

## 'Seed her future': Wentworth's project to celebrate 2019 NSW Women's Week

In December, Wentworth received a NSW Government grant to hold the 'Seed her future' event for 2019 NSW Women's Week.

The arts-based project aims to increase connections and create opportunities for creative expression for women and girls who live in social housing.

Our Sustainable Communities team was delighted to know their project had been shortlisted to receive the grant.

We will run activities leading up to the event that will provide our female tenants with an opportunity to celebrate their personal journeys with each other.

Watch this space for more information.



## Fire safety in your home

Many of the house fires that affect lives every year are preventable. The key to reducing the dangers in your home is for everyone to understand what they can do to minimise the risks.

We've enclosed a factsheet with this newsletter bringing simple tips that can help you avoid the devastating effects of fire.

Remember you can always ring our maintenance line if you have any queries. See details on the back of this newsletter.



## Getting to know Wentworth people

**Jonathan Ireson, Team Leader, Neighbourhood Jobs**

### How long have you been with Wentworth?

I've been with Wentworth for five weeks.

### What does a Team Leader Neighbourhood Jobs do?

I supervise a team of young employees, aged 15-24 years old, on site as they work. The Neighbourhood Jobs team provides lawn and grounds maintenance for anyone who needs it. As the team leader, I teach young employees the practical things they need to do on the field as they learn what it is like to have a job and how to be professional in the workplace.

Being aware it's their first job and that these young people will be under my supervision for three months before progressing with future employment, I often see myself in a position to coach and mentor them.

### What is your main focus right now?

It's to build the business and find the right jobs. I need to make sure we have work for at least one year and make some money so Neighbourhood Jobs can thrive and grow.

### What do you like most about your job?

I have been youth mentoring for 15 years and what I like the most is to teach people things, give them a chance, see they learn new skills, and help them realise they can achieve stuff.

### How can young tenants contact you if they are interested in joining Neighbourhood Jobs?

Young tenants aged 15 to 24 years old can send an email to [info@neighbourhoodjobs.org.au](mailto:info@neighbourhoodjobs.org.au) or call (02) 4777 8000.

### How can tenants contact you if they need general maintenance done for their yard?

If you want to have your lawn mowed for a very reasonable price, you can contact Neighbourhood Jobs by emailing [admin@neighbourhoodjobs.org.au](mailto:admin@neighbourhoodjobs.org.au) or call (02) 4777 8000.



### 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](mailto: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: Level 2, 98 Bathurst Road  
Katoomba  
Phone: (02) 4777 8000

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

[www.wentworth.org.au](http://www.wentworth.org.au)

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

### Next WNEWS

Our next edition of WNEWS will be out in March 2019 and will be mailed and displayed on Wentworth's Website [www.wentworth.org.au/resources-newsletters](http://www.wentworth.org.au/resources-newsletters)

If you would like to see an article on a specific topic please email [admin@wentworth.org.au](mailto:admin@wentworth.org.au)

# WNEWS

Wentworth Community Housing  
Tenant Newsletter

Issue 38 **December 2018**



### Message from the Chief Executive Officer

Welcome to the summer edition of WNews! Here we are again, the end of another rewarding year for us at Wentworth.

In amongst plenty of other things, we officially opened our 49-unit affordable housing property in St Marys, relocated our Katoomba Office, started exploring housing solutions to end homelessness across Western Sydney communities, and did lots of activities with our Tenant Advisory Group. We've been busy and that's wonderful.

The end of the year usually comes with important events. We held our Annual General Meeting (AGM) in November and highlighted our commitment to ensuring growth

of affordable housing amidst the development boost planned for Western Sydney.

November also saw us hold our first Garden Flat Expo. It was delightful to see many homeowners willing to build a garden flat in their backyard and rent them out to people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. You'll find more about the initiative in this newsletter.

Our summers are always very hot everywhere across Western Sydney. As well as having a plan in place in case of bushfire emergency - so you can protect yourself, your family and your property - it's important to stay cool and save money on energy this season. Read on to find some information that I hope will help you bear with the heat. Still about keeping well at home, we are also bringing information about how to prevent electrical fires.

In this edition, you will also find information about our most recent program, Neighbourhood Jobs. With Neighbourhood Jobs, we aim to employ young tenants and offer yard maintenance services to elderly tenants at the same time. We're very excited about this and I believe you will like the idea too. Read on to find out more.

To farewell 2018 in style, we have just received a NSW Government grant to hold a very special event for 2019 Women's Week. Through art, we want women to feel encouraged to express their dreams, goals and future. We know our female tenants have a broad range of strengths and experiences and we want them to be proud of who they are, their stories, and the important role they play in local communities.

Keep safe and enjoy the festive season. Talk again in 2019.

Happy reading.

**Stephen McIntyre**  
Chief Executive Officer



## Connect with Wentworth on Social Media

**Interested in what's happening in your community, Wentworth and the housing sector? Connecting with us has never been easier.**

If you are interested in finding out the latest news, job ads or up to date information from Wentworth, please like the Facebook Page today

[www.facebook.com/WentworthCommunityHousing](https://www.facebook.com/WentworthCommunityHousing)

Or connect on

**Twitter** / @Wentworth\_CH

**Instagram** / Wentworth Community Housing

**LinkedIn** / Wentworth Community Housing

### Maintenance Queries

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





## Garden Flat Expo

On Saturday 10 November we were thrilled that so many people turned up to our first Garden Flat Expo.

