COMMUNITY LINK

BANKSTOWN CITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2015

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GIANT TREE LIGHTS UP BANKSTOWN
WE LIKE OUR FREE PARK LITTER READING CLUB
BANKSTOWN SUMMER FREE NEW LOCATION
BANKSTOWN'S SUMMER BUS TO BEACH
WWW.BANKSTOWN.NSW.GOV.AU

BIG DAY FREE BBQ NEW LOCATION (DETAILS PAGE 2)
NEW LOCATION FOR AUSTRALIA DAY CELEBRATIONS

We have a great new location for Bankstown’s Australia Day celebrations - Paul Keating Park.

The day kicks off at 10am with free rides, entertainment, petting zoo, and face painting, right through to 3pm.

There will also be a free BBQ from midday to 3pm. So come and be part of the Australia Day spirit at Paul Keating Park.

When: Tuesday 26 January
Where: Paul Keating Park, Bankstown

CALLING AUSTRALIA HOME

More than 1,300 local residents have been welcomed to the Bankstown community at Council’s monthly Citizenship Ceremonies over the past 12 months.

Ceremonies are conducted by the Mayor under authority from the Department of Immigration and Citizenship, and are held at the Bankstown Library and Knowledge Centre.

New citizens, like Miss Chunhua Dong (left) and Doctor Munira Elyas Kudrati (right) come from across the globe including China, Egypt, India, Lebanon, and Vietnam.

If you are a local resident wanting to become an Australian citizen, apply online at www.citizenship.com.au or call 131 880.

GIANT TREE LIGHTS UP BANKSTOWN

Santa, Rudolph and a host of performers recently helped switch on the lights to the largest Christmas tree in Western Sydney, in the forecourt of the Bankstown Library and Knowledge Centre.

The 10 metre high tree will be lighting up the city from 8pm every night until 8 January.
LUNAR NEW YEAR

Bankstown City Plaza (Saigon Place) will be bursting with colour and excitement when it is transformed for Lunar New Year festivities on Saturday 30 January.

Visitors are in for a spectacular evening, with a selection of food and dragon dancers to welcome in the Year of the Monkey. Children’s activities include lantern making, umbrella painting and a petting zoo, while the young at heart can enjoy calligraphy and fruit carving demonstrations.

When: Saturday 30 January
Time: 4-9pm
Where: Saigon Place, Bankstown City Plaza

DONATIONS TAKE FLIGHT

Non-for-profit charity, Little Wings, is able to add another 75 flights to its schedule after Bankstown residents and businesses raised more than $115,000 at the annual Mayoral Charity Dinner.

More than 400 guests attended the dinner held at Bankstown Sports Club, to support Little Wings, which provides free flights to children with life threatening illnesses living in rural and regional NSW to and from specialised treatment.

Council would like to thank the Bankstown Sports Club, which has been a major supporter of the charity dinner since 2007; Hyundai Help For Kids, for providing the car auctioned on the night; and the Bankstown community for its generosity.

Former Mayor, Linda Downey, with hosts Michael ‘Wippa’ Wipfl and Matt de Groot.

BANKSTOWN CITY BOUTIQUE MARKETS

A new boutique market will be held in Paul Keating Park on Saturday 12 December, featuring a range of high quality handmade and locally sourced goods. It will then be staged on every second Saturday of each month from February to May.

When: 12 December
13 February
12 March
9 April
14 May
Time: 10am–4pm
Where: Paul Keating Park, Bankstown

Charity Dinner Car Winners Arthur and Konstantina Georgoulas from Sweet Fantasy Cakes in Bankstown with former Mayor Linda Downey.
COUNCIL PROJECTS

LIBRARY CONTINUES TO RACK UP AWARDS

The Bankstown Library and Knowledge Centre has won a national award for internal architecture at the Australian Institute of Architect’s National Architecture Awards.

This success follows its recent win at the NSW Green Globe Awards, in the Built Environment Sustainability - Infrastructure category.

NEW PLAYGROUNDS

It’s a case of out with the old and in with the new at Lake Gillawarna and a number of other local playgrounds.

