



HARBOUR CITY BEARS

**SYDNEY MARDI GRAS
PARADE GUIDE**



1 MARCH 2025

START MARSHALLING AREA

PARADE

Saturday 1 March 2025

TERMS & CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

- Participants must present their “Parade Participant” Humanitix ticket for entry to site.
- Participant entry gate closes at 7pm – no access permitted after gates close.
- Float vehicles must present their Vehicle Accreditation Pass for entry to site. Float vehicles must arrive to site at the allocated time provided by SGLMG.
- No participant access to float vehicles on roadway until SGLMG staff or volunteers advises it is safe to do so.
- Participants must follow all instructions from SGLMG staff, volunteers and security.
- Participants must treat each other with respect and dignity, regardless of any conflicting values or beliefs.
- The Parade will be recorded for broadcast on television and online web stream by the official SGLMG broadcast partner, as well as photographed by SGLMG and various media outlets. By entering this area and participating in the Parade, you constitute permission to SGLMG and official broadcast/media partners to photograph, film, tape and transmit any elements from your Parade Entry.
- No Alcohol
- No Illegal Drugs
- No Glass
- No Animals except registered assistance/companion animals
- No Nudity
- No Pass-Outs
- Bag checks apply

Please see full terms & conditions of entry at
mardigras.org.au/parade-entrant-terms-and-conditions

THANK YOU!
HAPPY MARDI GRAS!

CRUCIAL INFO

Marching Pack Pickup

Where: The Oxford Hotel, Oxford Underground (Basement)

When: Saturday 1 March, 3:00pm to 5:00pm

You will receive your marching pack, which includes your t-shirt and a bottle of water. We will have sunscreen at The Oxford that you can apply before heading off to the marshalling area. You will also be wrist-banded with a Bear Essentials wristband.

Marshalling Area Info

Where: College Street (Refer to Map) – Marshalling Position **JJ01**.

When: 5:00pm to 6:00pm. **Do not leave this too late.** We cannot help you if you get locked out by security.

You can enter and leave the marshalling area until 7pm. At 7pm sharp the entrances will close. If you are not already inside the marshalling area at that time, you will not be able to participate.

Marshalling Area Entry Rules

You will be sent a Humantix ticket from Mardi Gras via email on Wednesday 26 February. If you have not received this ticket, please email events@hcbears.com.au immediately to get it re-sent.

You will receive a second copy at 1pm on the day of the parade- this is to make it easier for you to find it in your inbox. It's important that you don't wait until you receive the second ticket to let us know if you haven't received the first one, as it will be too late by that time.

You must present this ticket along with photo ID at the entry to the Marshalling Area.

Security may check your bag upon entry.

Your bag should be no larger than an A4 sheet of paper (approx. 20cm x 30cm, 8in x 12in).

Do not leave your bag unattended.

We will have a long wait, so bring some snacks for the duration. This is especially important if you have special dietary needs, as while there will be food trucks inside the marshalling area, the options will be severely limited.

Alcohol and illicit substances are strictly prohibited.

What to Bring

- A hat
- Sunglasses
- Sunscreen
- Your mobile phone
- Your ticket from Mardi Gras
- A mobile phone charger battery
- Snacks
- A refillable water bottle (it cannot be glass)
- Any medications you might need
- A small bag to put everything in (the BE29 bag is about the right size, if you got a party pack this year or previous years)

What **not** to Bring

Do not bring: Glass, alcohol, sharp objects, large bags or luggage, drugs or any other illicit substances, glitter, confetti, costume changes

PARADE INFO

Harbour City Bears' Parade Position is **159**. This is towards the end of the parade, so we're not expected to be actually marching before 10pm. You must be with the group by 9pm at the latest, and in position in our starting spot by 9:30pm.

We have a flatbed truck and music, following which everyone will be marching. Those with accessibility needs have first priority to be on the truck, but once they're on, everyone else should climb aboard until it's full. Note that you **cannot** hop on and off once the parade starts, so once you're on, plan to stay there.

We will be leaving the marshalling area at approximately 10pm. Please follow all instructions from your Harbour City Bears Parade Marshalls.

