Celebrate Australia Day this year and ‘Make your Mark’ in Bankstown

Thursday 26 January 2012, 4.00pm - 9.00pm, Garrison Point, Georges Hall
For more information about Bankstown Council’s services, visit our Customer Service Centre on the Upper Ground Floor of Bankstown Civic Tower from 8.30am to 5.00pm, Monday to Friday.

You can phone Customer Service on 9707 9999 or visit our website at www.bankstown.nsw.gov.au

If you have any questions or comments about this magazine, please call Casli Mehmed on 9707 9558.
As the Mayor of Bankstown, I take this opportunity to wish all our residents the best for the Christmas Season and New Year. I look forward to continuing to build and strengthen existing relationships within our community and leading our City with vision and transparency in the New Year.

I am excited about some of Council’s large-scale projects which are either under construction or now in the planning stages, including the Punchbowl Town Centre Improvement Program, which is scheduled for completion in February 2012. Plans are also in the works for an upgrade of the Panania Town Centre.

Work is also continuing on the development of Council’s new state of the art Central Library and Knowledge Centre valued at more than $20 million. This project will position our City on the cutting edge of new technology and house a cafe, auditorium and exhibition space for community use.

Also in the planning stages is a Bankstown Sports Hall of Fame to be located at Memorial Oval. Part of a proposed $4.1 million sporting facility upgrade, the Hall of Fame will represent our area’s many local sporting heroes, including the cricketing legends the Waugh brothers and swimmer Ian Thorpe.

Memorial Oval is considered one of the best cricket pitches in NSW, and has helped put our City on the map as a premier sporting destination.

I am also looking forward to presenting our residents with a new playground at Paul Keating Park, which will include a Liberty Swing designed for people in a wheelchair. This is part of Council’s commitment to ensuring that we become an increasingly inclusive City.

I am also proud of the recent completion of several other projects including the $6.5 million Bankstown Underpass, and upgrades worth a combined $3.1 million to Birrong and Revesby Leisure Centres. The majority of works at the leisure centres are now complete.

Residents at Yagoona will be pleased to know Council has also completed an upgrade of Gazzard Park, turning it into a wonderland for children. The upgrades include new landscaping, soft-fall surrounds, play equipment and a swing designed for children living with a disability.

Council recently gave $426,000 in Community Grants to local community organisations. The ongoing commitment of these organisations to the community is crucial for many of our residents, and we are proud to continue supporting them.

As part of my plan to create better communication between Council and residents, I am soon to launch a series of Community Road Shows. These road shows will see me out in various areas of the community giving residents the opportunity to speak with me one-on-one regarding Council related issues in their neighbourhoods.

Council has also recently launched its new website. The site is modern, well-designed, user friendly and offers in-depth information about Council, our community and upcoming events. I hope to see more residents getting on line in the near future.

In addition to this, I have also launched my own Facebook and Twitter accounts. I believe the use of social media will allow people to know more about what is happening within Council and also around the areas they live in.

I am excited to take these new steps and look forward to opening new lines of communication with our residents. You can follow me on both Facebook and Twitter by searching for the Mayor of Bankstown.

As we move toward the year’s end, I would like to thank you, our residents, for making our City of Bankstown a great place to live. Together let’s work towards making it even better in 2012.
The $1.2 million facelift to Punchbowl is on the way to completion bringing a rejuvenated and modernised feel to the Town Centre.

The upgrade is part of Council’s strategy to create vibrant and attractive social hubs for its residents and stimulate local businesses within the Town Centre precincts.

The improvements are also intended to beautify our City and build pride in where we live.

Stage One and Two of the works include an upgrade of the footpath areas between Griffiths Avenue to South Terrace, on South Terrace up to Loder Lane, and the area between South Terrace up to Railway Bridge.

Other improvement works will include foot paving replacement along Punchbowl Road, stormwater works, cleaning and refreshing of garden beds including tree and garden bed planting, installation of new street furniture, the repositioning of a pedestrian crossing and the installation of road safety fencing.

The Punchbowl Town Centre enhancement program is expected to be completed in February 2012, with temporary traffic and pedestrian measures in place during construction.

The works are part of Bankstown City Council’s Town Centre Improvement Program, with Padstow, Yagoona, Greenacre, Sefton, Chester Hill, Revesby, Condell Park, Miller Rd Villawood and Georges Hall Town Centre upgrades already completed.