A basket swing, rock climbing unit and junior cycle track are just a few of the new features installed at Neptune Park in Revesby Heights for young residents to enjoy.

Plans for an all-abilities playspace at Bankstown City Gardens are also moving forward after Council signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Touched by Olivia Foundation. Works will start in the next 12 months, beginning with the construction of accessible toilet facilities.

In the past year, Council has invested around $800,000 on maintaining and building new playgrounds.

CHESTER HILL UPGRADES

Work is underway on a $2.7 million upgrade of Chester Hill Town Centre, expected to be completed early 2016. The work is aimed at improving pedestrian safety and providing easier access for shoppers.

This project follows the recent completion of similar work at Mount Lewis ($260,000 improvements) and Fetherstone Street in Bankstown’s CBD ($1.6 million improvements).

Council has invested more than $19 million over the past 12 years in its Town Centre Improvement Program.
BRIGHTENING UP CITY WALLS

Arlewis Street in Chester Hill has been given a new lease on life thanks to the creativity of some Chester Hill High School students and Wollongong artist, Trina Collins.

The impressive artwork was commissioned by Council as part of its Town Centre Improvement Program, with another two murals scheduled in the upcoming month at Nugent Park in Chester Hill and Hector Street in Sefton.

CRACKING DOWN ON ILLEGAL DUMPING

Bankstown is now leading the new Sydney Regional Illegal Dumping (RID) Squad, coordinating investigations and crackdowns in Bankstown, Ashfield, Auburn, Botany Bay, Canada Bay, Canterbury, Hurstville, Kogarah, Marrickville, Strathfield, Sutherland, Randwick, Rockdale and Waverley Councils.

If you see anyone doing the wrong thing and illegally dumping materials, ring Police or Council on 9707 9999.

STACEY STREET IMPROVEMENTS

Council’s calls for improvements to Stacey Street and Fairford Road have finally been heard by the NSW Government in its Sydenham to Bankstown Urban Renewal Corridor Strategy proposal.

Last month, the strategy was on public exhibition for community and Council feedback. This feedback is now being used to develop final plans for revitalisation around stations on the Sydenham to Bankstown rail line.

To view copies of the exhibition materials, go to www.planning.nsw.gov.au/sydenhamtobankstown

UPCOMING PROJECTS

- Chester Hill Town Centre Improvement Program
  Start: September 2015
  Finish: April 2016
  Investment: $2.6 million

- Chapel Road upgrade
  Start: December 2015
  Finish: February 2016
  Investment: $900,000

- Jim Ring Reserve cycle path (Stage 2)
  Start: November 2015
  Finish: December 2015
  Investment: $350,000

- Rickard Road footpath and road upgrade (includes Jacob Street traffic signal adjustment)
  Start: January 2016
  Finish: March 2016
  Investment: $623,000

- Gibson Street Padstow Town Centre upgrade (Tier 2 project)
  Start: March 2016
  Finish: May 2016
  Investment: $200,000
SHUFFLEBOARD

Senior residents looking for a fun way to meet people, might like to check out the new shuffleboard installed at Greenacre Citizens’ Centre. Shuffleboard is an easy game to learn and requires players to slide weighted pucks across a table and into a scoring zone. Players then take turns trying to score points and knocking each other’s pucks out of position.

The shuffleboard is an initiative between Bulldogs’ legend, Steve Mortimer, and Council.

LOCAL SAFETY FORUM – CITY’S WEST

Over the past year, Council has joined forces with police to hold local safety forums across the city. The forums provide a chance for residents to discuss current crime trends and safety issues. Feedback from the forums will be used to help Council and police develop programs to continue keeping our community safe.

The next forum will be held in the city’s west for residents living in Bass Hill, Condell Park, Georges Hall, Lansdowne, Milperra and areas north west of East Hills, Panania and Revesby railway lines. It will take place at the Milperra Community Hall on Monday 7 December from 6-8.30pm.

To register your interest in attending, call 9707 9794 before Friday 4 December. For more information, visit www.bankstown.nsw.gov.au/localssafetyforums

DID YOU KNOW?