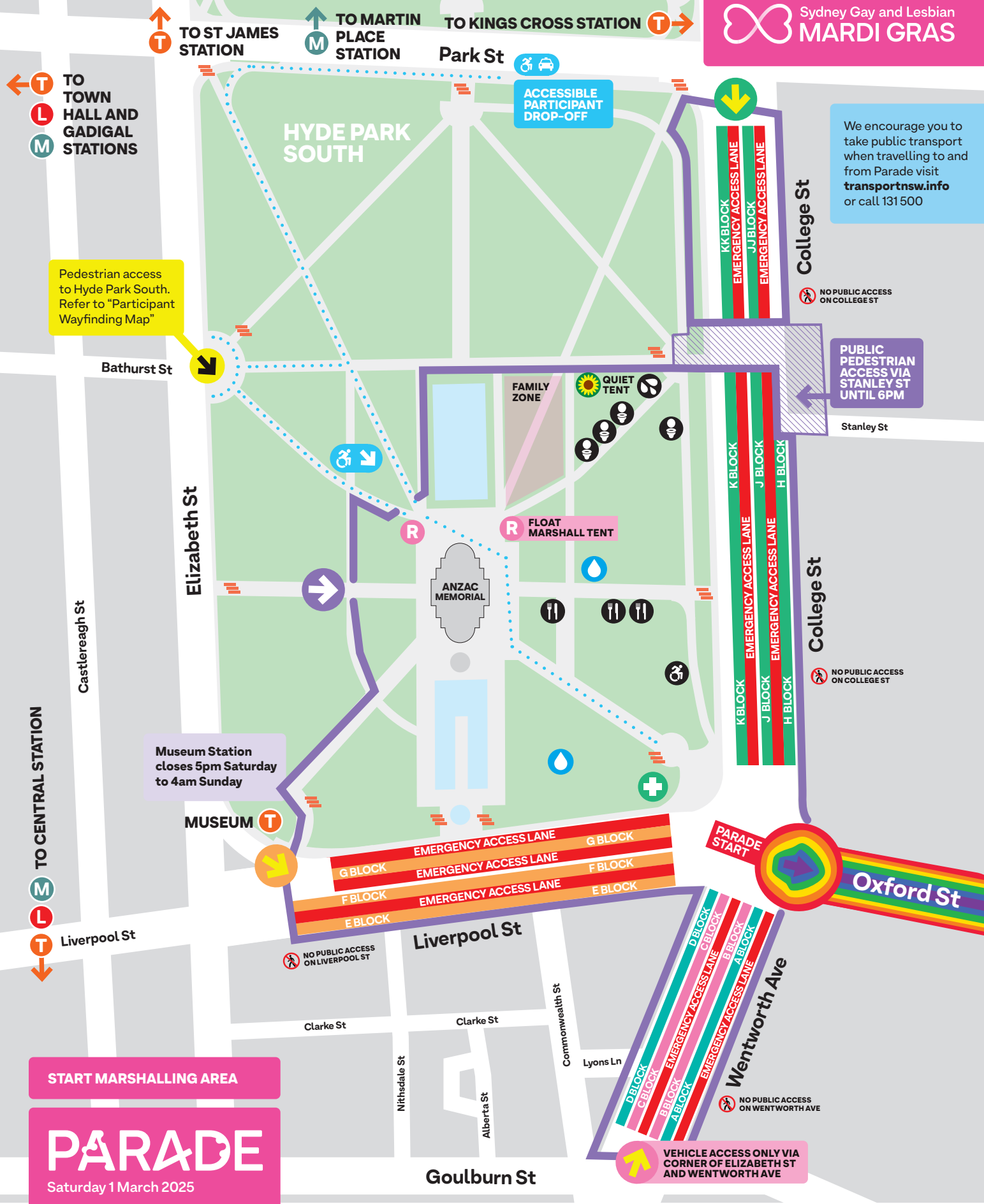
Keep Moving

Note that we are towards the end of the parade, so it is likely that the parade will already be running late by the time we get started. Do not dawdle, you need to keep together with the group, and you must stay at least 5 metres ahead of the float behind us.

If either the float or parade marshalls ask you to pick up your speed, please do so. Previous years the last float has often had to move at a jog to get through in time.

If you are interacting with the crowd, come straight back to the group, and ensure you stay level with the group even while away at the fences.

You must always be moving forwards, never backwards.



We encourage you to take public transport when travelling to and from Parade visit transportnsw.info or call 131 500

Pedestrian access to Hyde Park South. Refer to "Participant Wayfinding Map"

PUBLIC PEDESTRIAN ACCESS VIA STANLEY ST UNTIL 6PM

Museum Station closes 5pm Saturday to 4am Sunday

START MARSHALLING AREA

PARADE

Saturday 1 March 2025

- PARTICIPANT ENTRY GATE
- ACCESSIBLE PARTICIPANT ENTRY GATE
- ACCESSIBLE PARTICIPANT DROP-OFF
- REGISTRATION TENT
- TOILETS
- ACCESSIBLE TOILET
- STANDING URINAL
- FOOD TRUCKS
- FENCE
- ACCESSIBLE PATH
- STEPS
- FIRST AID
- REFILLABLE WATER STATION
- QUIET TENT
- WENTWORTH AVE VEHICLE ACCESS
- LIVERPOOL ST VEHICLE ACCESS
- COLLEGE ST VEHICLE ACCESS
Refer to Vehicle Arrival Map for directions

Marshalls and Contacts

The Parade Marshalls are Dan Lynch and Andrew Reid.

If you need to contact someone from the club, you can call the HCB hotline on **0491 679 628**. Note that mobile coverage can be quite spotty during the parade due to the large numbers of people- so you might have better luck texting. Please don't use internet-based messaging during the parade, as it's unlikely to get through.

We will have a couple of radios, please bring your own if you have one. It's likely the airwaves will be crowded, so we might have to share a channel with many others. We'll advise the channel on the day.

Luggage and Transport

Mardi Gras will only permit small bags into the parade area. Bags should be about the same size as an A4 piece of paper (approx. 20cm x 30cm, 8in x 12in).

Note that you will probably have to carry anything you bring with you! We will allow people to put small bags on the truck, but you cannot bring luggage.

Note that the truck will separate from the marchers at the end of the parade, so make sure you have all your things with you before we get there. We will load all personal belongings that are left behind onto a small cart, and then you can retrieve them from us at the Oxford. Make sure you have your bag before the end of the parade if you will need it that night.

Ensure there is some way to identify your bag. Lots of bears will be using the BE29 bags which will all look the same, and they will all be dumped in a cart together.

The light rail will be running at increased capacity, but there will not be buses near the parade, and it is likely it'll be hard to get a taxi or rideshare, so plan to walk to your next destination.

PARADE

Saturday 1 March 2025

TO TOWN HALL STATION AND GADIGAL METRO

No pedestrian access via Hyde Park South, Liverpool St, College St or Wentworth Ave to view Parade

TO ST JAMES STATION AND MARTIN PLACE METRO

To view the Parade from the north side of Oxford St please travel from Town Hall or St James Station

TO KINGS CROSS STATION

CENTRAL STATION

To view the Parade from Flinders St, please travel via Central Station


-  **PARADE ROUTE**
-  **ACCESSIBLE VIEWING AREA**
Ticketed viewing. Entry via Linden Ln.
-  **TAYLOR SQUARE TAKEOVER**
Presented by American Express
Ticketed viewing. Entry via Campbell St.
-  **SIDESHOW**
Presented by Optus
Ticketed viewing. Entry via Short St.
-  **CLUB CINDY**
Ticketed viewing. Entry via Albion St.
-  **PEDESTRIAN CROSSING**
Intermittent closures between 5pm-7pm
No crossing available after 7pm.
May close earlier, pending crowds.
-  **FOOD TRUCKS**
-  **TOILETS**
-  **ACCESSIBLE SHUTTLE BUS STOP***
-  **ACCESSIBLE BUGGY***
-  **ACCESSIBLE TAXI DROP OFF**

*Accessible Shuttle Bus and Buggy services available to Accessible Viewing Area ticket holders only. Register at mardigras.org.au

For details on changes to public transport services and road closures, visit transportnsw.info to plan your trip.

Please note that depending on crowd capacity, you may be redirected to a different viewing location from your intended location by NSW Police Force officers or our security wayfinders.

MARDI GRAS PARADE
Saturday 1 March 2025

 **MUSEUM STATION**
Closed 5pm Saturday to 4am Sunday

To view the Parade via Anzac Pde, please travel via Moore Park Light Rail. Cross road via existing foot bridge or the Tibby Cotter Bridge

 Sydney Gay and Lesbian **MARDI GRAS**



PARADE THEME & DRESS CODE

This year the Harbour City Bears' parade entry has the theme "Free to Bee". You will have been given a red or yellow shirt, and a set of bear ears or bee ears/antennae. Half the participants will also have been given a stuffed toy bee. There are only limited numbers of the red and yellow shirts, and they will be allocated at random, so if you don't like the colour you're given, or want a different size, you'll have to find someone to swap with.

