

Newleaf

ISSUE 12 › JUNE 2018 | Bonnyrigg Community Newsletter



After completing her floristry course, Lamis has been working to set up her business and build a portfolio of flower arrangements.

Floristry course blooms new business

After completing a six-week floristry course run by SGCH and NSW TAFE in 2017, local resident, Lamis has begun to bloom her own business.

Originally from Syria, Lamis worked there as a Maths teacher before moving to Australia in 2004. She studied English at TAFE and later a certificate in Community Studies but was unable to find work.

Lamis used to volunteer her time at her friend's florist but hadn't done this for a long time and had lost her momentum. The floristry course helped her regain her passion.

"I've always been creative and loved craft. I was starting to teach myself how to make floral arrangements, but I wanted to learn something more and gain more knowledge and experience," says Lamis.

"The course taught us about different flowers, using floristry tools, how to store flowers, where to buy supplies and how to make beautiful arrangements. It gave me new ideas and showed us different styles and colours".

Since completing the course, Lamis has gone back to volunteering with her friend so that she can build up a portfolio of work. She started investigating how to set up her own business and discovered the NSW Government's New Enterprise Incentive Scheme which provides accredited training, business mentoring and support to help individuals start their own business. She then completed a Business Certificate 3 and has now registered her business, developed her own business cards and is finalising her social media pages and website.

"I would eventually like to plan and do venue decorations," Lamis added.

Manager of SGCH's Western Region, Rachel Nobile said "we ran the floristry course with NSW TAFE in response to feedback from tenants. They wanted more opportunities for training that would create pathways into learning or work. It is very exciting and rewarding to see someone go onto further training and start their own business".

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ORDER FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS FROM LAMIS, CONTACT LAMIS FLORISTRY ON 0415 212 929.



CEO's Message

You may have noticed the first residents moving into their new homes in stage 4 at Newleaf Communities.

Over the next three to four months, Landcom will continue to hand new social housing properties over to us to move tenants in. The builders have also begun work on the new homes in stage 5 and we expect to receive these from Landcom after March 2019.

This is an exciting time for Bonnyrigg as the continuing works allow for the area to grow and for a range of new homes suited to the needs of tenants and private households.

As Bonnyrigg continues to change, we have been consulting with residents, business owners and stakeholders about their future needs and aspirations for the community. Through community events, focus groups and pop up stalls, we have asked how we can make Bonnyrigg an even better place to live, work and play. Thank you to everyone who took part, we value your feedback and will use this to create our 2018-21 plan that guides the work SGCH does in Bonnyrigg both now and into the future. We will share this plan with the community and local services.

To address the gaps we have already identified in after school programs for youth, we continue to partner with local services to implement new initiatives. Recently, we showcased our three-year partnership with Bonnyrigg High School (BHS), when His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retired), Governor of NSW and Mrs Hurley visited the school. Our partnership with BHS has provided more opportunities for youth to build their confidence, self-esteem, health and wellbeing.

Finally, congratulations to 20 Bonnyrigg tenants who recently received a Strive Tertiary Scholarship. This year, we provided scholarships to 264 primary, secondary and tertiary students, worth \$260,000. We are also grateful to Lenovo for providing funding for eight scholarships, as well as, ex-demo models of laptops for each of our 82 tertiary scholarship recipients.

In addition, Lenovo's staff have generously made personal donations to the value of \$600 which will go towards stationery for our primary and secondary scholarship recipients in January. In total, Lenovo is providing over \$90,000 in sponsorship.

Scott Langford
CEO, SGCH Group

Adults take to the water for the first time

For most Australians, learning to swim is just a part of growing up, but for people born overseas, where swimming is not part of everyday life, it can be daunting to take to the water for the first time.

People from different cultural backgrounds often don't know how to swim because they fear the water or just haven't had access to a learn to swim program.

Not learning to swim as a child does not mean the pool and beach are off limits for life. It is possible to learn to swim as an adult, and that's exactly what forty of our Bonnyrigg tenants have been doing since February 2018.

Thanks to a grant we received from Cabravalle Diggers Club in June 2017, SGCH was able to provide free adult swimming lessons to these residents.

