

# Sydney sure does sparkle in summer

**Paul  
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**N**o global city is faster than Sydney in putting its emphatic stamp on a New Year of excitement. January each year reminds Sydneysiders and visitors alike that they've won the "golden ticket" in life by being a part of our great city.

It also reminds us that Sydney is first and foremost a people city supported by fabulous festivals and an arts, culture and entertainment scene that is second to none.

This is the time we love to come out to play to set the tone for the year ahead. Even better, getting out and about supports our restaurants, retailers and cultural institutions when they need it most.

There seems to be an infinite number of things to do this summer including the Sydney Festival and a host of amazing exhibitions.

New Year's Eve celebrations set the tone for a summer of economic opportunity for Sydney.

Business Sydney estimated that welcoming 2024 alone would generate \$100 million in additional revenue for dining venues across Sydney.

The economic benefits of a flood of international visitors spend about three weeks here, a boost for hotels, tourism operators, transport providers, cafes and restaurants and retailers.

Still to come, Sydney Harbour will again be the focal point of Australia Day celebrations beginning with the Sydney Opera House sails being illuminated with a spectacular Aboriginal art work followed by

a ceremony to highlight First Nations inclusion and reconciliation.

Australia Day also marks the return of the RAAF's Roulettes aerobatic display team to our harbour skies with an 11-minute burst of precision flying by Australia's most skilled pilots.

Sydney is a great place to live or visit at any time but, during the languid days of summer, our city is at its best.

We have the best of everything from beaches, national parks and cultural institutions to cafes, restaurants, pubs, clubs and bars.

Sydneysiders wanting a culture "fix" this summer have ample opportunity.

Major arts and cultural institutions are keeping their doors open for extended periods.

There's the Sundown Sketch Club at the Museum of Contemporary Art Australia and "Art After Hours" at Art Gallery NSW.

The Australian Museum's Ramses & the Gold of the Pharaohs exhibition with its 180 ancient artifacts "3000 years in the making" is proving to be a big hit.

Such an amazing contribution to our huge summer is a reminder that, even in tough times, the arts and culture sector should be regarded as an essential service when it comes to government funding.

Premier Chris Minns, NSW Treasurer Daniel Mookhey and Arts Minister John Graham are keenly aware of how Sydney punches well above its weight in this sector.

Sydney during January and February is simply wonderful.

**Paul Nicolaou is executive  
director of Business Sydney.**