Mayor of Bankstown Clr Khal Asfour said the upgrade will inject new life and a fresh feel into the Punchbowl Town Centre in line with other Town Centres across the City.

Celebrate Australia Day in Bankstown

‘Make your Mark’ is this year’s national theme for Australia Day and the best way to do this is by joining Bankstown City Council to celebrate this iconic event at Garrison Point, Georges Hall.

With an expected crowd of more than 30,000, Garrison Point will come to life with a jam-packed program that is totally free of charge and one of the best Australia Day celebrations outside of the Sydney CBD.

The Australia Day musical concert will be the main attraction from 4.00pm - 9.00pm with a fantastic line-up of Australian performances, including headline act ‘The Black Sorrows’.


The day will conclude with a fantastic fireworks display.

There will also be a heap of fun to be had by the kids with a fantastic range of free activities and rides for all ages, including the Haunted House, Giant Slide, Dodgem Cars, the Sizzler and a Kids’ Corner for the little ones.

Come join us at Garrison Point this Australia Day. A free shuttle bus will take you from the parking areas along Henry Lawson Drive, or you can take a leisurely stroll along the Art Walk to the event.

Note: While Bankstown City Council makes every effort to ensure programming details are correct at the time of publishing, the program is subject to change without notice.

For more information about the day contact Council on 9707 9999.
Year of the Dragon in 2012

2012 commemorates the Year of the Dragon - symbolising happiness, joy and success.

The annual Bankstown Lunar New Year Festival will this year be held on Saturday 14 January and is expected to draw a crowd of more than 10,000 people.

The event will see Saigon Place transformed into an exciting, loud and colourful arena of music and festivities.

With a range of free entertainment, including multicultural music and dancing, traditions such as lucky envelopes given by the God of Good Fortune, rides and activities for the kids, the popular New Year Garden, lion and dragon dances, there will be something on offer for everyone.

The festival will also showcase Bankstown’s diverse shopping precinct with patrons spoilt for choice when it comes to restaurants, cafes, fresh food outlets and a variety of stalls selling traditional food and flowers.

Taking it to the streets

Local residents will soon have the opportunity to speak one-on-one with the Mayor of Bankstown Clr Khal Asfour, through a regular Community Roadshow initiative.

“It is for this reason that I am keen to head out and about in the community, engaging and meeting with our residents to hear first-hand any concerns or ideas they may have,” Mayor Asfour said.

The Roadshows are to be held at local shopping and town centres throughout the area, as well as at key Council and community events.

They are designed to provide a relaxed and informal atmosphere for residents to talk directly with the Mayor, Councillors and Council Staff about the various services and programs coordinated by Council, as well as an opportunity to raise local concerns and issues.

To find out more about the Roadshow community consultation sessions or for more information about Council services go to www.bankstown.nsw.gov.au or contact Council’s Customer Contact Centre on 9707 9999.
Following a Mayoral Minute proposed by Mayor of Bankstown Clr Khal Asfour, Bankstown City Council is set to construct a specialised state-of-the-art Sporting Hall of Fame.

Now in its initial planning stages, the Sporting Hall of Fame will be part of a $4 million investment into the upgrade of the entire Memorial Oval complex. Some of Australia’s greatest sporting legends, including former Test Cricket Captain Steve Waugh and Five Time Olympic Gold Medallist Ian Thorpe, are set to be formally recognised for their achievements at the place where it all began - Bankstown.

Bankstown Council will be encouraging as many local schools as possible to visit and learn about the local sporting heroes who put Bankstown on the map. As part of Mayor Asfour’s campaign to build pride in the City, the Hall will also be used to inspire local kids to achieve and to be proud of where they live.

Bankstown’s unrivalled sporting infrastructure, ovals and facilities continues to play a significant role in the development of young athletes. “Make no mistake, as Mayor I will continue to invest in our facilities to ensure the Steve Waugh’s and Ian Thorpe’s of tomorrow have every opportunity to succeed,” Mayor Khal Asfour said.

While still to be determined by the newly formed, ‘Bankstown Sports Hall of Fame Steering Committee’ made up of representatives from a range of local sporting bodies and stakeholder groups, it is anticipated that the initial inductees to the Legends section will include the likes of, cricket legends Steve and Mark Waugh and Jeff Thompson, five time Olympic Gold Medallist Ian Thorpe, Rugby League great Terry Lamb, 60s swimming siblings John and Ilsa Konrads and former Socceroos and Premier League winner, Robbie Slater.