The red-shirted bears are reminiscent of (but legally distinct from) Winnie the Pooh, the yellow-shirted bears should chase the red bears with the bees, similar to our BE29 art.

DO NOT THROW ANYTHING (including the bees) INTO THE CROWD. You may hand the bee to a member of the public if you see someone who wants it, or you may keep it yourself if you want. You're free to interact with the crowd (high-fives, etc.) but don't slow down the parade.

You can wear as much or as little as you feel comfortable wearing, however genitals must be covered, and remember you will be walking a long way, so sensible shoes are recommended.

The truck will be decorated with plastic plants for a flower/pollination theme.

POST-PARADE

The truck will separate from the marchers at the "Tibby Cotter Bridge" which is the golden-coloured bridge with the curved ramp entries, a little bit before the Moore Park light rail stop.

We can't give you a lift anywhere, as the cabin seats will be filled with the volunteers who are unloading the truck, and it's not legal to have riders on the back outside the parade area, or after the parade ends.

Please note, we **will not** be meeting up after the parade near the SCG this year so once the parade finishes it's up to you to collect your belongings from us at one of the other events or venues if you've left them behind.

For those of you not going to the Mardi Gras Party, Harbour City Bears have our own event, the **Mardi Gras Afterparty** at The Oxford Underground.

Doors open at 8pm and we will be partying until 3:30am.

Keep your marching wristband on for priority entry. The Oxford security have been informed we're coming. **It is a ticketed event, so get your ticket now if you haven't got one already, as space is limited.**

HAVE FUN!

Please also see further information provided by Mardi Gras



Parade Ends.
All floats
turn off lights
and sound

Tibby Cotter Bridge

KIPPAX LAKE

END

T TO CENTRAL STATION

NO PUBLIC ACCESS

Vehicles to follow
instructions of
traffic controllers











PARADE END AREA

PARADE

Saturday 1 March 2025

Anzac Parade

Driver Av

-  **FLOAT VEHICLE PATH**
-  **FLOAT MARCHERS PATH**
-  **FIRST AID**
-  **ACCESSIBLE RAMP**
-  **ACCESSIBLE TOILETS**
-  **TOILETS**
-  **FOOD TRUCKS**
-  **REFILLABLE WATER STATION**
-  **VOLUNTEERS TENT**
-  **SKIP BINS**

Vehicles to follow
traffic lights at
Lang Rd to exit

Foot Bridge

NO PUBLIC ACCESS

L MOORE PARK
LIGHTRAIL

TO ENTERTAINMENT
QUARTER PARKING
AND THE HORDERN

P

2025 SYDNEY GAY & LESBIAN MARDI GRAS PARADE PARTICIPANTS GENERAL INFORMATION

PARADE DAY TIMELINE

DATE: SATURDAY 1 ST MARCH 2025	
TIME	ITEM
3:00pm	Major Road Closures from 3:00pm onwards.
3:00pm	Marshalling Area Registration Tent Open – Check-in and collect your wristbands. You must present your Humanitix QR code/Ticket at the Participant Entry Gate.
3:30pm	FLOAT VEHICLES - Staggered Vehicle arrival on Wentworth Ave and College Street
5:00pm	Vehicle Arrival at Liverpool Street – Entry Times staggered
6:30pm	VEHICLE ENTRY GATES CLOSED - NO ENTRY FOR VEHICLES AFTER THIS TIME
7:00pm	PARTICIPANT ENTRY GATE TO HYDE PARK CLOSED NO ENTRY AFTER THIS TIME
7:30pm	Parade Starts – First float departs Start Area
11:00pm	Parade Ends – Last float estimated to arrive at End Area

*Times subject to change on the day

VENUE DETAILS

Marshalling Area: Hyde Park South (Next to the ANZAC Memorial)

Parade Route: Whitlam Square, Oxford St to Taylor Square, Flinders St to Anzac Parade.

End: Anzac Pde at Tibby Cotter Bridge, Moore Park

TERMS & CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

All Participants must adhere to the **2025 Parade Terms & Conditions**, which includes but is not limited to:

- Participants must follow all instructions from SGLMG staff, volunteers and security.
- Ensure all T&Cs are followed - Failure to comply with code of conduct or other T&Cs may mean that you are unable to march.
- Participants must treat each other with respect and dignity, despite any conflicting values or beliefs.
- Alcohol, illicit substances, glass, and genital nudity are strictly prohibited.
- Animals are not permitted, except registered assistance/companion animals. Please let notify us in advance via parade@mardigrasarts.org.au

PARTICIPANTS MUST BRING

- Valid **Humanitix Ticket**. No ticket = no entry
- Valid **Photo ID** may be requested from the Registration Team. (Does not need to include legal name)

- Float Marshalls must attend the Float Marshall tent to collect their Float Marshall lanyards and Float Sign.

BAGS & PERSONAL ITEMS

- Don't bring large bags or personal items
- IF YOU MUST... Reduce the number of bags by sharing with friends
- Bags must not be larger than size of A4 paper (20cm x 30cm)
- Bag searches will be in place upon entry.
- Float Marshalls must nominate people responsible for collecting any bags/personal belongings off float vehicles at the end of the parade and return these to the forecourt area for distribution (please do not try to do this on the side of the road).
- Participants should never agree to carry bags or personal belongings of persons they do not know.
- Do not leave any bags or personal items unattended.

MARSHALLING AREA

- Ensure that your entire Group arrives at allocated arrival time as identified in your Entrant Pack and their Humanitix ticket.
- When you arrive to entry gate, there will be two different types of registration desks open, a fast lane and a trouble shooting lane.
 - If you are having any issues, such as you're still searching for your ticket, you never received your ticket, your QR code isn't appearing etc, you will immediately be pointed towards a trouble shooting lane.
 - If your QR code is open and ready to go you will be directed toward a fast lane.
- Gates open between 3:00PM to 7:00PM. **No entry or re-entry after 7:00PM.**
- Your **Marshalling Position** will be identified by a marking on the road. Please find this location upon arrival to the Marshalling Area and greet your Float Marshall. You do not need to be on the road at all times during marshalling, but you and your Group must be there prior to your Parade starting time.
- Food and non-alcoholic drinks may be purchased directly from the food truck vendors on site. Vegetarian, vegan and gluten free options available. If you have dietary requirements, we recommend you bring your own food in case vendors run out of stock.
- Toilets and refillable water stations are located throughout the Marshalling Area. These facilities are wheelchair accessible.
- Items cannot be left behind in the marshalling area.
- Check the weather forecast ahead of time and bring appropriate gear (sunscreen, hats, ponchos, etc).
- Minors must be always supervised by an adult guardian.
- The Marshalling Area and Parade in general can be a very noisy, stimulating environment. We recommend that you bring noise cancelling headphones for young children or people with sensory issues. We have a **Quiet Tent** in the Marshalling Area to assist with this. Refer to the map or ask our staff or volunteers to escort you.