93 local projects were selected to receive a share of $389,000 in Council’s Community Grants Program.

Health and wellness, violence prevention and social inclusion within Bankstown is the focus of a new partnership between Council and the Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs Rugby League Club.

Under the partnership, there will be a range of projects to strengthen community support including White Ribbon Day, Youth Week, Youth Mental Health and Harmony Day.

To show your support for these initiatives, the Bulldogs invite you to sign up as a member and become a part of all their NRL action in 2016.

Becoming a member is more than just a ticket to the game. You can get exclusive access to the players at events, a quality supporter pack, discounts when purchasing State of Origin and finals tickets, and much more.

To see everything on offer, go to www.bulldogs.com.au or call 1300 769 164 and support the club that represents you.
LEISURE & GOLF

SUMMER SWIM SCHOOL

Give yourself peace of mind knowing your children are safe in the water this Summer, by signing them up for swimming classes.

Council’s Learn to Swim programs are affordable and cater for all ages and abilities from 6 months to adults. Our programs are registered with Austswim and Swim Australia.

More than 12,000 local youngsters have enrolled in the program in the past year.

LEISURE & GOLF

Play unlimited golf this summer!

Sefton Golf Course offers unlimited play from 3pm, over the summer months, for just $12.50 per person. Afternoon golf is an excellent way to relax after work, get in some crucial practice for weekend competition or get an edge over your golf buddies. Give it a try, save money and start improving your game immediately!

Contact the Pro Shop on 9743 9436 for all bookings and enquiries.

HEART FOUNDATION WALKING GROUPS

Council, in partnership with the Heart Foundation, offers fun, friendly and cost-free walking groups that meet in Georges Hall, Revesby and Greenacre.

- Greenacre Over 50’s meet every Tuesday at 8am in the car park on Wilbur Street, Greenacre.
- Mirambeena Regional Park Walking Group meets every Monday and Friday at 7.30am in Summer and 9am in Winter at Garrison Point, Georges Hall.
- Revesby Walking Group meets every Monday at 7.45am at Lambeth Reserve (1st and 3rd Monday of the month), or outside the Bankstown YMCA, 184 The River Road, Revesby (2nd and 4th Monday of the month).

SENIOR CITIZENS CLUBS

Bankstown’s Senior Citizens Clubs offer a range of activities for seniors including crafts, cooking, gentle exercise, dancing, bingo and indoor bowls.

Get in touch with your local Seniors Clubs to find what’s on offer and when!

Georges Hall: 188 Birdwood Road, Georges Hall.
Nancy – 9724 5032

Greenacre: 202 Waterloo Road, Greenacre.
Stan – 9750 0401

Padstow: 17 Cahors Road, Padstow.
Roy – 9773 3131

Panania: 77 Anderson Avenue, Panania.
Win – 9771 2248

Yagoona: Ron Whitehead Place, Cooper Park, Yagoona.
Ron – 9649 1558
Have you joined the Active Bankstown Club yet? Membership is free and there’s something for everyone, no matter what age or fitness level.

Check out what Active Bankstown has in store for December, January and February. Register online today at www.bankstown.nsw.gov.au/activebankstown to become an Active Bankstown Club member.

FREE 'TEST DRIVE MARTIAL ARTS' 5 DAYS FREE + 5 WEEKS FREE
Club: Cyber X Martial Arts
Location: PCYC, Cnr Meredith St & French Ave
Age: 3+
When: Every Tuesday and Thursday 5.45–8.15pm
Contact: 8710 8616 or 0414 558 777 or discover@cyberxmartialarts.com.au

FREE INTRODUCTORY TAI CHI CLASS
Club: Tai Chi Fitness Australia
Location: Bankstown Trotting Club, 178-182 Eldridge Rd Bankstown
Age: 18+
When: Every Monday 10–11am, 11–Noon (beginners)
Contact: 9686 2282 or 0421 282 833 or info@tcfa.com.au
Website: www.tcfa.com.au

FREE INTRODUCTORY CLASS — SALSA 4 SENIORS
Club: Salsa 4 Seniors
Location: Bankstown Arts Centre
Age: 55+
When: Every Tuesday 10am–12pm
Contact: 0408 003 858 or salsa4seniors@gmail.com

