

WNEWS

Message from the Executive Officer

Welcome to another edition of WNEWS. It continues to be a very busy and exciting time here at Wentworth.

Much of this is a result of the Property Transfer Program, a partnership with Housing NSW. A large number of properties and tenancies are being transferred over to us from Housing NSW in the Hawkesbury and Blue Mountains. As a result we are opening new full time offices Windsor and Katoomba very soon and we have recruited many new skilled and enthusiastic staff to ensure we continue to provide an accessible and responsive service.

Housing Pathways, a significant reform to the way applicants access public and community housing, has been implemented and will result in better access to housing services for people in housing need.

I am pleased to announce that once again we have been awarded registration under the new process with the Registrar of Community Housing. This means that government is confident that we are operating well and providing a quality service. Accreditation against National Community Housing Standards is next and work has already begun to ensure we achieve this.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all our new tenants. Its' great to have you as part of Wentworth.

I hope you enjoy this edition of WNEWS!



Property Transfer Program

Since October 2009, nearly 400 properties and tenants in the Hawkesbury and Blue Mountains have been transferred from Housing NSW to Wentworth.

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome all of our new tenants. Please call us if you have anything you would like to discuss.

New Windsor Office Opening Soon!

Our new Windsor branch office at 409a George Street is set to open on 17 May 2010.

Our Hawkesbury team will be based in this office, allowing us to be more accessible to our growing number of applicants and tenants in the area. The Team comprises Phyllis (Team Leader), Kylie, Martha, Taliah, Nikayla and Steven.

Please drop in for a visit! If calling, please phone Wentworth's main line on 47315851.

We also hope to announce the opening of our new Katoomba office in the next edition of WNEWS!

Winter Heating Tips

As the weather starts to get cooler our electricity usage seems to increase as we try and keep ourselves warm. A good way to minimise your electricity usage is to take advantage of the sun. Keep your windows open during the day so that the sun warms your home and then close your curtains of an evening so that the warmth doe not escape through the windows. By sealing all the gaps underneath doors and windows with something simple like a door snake you can make sure the heat stays inside your house.

Introducing 'Housing Pathways'

On 27 April 2010, a new program called *Housing Pathways* was introduced to make it simpler, fairer & easier for people to apply for & be matched with housing assistance.

Under *Housing Pathways*, people requiring housing assistance will only have to fill out one single application form if they want to be housed by Housing NSW, community housing or both. Eligible applicants are placed on a single statewide waiting list called the NSW Housing Register. People can also now visit or contact any participating organisation with their requests or queries.

Wentworth is excited about working together with Housing NSW and the 26 other participating community housing providers to create a more accessible social housing environment that better meets peoples needs.

For more information about Housing Pathways, please drop in, call us or visit our website.

In celebration of Housing Pathways "go live", Wentworth gave away two \$50 Westfield gift vouchers, to the first person through our door and the first person submitting an application on 27 April. Needless to say we had two very satisfied customers and we felt pretty good too!



Above, Gulay Cevher (Wentworth's Allocations Officer) with "first person through the door on 27 April" winner Rosemary King. Congratulations Rosemary!

Affordable Housing

Wentworth manages a small but growing affordable housing portfolio. Affordable Housing isn't part of Housing Pathways. It has a separate application process. Income and other eligibility criteria are also a bit different. Call us or see our website for more info.

Water Saving

Even though water restrictions have been eased it is important to keep your water usage low to minimise your negative impact on the environment and save money on your water bills!

Some handy hints to help you save water are:

- Check for leaks – a leaking tap can waste lots of water. Make sure taps are turned off properly and if they are leaking or dripping get them fixed
- Don't leave the tap running when you are brushing your teeth or shaving
- Park your car on the grass when you are washing it and try to use a bucket rather than continuously running the hose. This saves water and waters the grass at the same time!

Beware of Loose Curtain & Blind Cords

Loose blind and curtain cords or chains - particularly those with loops – are dangerous to young children. As prevention, follow the four safety steps:

1. *check all blind and curtain cords* - both at home and when you're away on holidays. Make sure they are out of reach of children.
2. *make loose cords safe* - use cleats or cut the cord loop and attach a tassel at the end of each strand.
3. *choose safe blinds and curtains* - make sure new curtains and blinds have warning labels and provide a way to secure the cords out of reach.
4. *keep children away from all cords* - move furniture, cots and beds away from cords. Never leave children alone in a room with cords they can reach.

Next WNEWS

Our next edition of WNEWS is planned for August 2010. Let us know if you would like it emailed to you or would like to see an article on a specific topic.



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Hawkesbury

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