GET A TASTE OF BANKSTOWN BITES

Foodies are invited to come and satisfy their food cravings when the Bankstown Bites Food Festival returns on Saturday 30 July.

This year’s event will tingle visitors’ tastebuds with food sampling in the Little Saigon Plaza tasting tent. The popular food tours are also back, giving people a chance to try dishes from a range of Bankstown restaurants.

Those looking for a spot to relax can pull up a deck chair at the Bankstown Arts Centre forecourt when it transforms into a barbecue lover’s haven with cooking demonstrations on easy ways to cook on the hot grill.

Celebrity chef and television personality Ben O’Donaghue will also be serving up his specialities, while an array of food stalls, non-stop entertainment and free activities at the Arts Centre will add to the fun.

When: Saturday 30 July
Time: 10am–4pm
Where: Olympic Parade, Bankstown
More info: www.bankstownbites.com.au

SOUTH-WEST SYDNEY JOBS & SKILLS EXPO

Get a step closer to landing your next job, training opportunity or career change by attending the South-West Sydney Jobs and Skills Expo on Wednesday 1 June.

The Expo is ideal for jobseekers of all ages and skill levels, including school leavers, young people looking for their first job, mature-aged unemployed and mothers returning to the workforce, and people seeking a new career path.

What’s on offer?

- A jobs board featuring hundreds of vacancies, apprenticeships and training courses across 10 different industries.
- Industry experts, career advisors and employers on hand to answer questions.
- On-the-spot help provided for resume writing, preparing for interviews and searching for a job.

Don’t miss out! Last year’s Expo helped connect 3,500 people directly to real employment opportunities.

When: Wednesday 1 June
Time: 9.30am–2.30pm
Where: Bankstown Library and Knowledge Centre

NAIDOC WEEK

Bankstown Arts Centre is set to host a Family Fun Day to celebrate the contribution of Bankstown’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community during NAIDOC Week. There’ll be a special smoking ceremony, live performances, art demonstrations, and crocodile and reptile displays.

When: Saturday 2 July
Time: 11am–3pm
Where: Bankstown Arts Centre
Cost: FREE
SEFTON JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS
Young golfers are invited to test their skills and tee off at Sefton Golf Course when it stages the Sefton Junior Championships on Sunday 10 July.
The tournament is open to beginners and intermediate players aged 5–15 years who have participated in a minimum of six Sunday Kids’ Clinics (see page 7 for more details).
**When:** Sunday 10 July
**Time:** 9.30am — 5 hole Championship (beginners)
10.30am — 9 hole Championship (intermediate)
**Where:** Sefton Golf Course

NATIONAL TREE DAY
Join in the fun and be part of a community tree planting day to celebrate National Tree Day on Sunday 31 July.
You’ll be doing something positive for the Bankstown environment by helping to plant thousands of native trees. Volunteers will also be able to pick up gardening tips, enjoy a free barbecue from 11am and take a plant home for their own backyard.
**When:** Sunday 31 July
**Time:** 10am–1pm
**Where:** Band Hall Reserve, Birrong

TAKE THE CITIZENSHIP PLEDGE
More than 1,000 local residents have taken the special step to become Australian citizens over the past 12 months. They include Yagoona family, Mercy and Jeremy David and their sons Jim and Joe.
You too can take the Australian Citizenship Pledge at one of Council’s monthly Citizenship Ceremonies which are conducted by the Mayor in the Bankstown Library and Knowledge Centre.
**If you are a local resident wanting to become an Australian citizen, apply online now at www.border.gov.au**

LOCAL COUPLE RENEW VOWS FOR SENIORS WEEK
Congratulations to Punchbowl residents Denis and Margaret Meara who renewed their wedding vows during Council’s Seniors Week celebrations to mark 56 years of marriage. Both Denis and Margaret are active community members, having volunteered for Council’s Meals on Wheels program over the past 20 years.
COUNCIL PROJECTS

NEW CUSTOMER REQUEST SYSTEM

Council now has a customer request system which provides residents with updates on the progress of their request, including confirmation when it is completed.