FREE 'COME AND TRY NETBALL' SESSIONS
Club: Bankstown City Netball Association
Location: Deverall Park, 96 Yanderra Street, Condell Park
Age: 5–18 years
When: 6 February 2016
Contact: 0418 269 179

FREE 'COME AND TRY HIP HOP, JAZZ, LATIN AMERICAN DANCE' SESSIONS
Club: Crave Dance Studio
Location: Chester Hill Community Hall, 25 Chester Hill Rd
Age: 5–18 years
When: Wednesday evenings
Contact: 0432 200 995
Website: www.cravedancestudio.wix.com/cravedancestudio

POOL OPENING HOURS
Wran Leisure and Aquatic Centre
Hours: Monday–Friday 8am–7pm, Saturday 8am–5pm
Closed Sunday/Public holidays

Greenacre Leisure and Aquatic Centre
Hours: Monday–Friday 9am–7pm, Saturday and Sunday 9am–6pm
Public Holidays, Boxing Day and New Years Day 10am–5pm
Closed Christmas Day

Birrong Leisure and Aquatic Centre
Hours: Monday–Friday 5am–7pm, Saturday and Sunday 6am–5pm
Public Holidays 10am–6pm
Closed Good Friday, Anzac Day, Queens Birthday and Christmas Day

Max Parker Leisure and Aquatic Centre
Hours: Monday–Friday 5am–7pm, Saturday and Sunday 6am–5pm
Public Holidays 10am–6pm
Closed Good Friday, Anzac Day, Queens Birthday and Christmas Day

More information can also be found by visiting www.bankstown.nsw.gov.au/leisureandaquaticscentre
WHAT'S ON

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING
Who: Anyone
When: 27 November - 8 January
Where: Bankstown Library and Knowledge Centre forecourt

AUSTRALIA DAY CELEBRATIONS
Who: Anyone
When: 26 January
Where: Paul Keating Park, Bankstown
Cost: Free

LUNAR NEW YEAR
Who: Anyone
When: 30 January
Where: Bankstown City Plaza, Bankstown
Cost: Free
Time: 4–9pm

BANKSTOWN CITY BOUTIQUE MARKETS
Who: Anyone
When: 12 December and every second Saturday of the month from February–May
Where: Paul Keating Park, Bankstown
Time: 10am–4pm

SUMMER TWILIGHT GOLF
Who: Anyone
When: Throughout Summer
Where: Sefton Golf Course
Cost: $12.50

SUMMER READING CLUB
Who: Children aged up to 18 years
When: Now–10 January
Where: Across Bankstown libraries
Cost: Contact your nearest library

COMPUTER BASICS
Who: Adults who need help with technology
When: 10 February
Where: Bankstown Library and Knowledge Centre
Cost: $4
Time: 10am–Noon

LET’S TALK ENGLISH
Who: Adults whose second language is English
When: Every Wednesday, Thursday (Bankstown) and Friday (Chester Hill)
Where: Bankstown and Chester Hill Library and Knowledge Centres

BANKSTOWN CITY BOUTIQUE MARKETS
Who: Anyone
When: 12 December and every second Saturday of the month from February–May
Where: Paul Keating Park, Bankstown
Time: 10am–4pm

COMPUTER BASICS
Who: Adults who need help with technology
When: 10 February
Where: Bankstown Library and Knowledge Centre
Cost: $4
Time: 10am–Noon

LEISURE

BUS TO BEACH 2016
Who: Youth and their parents/guardians
When: 12, 14, 19 and 21 January
Where: See page 15
Cost: Free
Time: See page 15

SHADES OF BLUE ART EXHIBITION
What: An exhibition of art by current and former members of the NSW Police Force
Who: Anyone
When: 1–8 December

ACCESS ALL AREAS FILM FESTIVAL
What: Short film festival to celebrate International Day for People with Disability
Who: Anyone
When: 3 December
Time: 11am–1pm