Since the program started our participants have achieved some amazing results:

- **100%** can hold their breath under water
- **100%** feel they have improved their general health and wellbeing
- **95%** have increased their confidence in their basic swimming skills
- **85%** feel more confident around water
- **75%** can float and kick with a board
- **50%** can swim basic freestyle for 15 metres

Participant, Mjadia told us "I wanted to have fun and learn how to swim. Also, to have time for myself. I didn't know how to swim at all because I was very scared. Now, I'm less scared of the water. I know how to float on my back, I'm more comfortable in the water and I'm still learning how to swim".

Jenny, another participant said "I wanted to overcome my fear of water. Before I started swimming lessons, I used to wear floaters and was too scared to even go into the water. Ever since I started to learn how to float and do simple swimming strokes, I am able to go into the water up to my knees without floaters".



Forty Bonnyrigg tenants have increased their confidence and basic swimming skills.



JESSICA

Meet our staff

This quarter, we found out a little bit more about Jessica, our Community Liaison Coordinator.

What do you enjoy most about your work and what are you most excited about?

I love that every day is a chance for me to provide our tenants with opportunities that make them happy. Happiness can come from simple things, and I feel as though our tenants appreciate our hard work in putting together programs for them. Not only do these programs provide our tenants with a sense of belonging and inclusion, they have a positive impact on their lives. For some tenants, the programs create amazing changes and provide new opportunities. The thing I am most excited about is working towards our yearly tenant Christmas Party – my favourite season of the year!

What do you like to do in your spare time (away from work)?

When I'm not working, I enjoy having some quiet time and relaxing with my family, friends and beautiful puppy, Marlo!

How long have you worked for SGCH?

I have worked at SGCH for 1 year and 1 month.

What is your role?

I am the Community Liaison Coordinator for the whole of our Western Region. Part of my role is to support our tenants and encourage them to take part in the educational and wellbeing activities we offer. I also attend local tenant group meetings in Liverpool, Campbelltown, Parramatta and Fairfield. These groups give tenants the opportunity to give us feedback, discuss any concerns and express their ideas for what programs they believe their group would benefit from. They also help plan fun events like Neighbour Day and R U OK? Day.



Rowa most enjoyed meeting new people and working face to face with our tenants.

Goodbye Rowa

On 4 May, we said goodbye to our Practice Lead for the Western Region, Rowa Omari. After a 14 year career with SGCH, Rowa felt it was time to start a new journey and pursue other opportunities.

Rowa first started working for SGCH in 2004 as part of our reception team. With her personable nature, she quickly moved into our repairs and maintenance team, followed by a tenancy manager role where she became a passionate advocate for our tenants.

As a Community Development worker and later, a Place Coordinator, Rowa developed and maintained partnerships with a range of external organisations to deliver large scale community programs, events, activities and initiatives with local Councils, Government, NSW Police, NSW Health and local schools, to name a few.

Moving to our Bonnyrigg team in 2015, Rowa worked with residents to gain a fresh perspective on their needs and aspirations for the local community. Their feedback informed our Place Management Plan which is focused on providing opportunities for tenants to have meaningful input, running a range of health and wellbeing programs, addressing a gap in activities for local youth and improving safety.

Under this plan and Rowa's leadership, the Community and Place team have had some amazing achievements including linking the Neighbourhood Watch Group with Fairfield Police, Bonnyrigg Public School to deliver a range of safety initiatives, engaging over 80 tenants with our monthly tenant language groups and seeing almost 2,000 people taking part in community celebrations.

However, one of Rowa's proudest achievements has been implementing the highly regarded Bonnyrigg Youth Council – fostering the development and growth of young people so they can give back to their community.

SGCH is privileged to have had Rowa work for us for almost 15 years. We know she will be greatly missed by our tenants, partners and staff, but wish her all the best for her future.

Francis Brazil is managing our Communities and Place Team and Sarah, Jess and Jasmina are continuing to work with Bonnyrigg tenants and deliver a range of programs and events to benefit the whole community.



