

WNEWS

Wentworth Community Housing
Tenant Newsletter

Issue 26 September 2015



Message from the Chief Executive Officer

In previous editions I mentioned my departure from Wentworth after 17 years, I leave confident that Wentworth has strong foundations in place to continue to support tenancies, homelessness, partnerships and undertake new affordable housing developments. It goes without saying that these foundations have been built by staff, tenants and communities alike.

The Board, staff and I would like to welcome Wentworth's new CEO, Stephen McIntyre who joins Wentworth on the 7th October 2015. Stephen brings solid experience to the Social Housing Sector,

including his commitment to social inclusion, driving reform and strong planning attributes across a varied canvass of work.

I wish you all the best for the future and leave knowing Wentworth will continue to provide excellent customer service to our tenants.

I hope you enjoy my final edition of WNews!



Nick Sabel | Chief Executive Officer

Tenant Engagement and Advisory Members (T.E.A.M)

Over the past few months the T.E.A.M has continued the travelling "Just because" morning teas across the areas. Winter saw us visit the Windsor and Cranebrook areas and provided the opportunity for us to engage with a number of tenants. With the latter part of the year escaping us, we are busy planning, so please look out for invitations and updates in the next newsletter and we hope to see you at a venue close to you.

The T.E.A.M meet monthly and are an active dedicated team of volunteers wanting to make a difference in

their community and for individuals. The T.E.A.M currently has seven (7) members and are eager to expand and are encouraging other tenants participate.

WNEWS is based on topics of interest raised by the TEAM. If you are interested in participating, please contact Lisa on (02) 4777 8000 or email admin@wentworth.org.au attention Lisa.

Wanted Tenants with art / photography experience

Wentworth is looking for residents with art experience who would like to be involved in a community project.

We are looking for someone who is passionate about:

- › creating art with found objects
- › upcycling old things and furniture
- › experience in photography/ video

Must be willing to travel to Cranebrook/ Penrith area.

If you are interested in being involved in a community project that is creative and works with other residents please contact Lisa on **0438 796 378** or email lisa@wentworth.org.au

Blacktown/ Riverstone

Koori Cuppa and BBQ
2nd and 4th Monday of every month
10.30am – 1.00pm

Riverstone Neighbourhood Centre
Sam Lane Complex – Park Street,
Riverstone

**Riverstone After School
'Homework Help'**
Every Thursday during school term
3.00pm – 5.00pm

Riverstone Youth Centre
Sam Lane Complex – Park Street,
Riverstone
Contact Youth Worker on 9627 3622

**Riverstone School Holiday program
and activities**
September School Holidays

Riverstone Youth Centre
Sam Lane Complex- Park Street,
Riverstone
Contact Youth Worker on 9627 3622

Penrith

Cranebrook Youth Hub
Young People aged 11-24 years of age
Every afternoon Monday to Thursday
Drop In: will run every afternoon
Monday to Thursday from 3pm
to 5pm

3 Kington Place, Cranebrook, (next door
to Koolyangarra Aboriginal Child &
Family Centre, off Pendock Rd).

02 4729 3907 for more information
and ask to speak to someone in the
Youth Team

**Nepean Community Neighbourhood
Services – School Holiday Program**
September School Holidays

Koolyangarra Aboriginal Family Centre.
Contact Nerida on 0417 498 918

Penrith Homelessness Hub
Wednesday 18th November
9.00am-11.00am

Joan Sutherland Centre
Penrith



Hawkesbury

Hawkesbury Homelessness Hub
Thursday 3rd of December
9:00am – 12:30pm

St Matthews Church Hall
Moses Street, Windsor

Do you enjoy the outdoors? A great job opportunity is awaiting you!!

Trim & Proper Property Services (contractors for Wentworth) are looking for Wentworth tenants and/or their household members who are seeking work. Trim & Proper maintain Wentworth common area properties located in the Penrith, Hawkesbury, Blacktown and Blue Mountains areas which includes lawn mowing, cleaning and maintenance.

No experience necessary – all training will be provided however you must be fit, reliable and enjoy working outdoors.

You will get the chance to learn and grow, perform a variety of tasks and be a part of a great team.

We're looking for people ready to start work and training right now! The work will be Monday to Friday, 38 hours per week between the hours of 6:30am – 3:00pm.

If you are looking for a challenging and rewarding role please contact Paul on (02) 8738 0100 or pslack@scorecruitment.com.au



Maintenance Queries

Remember for all
Maintenance Queries
please ring
02 4777 8000
(select option 1).



RENT STATEMENTS

Your rent statement included with this newsletter was printed as 25th September 2015. If you have made payments after this date they will appear on your next rent statement.



Red Cow Supports Wentworth Community Housing

On Friday 12 June, Mr Vince Falcone, Licensee of the Red Cow presented CEO, Nick Sabel with a cheque for \$50,000 to support Wentworth's work to end homelessness in our community.

The Red Cow is an active local business leader in the Penrith community and is proud to support local community initiatives and solutions to local problems.

This generous donation will make a real difference. We will be able to provide:

- › Emergency relief for people who come to us with nothing
- › Increase staff hours so that we can respond to more people who seek help
- › Arrange temporary accommodation for people who have nowhere and are in unsafe conditions

We're looking forward to staying in touch with the Red Cow team about how these funds are being put to work and the difference it is making in peoples lives. Thank you to the Red Cow.



Wentworth wants to make sure you are bushfire ready

Are you and your home prepared for an emergency? The Bushfire season is upon us and if you don't have a bushfire survival plan in place, now is the time to work one out.

The NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) has many online resources to help you develop your Bushfire Survival Plan at www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/resources.