ME, MYSELF AND I EXHIBITION
What: A collection of works from the Supported Studio Program
Who: Anyone
When: 14–18 December

DANCING UNDER THE STARS FESTIVAL
Who: Anyone
When: 25 February
Time: 6–8.30pm

NEW YAM (IWA JI) FESTIVAL: IGBO NIGERIAN CULTURAL CELEBRATION
Host: Bankstown Youth Development Service
What: Cultural event celebrated by Western Sydney’s Igbo community
When: Saturday 5 December
Where: Croatian Club, Punchbowl

CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL
Host: The Rotary Club of Padstow
What: A night of carols, rides and markets
When: Sunday 13 December
Where: Playford Park, Padstow

ISEEK CAMP: IGNITE
Host: Saint Charbel’s Youth Association
What: Annual Summer youth camp
When: Friday 15 January
Where: Wesley Vision Valley, Arcadia

MUSIC PERFORMERS FOR FUN
Host: Vietnamese Australian Welfare Association
What: Singers from three age groups perform for their families and friends
When: Saturday 23 January
Where: Bankstown Memorial Oval
SUSTAINABILITY

WE LIKE OUR PARK LITTER FREE

Help Council lead the battle against littering in Bankstown. Over Summer, Clean Park Educators will be visiting popular picnic areas along the Georges River, encouraging residents to do the right thing and keep our parks clean.

This is part of the successful We Like Our Park Litter Free program, which last year saw the amount of litter at our city’s parks reduced by 90%.

Local picnickers will also notice the addition of special charcoal bins at Garrison Point, Lake Gillawarna and East Hills Park. The new bins aim to make disposing of hot coals safer and easier.

MAP YOUR FOX SIGHTING

Have you seen a fox in your local area? Record your fox sighting on the new FoxScan website and help prevent the damage caused by foxes.

With your information, Bankstown and 13 other participating councils across Sydney can continue to protect threatened native species and make better decisions about fox control.

To map your sighting, go to www.foxscan.org.au or download the FoxScan App from the App Store or Google Play.

COMPOST YOUR CHRISTMAS

Don’t know what to do with the leftovers from your Christmas lunch? Why not recycle your food scraps into healthy, nutritious fertilisers for your garden. As a Christmas gift, Council is offering residents discounted compost bins and worm farms to help bring your garden back to life.

Join the hundreds of locals who have already taken up the special offer and order yours now at www.compostrevolution.com.au/bankstown
Delivery is free!

HELP OUR LOCAL WILDLIFE

Many native birds, mammals and insects are finding it hard to survive in Sydney’s urban environment. By providing the right food, water and shelter in your backyard or balcony, you can create a habitat stepping stone to help these animals out.

For easy ways to create your own habitat stepping stone, visit www.habitatsteppingstones.org.au

BEAT THE FUSSY EATING HABIT

Are you stuck finding ways to make meal times more enjoyable for your family? Then come and hear nutrition expert, Lynsey Bradley’s top tips for managing fussy eaters.

Parents are invited to attend Bankstown Library and Knowledge Centre on Wednesday 16 March from 9.45am-noon, when Lynsey will be providing advice on how to get your kids enjoying a healthy, balanced diet.

Get in quick, as bookings are essential and strictly limited to one participant per household. Call 9707 9999. Free giveaways included!
BUSINESS FRIENDLY BANKSTOWN

The Small Business Friendly Councils Program (SBFC) celebrated its first anniversary after being launched last year by the Office of the NSW Small Business Commissioner, in partnership with the NSW Business Chamber.

Bankstown is one of 70 councils which have joined the program aimed at working proactively with small businesses.

To find out how Council can help your business, call the BBAS on 9707 9227 or visit www.bankstownbusiness.com.au

EXPORT GROWTH CHINA

Ever wondered how to go about exporting to China? One of our BBAS partners, NSW Business Chamber, has established the Export Growth China initiative. The initiative aims to link Australian companies with counterparts in China, in order to establish new supply chains and export opportunities.

A new series of Export Growth China roadshows has also been proposed with China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT). Call 9707 9227 for details.