PHOTO GALLERY

1 & 2. Tenants enjoy a fun-filled day out with their neighbours and a social picnic at Bungarribee Park. 3. Bonnyrigg Youth Council host their Youth Week event, "BeYouth". 4. It's never too late to learn how to swim – our adult swimming class in action. 5. Our Khmer tenants tell us about their vision for Bonnyrigg in our recent consultations. 6. SGCH tenants and staff enjoy a beautiful day at the Zoo.





Local youth enjoy t-shirt tie-dyeing at the "BeYouth" event.

BONNYRIGG YOUTH COUNCIL (BYC) UPDATE

BYC encouraged local youth to accept each other and their unique qualities and differences during this year's youth week celebrations.

On 15 April, thousands of local residents enjoyed Fairfield City Council's Bring It On! Festival. BYC members took on the opportunity to host an interactive stall where people could make their own stress balls to help them get through the stress of exams and assignments and every day life. Throughout the day, BYC also surprised festival-goers with prizes, including tickets to a Bulldogs game. The highlight of the festival was the first Fairfield Warrior competition, where local competitors challenged themselves, their muscle strength and stamina as they navigated through a custom-made obstacle course.

The following Friday, BYC held their own youth week event, "Be Youth" at the Bonnyrigg Skate Park. This provided a space where youth could enjoy being themselves while making new friends. Jam-packed with live entertainment, we hosted fun activities such as t-shirt tie-dyeing, plant pot painting, and sport competitions. Supported by Fairfield City

Council, SGCH, Youth Off The Streets and Bunnings, the day was a huge success, drawing over 300 local residents.

BYC Chairperson Mandy Bui commented, "Our event was extremely successful! Everyone loved the tie-dye activity, they got to design their shirt the way they wanted. Overall, we achieved our goal of having a sense of fun, youthfulness and freedom".

In addition to the youth week events, 20 local youth also completed their First Aid training in April. The free workshop, helped them recognise and act during critical circumstances and realise the value of saving a life.

BYC has exciting plans for the next school holidays! Our annual, ice skating activity is on Wednesday 18 July at 11am at Liverpool Catholic Club. All ages are welcome! For future updates on BYC activities, training opportunities and entertainment, like our Bonnyrigg Youth Council Facebook page.

TENANTS EXPERIENCE THE ZOO AT OUR BIG DAY OUT

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Big Day Out at Taronga Zoo. We had 790 tenants enjoy the day with their families.

With over 4,000 animals to see and over 20 keeper talks and shows along with some special activities including face-painting, a kids' colouring corner and competitions, there was plenty to see and do. We were also very lucky to have some perfect weather!

One tenant commented "I think the whole day and experience is a fantastic idea for all tenants especially for the kids!

Being in the school holidays, as well as, for families that wouldn't be able to afford it normally – it's a really great initiative!"

With entry to the zoo usually costing around \$148 for a family of four, we were excited to be able to hold the Big Day Out at a popular venue which would usually be too expensive for many of our residents.

We hope everyone enjoyed the Big Day Out, with special thanks to everyone who took the time to give feedback on how you found the day. The responses included some great suggestions for things we can improve to make next year's Big Day Out even better.

“

It was an amazing day thank you so much for including us as it was the first time my kids have been to the zoo. The workers there were unbelievable, and it was so well organised which made it stress free.

”



GET INVOLVED!

To RSVP or express an interest in any of the programs, events or activities below, or to ask a question, please contact Jasmina Kustec on 1300 137 265 or getinvolved@sgch.com.au. For more information about dates, times and locations, please also see the calendar on page 6.



NAIDOC WEEK



NAIDOC Week is an opportunity for all Australians to come together to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

It is also a time to acknowledge our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists, scholars, sports people, elders and community members.

This year, we are hosting our NAIDOC celebration on Thursday 12 July from 10.30am in our new Community hub at Smart street Fairfield. The day will showcase Aboriginal performances and include a smoking ceremony. Please join us.

FREE VOLLEYBALL

Volleyball is one of the highest participation sports in the world and it is easy to see why it's a dynamic, entertaining game, requiring high levels of skill, strategy and most importantly, teamwork.