Since the new system was introduced last November, more than 1,600 residents have received feedback on their request.

The new system was developed by Nicola Daaboul. The Coordinator for Asset Systems recently received recognition for this work at the 2016 Ministers’ Awards for Women in Local Government held at Parliament House.

PANANIA TOWN CENTRE IMPROVEMENTS

Plans to complete upgrades to Panania Town Centre have been given the green light with Anderson Avenue and Weston Street in line for improvements next year. The $800,000 investment is aimed at improving street appeal and access to Panania Railway Station, and follows on from town centre upgrades in 2013 that included

Have you noticed the rain gardens popping up across the city? Rain gardens are one of many important projects being delivered under Council’s Stormwater Levy Program, aimed at improving water quality and reducing stormwater runoff. You will find rain gardens installed at Fetherstone St in Bankstown; Chester Hill, Padstow and Panania town centres; Graf Park in Yagoona; and the recently restored Maluga Ponds in Birrong.

Since being introduced in 2007, the Stormwater Levy has also enabled Council to invest almost $20 million in major stormwater improvement projects:

- $8 million in drainage improvements across the city including along Marion Street;
- $7.16 million in waterway restoration and water improvement projects including at Maluga Passive Park, Lake Gillawarna, Sefton Golf Course and Jensen Park;
- $1.34 million to enhance stormwater harvesting efforts and reduce the need to use fresh drinking water; and
- $900,000 for maintenance of stormwater drainage systems.

PROTECTING LOCAL WATERWAYS

Over the past four years, Council has invested around $7 million in the Town Centre Improvement Program including recent work at Chester Hill ($2 million), Mount Lewis ($240,000) and Padstow ($260,000).
A BIG YEAR AHEAD!

Each year, Council prepares an Operational Plan and Budget that outlines what projects will be delivered over the next 12 months to make the city an even better place to live, work and play. Council continues to be committed to providing high quality and timely services to the community as it delivers a $160 million budget, including a $41 million Capital Works program.

Some of the areas where Council will be investing funds in 2016–2017 include:

- **$14.6 million** Road Upgrades
- **$1.7 million** Playgrounds
- **$1.6 million** Footpaths
- **$1.4 million** Community Facilities
- **$1.2 million** Town Centre Improvements
- **$1 million** Traffic Improvements
- **$780,000** Stormwater Improvements
- **$760,000** Sporting Fields & Lighting
- **$1.1 million** Waterways
- **$590,000** Bush Regeneration, Tree Plantings and Landscaping
- **$290,000** Bridges & Boardwalks
- **$150,000** Leisure & Aquatic


IN 2015/16:

- **700 illegal dumping** incidents have been investigated;
- **1,300 developments** have been approved in, on average, 36 days;
- Learn to Swim program enrolments **increased to 12,000** (up from 3,000 in 2011) – [www.leisure.bankstown.nsw.gov.au](http://www.leisure.bankstown.nsw.gov.au)
- Combined attendances at Council’s four leisure and aquatic centres **increased to 402,000** (up from 282,000 in 2011);
- **130,000 customer service calls** have been received and 80,000 customer requests responded to;
- Total visitation to Council’s five library and knowledge centres **rose to 861,000** (up from 806,000 in 2013/14);
- Total library membership **rose 15% to 71,720**;
- **35 hours of business support is provided** by the Bankstown Business Advisory Service (BBAS) each week – 9707 9227 or [www.bankstownbusiness.com.au](http://www.bankstownbusiness.com.au)
- Around **half a dozen major businesses** have either expanded or relocated their operations in Bankstown, creating hundreds of jobs. These include Inenco Group, A.H Beard and Dolci Doro;
- **45,000 tonnes** of rubbish (red bins), **16,000 tonnes** of recycling (yellow bins), **19,000 tonnes** of green waste (green bins) and **41,000 tonnes** of waste in scheduled household clean-ups, have been picked up; and
- **226 tonnes** or **12,836 bags** of Wheelie Good Compost and Wheelie Good Mulch has been given away to residents.