All eight of these sporting greats were born and or raised in Bankstown and attended local schools. They all trained and played their junior sport for clubs in the Bankstown area, before going on to represent Australia and set records at the highest level.

The redevelopment works to the Memorial Oval is expected to be completed in 2012, with the Hall of Fame to be officially opened at the same time.

Thorpedo, Waugh and more…

legends you can bank on!

Steve Waugh (Cricket)
Born: Canterbury
Attended: East Hills Boys High

Ian Thorpe (Swimming)
Grew up: Panania
Attended: East Hills Boys High

Mark Waugh (Cricket)
Born: Canterbury
Attended: East Hills Boys High

Robbie Slater (Soccer)
Grew up: Bankstown
Junior Club: Revesby Rovers

John Konrads (Swimming)
Grew up: Bankstown
Trained: Bankstown Pool
Attended: Revesby Primary School

Ilsa Konrads (Swimming)
Grew up: Bankstown
Trained: Bankstown Pool
Attended: Revesby Primary School

Jeff Thompson (Cricket)
Born: Greenacre
Played: Bankstown Cricket Club

Terry Lamb (Rugby League)
Junior Club: Chester Hill

Chris Passanah and Mayor Khal Asfour viewing the Bankstown Sporting Hall of Fame at the Bankstown Sports club.
Monument pays tribute to Vietnamese

Thousands of people gathered at Bankstown’s Saigon Place to witness the unveiling of the Vietnamese Boat People Monument honouring those who lost their lives in the pursuit of freedom.

During the ceremony Mayor of Bankstown Cllr Khal Asfour spoke of their courage in the face of death as they journeyed to Australia in search of a better life.

The monument serves as an inspiration to the wider community of the precious freedoms and privileges we enjoy as Australians and pays tribute to the invaluable social, cultural and economic contributions Vietnamese residents have made to Bankstown.

Mayor Asfour said that the Vietnamese community had expressed their appreciation for the opportunities our City has afforded them and that the monument symbolises their gratitude and the goodwill that exists between their community and Council.

Construction of the monument was a partnership between the Vietnamese Community in Australia NSW Chapter and Bankstown City Council with support from the NSW Government and Bankstown Sports Club.

“Throughout the NSW and Australian Vietnamese community, the Boat People Monument is a meaningful symbol as it connects our past traumatic experience of being refugees, with our successful settlement here in Australia,” President Thanh Nguyen of the Vietnamese Community in Australia NSW Chapter said.

President Nguyen also expressed his appreciation for the support that the Mayor and Council offers the Vietnamese community and pledged to build an even stronger partnership with Council.

The monument was met with great approval by all those who attended on the night.

Wonderland of fun

Gazzard Park at Yagoona has been transformed into a wonderland of creative and adventurous outdoor activities for children.

Council recently opened its new $450,000 playground, the first of its kind in Bankstown, complete with a spidernet, swings designed for children with disabilities, dry-creek bed, distorted mirrors, cubby houses and a hop scotch game constructed with ceramic tile mosaics designed by local artist Bob Borgiani.

“I was delighted to officially open the playground along with student representatives, Councillors and others who were involved in the project,” Mayor of Bankstown Cllr Khal Asfour said.

“We are a compassionate and inclusive community so special swings have been installed to allow disabled children to join in on the fun.”

Feedback from primary school students at Al Sadiq College and Yagoona Public School inspired much of the design.

“It’s a modern and fantastic playground with a beautiful design. It’s great because our beautiful suburb is being made even nicer, with children in mind,” Yagoona Public School Captain Lea Osmanagic, 11, said.

“There’s a lot of swings and I especially like that big one. It’s way different from other parks, not many others have this many different things like the big swing and a spider net that big,” Daniella Dandachli, 9, from Al Sadiq School said.

Parents and carers are well catered for with seats, a BBQ facility, shade structure, rest areas, bins and bubblers. Lighting has also been added to assist late night exercisers and those accessing the adjacent commuter car park.

The completion of the playground is a significant part of Council’s Masterplan for the area and compliments staged streetscape works recently completed in Yagoona.
Devoted environmentalist honoured at Padstow Park

Environmental stalwart Irene Catrin Jones, will be forever remembered as one of the area’s most devoted environmentalists after Council recently named a bushland reserve at Padstow Park in her honour.

