

# Media release

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Woollahra  
Municipal  
Council



## Historic Artwork 'Double Bay 1883' Finds a New Home at Woollahra Council Chambers

Woollahra Council Chambers is currently playing host to the historic artwork 'Double Bay 1883'. Painted by celebrated artist and Archibald Prize winner Arthur Murch, the historic artwork is owned by the Double Bay Bowling Club and was commissioned in 1954 from an old photograph taken in the late 1880s.

Until recently, the oil painting has hung proudly over the mantelpiece in the clubhouse; however, with the upgrading of the club's facilities the artwork needed a new temporary home. The sheer size of the artwork (160cm x 227cm), made it difficult to find a space that could accommodate it. Rather than consigning the work to public auction, Double Bay Bowling Club approached Woollahra Council about housing the artwork at the Council Chambers. In a demonstration of community spirit and recognition of local history, the artwork now hangs at the top of the Chamber staircase alongside other historical works.

Mayor Cr. Toni Zeltzer said, "It is an honour for our council to be the temporary custodians of the painting. The work is a lovely verdant representation of Double Bay in the early days but also a great reminder of how far we've come in terms of the bustling commercial village of today".

The painting depicts the Double Bay village in late colonial times. At the time *The Illustrated Sydney News* captioned the original photograph: "The village of Double Bay forms the fashionable suburb of Sydney. The many handsome houses with their luxuriant gardens and carefully kept orchards render this a very pretty place..." (23 December, 1871).

The artwork will be housed at the Council Chambers for a period of five years, after which there is an option to extend the loan for another five years.

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**Media contact: Bree Corbett, Communications Coordinator, 9391 7981**



(L-R: Woollahra Deputy Mayor Cr Greg Levenston; Double Bay Bowling Club Director & Hon. Secretary Peter Wyner; Chairman of Double Bay Bowling Club Barry Lazarus; Woollahra Mayor Cr Toni Zeltzer)