FOOD HANDLING COURSE

Are you a local food operator wanting to make your business even more successful? Then book in for one of Council’s free Safe Food Handling Workshops.

By completing this award-winning workshop, you can qualify for the prestigious Scores On Doors Program, where you can proudly display your business rating on your front window. Participants have found this has increased their number of customers.

So far this year, more than 260 people have completed the course. A significant number of participants also come from different ethnic backgrounds and have been able to take up the course in Vietnamese, Chinese or Arabic.

BUSINESSES GET CONNECTED

More than 2,000 business representatives visited the South West Sydney Business Expo, Get Connected, at the Bankstown Library and Knowledge Centre recently.

The Expo was an initiative of Council’s Bankstown Business Advisory Service (BBAS) and featured a series of management workshops, a leaders forum and 45 exhibitors, ranging from start-ups to established companies.

Thanks to event partners Arab Bank Australia, KPMG, QuickBooks Online, Allied Express and ezyCollect for their support.
Our ever-popular Summer Reading Club is now on for children aged up to 18 years at Bankstown City Council library and knowledge centres over the Summer school holidays.

Summer Reading Club is a great way to boost your child’s reading, vocabulary, and comprehension skills. The Club offers a range of fun and engaging activities that help your child learn and prepare them for the new school year ahead.

Books read for the Summer Reading Club count towards the Premier’s Reading Challenge if they’re borrowed from any of Council’s five library and knowledge centres

Summer Reading Club is on now and finishes 10 January.

Visit www.bankstown.nsw.gov.au/library or drop in to Bankstown, Chester Hill, Greenacre, Padstow or Panania Library and Knowledge Centre for more information and to sign up!

It’s never too late for adults of any age to improve their skills with technology and get the most out of using a personal computer.

So come and join our computer classes for adults at the Bankstown Library and Knowledge Centre (computer training room) on Wednesday 10 February 10am–noon. Bookings can be made on 9707 9711. Classes cost $4 per person.

- Face painting at Chester Hill Library and Knowledge Centre on Friday 15 January 2.30–4pm.
- Family games night at Padstow Library and Knowledge Centre on Friday 15 January 5.30–7pm.
- Games and face painting at Bankstown Library and Knowledge Centre on Wednesday 6 & 13 January 2.30–4pm.
- BAD Gamers at Greenacre Library and Knowledge Centre on Thursday 14 & 21 January from 2.30–4.30pm.
- Family crafts at Padstow Library and Knowledge Centre on Tuesday 19 January 10am–Noon.
- Movie morning at Bankstown Library and Knowledge Centre on Friday 29 January 10am–Noon.

To see more fun school holiday activities on offer, go to www.bankstown.nsw.gov.au/schoolholidays
LET’S TALK ENGLISH

Join us for our free Let’s Talk English sessions and improve your English skills in a fun and friendly environment.

This popular program returns on a weekly basis after the Summer holiday break at the following times and locations:

- Wednesday 10am at Bankstown Library and Knowledge Centre;
- Thursday 1pm at Bankstown Library and Knowledge Centre; and
- Friday 10am at Chester Hill Library and Knowledge Centre.

STORYTIME RETURNS

Storytime sessions and Baby Rhyme Time are being held for pre-schoolers and 6-24 month olds, at all Bankstown library and knowledge centres after Summer school holidays.

- Tuesday 6pm at Greenacre Library and Knowledge Centre.
- Wednesday 6.30pm at Chester Hill Library and Knowledge Centre.
- The first Thursday of the month at 6.30pm at Panania Library and Knowledge Centre.

Storytime sessions and Baby Rhyme Time provide a close experience for children, parents and their carers to socialise and improve early literacy skills before they attend school.

Evening preschool story time sessions are also offered.
NEW PATRONS

Internationally renowned actor, Bryan Brown, and Olympian, John Konrads, will soon be appointed Patrons of the Bankstown Arts Centre after accepting the honour.

Both former Bankstown residents will play a vital role in the Centre’s success, assisting it to achieve its vision as a centre of excellence, and promoting it as a place that nurtures and supports the arts.