The Irene Jones Bushland Reserve now features a memorial plaque dedicated to Ms Jones, who passed away in 2006.

The re-naming of the area was a symbolic act of Council’s gratitude and respect for Ms Jones and her commitment to Bankstown’s natural environment.

During her life, Ms Jones was a member of the Bankstown Bushland Society, South West Enviro Centre, Revesby Community Action Group, Padstow Progress Association, Botany Bay and Catchment Alliance, Georges River Environmental Alliance, No Port Enfield Community Action Group, Bankstown Airport Consultative Committee and the Chullora Waste Station Committee.

Bushland areas in Padstow Park, including the Irene Jones Bushland, are cared for by Bankstown Bushland Society and the Bankstown Bushcare Volunteers.

To find out more about Council’s Bushcare Program go to www.bankstown.nsw.gov.au or contact Council’s Bushcare Officer on 9707 9999.
Visit a local library to Save Power at home

To assist Bankstown residents with saving money on their growing power bills, Council is providing free ‘Save Power Kits’, which can be borrowed from all five of Council’s libraries.

These kits provide residents with the tools and information needed to make smart decisions that will help improve energy efficiency at home.

Each kit comes equipped with a guidebook, power monitor, thermometers, stop watch, compass and a worksheet and action plan to record results and plan improvements.

“Assisting our residents to save money on power bills is important to Council, especially during these tough economic times,” Mayor of Bankstown Clr Khal Asfour said.

“These kits will enable Bankstown’s residents to measure power use from their appliances, find out where energy is being wasted and learn where to reduce energy use that will help them save money on bills,” he said.

Residents can visit www.savepower.nsw.gov.au for ideas to help reduce energy costs around the home or call Bankstown City Council on 9707 9999 for more information.

Serving the community for 45 years

Bankstown City Council’s Meals on Wheels service this year celebrated 45 years of servicing the needs of local residents.

After 45 years of operation, the service now has 176 volunteers who deliver over 97,000 meals to residents every year.

Meals on Wheels provides a seven day food service that delivers hot, cold or frozen meals to residents throughout Bankstown, as well as to the frail and aged day care patients at Panania each Monday and Wednesday.

This year Council will be presenting 36 awards to our wonderful volunteers to recognise their service, including Gwen Banner who is a foundation member of the organisation. Mrs Banner has been delivering meals to residents twice per month for the past 45 years.

Clients are also able to access centre-based meals on weekdays at Bankstown Seniors Citizens Centre located at 7 West Terrace Bankstown. Socially isolated older people, people with disabilities and their carers are able to enjoy a nourishing meal and some good company in a friendly environment.

As our community ages, the number of residents requiring meal support will increase. We are looking at ways of meeting that challenge and will always need the support of Meals on Wheels Volunteers.

For more information contact the service on 9707 9646.

Be water wise this Summer

With the hot weather upon us, it is important to conserve as much water as possible.

Less than one per cent of all the planet’s water is available for humans to drink, with the rest being salt water or permanently frozen.

Conserving water can also cut down on your household bills. Council’s Environmental team has a number of water-saving tips for our residents.

• Wash your car on the lawn so that you are watering your lawn and your garden simultaneously.
• Avoid cutting your lawn too short and use the clippings as mulch.

• Water early in the morning or late afternoon to reduce the amount of water lost through evaporation.
• Water the base of plants and not their leaves.
• When planting a new garden put those plants together that have similar watering needs.
• Use a watering can or a trigger nozzle on your hose to target water.
• Never use a hose to clean pathways.
• Use mulch and add organic material such as compost to the soil, they will help the soil retain moisture and reduce evaporation.
• When choosing a lawn choose drought tolerant varieties, buffalo lawns have deep roots that make them more drought tolerant.
Tapping into the talent of our young residents

It has been a full calendar this year for Council’s young Talent Advancement Program (TAP) vocalists.

The TAP vocalists were invited to perform at many high-profile events throughout the year, including the inaugural NSW Parliament House Spring Ball, NRL internationals and the Sydney Royal Easter Show. Other performances included the Mayoral Charity Dinner and several large community and high-profile Council events.