HELP SHAPE THE CITY OF THE FUTURE

During this period of Local Government reform, it is particularly important to ensure that the city’s strategic plans continue to be responsive to economic and financial pressures, and changing community needs.

To be involved in engagement activities and discussions, register your interest now at [www.haveyoursaybankstown.com.au](http://www.haveyoursaybankstown.com.au) or call 9707 9619.
COMMUNITY

RE-ALARM YOUR HOME AGAINST FIRE

Every year, there are more than 4,000 household fires and tragically, 43% of all fire fatalities take place in Winter.

Don’t risk your family or friends’ lives. Make the change to a new photoelectric smoke alarm this Winter. To find out more, go to www.fire.nsw.gov.au

RACISM STOPS IN BANKSTOWN

Dozens of visitors to Bankstown’s recent Harmony Day events joined Mayor Khal Asfour in taking up the fight against racism by supporting the Australian Human Rights Commission’s Racism. It Stops with Me campaign. By supporting the campaign, people pledge to speak out when they see racism happening and lead the way in creating harmony within the community.

BACKYARD POOL SAFETY

If you’re a pool owner, maintaining your pool requires more than just checking the water quality. You have a legal obligation to regularly check your pool fence height, barriers, gate latches and other safety standards are up to standard to protect young children from drowning.

As of 29 April 2016, the owners of properties with pools who are looking to sell require a Certificate of Compliance or Non-Compliance which is attached to the contract of sale. This ensures homebuyers are fully informed of what they need to do to make a pool safe.

Under the NSW Swimming Pool Act, residents with pools that are found to be non-compliant can be fined.

If you are local resident with pool safety concerns, contact Council on 9707 9999 or visit www.bankstown.nsw.gov.au/poolsafety to find out how to meet safety requirements.

NDIS AVAILABLE FROM JULY

From 1 July, the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) will be available in Bankstown.

What do the changes mean?

• Individualised support plans including links to local services and activities.
• Easier access to information and referrals.
• Greater inclusion and improved access to community services.
• Early intervention.
• Funded support.

To find out more, including whether you can apply to access the NDIS, visit www.ndis.gov.au or call 1800 800 110.

DID YOU KNOW?

Elderly residents can access aged care information and services by calling 1800 200 422.
LEISURE

LEARN TO SWIM

A record 3,400 local children are enrolled in the current term of Council’s Learn to Swim program.

The program is registered with Swim Australia and Austswim, and is run by qualified and experienced instructors. Lessons are held in heated indoor pools and start from $16.50, with family discounts available. Private lessons are also available on request.

To enrol, or find out more, go to www.leisure.bankstown.nsw.gov.au or call 9790 9296.

TAKE STEPS TO BETTER HEALTH

Enjoy low intensity exercise by joining one of Council’s Heart Foundation Walking Groups. Becoming part of a walking group is a great way to manage your health, improve fitness and meet other avid walkers.

Groups meet every week at the following locations:

• Revesby – YMCA, The River Road (8am Monday);
• Georges Hall – Garrison Point (9.30am Monday); and
• Greenacre – Wilbur Street carpark (8.10am Tuesday).

To find out more, go to www.bankstown.nsw.gov.au/walkinggroups or call Council’s Recreation Officer on 9709 9236.

GET ACTIVE WITH FITNESS CLASSES

Local residents looking to get active can come along and try the new fitness programs at Council’s Birrong and Max Parker Leisure and Aquatic Centres.

Program provider, FitBeing, caters for people of all fitness levels and offers a number of classes including:

• Group Fitness Sessions;
• Aqua Aerobics;
• Yoga; and
• Personal Training.

To view the timetable or find out more, visit www.bankstown.nsw.gov.au/fitnessclasses

KIDS GOLF CLINICS

Does your child have aspirations to become the next Karrie Webb or Jason Day? Then bring them along to Sefton Golf Course to take part in the Sefton School Holiday Clinics.