Bankstown Arts Centre opened its doors in 2011 and now attracts more than 25,000 visitors every year.

DANCING UNDER THE STARS

Strap on your dance shoes for the Arts Centre’s annual Dancing Under the Stars Festival on Friday 26 February. The Festival will showcase dances from a range of cultural groups and give families the chance to join in and learn some new Salsa, Hip Hop and Greek Zorba steps.

To dance the night away, visit the Bankstown Art Centre’s courtyard from 6-8.30pm and don’t forget to pack a picnic!

ME, MYSELF AND I EXHIBITION

Me, Myself and I is a collection of paintings, collages and mixed media celebrating the creativity of artists from the Art Centre’s Supported Studio program.

The artists have worked with a variety of subject matter that is special to them, as well as used their own self-portraits to explore new ways of visualising themselves.

The exhibition is free to view at the Arts Centre from 14–18 December.

ARTIST OF THE MONTH: REEMA HAMDAN

Check out emerging photographer, Reema Hamdan’s fascinating works exhibiting at the Incubate Gallery throughout December. Reema is a photojournalist with an avid interest in social justice and equality, influenced from her time living in East Africa.

If you are a local artist interested in hiring space at Bankstown Arts Centre, call 9707 5400.
Fourteen young singers from Bankstown’s Talent Advancement Program (TAP) have left a lasting impression on American audiences after their whirlwind tour of the United States. The group performed in Colorado Springs, Las Vegas and Los Angeles, at venues including Colorado’s City Hall, Container Park and Disneyland.

The students also performed for Bankstown’s very own success story, Human Nature, at The Venetian in Las Vegas.

Congratulations to the six inspirational winners recognised at the 2015 Bankstown Youth Awards:

- **Justine Mai** for Academic Achievement;
- **Elaine Mach** for Community Involvement;
- **David Miller** for Creative and Performing Arts;
- **Nathan Teisina** for Inspiration;
- **Nour Salama** for Leadership; and
- **Nadine Johnston Araujo** for Sporting.

Winners were selected by the Bankstown Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) and received a cash prize of $200, thanks to the support of Bankstown City Credit Union.

Celebrate the 10-year success of the Midnight Basketball program by participating in the ultimate showdown! All previous players and volunteers are invited to reunite on the court for a day of games, fun, and of course, free food.

For more information including the date and venue, go to www.bankstown.nsw.gov.au/midnightbasketball or call 9707 9605.

Are you looking for an easy way to get to the beach this Summer? Then take advantage of Council’s free Bus to Beach service offered in January.

The service provides a convenient way for young local residents to make their way to Cronulla Beach for a day in the sun with their friends and family. Young people aged 12–24 can even sign up for a surfing class or two at the low cost of $10. Buses will run on 12, 14, 19 and 21 January. Make sure to get in quick as places are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

**Buses 1 and 2 will depart at:**
- 9am – The Roundabout Youth Centre, corner of Helen Street & Carlingford Road, Sefton
- 9.15am – Greenacre Area Community Centre, 171a Waterloo Road, Greenacre
- 9.30am – 69 The Mall, Bankstown (Paul Keating Park side, opposite Lincraft)

**Buses 3 and 4 will depart at:**
- 9am – Panania Railway Station, Panania on Weston Street side
- 9.15am – Revesby Railway Station, Revesby on Blamey Street side
- 9.30am – Padstow Railway Station, Padstow on Howard Road side

All buses leave Cronulla Beach at 3pm SHARP and return to the pick up points as above. To find out more or to register for the surfing program, call 9707 9605.
Contact your Council

For more information about Bankstown Council’s services, visit our Customer Service Centre on the Upper Ground Floor of Bankstown Civic Tower from 8.30am to 5.00pm, Monday to Friday.

You can phone Customer Service on 9707 9999 or visit our website at www.bankstown.nsw.gov.au

If you have any questions or comments about this magazine, please call Chantelle Dalla-Bona on 9707 9558.

Telephone Interpreter Service  131 450

Se ha bisogno di aiuto per comprendere questo documento, telefona al Comune al numero 9707 9999.

 unnecessarily thorough translation of the contact information provided.