The annual TAP Presentation Concert attracted an audience of more than 400 and showcased the amazing talent within the program. A touring group of 16 students also travelled to Council’s Sister City of Broken Hill to perform and take part in the celebrations that marked the 25th year Anniversary of the two Council’s Sister City agreement.

Two of this year’s TAP participants, Heather Riley (2011 Performer of the Year) and Gemma Summerhayes, were selected as featured performers in the 2011 Schools Spectacular together with last year’s TAP performer of the year, Jodie Goodwin.

A new Boys Music Workshop also showed that it is not just the girls who have talent, with many male performers now taking part in auditions for the 2012 program.

Next year’s program, will mark a decade of Council’s TAP program supporting excellence in the area of local performing arts.

To find out more about TAP, phone 9707 9447.

Inaugural Panania Village Festival

The first ever Panania Village Festival held on Saturday 10 September was a great success with local residents making their way to the event for a fantastic family day out. Food and market stalls lined the street, magicians and jugglers entertained the children and the Bankstown Talent Advancement Program delivered a stellar show. The festival also raised the profile of Panania’s charming shopping hub.

Bankstown to the beach

Young Bankstown residents keen to spend a day at the beach can take advantage of Council’s free Bus To Beach service in January.

The program is a great way for local youth to spend a day at Cronulla Beach during the school holidays. The service caters for residents aged 21 and under, along with their parents and/or guardians.

Operating on 10, 12, 17 and 19 January, spaces will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis as no bookings are required.

The program will, for the first time, also incorporate a beach volleyball tournament.

On Thursday, 12 January youths can sign up to play beach volleyball at Cronulla Beach and learn skills from professional coaches. A maximum of 30 participants can be accepted into the program and registrations are essential.

Once at the beach, it is important to remember to be safe in the sun. Remember to slip, slop and slap and enjoy January safely in the sun and sand.

Time Table

BUS 1 and 2 will depart from the following pick up points:

- 9.00am - The Roundabout Youth Centre, Helen Street corner Carlingford Road, Sefton.
- 9.15am - Greenacre Neighbourhood Centre, 171a Waterloo Road, Greenacre.
- 9.30am - 69 The Mall, Bankstown (on Paul Keating Park side, opposite Lincraft).

BUS 3 and 4 will depart from the following pick up points:

- 9.00am - Panania Railway Station, Panania on Weston Street side.
- 9.15am - Revesby Railway Station, Revesby on Blamey Street side.
- 9.30am - Padstow Railway Station, Padstow on Howard Road side.

All buses depart Cronulla Beach at 3.00pm SHARP and return to the pick up points as above.

To find out more or to register for the volleyball program call Bankstown City Council on 9707 9605.
Cleaner and Greener

Council has launched a new cleaning program to ensure our City is kept both clean and green.

The new Town Centre Enhancement Program operates seven days a week and provides higher levels of cleaning and gardening services to the Central Business District and all Town and Village Centres throughout the Bankstown area.

Traditionally Council provided overnight sweeping and litter picking on weekdays only.

Bankstown Mayor Clr Khal Asfour said the new program aims to create a cleaner and more beautiful environment for residents and visitors and will also help build community pride in our City.

The program includes three specialist teams focused on garden maintenance and cleaning of our CBD and Town Centres.

As part of the program, the teams will undertake various cleaning duties including billboard removal, litterbin cleansing, street furniture cleaning, graffiti removal, weed control, garden maintenance, car park cleaning and dumped rubbish reporting.

To find out more about Bankstown City Council’s Town Centre enhancement program go to www.bankstown.nsw.gov.au or contact 9707 9999.

BBAS holds record number of business workshops

Business owners in Bankstown are making the most of Council’s Business Advisory Service, attending more than 26 events every month. Since early 2011, Council has held more than 250 business workshops, making it Sydney’s most proactive Council in terms of providing facilities for local business.

The Bankstown Business Advisory Service (BBAS) is a one-stop-shop for all our local business owners and provides everything from networking events for existing business owners, to mentoring programs for newcomers to business.

All programs and workshops are free to attend and cover a diverse range of topics.

Throughout December, BBAS will hold workshops for the Health Professionals Industry, Disability Services, Real Estate, Children’s Services and Clerks to name a few. BBAS also has an ongoing Business Facilitator service available for all local small business operators.

Mayor of Bankstown Clr Khal Asfour said that Council is proud of this service and will continue to explore further ways to support local businesses.