SGCH invites high school students to join us for a friendly game of volleyball on Thursday afternoons from 3pm in the Bonnyrigg High School gym.

FREE SELF DEFENCE

SGCH is offering free self defence classes for all ages. These classes are focused on the specific types of danger that you may face in your everyday lives. You will learn effective practical skills, deterrence and de-escalation strategies. Classes are on every Wednesday from 3.15pm to 4.15pm at Bonnyrigg Public school. Please wear sports clothes and bring a water bottle.

ICE SKATING

Join SGCH and the Bonnyrigg Youth Council at our yearly school holiday ice skating day! This year, we will have a trainer to assist beginners and some games for those who are a little more confident on the ice. Meet at Liverpool Catholic Club on Wednesday 18 July 2018 at 11am. All ages are welcome Please RSVP to SGCH by Friday 13 July.

BONNYRIGG YOGA

Our yoga classes are suitable for people of all ages and fitness levels. Learn relaxation and breathing techniques, improve your health and strengthen your core. Come and join these free classes on Fridays (during school terms) from 9.30 to 10.30am at Bonnyrigg Community Centre (next to the Plaza).

Bring your yoga mat, a towel, a water bottle and remember to wear comfortable clothing.

RESIDENT LANGUAGE GROUPS

SGCH provides free services to culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) residents to assist in communicating about their housing enquiries with our staff.

Please talk to the SGCH staff if you're interested in attending any of our language groups held for Arabic, Assyrian, Khmer, Lao and Vietnamese speaking residents.

Interpreters are also available at SGCH's Bonnyrigg office on scheduled days, to help you with when visiting our office.



FREE ZUMBA CLASSES

Get fit, have fun and make friends! Zumba is a Latin-inspired dance and fitness workout which is great for the body and mind. The free classes are suitable for people of all ages and fitness levels, and everyone is welcome.

There are two weekly sessions to choose from, Wednesday mornings from 9.30 to 10.30am and Thursday nights from 7.15 to 8.15pm. Come along to Bonnyrigg Community Centre (next to the Plaza) and bring a water bottle and your enthusiasm. Please wear clothes you can dance in.

COME WALK WITH US

Join the Bonnyrigg walking group for some light exercise with good company from 9.30 to 10.30am each Tuesday (during school terms). People of all ages and fitness levels are welcome and everyone can walk at their own pace. Meet at Tarlington Reserve, next to the picnic area and remember to wear comfortable shoes and sun protection. Don't forget to bring a water bottle.

SAVE THE DATE FOR R U OK? DAY

R U OK? Day is an annual day in September dedicated to reminding people to ask family, friends and colleagues the question, "R U OK?", in a meaningful way. Connecting regularly and meaningfully is one thing everyone can do to make a difference to someone who might be struggling.

SGCH is planning to hold an event for R U Ok? Day on Thursday 20 September, we will be taking residents to Tulip Time, one of Australia's oldest and best loved floral festivals at Corbett Gardens, located in Bowral. The festival is known for having over 75,000 tulips. Keep your eye out for information on how to register as places are limited!

OCTOBER SCHOOL HOLIDAY FUN DAY

Save the date for our October School Holiday Fun Day run in partnership with Mission Australia and Evolve Community Housing. Join us on Wednesday 10 October from 10am to 3pm at Blacktown International Sports Centre.

The day will include netball, rugby and soccer matches, jumping castles and lots of family fun. Plus be in the running to win a year of free sporting lessons. Keep your eye out for more details.



BONNYRIGG'S COMMUNITY MARKET DAY

We are looking for stall holders for Bonnyrigg's Community Market run by SGCH on Saturday 20 October from 9am to 2pm.

This will be a safe and secure event for residents and stall holders to sell their new or unwanted items. We are aiming to fill Bonnyrigg Public School, with lots of bargains for the community. Stalls are FREE, so if you would like to become a stall holder or volunteer for the day, please contact us.

