTION:

THAT Council:

- 1. Notes Council's commitment to aquatics services and community sports and the important role it plays in the wellbeing of the Inner West community;**
- 2. Notes the current Public Health Order prevents attendance at aquatics facilities and sporting facilities through organised sport; and**
- 3. Writes to NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian, and Mr Brad Hazzard, NSW Minister for Health and Medical Research requesting the Public Health Order be urgently amended to allow for outdoor aquatic centres and community sport to re-open.**

Background

Inner West Council is a significant provider of aquatics and sporting infrastructure with five aquatics facilities and many sporting fields.

Council is recognised for its commitment to delivering high quality sports and recreation services to its community and values the vital role these facilities play in promoting healthy activities which contribute to the overall wellbeing of the community.

Under the current Public Health Order aquatics facilities are closed however 'natural' swimming pools are permitted to open under an exemption. Outdoor swimming pools, which generally have large areas of outdoor open space could operate if such an exemption was applied. Council has significant resources in terms of safety systems, cleaning and sanitisation of amenities, COVID-19 safety plans and registered Service NSW check-in systems for patrons.

Many Inner West residents participate in community sport for their health and wellbeing. These activities also take place outdoors and participation can be safely managed by the various sporting associations.

Community access to outdoor aquatics facilities and community sport is essential for individual's health and that of the broader community. These outdoor amenities and services could be managed in a safe and professional way with significant community benefits as a result.

The NSW Government needs to urgently amend the Public Health Order and allow outdoor aquatic facilities and organised sport to reopen, noting that these activities can operate with various safety plans and other arrangements in place and deliver a much-needed boost to community health and wellbeing.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

Item No: C0921(2) Item 24
Subject: MAYORAL MINUTE: MOVE CITIZENSHIP CEREMONIES ONLINE TO ADDRESS BACKLOG
From: The Mayor, Councillor Rochelle Porteous

MOTION:

THAT Council immediately initiates virtual online Citizenship Ceremonies to address the backlog.

Background

Inner West Council currently has 1137 outstanding applicants for citizenship. Five Citizenship Ceremonies have been cancelled following the latest lockdown due to COVID 19 restrictions.

It is proposed to initiate virtual ceremonies, similar to ceremonies already being conducted at other councils, such as the City of Sydney as soon as possible.

It is understood that originally the Department of Home Affairs advised at the beginning of the lockdown that they were able to conduct virtual ceremonies. This is what occurred during the lockdown in 2020. People seeking citizenship through the Mayor's Office were therefore referred to the Department for virtual ceremonies however it would appear these are not happening as many Greater Sydney Councils now have significant backlogs.

The Department of Home Affairs have indicated that they will require 2 weeks' notice for a Ceremony to be conducted.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.