For more information contact Council’s Business Advisory Service on 9707 9228.

Council leads the way for small business

Bankstown’s small businesses have received a major boost thanks to a new initiative by Council.

The inaugural Business Mentoring Program was recently completed with the aim of matching existing volunteer business owners as mentors to new business owners.

An unexpected highlight of the program was the overwhelming response from potential mentors who volunteered in greater numbers than were needed.

As part of the program mentors and their matched partners met at least once per week for a minimum of one hour, over a four month period. It also incorporated a networking function and two group workshop sessions.

Mayor of Bankstown Clr Khal Asfour said that much of Bankstown’s strength as a local economy has been built on the back of small businesses.

Mayor Asfour also thanked all those who participated in the program and the business community at large for their contributions to the prosperity of the City.

Council is now exploring ways to run a similar program again in 2012.

For more information contact Council Business Advisory Service on 9707 9227.
Children’s Festival

Not even wet weather could dampen the spirits of the thousands of people who gathered at the Bankstown Paceway on Saturday 24 September for the annual Children’s Festival.

The festival, sponsored by Bankstown City Council, provided an opportunity for young children, their parents and friends in our community to come together to learn, understand and appreciate other cultures.

By dedicating a day to celebrate our local children, the event made a positive contribution to the growth and well being of Bankstown’s future leaders.

The event included lantern and traditional costume competitions, multicultural performances, kite-flying, performances by the Bankstown Talent Advancement Program, a myriad of activities, amusement rides and a fireworks finale.

Library Activities for the Holidays

Bankstown’s five libraries are offering some great activities for children of all ages over the summer months. In addition to the Summer Reading Program, Bankstown libraries will also be offering the following activities:

Face painting and games at Panania Library
Tuesday 10 and Thursday 19 January @ 2:30pm-4:00pm.

Youth games night at Padstow Library
Wednesday 11 January @ 5:30pm-7:30pm.

Craft at Bankstown Library
Wednesdays 11 and 18 January @ 2:30pm-4:00pm.

Medieval Party theme at Bankstown Library
Friday 13 January @ 2:00pm-3:30pm.

Games afternoon at Greenacre Library
Monday 16 January @ 2:30pm-4:00pm.

Scrapbooking at Bankstown Library
Tuesday 17 January @ 2:30pm-4:30pm.

Family Movie Night at Padstow Library
Wednesday 18 January @ 5:30pm-7:30pm.

Bookings for all activities open 3 January and can be made by calling the Bankstown City Library Service on 9707 9731.

A Midsummer Knight’s Read

Bankstown City Library is now hosting its Summer Reading Club to encourage the children and youth of Bankstown to discover the wonderful books available at their local library.

Summer reading helps students return to school in the New Year and ready to learn with better reading skills, vocabulary and comprehension.

The club encourages children to read for enjoyment in their holidays and supports families through sharing and recommending good books to read.

Summer Reading Club began on 14 November and runs through to 22 January. Books read for the Premier’s Reading Challenge will count towards the Summer Reading Club if they are borrowed from any of Council’s five libraries.

As part of the club, children are asked to keep a reading log to record how many books they have read.

Very young children can also join in as books read to them by parents will count in the Club.

There are two levels of membership - Children (0 to 11 years) and Youths (12 to 18 years). Each level has its own activities, competitions and excellent prizes to make reading through the summer holidays even more fun.

There will be a presentation night in February 2012, open to all children and youth who return their reading logs to the library by 22 January 2012. This will be a great night with prizes, a medieval magic show and costumes, with participants receiving certificates.

For more information contact the Bankstown City Library Service on 9707 9731.

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For more information contact the Bankstown City Library Service on 9707 9731.
Make a splash this summer

**Summer is here and what better way to spend the day than at one of Council’s fantastic Leisure Centres.**

Council recently invested more than $3 million to upgrade its Birrong, Revesby and Wran Leisure Centres.

With most of the upgrades now complete, Open Days will be held at Birrong and Revesby Leisure Centres during December to celebrate the newly refurbished facilities and Council’s commitment to improving its services to the local community.

Upgrades include façade treatments, new shade structures, lighting improvements, accessible change rooms and ramps, pool concourse resurfacing, office and kiosk upgrades, fencing and landscaping.

