



WNews

Wentworth Community Housing Tenant Newsletter

Issue 41 | September 2019

Message from the Chief Executive Officer

The flowers are blooming, the weather is warming, and the magpies are swooping. Welcome to the Spring edition of WNews!

This is usually the time of the year we open our windows to let the air flow in and and spring into action around the house. Do get in touch with us if you want to report any maintenance issues, have any enquiries or requests – we are here to help!

In this September issue, we bring useful information on how to prepare for the bushfire season. We care about you and your family, so make sure you plan, prepare and watch our social media channels as we'll use these tools to give you insights on how to keep safe this season.

Talking about bushfire preparedness, periods of drought can be followed by periods of flooding.

Because of the geography of the Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley, flood levels can reach significant heights so we want to share information about how you can prepare and stay safe in the event of a flood.

As usual, the quarter was filled with great events. In July, NAIDOC Week provided our communities with a great opportunity to celebrate the history, cultures and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. We always do our utmost to participate in inclusiveness and awareness of indigenous culture in our work place and in the communities we serve.

Also in July, two of our tenants organised “Christmas in July” in one of our apartment complexes. By all accounts, the event sounded like a lot of fun and is inspiring plans for other community events. It's great to see neighbours develop bonds and build strong communities.

Just as we were finishing this newsletter, breaking news came in: The NSW Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) is offering a number of scholarships to assist students enrolled in education or training to complete their studies. Read on for details of how to apply. I'm sure many of our readers you'll be strong candidates and I wish you good luck!

Enjoy your reading



Stephen McIntyre
Chief Executive Officer

What to do before during and after a flood? Start the conversation with your neighbours and loved ones.

The Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley has a long history of flooding. In 1961, flood levels reached over 14m above normal river level in the Hawkesbury and over 8m in Penrith.

The floodplain covers Penrith, Hawkesbury, and parts of the Hills Shire and Blacktown.

Would you be ready to evacuate your house and your building if there was a flood? To be prepared, here's a list of questions you should start asking yourself and those who live with you as well as your neighbours:

- ▶ How would you get the information about when and where to evacuate?
- ▶ Would you need assistance evacuating?
- ▶ Where would you go and how would you get there?
- ▶ How would you manage your health?
- ▶ What would you need to take with you?
- ▶ Who would you rely on?
- ▶ Who would rely on you?

Flood safety tips

Build relationships and networks that can be called upon during an emergency. There are many ways to do this:

- ▶ Get to know your neighbours. Neighbours often turn to each other for information and assistance during a disaster.
- ▶ Think about the connections and networks you already have in your community as these can be vital in an emergency.
- ▶ Participate in events and activities in your local community so you can continue to grow your network of support.

If you want to know more about the risks surrounding you and be more prepared, contact Jo Zappia on 02 9698 7690 or 0411 747 194. Alternatively, you can send an email to resilience@innersydneyvoice.org.au

Time to get ready for the bushfire season

With a potentially difficult and dangerous bushfire season on the way, the Bush Fire Danger Period (BFDP) has officially started in the Blue Mountains.

It's time for you to have a plan in place in case of bushfire emergency. Have a look at the events and activities in the Blue Mountains to help you prepare for the season by visiting

www.mcrn.org.au/index.php/emergencies/preparedness/find-a-get-ready-bm-event/2019-get-ready-bm-calendar

To connect with NSW emergency services, visit www.emergency.nsw.gov.au/Pages/for-the-community/get-ready/contact-emergency-services.aspx

For more information on how to know your risk and plan for what you will do in case a

bushfire affects your area, visit www.emergency.nsw.gov.au/getready

The Rural Fire Service website is another useful resource to keep up to date with general fire information and to learn how to plan and prepare. See www.rfs.nsw.gov.au

Also, if you need to light a fire in the region, you must get a free permit from the local Fire Control Centre at www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information/BFDP



Spring is here! Get in touch with Neighbourhood Jobs

There's been so much happening at Neighbourhood Jobs since our last update back in July!

Now it's spring, you could be looking for a stellar caring team to mow your lawn for a very reasonable price. Write down our new phone and get in touch with us directly on 1300 NBR JBS (1300 627 527). Call us should you have any enquiries, want to book us in, or want to refer a young person – aged between 15 and 24 years – who is looking for work.

Over the winter, we have had a record number of people across Western Sydney who have used our services, including an increasing number of Wentworth tenants, which we have taken as a big reward and compliment.

Our passionate young people have been absolutely amazing! We've had great responses to our monthly information sessions, hosted at our

Neighbourhood Jobs office. Attendance at the information session is a must for any young person who wants to join our program.

At our information sessions, we welcome family members, case/youth workers and anyone else who wants to learn more about us and the requirements for young people to join the program.