The Expo has been conceived with the aim to increase low-cost permanent housing across Western Sydney.

At the event, homeowners and investors had the opportunity to explore how they can benefit financially from building a garden flat of around 20-25m2 in their backyard at the same time as making a real change in local communities. Wentworth was offering a limited number of incentive packages for those willing to rent out their garden flat to someone experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

A huge thank you to the partners that made the Expo possible, to the great line-up of speakers and to the exhibitors.



## Rent Statements

Your rent statement included with this newsletter is for the period from 1 October 2018 to 30 November 2018. If you require information about this statement, your rent account generally, or a rent account statement for any other period, please call us on 4777 8000.

## Annual report highlights

- In 2017-18, Wentworth got to:**
- › Manage 2,411 properties
  - › Provide 4,958 people with a home
  - › Support 1,068 clients through homelessness services
  - › Complete and open a 49-unit affordable housing property in St Marys
  - › Relocate Katoomba office to improve client experience
  - › Revitalise the Tenants Advisory Group (TAG)

## Stay cool this summer

- During the hot summer months, it can be difficult to stay cool and enjoy yourself, especially if you don't have air conditioning or have to be outside. Here's a list of what you can do to keep yourself and others healthy this summer:
- › Drink plenty of water even if you don't feel thirsty.
  - › If your doctor normally limits your fluids, check how much to drink during hot weather.
  - › Stock up on food, water and medicines to last up to a week so you don't have to go out in a heat wave.
  - › Check that you can store your medication at less than 25oC.
  - › Consider getting cool packs to have in the fridge or freezer too help you cool down if needed.
  - › Put wet towels or cool packs on your arms or neck or put your feet in cool water.
  - › Cool your house by closing windows, shutting curtains and blinds, opening windows at night if you can to let in cool air.
  - › If there is no power or you can't get to an air-conditioned space, spend time in the coolest part of your house.
  - › Use your stove and oven as little as possible.
  - › When you're outside, you can beat the heat by looking for shade, going to areas with a natural breeze, and wearing the right clothes.

- Save on bills**
- Also, there are better ways to spend your money in summer than on energy bills. Here are some things you should consider:
- › Thaw frozen meat the best way: use the fridge instead of using the microwave. Yes, it will take longer, but by thawing meat in the fridge overnight I will defrost more consistently, as opposed to being partially cooked on the outside and still frozen in the middle. Plus, you won't be chewing up additional power by running your microwave unnecessarily.
  - › Change when you consume energy away from peak times: consider running your washing machine late at night for example.
  - › Replace inefficient appliances with energy or water saving appliances: if you need financial assistance replacing appliances, contact an agency that offers a no Interest Loan Scheme(NILS). To find an agency, visit [www.nilsnswfindascheme.org.au](http://www.nilsnswfindascheme.org.au)

## Planning for affordable Housing one of the main topics at Wentworth's AGM this year

Discussing the future of Western Sydney, with emphasis on affordable housing, was on the agenda at Wentworth Community Housing's Annual General Meeting Friday 16 November.

We held our AGM at North St Marys Neighbourhood Centre – where we distributed our Annual Report and heard from our guest speaker, Assistant Vice-Chancellor, Western Sydney University, Andy Marks. He talked about ways to ensure growth for affordable housing in the development boost planned for Western Sydney.

A big shout to our TAG members who helped on the day doing various jobs, which included cooking a delicious barbecue lunch for the people who attended the event. Also, a special thanks to Mady Disbray, one of our affordable housing tenants, who filled the room with great music and entertained our guests throughout the day.





**Office closing times over the Christmas and New Year's period**

All Wentworth offices will close over the Christmas and New Year's period.

Friday 21 December the Penrith, Windsor and Katoomba offices will be closed at 4.30pm. Our Penrith Office will reopen 1pm on Wednesday 2 January. Windsor and Katoomba offices will reopen at 8.30am Thursday 3 January.

If you have any urgent maintenance issues, you can call our maintenance line on 02 4777 8000 (select option 1).

## Neighbourhood Jobs: supporting young people to build independent futures



Neighbourhood Jobs is an employment training program for young people aged 15-24 years who have experienced barriers to employment in Western Sydney.

The broad aim of Wentworth's newest brainchild is to help our young tenants to stand out from the crowd in the competitive job market.

As a social enterprise, Neighbourhood Jobs employs the young people to provide lawn and yard maintenance services at an affordable rate to social housing tenants who need help maintaining their properties. The service is also available to customers living in privately owned and leased properties as well as by contract to other organisations.

On top of work, participants get occupational and life skills development in face-to-face groups and online. Once they graduate the program, they receive support to transition into further employment.

If you are interested in becoming one of Neighbourhood Jobs young employees, contact us by emailing [info@neighbourhoodjobs.org.au](mailto:info@neighbourhoodjobs.org.au) or call us on 4777 8000.

If you want to have your lawn mowed for a very reasonable price, contact our Neighbourhood Jobs team by emailing [admin@neighbourhoodjobs.org.au](mailto:admin@neighbourhoodjobs.org.au) or call us on 4777 8000.