

# Bondi Pavilion – our history

## First Peoples

The Bidjigal, Birrabirragal and Gadigal people traditionally occupied the Sydney Coast, utilising the land for fishing, meeting and toolmaking. The eastern beaches hold special Dreamtime connections between the First Peoples and the whales that pass Bondi during seasonal migrations.

## Bondi Pavilion was built in 1929

Beachside temporary sheds built in 1911 gave privacy to beachgoers changing in and out of swimming costumes. In 1923 Waverley Council awarded a design competition for a Bondi Beach Park and Improvement scheme. Architect Leith McCredie redesigned the beach amenities, including the Bondi Pavilion to include Turkish baths, shops, lockers, a gym, and a ballroom in a combination of Georgian revival and Mediterranean styles. It was Sydney's and Australia's largest surf pavilion.

**BONDI  
PAVILION**

## Restoration: a community hub for future generations

A much-loved home for art, music, theatre, ceramics, festivals, film and beachgoing, locals and community groups passionately fought to keep the Bondi Pavilion as a community and cultural hub for Bondi. This grassroots movement gained strong momentum with well-known actors, musicians, artists and politicians joining the campaign including Michael Caton, Jack Thompson, Sam Neill, Julia Zemiro, Wil Anderson, John Olsen, Reg Mombassa, Ben Lee and Hoodoo Gurus frontman Dave Faulkner.

Waverley Council led a seven-year restoration plan for the redesign of the Bondi Pavilion to retain the site as a cultural and community hub. The restored Pavilion opened in September 2022 with a major focus on sustainability, and informed by rich community consultation and engagement.

- **Integrated Architectural Design** – Designed by award winning architects Tonkin Zulaikha Greer (TZG), the new building integrates the outdoor and indoor spaces, connecting Bondi Beach to the parklands and Campbell Parade, whilst celebrating the Pavilion's rich history.
- **Sustainability** – Designed to achieve a 5-star Green Rating from the Green Building Council of Australia, Bondi Pavilion's new design significantly reduces its impact on the environment and its occupants. More than 70% of the Pavilion's energy use is generated by over 220 solar panels on the roof and associated power distribution systems. This is one of the many ways we have committed to sustainability.

- **Naming of new spaces in the local Dharawal language** – Council worked closely with the Gujaga Foundation, part of the La Perouse Aboriginal Community Alliance, to support the recognition of Indigenous cultural heritage in the Pavilion including the naming of new spaces within the building in local Dharawal language. Gujaga Foundation is a not-for-profit organisation that leads language, cultural and research activities in collaboration with local Elders, senior knowledge holders and leading academics.
- **Aboriginal mosaic** – Council has retained the existing floor mosaics in the foyer by Warramiri (North East Arnhem Land) artist and Elder, Terry Dhurritjini Yumbulul. Yumbulul is a leading Australian artist and his work at Bondi appears to be among the first examples of an Indigenous artwork translated into the mosaic medium. Created in 1983 as a gift from the People of Arnhem Land to the people of Bondi, it represents incredible cultural and spiritual significance in connecting our communities.
- **New to the Pavilion is the Bondi Story Room**, a digital interactive exhibition which showcases the rich history and stories of our community. If you have a local story you'd like to share, contact us via [bondistoryroom.com.au/submit](https://bondistoryroom.com.au/submit)

The Pav is open year-round and features outdoor courtyards, function rooms, café and dining options, shopping, and cultural spaces including the Art Gallery, Pottery Studio, Music Studios, Theatre and Community Radio Studio.

Check out what's on at the Pav at:  
[www.bondipavilion.com.au/whats\\_on](https://www.bondipavilion.com.au/whats_on)

# Ground Level

# BONDI PAVILION

^  
To Campbell Parade

Main Entrance



Forecourt

^  
To Bondi Beach



# First Floor

# BONDI PAVILION