Held in July, the clinics are available for children aged 5–15 years and include golf tuition with an experienced instructor, green fees, lunch and club hire.

When: 4, 8, 11 and 15 July
Time: 9am–1pm
Cost: $40

To make a booking or find out more, call 9743 9436.
GET ACTIVE

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 June, July and August. Register online today at www.bankstown.nsw.gov.au/activebankstown to become an Active Bankstown Club member.

HEARTMOVES CLASS – ACTIVEMPOWERMENT

Who: People with stable long term health conditions looking for a gentle exercise program
When: Thursday 2, 9, 16 and 23 June
Time: 11.30am–12.30pm
Where: Revesby Community Hall, Macarthur Ave, Revesby
Registration: 0438 823 882 or Michael@activempowerment.com

FREE FALLS PREVENTION CLASS – STEPPING ON

Who: Older people who have fallen or are fearful of falling
When: Thursday 2, 9, 16 and 23 June
Time: 12.30–2.30pm
Where: Revesby Community Hall, Macarthur Ave, Revesby
Registration: 0438 823 882 or michael@activempowerment.com (referrals essential)

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, 11am–Noon (beginners)
Contact: 9686 2282 or 0421 282 833 or info@tcfa.com.au
Website: www.tcfa.com.au

FREE INTRODUCTORY SALSA CLASS

Club: Salsa 4 Seniors
Location: Bankstown Arts Centre
Age: 55+
When: Every Tuesday 10am–Noon (sign up for $10 per session to receive weekly morning tea)
Contact: 0408 003 858 or salsa4seniors@gmail.com

FREE ‘TEST DRIVE MARTIAL ARTS’ 5 DAYS FREE + 5 WEEKS FREE

Club: Cyber X Martial Arts
Location: PCYC, cnr Meredith St & French Ave, Bankstown
Age: 3+
When: Every Tuesday and Thursday 5.45–8.15pm
Contact: 8710 8616 or 0414 558 777 or discover@cyberxmartialarts.com.au

POOL OPENING HOURS

Birrong Leisure and Aquatics Centre
Monday–Friday 5am–7pm. Saturday and Sunday 6am–5pm, Public Holidays 10am–6pm (closed Good Friday, Anzac Day, Queens Birthday and Christmas Day).

Wran Leisure and Aquatics Centre
Monday–Friday 8am–7pm. Saturday 8am–5pm, closed Sunday/Public Holidays.

Max Parker Leisure and Aquatics Centre
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

Birrong 9644 8300
Max Parker 9771 2148
Wran 9726 2283
SOUTH-WEST SYDNEY JOBS AND SKILLS EXPO
Who: Jobseekers
When: Wednesday 1 June
Where: Bankstown Library and Knowledge Centre
Time: 9.30am–2.30pm
Cost: Free
More info: www.bankstownbusiness.com.au

NAIDOC WEEK
Who: Anyone
When: Saturday 2 July
Where: Bankstown Arts Centre
Time: 11am–3pm
Cost: Free

BANKSTOWN BITES
Who: Anyone
When: Saturday 30 July
Time: 10am-4pm (Olympic Parade, Bankstown) & 4-8pm (Little Saigon Plaza)
Cost: Free
More info: www.bankstownbites.com.au

NATIONAL TREE DAY
Who: Anyone
When: Sunday 31 July
Where: Band Hall Reserve, Birrong
Time: 10am–1pm
Cost: Free
Contact: 9707 9999 or www.treeday.planetark.org

SEFTON JUNIOR GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP
Who: Children 5–15 years
When: Sunday 10 July
Where: Sefton Golf Course
Time: From 9.30am (beginners) and 10.30am (intermediate)
Contact: 9743 9436