ONGOING

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Mondays
Bonnyrigg Men's Shed at 22 Hebblewhite Place, Bonnyrigg
8am – 1pm
Oil painting for Seniors (Beginners) at Bonnyrigg Library **11am – 2pm**

Tuesdays
Youth Off The Streets Outreach at Bonnyrigg Skate Park, corner of Smithfield Road and Elizabeth Drive
4pm – 8pm
Newleaf Walking Group, meet at Tarlington park BBQ's, Tarlington Reserve. All ages welcome*
9.30am – 10.30am
English conversation group at Bonnyrigg library*
10am – 11.30am

Wednesdays
Bonnyrigg Men's Shed at 22 Hebblewhite Place, Bonnyrigg
8am – 1pm
FoodCare at Bonnyrigg Youth Centre **10am – 12pm**
Knitting Group at Bonnyrigg Library. All skill levels welcome*
10am – 12pm
Zumba, Bonnyrigg Community Centre, 28 Bonnyrigg Avenue*
9.30am – 10.30am
Storytime (Preschoolers aged 2-5) at Bonnyrigg Library*
10.30am – 11.30am

Little Possums at Bonnyrigg Public School* **10.30am – 1pm**

Thursdays
Free guitar lessons at Bonnyrigg Library for children aged 13 and over. Bring your own guitar.*
4pm – 6pm
Oil painting for Seniors (intermediate level) at Bonnyrigg library* **11am – 2pm**
Self defence classes at Bonnyrigg Public School **3.15pm – 4.15pm**
Volleyball in the Bonnyrigg High School gym* **3pm – 4pm**

Fridays
Yoga at Bonnyrigg Community Centre, Bonnyrigg Ave Bonnyrigg*
9.30am – 10.30am
Babytime (babies and toddlers 0-2 years) at Bonnyrigg Library*
10.30am – 11am

Last Friday of the month
Book groups at Bonnyrigg Library
10.30am – 11.30am

Saturdays
English conversation group at Bonnyrigg library*
10.30am – 11.30am
Bonnyrigg Library also has a Justice of the Peace (JP) available on Mondays from 2pm – 5pm and Wednesdays from 2pm – 4pm.

* During school terms

JULY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

7-22 School holidays

10-12 Magic Show at Bonnyrigg Plaza **11am and 1pm**

11 Bunnings Craft Fun Day (ages 5 and over) at Bonnyrigg Library **10.30 – 11.30am**

12 NAIDOC Week event at the Community Hub, Smart Street, Fairfield **10am**

17-19 Circus Workshop at Bonnyrigg Plaza **11am – 2pm**

18 School holiday ice skating at Liverpool Catholic Club. All ages welcome **11 am – 1pm**

18 Children's Show – 'Great Big Science' at Bonnyrigg Library **11am – 12pm**

20 Lego fun for ages 5 and over **10.30 – 11.30am**

AUGUST

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

2 Bonnyrigg Tenant Advisory Group meeting at SGCH's Bonnyrigg office **10am**

7 Vietnamese Tenant Group at the SGCH's Bonnyrigg office **10am – 1pm**

7 Lao Tenant Group at the SGCH's Bonnyrigg office **10am – 1pm**

8 Assyrian Tenant Group at the SGCH's Bonnyrigg office **10am – 1pm**

9 Arabic Tenant Group at the SGCH's Bonnyrigg office **10am – 1pm**

10 Khmer Tenant Group at the SGCH's Bonnyrigg office **10am – 1pm**

31 Bonnyrigg Youth Council meeting at the SGCH's Bonnyrigg office **4pm – 6pm**

SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

20 Save the date for R U OK? Day
Keep an eye out for further details

New Dance Ensemble Performs for NSW Governor

One of the new initiatives we are partnering with Bonnyrigg High School (BHS) on is an after-school dance ensemble.

BHS graduate, Makala Bergan is facilitating the program. Makala was a dedicated member of the dance team throughout her school career, studied dance for her HSC and represented BHS at numerous dance events. The ensemble gives her the opportunity to broaden her teaching skills and encourage other students to strive for excellence in dance.

Over 50 students from years seven and eight auditioned for the ensemble in early term one and the school selected the top 20 to be part of this performance group.

Teacher, Nicole Press said the partnership between BHS and SGCH "will provide keen and enthusiastic junior dance students from Bonnyrigg High the opportunity

to develop their performance skills in a professional and supportive dance environment".