Please refer to the map in your briefing pack to view access to the marshalling area in Hyde Park South

Sunflower Program:

The Sunflower Program is a globally recognised symbol for hidden or non-obvious disabilities. Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras is proud to have participated in this program since 2021.

By wearing a Sunflower product, it enables people with hidden disabilities the choice to let the people around them know, so they have access to supports they may need such as additional help, understanding, empathy, guidance, or patience.



Tourette Syndrome Awareness

Patrons and participants may have Tourette Syndrome which is a type of neurological disorder characterised by involuntary tics and repetitive vocalisations. People with Tourette Syndrome may say socially inappropriate, rude and offensive things including slurs and swearing (called coprolalia) and may make inappropriate rude gestures. These are **totally involuntary and are not what the person is thinking**. They may seem in context but have **no relation to the situation or persons involved**.

Tourette Syndrome Association of Australia (TSAA) will have a Parade float. Please be aware that these participants do not mean to cause offence. Participants of the TSAA will be wearing badges (see below) to indicate their ‘colourful language’ and we will be wearing Tourette Syndrome T-shirts.



DEPARTURE FOR PARADE

- Groups have staggered departure times from Marshalling Area between 7:30pm to 10:30pm. This is when your float group starts the parade.
- Ensure all participants know your marshalling position, street name and estimated Parade start time.
- Ensure your Float Marshalls have collected your float sign and float marshal lanyards from the Float Marshall tent.
- Please follow all instructions from our Entrants Team, Stage Managers and Traffic Controllers.
- Please follow Security and Police instructions.
- Our Float Release Manager (located at Whitlam Square) will advise when your group is able to enter the Parade route.

20 min prior to your estimated departure time, please:

- Ensure your participants and vehicle/driver are ready in your MARSHALLING POSITION.
- Ensure all riders are safely secured on truck tray/trailer including harnesses if needed. Riders are not able to get on/off moving vehicles.
- Your Float Marshall, or another participant is carrying your Float Sign at the front of the group.
- Note that your float may need to move forward in the queue before your actual start time as groups in front of you start entering the parade route. Driver must ensure participants are secure before moving vehicle.

PARADE ROUTE

- Please stay 5m behind the float in front of you and keep up your speed.
- Please do not slow down or stop at any point unless directed by security or staff.
- Please respect other groups – if you go too slowly, they will need to speed up to make up for you. We want everyone to have an equal amount of time on the parade route.
- Float Marshalls are responsible for ensuring your participants remain in formation within the route.
- Do not fire any confetti canons into the crowd or throw objects of any kind.
- If a participant requires medical assistance (first aid):
 - Participant should move to the side of the parade route, against the fencing.
 - Participant (and Float Marshall, if required) should talk to our volunteers or security for help.
 - Our team will request medical assistance for you.
 - The rest of your group must continue travelling on the parade route without you.
- If your float vehicle breaks down:
 - Turn on hazard lights.
 - Vehicle to pull over to the left side/lane of the parade route if possible.
 - Please ask one of our staff/volunteers/security for help.
 - Your Driver and one Float Marshall must stay with the vehicle.
 - Your remaining participants must continue travelling on the parade route.
 - We will have tow trucks on stand-by to remove your vehicle from the parade route.

PARADE END

- After exiting Anzac Parade at Tibby Cotter Bridge, follow directions of SGLMG Volunteers and Stage Managers to the End Area.
- Skip bins and toilets will be available nearby once exited Parade Route.
- Parade Participants separate from vehicles + exit via bus loop (break in fence – follow pink line on map)
- Food trucks, water stations and toilets are available
- Float Marshalls must nominate people responsible for collecting any bags/personal belongings off float vehicles and return these to the forecourt area for distribution.
- All participants must then vacate End Area precinct.
- Getting home:
 - Use Moore Park light rail
 - Walk over Tibby Cotter Bridge to head towards Central/Surry Hill
- After participants exit, vehicle is to continue on Anzac Pde (orange line on map) Your Vehicle Float Marshall and 4 people may accompany your vehicle – everyone else should exit via the bus loop, as written above.
- Follow instructions from the END TEAM + TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS
- When directed, turn off lights, sound and any other technical production; turn on vehicle hazard lights
- MAXIMUM SPEED 10KM
- Wait to be directed to a vehicle bay – PLEASE BE PATIENT
- DO NOT UNPACK YOUR VEHICLE UNTIL DIRECTED
- Your vehicle should remain in bay whilst you get vehicle back to road conditions. Please do this quickly and safely, use skip bins provided.
- Once returned to road conditions, check for oncoming vehicles. If clear, exit south and obey Lang Rd traffic lights

RESPONSIBILITIES – DRIVERS & VEHICLE FLOAT MARSHALL

- **DRIVERS MUST ARRIVE AT THE ALLOCATED TIME, AT THE DESIGNATED VEHICLE ENTRY**
- Plan your arrival route to Start Area and exit route from End Area using the Transport NSW website (www.transportnsw.info) for updated road closures
- Vehicle must be **fully roadworthy** and **currently registered**
- Do not drive under the influence of drugs or alcohol. NSW Police will carry out a breath test and drug test for all drivers
- Lights, wipers and horn must be in working condition
- Side and rear vision mirrors must always be visible
- Number plates (front and back) must always be on display
- Vehicle should have a **full petrol tank**. Keep your engine, radio, lights, etc. turned off when waiting in Start Area to prevent a flat battery. Bring spare fuel in a jerry can if required.
- Bring current and relevant drivers' license for the type of vehicle you are driving
- Bring two sets of keys for the vehicle, if possible
- Your vehicle must have either the driver or backup driver with it at all times, so it can be moved if required. No vehicles should be left without drivers. Only pre-registered drivers are permitted to drive within the marshalling area or parade route.
- Your Parade Vehicle Entry Pass (coloured, A3 paper) must be **CLEARLY VISIBLE IN WINDSHIELD** (bottom-left corner and upright) upon entry, keeping in mind the Driver's visibility. Use tape or blu-tac if needed. Your vehicle will not be allowed access without this

pass or if you arrive at the wrong location/time. You also may be required to drive around the block a couple times if you have arrived too early.