SCHOOL HOLIDAY GOLF CLINICS
Who: Children 5–15 years
When: 4, 8, 11 and 15 July
Where: Sefton Golf Course
Time: 9am–1pm
Cost: $40 per child including tuition, green fees and lunch
Contact: 9743 9436

DISCOVER THE WORLD OF LIBRARY eRESOURCES
Who: Anyone
When: Wednesday 8 June
Where: Bankstown Library and Knowledge Centre
Time: 5.30–7.30pm
Cost: Free
Contact: 9707 9711

TECH SAVVY SENIORS
Who: Seniors looking to learn more about computers
When: 14 and 28 June
Where: Bankstown Library and Knowledge Centre
Time: 9.30–11.30am
Cost: $4
Contact: 9707 9708

MINECRAFT JAM
Who: Children 8–14 years
When: Tuesday 5 July
Where: Greenacre Library and Knowledge Centre
Time: 2.30–4pm
Cost: Free
Contact: 9707 9744

CHILDREN’S BOOK WEEK
Who: School students
When: 20–26 August
Where: Bankstown, Chester Hill, Greenacre, Padstow and Panania Library and Knowledge Centres
Contact: 9707 9708

BLaKC CAFÉ LOUNGE HIGH TEA
Who: Anyone
When: 3 and 17 June, 1 and 15 July, 5 and 19 August
Where: BLaKC Café, Bankstown Library and Knowledge Centre
Time: 2–4pm
Cost: $18 per person
Contact: 8764 8137

MENTAL HEALTH YOUTH SUMMIT
When: Tuesday 28 June
Where: Bankstown Library and Knowledge Centre
Time: 9.30am–2.30pm
Contact: 9707 9605

BANKSTOWN ARTS CENTRE OPEN DAY
Who: Anyone
When: Saturday 30 July
Cost: Free
Contact: 9707 5400

‘MAKING TRACKS’ EXHIBITION
Artist: Gary Smith
When: Throughout August
Where: Incubate Gallery

BANKSTOWN WORLD MUSIC CHOIR
Who: Anyone
When: Every Monday during the school term
Cost: $20 annual joining fee
Contact: 9707 5400
Sign up to the Compost Revolution to receive a discounted compost bin or worm farm, and reduce what you send to landfill tips by half.

More than 200 residents have already taken up the special offer to recycle their scraps and bring their garden back to life. Sign up now at www.compostrevolution.com.au/bankstown

**RIVER HEALTH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

A significant clean-up effort is underway in the Georges River catchment with around 70 tonnes of rubbish, including nine tonnes from Bankstown, having been collected since July 2015.

The improvements to the river have helped strengthen biodiversity in the catchment area and are thanks to Riverkeeper teams run by the Georges River Combined Councils’ Committee, which Bankstown City Council is a member of. Over the past 12 months, the teams have also:

- Restored more than 169,000m2 of bushland; and
- Planted more than 42,000 plants.

**GOT SOMETHING TO GET RID OF?**

Clean out your cluttered garage and drop off unwanted household items at Council’s electronic waste recycling facility during August. Recyclable items include TVs, computers, phones and small electrical appliances.

The drop-off site is located at SUEZ Resource Recovery Park, Muir Road, Chullora. For a full list of acceptable items, visit www.bankstown.nsw.gov.au/ewaste

You can also hand in your hazardous waste materials like old paints, oils, gas bottles and car batteries at Council’s Chemical CleanOut collection days. Find out more at www.cleanout.com.au

**GET RID OF JUNK THE RIGHT WAY**

Did you know that placing unwanted items outside your property or on the street is illegal? If you are caught doing the wrong thing and illegally dumping, you could face fines of up to $4,000.

The right thing to do is call Council and schedule a Clean Up collection. Residents can book one or two collections per year by calling Council on 9707 9999. Alternatively, you can take your unwanted items to recycling facilities like those mentioned above.

If you see someone doing the wrong thing, call 131 555 and report it.

