

Woollahra Libraries, NSW



Vertical garden returns wall at Woollahra Library at Double Bay. Image credit: Woollahra Libraries

Library Service Overview

[Woollahra Libraries](#) is part of the Woollahra Municipal Council in the eastern suburbs of Sydney on the land of the Gadigal and Birrabirragal people. Three branches make up the library services including Woollahra Library at Double Bay, Paddington Library, and Watsons Bay Library.

Policy on Environment and Sustainability

- Woollahra Council's [Environment page](#)
- Woollahra Municipal Council's [Environmental Sustainability Action Plan 2013-2025](#) (2013)
- [Environmental Targets and Reports for Assessing Progress](#) (2018)
- [Ecological Sustainability Task Force](#)

Program/initiative/infrastructure Summary

The original location for the Woollahra Library was at the beautiful Blackburn Gardens in Double Bay right on the harbour. When the library moved to a new building in 2016, the green focus remained with plants lining shelves and the beautiful vertical garden returns wall shown in Figure 3 and featured in an online issue of *Sanctuary: Modern Green Homes Magazine* (Yule, 2020). The library promotes greening of the community in other ways. For example, to support the [Council's Garden Awards](#) in October, they created themed [e-Reading Lists](#) including an [Overdrive](#) specific list. They also involved younger patrons with online [school holiday activities](#) related to gardens and plants, like 'Growing Food from Scraps', 'Make your Own Bird Bath', and 'Garden Story Time.' The recordings for these events are free to view on the library website.

Seniors in the community are also encouraged to participate in green programs like the Green Spark event organised by the Council's [Environment and Sustainability Team](#) which included 130 participants ([Woollahra Libraries, 2020, p. 16](#)). This event focused on gardens with a tour of the Cooper Park Community Garden and a special talk from a garden designer and horticulturist. The library used this event as an outreach opportunity by having their Library Spark van present with a collection of relevant books, reading lists, digital apps, and the mobile 3D printer. This focus on gardens and greening is very much a partnership across different groups in the council. It is publicised through Woollahra's [Our Environment Newsletter](#) including links to the themed [e-Reading List in the library](#) and on [Overdrive](#) for the Garden Awards. The awards themselves are also promoted with signage throughout the community and through the [council website](#) with references to the reading lists and programs on the website as well.