BHS recently completed a state of the art dance studio and the students come together every Thursday afternoon to learn new choreographed routines. The ensemble recently performed for the NSW Governor when he visited the school and officially opened the studio. In addition, they performed at the In the Spotlight Dance Festival which showcases high quality and well-choreographed dance works from public schools across NSW. Upcoming performances include Southern Stars 2018 in Wollongong and BHS's end of year dance concert.

YOUR COMMUNITY



SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES IN YOUR COMMUNITY

The July school holidays are just around the corner and no doubt you'll be looking for ideas to entertain the kids. Both Bonnyrigg Plaza and Bonnyrigg Library have some fun, free activities!

Bonnyrigg Plaza will have a talented magician performing some magic tricks and a Circus Workshop where kids can learn the art of juggling, stilt walking, making balloon animals and plate spinning.

Bonnyrigg Library's 'Great Big Science' show will wow the kids with flaming explosions, liquid nitrogen and colour changing chemical reactions, while kids five and over can also enjoy some lego fun.

For information on session times for these shows and activities, please see our calendar on page 6.

FUN, FREE ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE EACH TUESDAY

Youth Off The Streets (YOTS), Fairfield Outreach holds fun and free activities for young people each Tuesday from 4 to 8pm at Bonnyrigg Skate Park. Join them for sport and recreational activities, free food and drinks. Make new friends and connect with your community. YOTS can also help refer you to other youth services.

Meet some of us



JENNY

This edition, we thought we'd mix things up and profile Bonnyrigg High School's (BHS) volleyball team. SGCH supports BHS in running an after school volleyball program. We spoke with the school's Integrated Sports Coordinator, Matthew Leslie and team member, Jenny.

MATTHEW

How long has the team been together?

The majority of the team has been together for a few years, but SGCH began supporting the after school volleyball program in April 2017.

When does the team train?

We train on Thursday afternoons after school, but during the state knockout competition, the students also train most lunch times.

How many students in the program?

There are about 10-12 students in the after school program.

What competition do the students play in?

The students play in the state knockout competition. We have a boys' and a girls' volleyball team. The boys won their first and second round matches and the goal is now for them to win the next round. Unfortunately, the girls team lost in round 1 and were knocked out of the competition, but they played a great game.

JENNY

What has been your experience of the volleyball program?

Ever since I commenced afterschool volleyball, I have been more social, energetic and excited for Thursday afternoons. I love the fact that it's so social, instead of us hanging out at KFC and eating bad food, we are coming together to play a sport we all love.

The volleyball program has improved the quality of my life, I'm so grateful SGCH has taken the time to offer this opportunity to me and my friends. Being part of this program has also helped develop my communication skills, made me active and best of all, I get to see my friends after school. If I wasn't playing volleyball after school, I would either be sleeping or eating junk food!



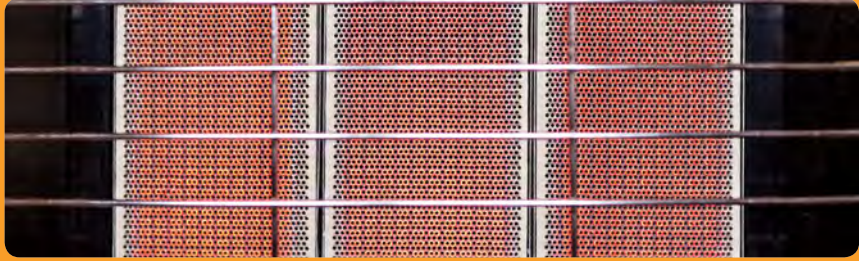
Tenants and Cops Enjoy a Cuppa to Support People Impacted by Cancer

With more than 1.1 million Australians either living with cancer or surviving a diagnosis, cancer is something that touches us all in some way. Australia's Biggest Morning Tea is a cause that really matters to our tenants and for the third year running, they joined with local services to raise awareness of this illness.

Over 50 residents enjoyed a hearty barbecue breakfast and a cuppa with their neighbours, Police from Fairfield Local Area Command and SGCH staff.