**RESTORING THE GEORGES RIVER**

Are you interested in the health of the Georges River? Help examine the river by joining the Community River Health Monitoring Program and coming along to the next River Health sampling session. All equipment and training is provided and skilled experts will guide you along the way. It only takes about three hours and it’s a great way to care for the local environment.

To sign up or find out more, email info@georgesriver.org.au

**SUSTAINABILITY**

**DID YOU KNOW?**

38 tonnes of e-waste was recycled during just one collection in 2015.
BUSINESS EVENTS

South-West Sydney Jobs & Skills Expo
Wednesday 1 June (9.30am–2.30pm)

Statement of Attainment in Food Safety Supervision
Tuesday 7 and 14 June (3.30–6.30pm)
Bookings: 9707 9227

Start a Business Workshop
Tuesday 21 June (9.45am–3.45pm)
Bookings essential: 9545 5900

BBAS Networking Breakfast
Wednesday 29 June (7.30am–9am)
Bookings essential: 9707 9227

Food Handling Training
Tuesday 12 July (4.30–7pm)
Bookings: 9707 9227

Tendering Workshops
Wednesday 13 July (4–6pm)
Bookings: 9707 9227

Resume Writing and Interview Skills
Thursday 14 July (10am–4pm)
Bookings: 9707 9227

For more information on courses and workshops, call Domenica Mirarchi on 9707 9227 or visit www.bankstownbusiness.com.au

FEE-FREE COURSES WITH TAFE SWSi

Want to try your hand at hospitality? Then don’t miss out on the chance to enrol in a fee-free Food Safety Supervision training course. This special offer is thanks to a partnership between Council’s BBAS and TAFE South Western Sydney Institute (TAFE SWSi).

The course gives participants the skills and knowledge to work as food handling personnel or food safety supervisors in hospitality and catering organisations.

Participants must attend six hours to complete the course and will receive a Statement of Attainment on completion. To register or find out more, call 9707 9227.

DID YOU KNOW?
More than 50 local businesses are signed up to Council’s Scores on Doors program.

BUSINESS EVENTS

Mona Hwalla Bakka with Karen Ballentyne (Program Manager, Small Biz Connect)

BANKSTOWN’S BIG WINNERS

Congratulations to the following Bankstown Business Advisory Service (BBAS) members:

• Mona Hwalla Bakka, owner of HARD BAKKA Pty Ltd in Condell Park, for winning the Small Biz Connect Migrant Achievement Award; and

• Deborah Watts, owner of Reflexation in Picnic Point, on being named a finalist in the Health Improvement Services category of the 2016 Australian Small Business Awards.

NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR LOCAL AWARDS

Give your business the recognition it deserves by entering the 2016 Bankstown Local Business Awards. The awards are well known for bringing outstanding businesses to the attention of the local community and creating further opportunities for those who enter.

Council will be directly supporting three self-nominating categories:

• Innovation;

• Home-based Business; and

• Social Enterprise.

Entries close Wednesday 22 June, with winners announced at the Bankstown Local Business Awards presentation evening at Revesby Workers’ Club, on Wednesday 10 August.

For a copy of the Self Nomination Categories Entry Form, visit www.bankstown.nsw.gov.au/businessawards or call 9707 9227.
Settle into a comfy spot with your baby and enjoy a combination of songs, nursery rhymes, stories and puppets.

Baby Rhymetime is designed for babies aged 6–24 months and is a fun way for parents to start developing their child’s early language and literacy skills.

Places are strictly limited, so get in quick to book your spot (phone numbers below).

**Bankstown Library and Knowledge Centre**
Tuesday and Friday at 9.30am or 10.30am

**Chester Hill Library and Knowledge Centre**
Thursday at 10am

**Greenacre Library and Knowledge Centre**
Tuesday at 10am

**Padstow Library and Knowledge Centre**
Friday at 9.30am

**Panania Library and Knowledge Centre**
Wednesday and Friday at 9.30am

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**WEAVE INTO KNITTING CLUB**

Bring your wool and needles to one of Council’s Social Knitting Groups to learn new knitting techniques and meet people with a common interest. Groups are suitable for people of all backgrounds, ages and abilities, especially beginners looking to develop their skills.