VEHICLE MANAGEMENT	
START AREA MARSHALLING	<p>Vehicle Float Marshall to arrive with Driver on board float vehicle at allocated time and street location</p> <p>SGLMG Volunteers will direct your vehicle to allocated block position</p> <p>Ensure that the Driver (or back-up Driver) is with the vehicle at all times</p> <p>If you have any participants riding on the vehicle's tray, you MUST comply with the below:</p> <p>To prevent people from falling from the edges, install safety railings, or secure participants to a solid structure with appropriate safety harnesses. If you have safety rails in place, please make sure your participants do not sit/stand on them or climb them.</p> <p>No one may board or alight the vehicle while it is in motion. Your participants must only board or alight the vehicle before or after the parade, when it is at a complete stop. No participants are permitted to jump on/off vehicles throughout the parade.</p>
PARADE START & ROUTE	<p>Approximately 30min before your estimated Start Time, ensure that your Driver/Vehicle is ready to travel, and any Participants riding on the vehicle's tray are in place or harnessed as required (Decide who will be riding on the float before the day -Don't leave this until you get to the marshalling area)</p> <p>Once on the Parade route, ensure that none of your participants are too close or try to get on/off the moving vehicle. Follow directions of the Parade Teams throughout the route. This might include directions to stop, slow down, move forwards, etc</p> <p>Always forward moving, no stopping unless directed by parade staff.</p>
FINISH PROCESS	<p>Once you have reached the end of the Parade route, you will enter a lights off sound off area. In this area all music/sound and lights from your float must be turned off.</p> <p>Travel with Driver, vehicle and maximum 4 other participants into the Vehicle Derig Zone on Anzac Pde to deconstruct the float to return it to normal road conditions.</p> <p>Ensure that all sound/lights/generator are turned off and all equipment/props are secured.</p> <p>Throw away any waste into the rubbish bins. Please consider the amount of waste that you use and try to reduce and re-use.</p>

PARTICIPANT MANAGEMENT	
START AREA MARSHALLING	<p>Participant Float Marshall to arrive in Start Area with Float Marshall Certificate.</p> <p>Individual participants (including float marshals) are to sign in with their Humanitix ticket via the Registration Tent upon arrival to the Marshalling Area.</p> <p>No access through the Participant Entry Gates once they close at 7:00pm. All participants must be inside the park marshalling area by this time, or they will not march.</p> <p>Once inside Start Area, ensure that your participants remain inside the park until SGLMG volunteers have given instruction to access the road lanes where float vehicles are located (approximately 5pm).</p>
PARADE START & ROUTE	<p>Approximately 30min before your estimated Start Time, ensure that all of your participants are gathered in your Block position ready to start Parade. Please be aware that once the Parade has started, your Block position may have moved forward as we have begun to release other floats ahead of you onto the Parade route. Please take note of which float is before you and after you so you can find your place as groups begin to move forward.</p> <p>Ensure that you have people at the front and back of your group to manage pacing and making sure that there are no large gaps between you and the group in front of you</p> <p>Ensure that your participants are hydrated and comfortable</p>
PROCESS AT END OF PARADE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take the left exit at the bus loop on Anzac Pde (look out for the LED sign) & follow directions • Please do not stop moving until SGLMG staff/volunteers advise you can (in the forecourt next to Driver Ave/SCG) • This area will have toilets, food and water station available • Ensure that your participants have all their belongings (if anything was left on the vehicle) • Ensure that your participants know how to get to public transport hubs to get back home or to their next destination.

All Entrants and Participants must comply with the following:

- Sydney Mardi Gras stands for equality, respect and inclusiveness. Please extend this to all other participants and act with kindness and respect.
- Ensure all T&Cs are followed.
- Follow directions of volunteers, staff, and security at all times.
- Failure to comply with code of conduct or other T&Cs may mean that you are unable to march.
- If you have any concerns about safety or inappropriate behaviour on the day, please alert SGLMG staff or security. Do not involve yourself.

Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras

2025

Parade
Participant
Visual Story



WHAT IS A VISUAL STORY?

- Visual stories are used to prepare a person for and increase the predictability of a new environment or situation.
- This helps bring familiarity to a process and to reduce anxiety and stress.
- This visual story is written in plain English and uses pictures to make it accessible for everyone.
- Developed in partnership with Autism Spectrum Australia

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. About Mardi Gras
2. About Mardi Gras Parade
3. Mardi Gras Theme 2025
4. When and Where is the Parade?
5. Accessibility
6. Planning My Journey
7. About the Quiet Space
8. Before the Parade
9. Parade Sequence of Events
10. About the Parade Marshalling Area
11. Mardi Gras Marshalling Area Map 2025
12. Parade Map
13. What Can I Expect
14. What Should I Bring
15. What Not to Bring
16. Where Can I Get Help?
17. After the Parade
18. Leaving the Parade
19. Message From Mardi Gras

1. ABOUT MARDI GRAS

Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras (SGLMG) is an LGBTQIA+ organisation that hosts the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Parade and Festival. There are also other events and supportive initiatives throughout the year.

SGLMG began in 1978 as a political protest for equality and now:

- celebrates LGBTQIA+ identity
- advocates for equality
- promotes diverse voices

Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras was established on the values of acceptance and inclusion. We are dedicated to making it an accessible and inclusive event for all visitors.



2. ABOUT MARDI GRAS PARADE:

The Mardi Gras Parade is:

- A celebration of LGBTQIA+ people and allies
- An opportunity for LGBTQIA+ people to connect with each other
- Held on multiple streets in the city that follows some of the route of the original protestors.



3. FESTIVAL THEME: FREE TO BE

The 2025 Festival theme Free to be is a celebration of the strides toward true LGBTQIA+ equality while also acting as a global reminder that our fight is far from over, and that we are not truly free until we are all free to be.