Many young people who have completed our employment program have started apprenticeships in landscaping while others have been offered part-time or casual work in admin, plumbing, horticulture amongst other trades.

In the coming months, we will be launching our website as well. In the meantime join us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/neighbourhoodjobs

You can also find us on Instagram, LinkedIn, Twitter, Google... Options are aplenty, so we do hope you stay in touch!

Christmas in July brings neighbours together on Derby Street, Penrith

On Wednesday 17 July, over 30 people who live in Wentworth's 61 apartment development on Derby Street, Penrith, enjoyed a Christmas in July party.

The event was organised by a couple of neighbours who wanted to know the people who live in the same complex.

Sheila, one of the residents and organisers, believes the party brought the best out of everyone who showed up on the day.

"People have been talking to each other more. We found a good opportunity for neighbours to come together. Everyone contributed with food and some neighbours brought drinks. Even the ones who kept to themselves turned up. To me it was a friendly place," Ms Mooney said.

Derby street residents are now thinking of having more events so they can keep creating a sense of community, having fun and chat with each other. A big shout out to all the residents who have made this celebration a success.





Getting to know Wentworth people

Madyson Disbray
Administration Officer, Windsor Office

Connecting Wentworth tenant Madyson to our youth and employment and training program, Neighbourhood Jobs, gave her the confidence and experience she needed to get started in work.

How long have you been with Wentworth?

I've been with Wentworth for three months

What do you do as an Administration Officer?

Administration and a bit of reception. The job changes from day to day. I do a lot of filing, some reception duties and also have been helping the Housing Services team with short term accommodation programs.

What do you like most about your job?

I get to know all kinds of different people. It's busy all the time and I'm much more confident when I have to think on my feet.

Before working with Wentworth. You participated in Neighbourhood Jobs, which is a Wentworth program that employs and trains young people who need support to land their first job. Can you tell us a bit about your experience with Neighbourhood Jobs?

I loved it straight away. I felt like I was in my element. It was a great environment with all these encouraging people who wanted to see me do better than I thought I could do. I got a lot of confidence and experience.

What would you say to people who want to participate in Neighbourhood jobs?

Neighbourhood Jobs helped me grow and become independent. It's something I'm proud to put on my resume. To anyone thinking about doing the program, I'd say 110 per cent go for it.

If you are between 15 and 24 years old, looking for work, and interested in knowing more about Neighbourhood Jobs, get in touch with the team on **1300 NBR JBS (1300 627 527)** or email **admin@neighbourhoodjobs.org.au**

NAIDOC Week

We loved being part of the Penrith NAIDOC Week celebrations on 12 July at Jamison Park, especially seeing families enjoying themselves with activities at our Wentworth and the Neighbourhood Job stands.

We were very proud to be sponsoring this year's event hosted by Penrith City Council. What a great event it was.



Scholarships up for grabs

The NSW Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) is offering a number of scholarships to assist students enrolled in education or training to complete their studies. Providing \$1000 a year to each student, the scholarship could be used for expenses like text books, course costs and computer equipment.

Students are eligible if they are living in social housing, on the NSW Housing Register, receiving DCJ private rental assistance, living in supported accommodation through

a Specialist Homelessness Service Provider, or living in out-of-home care. For Year 10, 11 or 12 students, applications close at 5pm on Thursday 31 October 2019. For students who'll be attending a TAFE college or university, or working in a traineeship or apprenticeship in 2020, the deadline for providing their course enrolment is Friday 21 February 2020.

For more information about eligibility and how to apply, visit www.facs.nsw.gov.au/scholarships

If you have any questions, you can also call 02 8753 8673 or email education@facs.nsw.gov.au



We need you to quote your agent reference number when making payments to us

To avoid going into arrears, you must quote your agent reference number – also known as bank reference number – every time you make rent and non-rent deposits to us.

The agent reference number is the number on the deposit book you received at the start of your tenancy. This number is also called bank reference number, and can be found on the top right-hand corner of your rent statement.

This unique number matches the payment to your account, preventing your money from getting lost. If other people are making deposits on your behalf, they need to quote it as well.



Maintenance Queries

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



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

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: Level 2, 98 Bathurst Road
Katoomba

Phone: (02) 4777 8000

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



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**

Or connect on

 **Twitter** | @Wentworth_CH

 **Instagram** | wentworthcommunityhousing

 **LinkedIn** | Wentworth Community Housing



Next WNEWS

Our next edition of WNEWS will be out in December 2019 and will be mailed and displayed on Wentworth's Website www.wentworth.org.au/resources-newsletters

If you would like to see an article on a specific topic please email admin@wentworth.org.au.