For class times, visit www.bankstown.nsw.gov.au/library

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**PRE-SCHOOL STORYTIME**

Nurture a love of reading with your child by bringing them along to Pre-school Storytime at any of Council’s five library and knowledge centres.

Pre-school Storytime is a one-hour session that aims to prepare children aged 2–5 years for school and involves stories, games, songs, dancing and craft activities. Session numbers are limited so book in early to secure your spot (phone numbers below).

**Bankstown Library and Knowledge Centre**
Thursday at 11am

**Chester Hill Library and Knowledge Centre**
Tuesday at 11am

**Greenacre Library and Knowledge Centre**
Wednesday at 11am and Thursday at 6pm

**Padstow Library and Knowledge Centre**
Tuesday and Thursday at 11am

**Panania Library and Knowledge Centre**
Tuesday at 11am and the first Thursday of the month at 6.30pm
**MEMBERSHIP CONTINUES TO RISE**

Interest in Council’s five library and knowledge centres is continuing to grow with membership jumping an impressive 5.6% over the past 12 months. Here’s a snapshot of how things are tracking.

- **71,720 members**, including **10,200 new members** since March 2015.
- **788,400** visitations.
- **29,440** activity participants.
- **47% increase** in the use of eRources.
- **4,411 eAudio** titles downloaded, an increase of **100%** on the past 12 months.
- **10,790 eBooks** downloaded, an increase of **65%** on the past 12 months.
- **2,940 eMags** downloaded.
- **12,680 eMusic** titles downloaded.
- **820 eMovies** downloaded.

**BOARD THE LIBRARY BUS**

Senior residents who have limited mobility or difficulty accessing public transport are invited to join the Bus to Library service for a free trip to their closest library and knowledge centre.

The bus runs every month and collects you right from your door, then returns you home. The service is an easy way to visit the library for new reading material and catch up with old friends.

**Bookings are essential and can be made by calling 9707 9733.**

**TECHNOLGY CLASSES RETURN**

Do you need help using your computer, tablet or smartphone? Sign up to the Tech Wise Buddies or Tech Savvy Seniors program to learn more about computers, email, how to download and navigate the internet.

To find out more or make a booking, call 9707 9708. Tech Savvy Seniors classes cost $4 per person.

**CHILDREN’S BOOK WEEK**

Council’s library and knowledge centres will showcase a selection of the best Australian early childhood and picture books during Children’s Book Week. This year’s theme is ‘Australia: Story Country’ and will be a celebration of Australian authors and illustrators.

A special series of author talks, storytime sessions and a variety of competitions and events will be held between 20–26 August.

**To find out more, visit www.bankstown.nsw.gov.au/library**

**TEA TIME AT BLaKC CAFÉ**

Take time out and treat yourself to a fluffy scone or finger sandwich at BLaKC Cafe’s High Tea. Settle in with a friend or immerse yourself in a good book while enjoying a traditional high tea without all the formality.

High Tea is held between 2–4pm on the first and third Friday of every month, with a special offer available to all Community Link readers – simply quote ‘EARL GREY’ when you make your booking to receive 10% off. Bookings close at noon the day before, and can be made by calling 8764 8137.

**Dates**

3 and 17 June
1 and 15 July
5 and 19 August

**DID YOU KNOW?**

You can receive email or SMS reminders for due books and reserves to collect. Simply update your membership record to get notifications.
ARTS CENTRE OPEN DAY

Come and explore the Bankstown Arts Centre when it opens its doors to the public as part of the Bankstown Bites Food Festival on Saturday 30 July. There’s a huge range of free and fun activities for the whole family, including music, performances, arts and craft.

ABORIGINAL DANCE RESIDENCY

Leading Aboriginal dancer and Artistic Director of the Jannawi Dance Clan, Peta Strachan, will be choreographing a new combination of traditional and contemporary dances during a three-week residency at the Arts Centre in June.