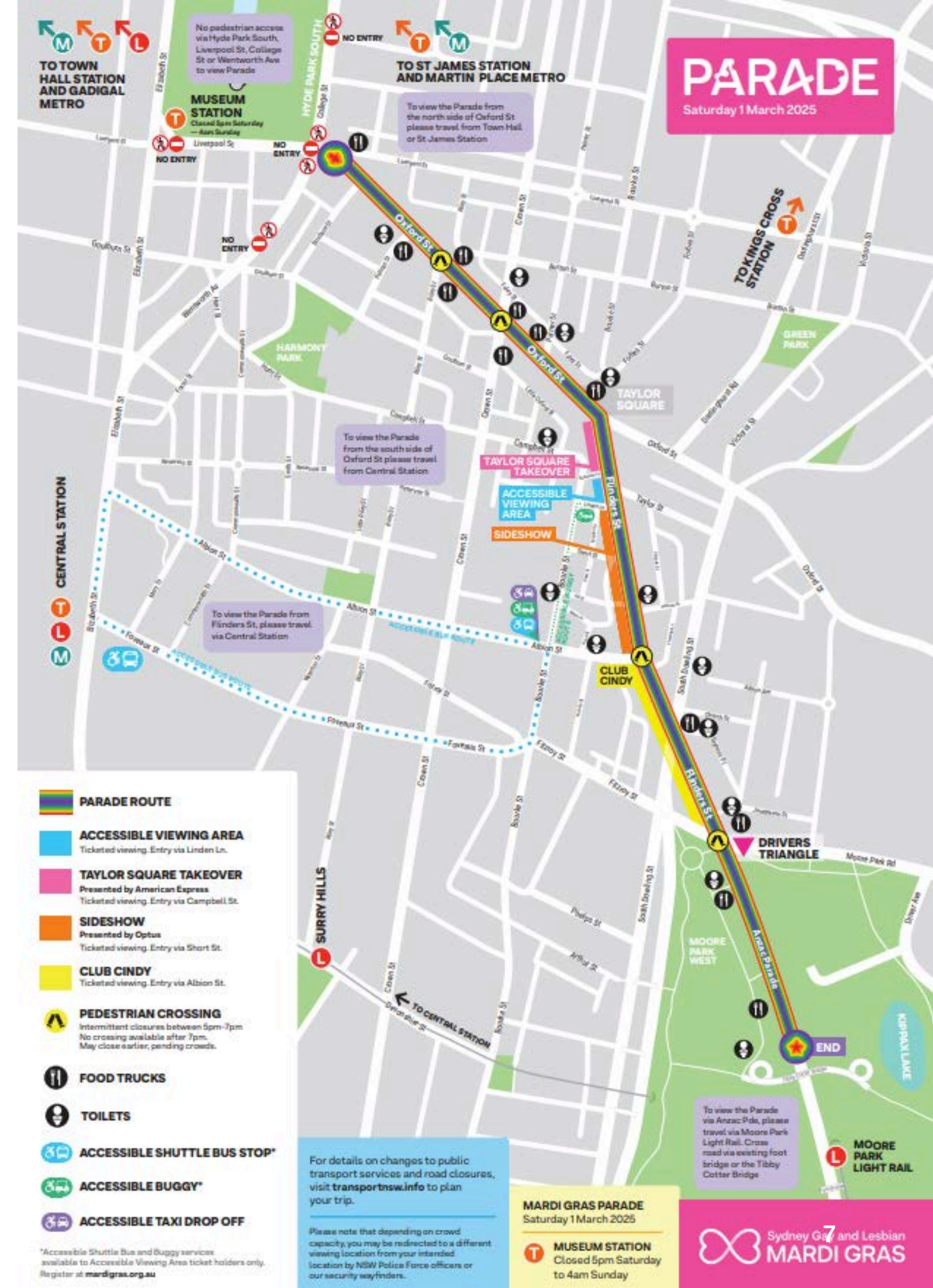
“Free To Be is a manifesto of what our community has desired and fought for dozens of decades, and the reason why we will continue to be here, fighting, celebrating and being fiercely visible for the generations to come,” said Gil Beckwith, CEO of Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras.

“Our theme is about making a statement to embrace and rejoice in our unique individuality as well as our collective identity. It is about the bravery to rise for each other in the darkest of times and protect the progress we’ve made, using it as a springboard toward the progress we deserve.”

4. WHEN AND WHERE IS THE PARADE?

- The Mardi Gras Parade will happen on Saturday 1st March 2025
- **3:00pm:** The Marshalling Area opens
- The Marshalling Area is located at Hyde Park. This is where I will meet my float and the other people marching with me. My float organizer will tell me what time to arrive.
- **6:45pm:** Smoking Ceremony and Dykes on Bikes
Before the parade, there will be a Smoking Ceremony. Then Dykes on Bikes will ride their motorbikes along the parade route.
- **7:30pm:** Parade starts
The parade will start at Hyde Park. Parade floats and participants will travel along Oxford St, Flinders St and Anzac Parade.
- **11:00pm:** Parade ends
All parade participants and spectators will leave

*More information on the Marshalling Area: See Pages 8–11



5. ACCESSIBILITY AT THE PARADE:

Mardi Gras have worked to ensure that the Parade is as accessible as possible.

Accessibility features include:

- Wheelchair accessible toilets
- Accessible drop off area for parade participants
- Assistance animals are welcome
- A Quiet Space available in the marshalling area for people who feel overwhelmed or need a break
- Hidden Disability Sunflower Lanyards are recognized at the event. Event staff are trained to identify and support people wearing the lanyard



6. ABOUT THE QUIET SPACE:

- The **Quiet Space** is for anyone who may feel overwhelmed and need a calm space to recover.
- The Quiet Space is located in the Marshalling Area.
- The room is supported by Aspect volunteers who are trained in supporting people with hidden disabilities. It is a relaxing and supportive environment to calm down if I feel overwhelmed.

The Quiet Space has:

- Seating and bean bags
- Low lighting
- Stimming / fidget toys
- Earplugs if things are too noisy for me
- Bottled Water
- Charging stations for devices
- Signage about expected use of the space and how to get help
- I can ask security or Mardi Gras staff to help me find the Quiet Space.



7. PLANNING MY JOURNEY:

I will plan my journey to and from the parade before the event.

Driving

- There won't be any parking near the parade route. I can get someone to drop me off at a street nearby and walk to the Parade.

Public Transport

- I can plan my trip on the TransportNSW website: <https://transportnsw.info/>
- I will tap on & off when using public transport.
- It will be busy, with lots of people, so I might have to wait, or give myself extra time to get to the Parade.

7. PLANNING MY JOURNEY:



Light Rail

I can catch the light rail to Central and walk or wheel to the Parade.



Bus

I can catch a bus to Central or Albion Street and walk the rest of the way.

I can catch the free accessible shuttle bus from Central station to get closer to the Parade.

Details for this are on the next page.

7. PLANNING MY JOURNEY:



Trains:

I can catch a train to Central Station or Town Hall Station and walk or wheel to the Parade.