The best way to survive a bushfire is to prepare yourself and your home, and to get out early.

Things to do around your house and garden:

- › Keep lawns short and gardens and shrubs well maintained
- › Keep your gutters clear of leaves and branches
- › Clean up fallen leaves, twigs and debris around your house
- › Check your home contents insurance is adequate and up to date

- › Prepare an emergency kit that you can quickly grab if you did need to evacuate – ensure important documents, medications, first aid kit and a torch are included

Get out early!

- › Plan where you will go, how you will get there and what you will take
- › Know the daily Fire Danger Rating in your area and what it means
- › Have transport organised for all members of the family, including pets
- › Actively seek information on the fire situation and weather conditions from the resources listed below
- › Have a back up plan in case you aren't able to leave early enough
- › Make sure everyone in your household is aware of the plan
- › Talk to family, friends and neighbours about your plan to leave early

If you are concerned about how you would evacuate in an emergency due to health or mobility issues, please contact your Client Service Officer now to let us know

Chance to win \$1,000

Paying Rent on time – 9 out of 10 tenants do this very well.

Wentworth is delighted that 9 out of 10 tenants pay rent on time, this enables Wentworth to plan well across its business and supports tenancies.

It's a little over 13 weeks till Christmas, so you need to ensure that you plan your rental payments to avoid staff contacting you about missed payments and escalating debts. While Christmas is a festive period having safe and affordable accommodation is very important to you and/or children, where visitors such as friends and family like to come.

Wentworth will be delivering its Tenant Incentive Program (TIP) during 2015/16, which provides the opportunity for all tenants to be selected for a chance to win \$1,000 in one of four Local Government Areas. This means four tenants will be selected to receive a cheque for a \$1,000 each, as a gift which will not be assessed in your subsidy.

To be eligible you must be compliant from Monday 19th October 2015 to January 25th 2016 in one of the three following categories:

- 1. In credit with your rent**
- 2. Pay your rent on time –with no arrears or**
- 3. Pay your rent and your arrears repayment plan as agreed**

There are a number of useful resources that can give up to date information about local hazards:

Rural Fire Service

Bushfire Information Line: 1800 679 739
www.rfs.gov.au

Fire and Rescue

www.frnsw.gov.au

Police Assistance Line

131 444
www.police.nsw.gov.au

State Emergency Service

132 500
www.ses.nsw.gov.au

Smartphone Apps:

Fires Near Me
Disaster Watch
Emergency +
Storm Safe
Australian Early Warning Network

Media and Radio

ABC local radio station: 702 AM in Sydney
www.abc.net.au/news/emergency/state/nsw

HEAD OFFICE

Penrith

Address: Borec House, Suite 1002, Level 1
29-57 Station Street, Penrith 2750
PO Box 4303, Penrith Westfield 2750

Phone: (02) 4777 8000
Fax: (02) 4777 8099
Email: admin@wentworth.org.au

Opening hours:
8:30am-4:30pm Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri
1:00pm-4:30pm Wed

BRANCHES

Hawkesbury

Address: 409A George Street
South Windsor
Phone: (02) 4777 8000

Opening Hours: 8:30am-4:30pm Mon, Tue,
Thu, Fri (closed Wed)

Blue Mountains

Address: Shop 2, 23-27 Cascade Street
Katoomba
Phone: (02) 4777 8000

Opening Hours: 8:30am-4:30pm Mon, Tue,
Thu, Fri (closed Wed)

**OUT OF HOURS EMERGENCY
MAINTENANCE LINE
1300 761 315**

Next WNEWS

Our next edition of WNEWS is planned for December 2015. Let us know if you would like it emailed to you or if you would like to see an article on a specific topic.

NAIDOC WEEK 2015



We all Stand on Sacred Ground:

Learn, Respect & Celebrate

5 - 12 JULY 2015

NAIDOC celebrations this year ran from 5-12 July, with the theme "We all stand on Sacred Ground – Learn, Respect and Celebrate".

NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across Australia to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

A wide range of events were held across the Nepean, Hawkesbury and Blue Mountains with the Wentworth staff attending events at Riverstone, Richmond, Blue Mountains and the major event at Penrith.

Our show bags were a huge hit and well received by all. The events showcased Aboriginal culture, food and activities. Aboriginal and non Aboriginal staff at Wentworth proudly participates in NAIDOC.



Homelessness

On any given night in Australia, 1 in 200 people are homeless (ABS 2011)

From 3rd- 9th August this year, Homelessness Australia coordinated the annual Homelessness Prevention Week.

Homelessness Prevention Week is aimed at raising awareness within the community about the causes and complexities of homelessness, with the aim to also increase community connections for those experiencing, or at risk of experiencing homelessness.

Homelessness is not only rough sleeping, but is also couch surfing, living in caravans and other substandard forms of accommodation.

Under the NSW Governments 'Going Home Staying Home' reforms, five Lead Agencies were appointed to provide Specialist Homelessness Services across the Nepean, Blue Mountains and Hawkesbury LGA's.

In a joint collaborative response, all of the Lead Agencies have come together to form the 'Right Door', which is a centralised number to connect those needing assistance to a simple number as soon as possible.

If you or someone you know is experiencing homelessness, or at risk of experiencing homelessness, please contact the 'Right Door' on 1800 760 071.



Home no longer feeling safe, messed up your rent, couch surfing, experiencing domestic violence, feel like you are running out of options?

This is the right door
Call 1800 760 071

Librago Community Projects | Mission Australia
Platform Youth Services | Wentworth Community Housing
West Coast Domestic Violence Services

Nepean Blue Mountains District
Specialist Homelessness Services