Together with dancers Katie Leslie and Gapala Yunupingu, Peta will focus on the theme ‘Song lines’ to develop a routine that shines a light on Aboriginal youth. Come along to the Arts Centre when these talented artists bring their work to the stage on Friday 8 July.

If you are working in the arts and want to find out more about accessing rehearsal space or building your professional practice, call Bankstown Arts Centre on 9707 5400.

DANCING UNDER THE STARS

Council held its biggest celebration of cultural dance, with more than 10 community groups taking centre stage at Bankstown Art Centre’s Dancing Under the Stars Festival. Unlike other dance festivals, families were invited to strap on their dancing shoes and join in the performances.

ENJOY SINGING?

Share your voice and exchange music and songs from your culture by joining the Bankstown World Music Choir. The choir welcomes singers of all ages and doesn’t come with the pressure of auditions or the need to read music.

The choir meets at Bankstown Arts Centre every Monday from 6.30–8pm (until 25 July).

To sign up, go to www.worldmusicchoir.eventbrite.com.au or call 9707 5400. Annual joining fee is $20.

TRAVEL THROUGH TIME WITH GARY SMITH

Take in the nostalgia of the East Hills and Bankstown rail lines with a walk through the Incubate Gallery in August. Featured artist of the month, Gary Smith, captures sunsets, scenery and suburban change all through a train window.

ARTS CENTRE OPEN DAY

Come and explore the Bankstown Arts Centre when it opens its doors to the public as part of the Bankstown Bites Food Festival on Saturday 30 July. There’s a huge range of free and fun activities for the whole family, including music, performances, arts and craft.
Some local high school students will come together to discuss ways to combat mental health in a special summit held on Tuesday 28 June at the Bankstown Library and Knowledge Centre.

The Mental Health Youth Summit is being held by Headspace Bankstown’s Youth Reference Group and Council’s Youth Advisory Committee. It will include motivational speakers, workshops and activities that promote positive mental health.

Students will look at ways their peers can access support to help stay on track at school, study or work, and in personal and family relationships.

Through good mental health, young people can reach their potential at school or work, cope with day-to-day life stresses, and be involved in community activities.

Headspace Bankstown - 9393 9669

YOUTH WEEK CELEBRATIONS A WINNER!

Hundreds of the city’s young people brought a splash of colour to Paul Keating Park during Bankstown’s Youth Week celebrations in April. More than 200 local youth volunteered for the week’s activities, which featured bubble soccer, an adventure challenge around Bankstown and the Youth in Colour festival.

WANT YOUR VOICE HEARD?

Bankstown’s Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) is an energetic group of young people, dedicated to bringing about change in the community, planning youth events and voicing their ideas to assist Council’s decision-making process. If you’re a young person from Bankstown looking to share your voice, then join or get in touch with the committee by calling 9707 9605 or visiting www.facebook.com/bankstownyac

NOMINATE AN OUTSTANDING YOUNG PERSON

Nominations to find the city’s most outstanding young people will open in August.

Council’s annual Bankstown Youth Awards recognise the positive contributions young people make in our local community.

This year’s worthy recipients will be found in six categories – sporting, academic achievement, community involvement, inspiration, leadership and arts/culture.

Four finalists from each category will be selected and receive $50 each. The winners of each category will receive a cash prize of $200, to be announced at an awards ceremony in October.

People can submit registrations online at www.bankstown.nsw.gov.au/youth
HOW TO CONTACT YOUR LOCAL COUNCILLORS

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P 9707 9623

NAJI NAJJAR (Lib)
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Deputy Mayor
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If you need help understanding this document please contact Council on 9707 9999.

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

If you need help understanding this document please contact Council on 9707 9999.

Nếu quý vị cần người giải thích tài liệu này, xin điện thoại đến Hội đồng Thành phố qua số 9707 9999.

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

如果你需要幫助理解這份文件，請聯絡市政府。電話：9707 9999

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