Metro:

I can catch the Sydney Metro to the below stations:

- Central Station
- Gadigal Station
- Martin Place Station

8. BEFORE THE PARADE:

Checking In

When I am checking in, I will need to show the QR code ticket that I have been sent. Only people participating in the parade are allowed into the Marshalling Area. A security guard will check inside my bag to make sure that I don't have anything that I shouldn't (I can find out what I can and can't bring on Pages 21-23). Then I will be given a wristband.

Once I have my wristband, I can exit and re-enter the Marshalling Area until 7pm using the same gate I entered. **I must be back in the Marshalling Area before 7pm**, otherwise I will be locked out and won't be able to participate in the parade.



8. BEFORE THE PARADE:

Entering the Marshalling Area

I will need to check-in at the Marshalling Area at Hyde Park. When I arrive at Hyde Park, I can follow the signs to the entrance.

I can use the accessible entrance if I have a disability, visible or non-visible, and need extra time or support or find waiting in the line difficult. If I need to use the accessible entrance, I can follow the signs to find it, or ask security.

When I get to the accessible entrance, I will let the security guard know that I need to use this entrance.



9. PARADE SEQUENCE OF EVENTS:

- I can exit and re-enter the Marshalling Area until 7pm. **I must be back in the Marshalling Area before 7pm**, otherwise I will be locked out and won't be able to participate in the parade.
- I must be with my float group or vehicle 1 hour before our scheduled time to start the parade.
- My float organiser will show me where to meet my float/vehicle. It will either be on College Street, Liverpool Street or Wentworth Avenue.
- I cannot return to the marshalling area after I have marched in the parade, so I should make sure to take everything with me.
- Sydney Mardi Gras Volunteers will tell us when it is time for us to start marching.
- Then it is time for us celebrate, dance, sing and enjoy marching in the parade!

10. THE MARSHALLING AREA:

The Marshalling Area is where all the parade participants will wait before they march. These are some of the things that I should know about the Marshalling Area.

Food and Drink

There will be food trucks where I can buy food and non-alcoholic drinks. There will also be a water station where I can refill my water bottle or drink from the bubblers. I can bring my own food, snacks and drinks if I like. I am not allowed to bring any alcohol.

While I wait

I might be waiting for a while before the parade starts. While I wait, I can go and look at other people's costumes. I can also bring a device or games to use, or a book to read.

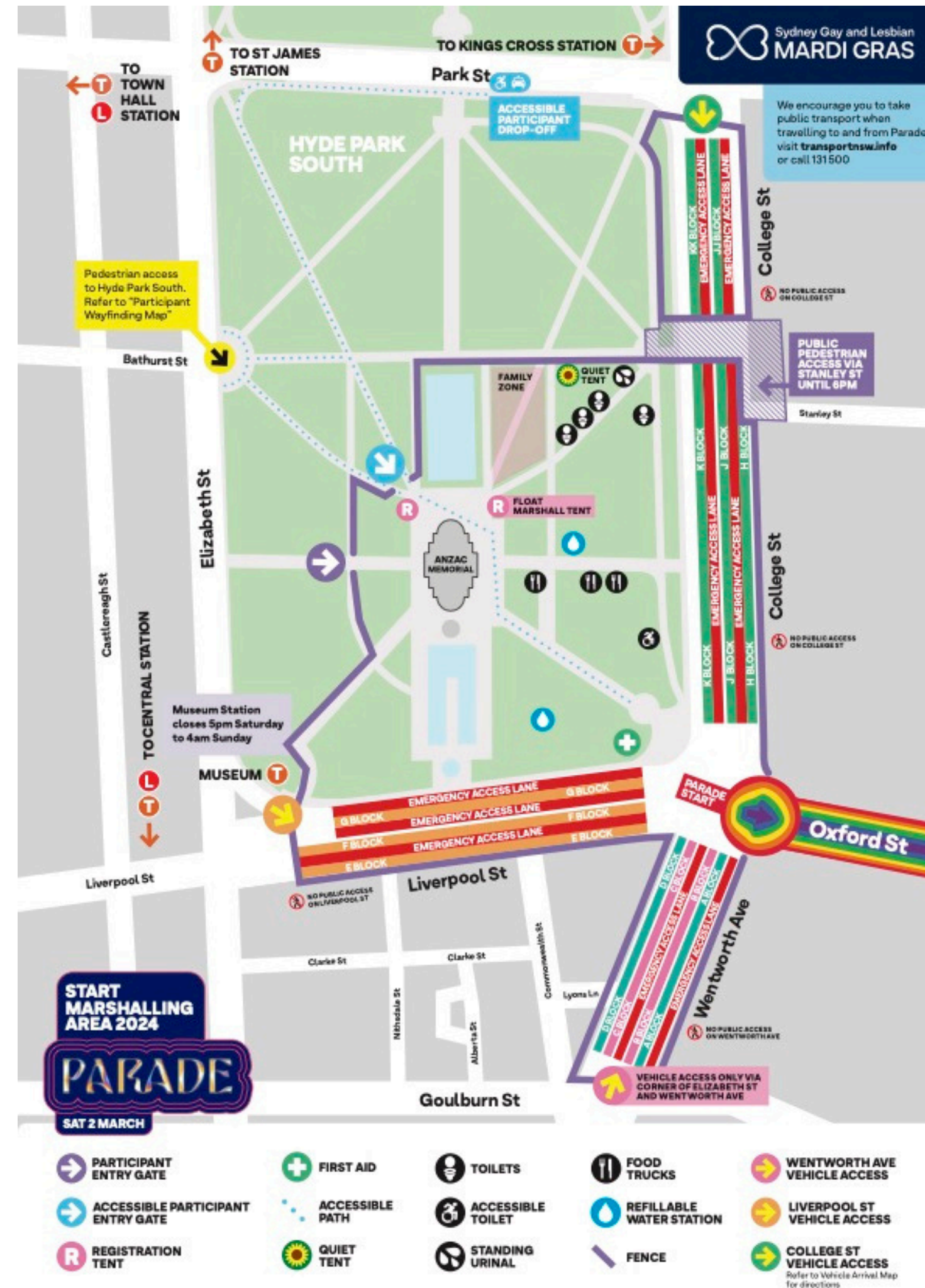
First Aid

There will be ambulances and first aid support available. If I need help, I can go to the First Aid tent, or call 000. I can also download the 'What 3 Words' App. This can help emergency services to locate me if I or someone near me needs help.

Police

There will be police officers located in the Marshalling Area, inside the Anzac Memorial. I will see police officers coming and going.

