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MEDIA RELEASE

## History of Holidaying in Warringah

Warringah Council Library is seeking historic photos and stories of holidays in Warringah for an exhibition to coincide with the 2014 National Trust Heritage Festival.

Warringah has a history as a holiday destination, and the Library is asking for the community's help to piece together this history for its collection and forthcoming exhibition.

"The northern beaches' tranquil beaches and wild bushland were considered a Pacific paradise and attracted holidaymakers, weekenders and day trippers from near and far," said Warringah Mayor, Michael Regan.

"Many visitors camped on our beaches, while the entrepreneurial built holiday homes, hotels and guesthouses to cater for the growing tourist trade."

Early in the 20th century, camps were set up at Freshwater as weekenders for men, with women folk allowed to visit on Sundays only.

Later campers ventured further north to Narrabeen. By the mid-1920s Warringah Council was issuing camping permits and ensuring no one camped for longer than three months. During World War II, there were formal campsites at North Curl Curl, Narrabeen, Avalon and Palm Beach.

By the 1950s the area was so busy at holiday periods that newspapers warned holidaymakers to book accommodation in Warringah in advance to avoid disappointment. There were numerous places for people to camp or stay. Hydora guest house in Dee Why provided bed and breakfast accommodation and Orlando House in Dee Why was a favourite place for travellers.

Families came to the area for their Christmas break; wives and children of returned servicemen stayed at Furlough House in Narrabeen for a seaside holiday; women from rural areas had a well-earned rest at Keera House in Dee Why; and children travelled from across the state for summer camps here that included beach excursions and bush walks.

If you came to Warringah for holidays in years gone by, Warringah Council Library would like to know where you stayed, activities you enjoyed; souvenirs you bought; and happy snaps your parents took.

Please contact the Local Studies Librarian Tina Graham on 99422610  
or [tina.graham@warringah.nsw.gov.au](mailto:tina.graham@warringah.nsw.gov.au) if you have photographs or stories to share.

The exhibition will be held from 14 April-2 May at the new Curl Curl Artistic Space on Abbott Road.