This year we raised \$320. To give you an idea of how this money can help, \$510 can provide yearly training and support to group volunteers to offer emotional and practical support to those impacted by cancer.

Residents also enjoyed some sweet treats, fun games, activities and prizes while our guest speaker, Coral Bojarski from the Cancer Council shared her story about her Mum who passed away from Breast Cancer and where people can go for help and support.



PREVENTING FIRES IN WINTER

The cooler months see a 10% increase in the number of home fires. Some common causes of fires are from the use of heaters and electric blankets, cigarettes and candles.

Here are some tips on preventing fires in your home:

- keep everything one metre away from your heater
- install and use heaters and electric blankets following the manufacturer's instructions
- get indoor gas appliances like heaters checked every two years and if you suspect a fault, get your heater serviced or replaced
- always supervise young children near working heaters and candles
- never use wheat bags/heat packs in bed
- keep candles away from curtains with open windows
- put candles out when you leave the room
- keep matches and lighters out of reach of children and use child-proof lighters and deep ash trays
- extinguish cigarettes properly before you throw them away
- never smoke in bed.

Please ensure you have a fire escape plan. For more information visit www.fire.nsw.gov.au/index.php



Low Cost Cat Desexing

Cats can be an important part of the family, but being a responsible cat owner means looking after your cat's health, protecting our wildlife and your local neighbourhood.

By law, you must microchip and register your cat by four months of age, however you can get a discount on your registration fee if your cat is desexed.

Not desexing your cat can lead to pregnancy, unwanted social behaviours including spraying and wandering and increase the cat's risk of some cancers. An over population of cats is a serious animal welfare problem and for people and the environment.

To register your cat (or dog), visit www.petregistry.nsw.gov.au or call Fairfield City Council on 9725 0872.

For low cost desexing programs, contact:

- National Desexing Network
www.ndn.org.au/ or 1300 368 992
- Cat Protection Society of NSW
www.catprotection.org.au/ or 9519 7201

Your local vet can also desex your cat and may offer a discount for people on low incomes or pension/concession card holders. There may also be some discounts in July which is national desexing month.

You can also help by keeping your cat inside between dusk and dawn as this is when wildlife is most at risk from cats hunting and when cats are most at risk of injury.

If you notice anyone being cruel to, neglecting or abandoning an animal, report it to the RSPCA on 1300 278 358.



NOTICEBOARD

REPORTING FAULTY STREET LIGHTS

With winter now here and the afternoons becoming darker much earlier, we are encouraging residents to report any lights that are:

- not coming on at night
- staying on in the day
- flickering on and off
- faulty, broken or damaged.

Please report faults at:
www.endeavourenergy.com.au

REPORTING CRIME

If you are a victim of a crime, other than life threatening or time critical emergency situations, you should contact the Police Assistance Line (131 444). This allows you to report crime over the phone, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Once a customer service representative completes your report, your local police can access your information immediately.

If the crime you wish to report cannot be taken over the phone, due to its serious nature, the operator can tell you where to make the report or arrange for the police to see you.

Types of crime you can report to the Police Assistance Line are:

- break and enter
- failure to pay for fuel
- motor vehicle/vessel theft
- stealing
- malicious damage, including graffiti
- minor traffic crashes
- lost property
- fare evasion.

By phoning Police Assistance Line, rather than your local police station, you are freeing up Police officers who could otherwise actively prevent and investigate crime in your community.

HELP KEEP OUR STREETS TIDY

SGCH strongly encourages all residents to report abandoned shopping trolleys. Not only does this make your street look cleaner, it also helps improve public safety and reduces the amount of dumped trolleys that end up in bushland and creeks spoiling our environment. Please report abandoned trolleys to Trolley Tracker (free call) 1800 641 497 or report online at www.trolleytracker.com.au.

You can choose to be entered into the monthly draw for a \$1,000 reward!



GIVE US FEEDBACK

At SGCH, our aim is to ensure that you receive excellent customer service and genuine care from us. We have a Customer Feedback Representative, Daniel Sinozic who can be contacted on 9001 4358 or 0431 192 002 if you have any feedback or concerns about our service delivery.