11. MARSHALLING AREA MAP:



13. WHAT CAN I EXPECT?

What I will see during the parade:

- People of all ages
- Same-sex or non-binary couples
- People who do not appear as either male or female
- Groups of people marching along the street
- Brightly coloured floats
- People in costumes (some might not be wearing much clothing)
- Some nudity
- People hugging and kissing
- People dancing, yelling and singing
- Drunk people
- Security, police and ambulance paramedics. They are here to keep me safe
- Cameras from the media and the general public taking pictures of me and my float



13. WHAT CAN I EXPECT?

Some sensory experiences I might notice during the parade include:

- Fireworks and bright lights
- Smoke effects
- Confetti
- Announcements over speakers
- Loud music and performances
- Sirens from emergency services vehicles
- Loud Helicopters
- Crowd noise (e.g. singing, chanting, cheering and shouting over the music)
- Busyness and crowding, or people very close to me
- Smells from food vendors
- People from the crowd trying to touch me
- Walking for two kilometers along the parade route (that's a lot of walking!)

14. WHAT SHOULD I BRING?

The Sydney Mardi Gras Parade is an outdoor event. I will check the weather conditions on the day.

If it is going to be a sunny day, I could bring:

- A hat
- Sunglasses
- Sunscreen



If it is a rainy day, I could bring:

- Warm and weatherproof clothing
- Plastic ponchos

If the Parade is delayed or cancelled due to severe weather conditions, Sydney Mardi Gras will let me know via social media.

I can follow Sydney Mardi Gras on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram for the latest updates and information.

I should also bring:

- A phone with key contacts saved, and an “In Case of Emergency” (I.C.E) phone number stored
- Name and contact details of my float organiser
- Anything that may help me to cope with crowds, lights and noise (e.g. headphones, earplugs, visor/sunglasses, sensory items)
- A refillable water bottle, and preferred food and drinks
- Something to do while I wait (e.g. a device, games or books)
- A Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Lanyard or wristband (if I have one)
- Phone charging device



15. WHAT NOT TO BRING:

There are things that I am not allowed to bring to the parade.

This is to keep everyone safe.

Things that I am not allowed to bring include:

- Alcohol
- Fireworks or Explosives (includes flares and sparklers)
- Illegal Drugs or Substances of any kind (prescription medication is OK)
- Promotional Material including Banners, Stickers, Signs and Flyers
- Any materials that display racist, sexist or homophobic attitudes
- Weapons of any kind
- Glass bottles/items



16. WHERE CAN I GET HELP?

Parade teams and Parade volunteers:

If I feel sick, overwhelmed or tired, I should ask security or volunteers for help. They will be along both sides of the parade route. I will not stop, or try to get out of the parade, as this is unsafe. I should also listen to security and volunteers and follow their directions. They are here to keep me safe. Parade volunteers will be wearing different coloured shirts, depending on their role. This includes:



First Aid: If there is an emergency, or someone needs immediate medical attention, I need to notify Parade volunteers or security. They will help to organise medical teams who are located on site. If I request help, I must make sure that I can be easily found by medical teams.



Security: There will also be security staff. They are here to keep me safe. They are also trained to identify that people wearing a Sun flower Lanyard might need a bit of extra time, support or understanding.



Quiet Room: Aspect volunteers will be located at the Quiet Space. I can let them know if I need help. They are trained to support people with hidden disabilities and can help to organise medical teams if needed.



Mardi Gras Volunteers: I can ask Mardi Gras staff if I need help, or if I am lost.



17. AFTER THE PARADE:

The parade will end on Anzac Parade. I will be directed to Driver Avenue, outside of the Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG).

At Driver Avenue, there will be:

- Food Trucks where I can buy food
- Water Station where I can refill my water bottle or drink from the bubblers.
- Toilets and Accessible Toilets
- First Aid Tent, if I feel sick or overwhelmed

This area will be crowded, I will do my best to stay patient.

If I have any questions, or need any help I can ask the Mardi Gras volunteers.



END AREA MAP:



PARADE

Saturday 1 March 2025

TO TOWN HALL STATION AND GADIGAL METRO

MUSEUM STATION
Closed 5pm Saturday - 4am Sunday

TO ST JAMES STATION AND MARTIN PLACE METRO

To view the Parade from the north side of Oxford St please travel from Town Hall or St James Station

To view the Parade from the south side of Oxford St please travel from Central Station

TAYLOR SQUARE TAKEOVER

ACCESSIBLE VIEWING AREA

SIDESHOW

To view the Parade from Flinders St, please travel via Central Station

To view the Parade via Anzac Pda, please travel via Moore Park Light Rail. Cross road via existing foot bridge or the Tibby Cotter Bridge

CLUB CINDY

DRIVERS TRIANGLE

MOORE PARK WEST

MOORE PARK LIGHT RAIL

PARADE ROUTE

ACCESSIBLE VIEWING AREA
Ticketed viewing. Entry via Linden Ln.

TAYLOR SQUARE TAKEOVER
Presented by American Express
Ticketed viewing. Entry via Campbell St.

SIDESHOW
Presented by Optus
Ticketed viewing. Entry via Short St.

CLUB CINDY
Ticketed viewing. Entry via Albion St.

PEDESTRIAN CROSSING
Intermittent closures between 5pm-7pm
No crossing available after 7pm.
May close earlier, pending crowds.

FOOD TRUCKS

TOILETS

ACCESSIBLE SHUTTLE BUS STOP*

ACCESSIBLE BUGGY*

ACCESSIBLE TAXI DROP OFF

For details on changes to public transport services and road closures, visit transportnsw.info to plan your trip.

Please note that depending on crowd capacity, you may be redirected to a different viewing location from your intended location by NSW Police Force officers or our security wayfinders.

MARDI GRAS PARADE
Saturday 1 March 2025

MUSEUM STATION
Closed 5pm Saturday to 4am Sunday

Sydney Gay and Lesbian
MARDI GRAS

26

18. LEAVING THE PARADE:

I will plan how to get home before I attend the parade. I can plan my trip on the TransportNSW website transportnsw.info/sydney-mardi-gras-parade

It will be very busy, with lots of people trying to leave at the same time. I might need to line up or wait to catch public transport. I will do my best to stay patient.

TIPS FOR TRAVEL:

- The closest Light Rail station is Moore Park
- The closest train station is Central Station
- The closest Metro Station is Central Station
- There won't be many buses available
- It might be hard to find a taxi or rideshare



19. If I need more information about accessibility I can:

- Call 02 9383 0900 or
- Email: accessibility@mardigrasarts.org.au
- Visit the website:
<https://www.mardigras.org.au/event/accessible-parade-viewing-area/>

HAPPY MARDI GRAS!