

WNEWS

Wentworth Community Housing
Tenant Newsletter

Issue 25 June 2015



Message from the Chief Executive Officer

Welcome to the June edition of WNews. As mentioned in the previous edition, I will soon be leaving Wentworth Community Housing. Recruitment for my successor is underway and is expected to be completed in the coming months. The successful candidate will continue the philosophy and vision of the organisation. I would like to wish you all the best for the future.

It has been a privilege to lead this organisation over the last 17 years. Wentworth staff are continuing business as usual and will communicate more information when it becomes available.

I hope you enjoy this edition of Wnews.

Nick Sabel | Chief Executive Officer

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

Our Tenant Engagement Advisory Members have been very busy over the last 3 months. They are involved in a variety of community activities, forums, conferences and morning teas, which keep them busy and Wentworth are very grateful for their time and dedication.

One of our members has been involved in a number of volunteering forums called "Volunteering: A Community Conversation" in Penrith and the Blue Mountains and providing valuable feedback to the group. Participants were invited to discuss the aspirations and experiences of volunteers and the things that might be improved to encourage volunteering across the sector.

Another T.E.A.M had the opportunity to attend the Community Housing Conference, along with staff.

Other T.E.A.M volunteers have been busy organising a range of morning teas across the area and being involved with upcoming NAIDOC events, so please look out for our "Just Because" invitations or join in one of the NAIDOC events, we would love to catch up and meet more of our residents.

Some brief feedback will be found later in this newsletter about the T.E.A.M experiences and other new members who have joined.

Interested in participating in the T.E.A.M?

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.

What's on?

Blacktown/Riverstone

NAIDOC Event

Wed 8th July, 10.30am – 3.30pm

Riverstone Neighbourhood Centre –
Community Garden, Sam Lane Complex
– Park Street, Riverstone

Koori Cuppa and BBQ

**2nd and 4th Monday of every
month, 10.30am – 1.00pm**

Riverstone Neighbourhood Centre –
Community Garden, 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

Penrith

NAIDOC Event Penrith

Fri 10th July, 9am – 3pm

Jamison Park

Just Because Morning Tea with TEAM – Wentworth

Wed 29th July, 10.30am – 12.00pm

Cranebrook Community Centre

Nepean Community Neighbourhood Services – School Holiday Program

Koolyangarra Aboriginal Family Centre.
Contact Nerida on 0417 498 918

Penrith Homelessness Hub

Wed 12th August, 8am – 11am

Joan Sutherland Centre Penrith

Hawkesbury

Hawkesbury Homelessness Hub

**Thur 25th June and Thur 17th
September, 9:00am – 12:30pm**

St Matthews Church Hall
Moses Street, Windsor

Just Because Morning Tea with TEAM – Wentworth

Wed 24th June, 10.30am – 12.00pm

38–40 Church Street complex
South Windsor – Community room

NAIDOC Event

Sun 12th July, Start time: 10am

Richmond oval

Blue Mountains

NAIDOC EVENT Monday 6th July

Katoomba (The Gully) – Gates Ave,
Katoomba. Flag Raising 10.00am
Katoomba Council. NAIDOC Stalls &
Lunch to be held at THE GULLY, 11.00am.

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

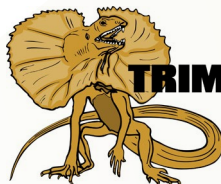
Trim & Proper Property Services
(contractors for Wentworth) are looking
for Wentworth tenants and/or their
household members who are seeking
work. Trim & Proper maintain Wentworth
common area properties located in the
Penrith, Hawkesbury, Blacktown and Blue
Mountains areas which includes lawn
mowing,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



**TRIM & PROPER
PROPERTY SERVICES**



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 19th June 2015. If you have made payments after this date
they will appear on your next rent statement.



Good News Stories

NSW Community Housing Conference and Awards – 5th and 6th May 2015

This week I was privileged to be invited to attend the NSW Community Housing Conference and Awards dinner in Sydney, where Wentworth was recognised for its Excellence in Working with Aboriginal People and Communities.

I had the opportunity to attend a series of panel discussions and workshops covering a range of topics. We heard a lot of facts, figures and statistics, bottom line is there is not enough land or money available to provide homes for people waiting now, let alone in the future. I know how lucky I am to live where I do and I want everyone waiting for a home to be as lucky as me.

Sheila- T.E.A.M Member

Community Housing Conference

Review by Kate – Specialist Coordinator, Penrith

On Tuesday 5th and Wednesday 6th May staff and T.E.A.M members attended the NSW Community Housing Conference at Rydges World Square in Sydney. The conference was a great opportunity to share information and ideas with other Community Housing Providers and their tenants from around the state.

The conference opened with a keynote address from The Hon. Bradley Hazzard (MP) Minister for Family and Community Services and Social Housing. Throughout the address Minister Hazzard reiterated the NSW government's commitment to Social and Affordable Housing and announcing a \$1 billion Housing Affordability Fund. Staff and tenants also attended many interesting and exciting workshops throughout the

conference on several topics that effect social housing. These included high quality tenant engagement, NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal processes, best practice asset management and bringing Aboriginal people to the centre of housing provision. All participants agreed that the workshops were very useful in ensuring Wentworth staff and the T.E.A.M can ensure best practice when working with our tenants and clients. The highlight for many was the awards dinner on the Tuesday night. Wentworth was highly commended for our work with Aboriginal People and Communities. It was a great night where staff and the T.E.A.M were able celebrate the many initiatives across the sector, whilst networking with staff and tenants from other CHP's in a more relaxed environment.

The conference was closed with a final plenary facilitated by Mike Allen (former CEO, Housing NSW) where an expert panel discussed the success' and the challenges to meet ongoing and increasing needs in the social and affordability housing sector in NSW.

All in all the conference was very rewarding and enjoyable for all attendees. We hope to share the skills and knowledge we gained with our colleagues and tenants in the future.



Volunteering – Community Conversation

On 22nd April I was invited to attend a workshop, known as "Volunteering: A Community Conversation with Penrith and the Blue Mountains."

It was attended by service providers & volunteers, and focused on the roles and aspirations of volunteers within the changing environment.

We also addressed the proposed government changes whereby benefit recipients will be required to perform some volunteer activities in order to remain eligible for payments. What impact will that have on services and the current volunteer pool, which traditionally came via retirees, stay at home mums and student placement?

All information, suggestions and answers to the most puzzling of questions from the workshop will be correlated and sent out to the participants. The feedback will be forwarded to the Government, who will be invited to read and hopefully re-think some of the proposals....here's hoping :) for my part I will keep you posted on what happens next.

— Pauline, T.E.A.M Member

Break Thru Work Placement

Wentworth has undertaken its first Work Placement participant from Break Thru Employment as a host agency. Welcome Corey to our organisation for a short period of time. Corey is currently undertaking a Business Administration Certificate II. The placement with Wentworth provides Corey with a real life experience in the workplace and develops his skills to further pathways to employment.

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
September 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

The National NAIDOC theme for 2015 is:



**We all Stand on
Sacred Ground:**

Learn, Respect & Celebrate

5 – 12 JULY 2015

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

NAIDOC is celebrated not only in Indigenous communities, but by Australians from all walks of life. The week is a great opportunity to participate in a range of activities and to support your local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

To celebrate NAIDOC Week 2015 we have included a colouring in page for you to enjoy.