Now is also the perfect time to enjoy Birrong Leisure Centre’s award-winning Spray park. Complete with water features, cannons, a mega soaker and a wet and dry playground, the Spray Park was recently awarded for its design, development and management in NSW/ACT by Parks and Leisure Australia, and was also named in the top three NSW swimming spots by the Daily Telegraph.

Swim School programs are proudly owned and managed by Council at all four centres and cater for all age groups. Lessons can be taken in groups or individual classes.

Greenacre has also recently re-opened to the public for the 2011/2012 summer season and will hold a holiday intensive Swim School program this summer, call 9707 9296 for details.

For information on the open days, our facilities and programs, please keep an eye on the leisure centres website - www.leisure.bankstown.nsw.gov.au.

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**ENROL NOW**

Keep me safe, teach me to swim

**Bankstown Leisure Centres Swim School**

For all enquiries, call your centre or visit our website

www.leisure.bankstown.nsw.gov.au

Visit our website and follow the links to Swim School to express your interest

Proudly owned & managed by Bankstown City Council
Why you should register your pet

Council would like to remind residents of the importance of registering your pet. Pets are often thought of as part of the family, therefore ensuring their safety is a must.

Should a pet escape from your yard and be picked up by Council’s ACO or Ranger and it is not micro-chipped, it will be taken to the Council Shelter at Renbury Farm at Austral. Once there, a pet will have two weeks to be picked up by its owner before it is made available for adoption to a new home.

In addition to this, if your pet is picked up by the Council ACO or Ranger and is not lifetime registered, you will be required to pay a fee to register a pet before it can be released.

It is also important to have your pet registered to avoid receiving a substantial fine from Council.

In accordance with the NSW Companion Animals Act 1998, animal owners must have their dog or cat microchipped by the time they are 12 weeks old and when your pet turns six months of age it is required to be lifetime registered.

Some current projects include:

**Bankstown’s New Library and Knowledge Centre**

Council has invested more than $20 million to develop a new state-of-the-art Central Library and Knowledge Centre, incorporating a library, exhibition space, cafe and 300-seat theatre.

*Status: In construction*

**Punchbowl and Panania Town Centre Improvements**

Council has invested more than $2.2 million into redeveloping Punchbowl and Panania Town Centres as part of Council’s Town Centre Improvement Program. Rejuvenation works include pavement replacement, stormwater irrigation, cleaning and refreshment of garden beds and the replacement of street furniture.

*Status: Punchbowl construction works has commenced and concept designs are being prepared for Panania.*

**Birrong and Revesby Leisure Centre Upgrades**

Council has invested more than $3.1 million to undertake improvement works to Birrong and Revesby Leisure Centres. Works include a spray park, new indoor pool structure (at Birrong), lighting improvements, accessible change rooms and ramps, pool surround resurfacing, office and kiosk upgrades, landscaping improvements and painting.

*Status: Architectural improvements are due for completion at the end of December 2011.*

To find out more about Council’s Capital Works Program go to www.bankstown.nsw.gov.au or contact Council on 9707 9999.

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Capital Works Program to revitalise City

Under the guidance of new Mayor Clr Khal Asfour and General Manager Matthew Stewart, Council is committed to upgrading a range of community assets across Bankstown as part of its 2011/12 Capital Works Budget.

Council has invested more than $50 million into revitalising our CBD and suburbs. This is part of our vision to reshape and reposition Bankstown as a dynamic, lively and modern city of the future.

“In developing the Bankstown Community Plan, residents asked Council to provide high quality and improve services and facilities,” Mayor of Bankstown Clr Khal Asfour said.

“Our extensive Capital Works Program is part of Council’s pledge to deliver the quality infrastructure our residents require and deserve.

“Council is committed to providing and maintaining our local amenities, and will continue to undertake Citywide rejuvenation works to meet the day to day requirements of our residents, while also preparing for the predicted future growth of our City,” Mayor Asfour said.

Join the Active Bankstown Club

Join Bankstown City Council’s Active Bankstown Club and keep fit and healthy this summer.

One of the fantastic programs offered as part of the Club include Sport A Month, a free program which introduces residents to a variety of sports to see which one they enjoy the most.

In December try swimming, water polo and aqua aerobics, while January is the month for Cycling Skills. In February give Zumba, Hockey and Soccer a go.

During February Active Bankstown members can also bring a friend along to watch a ’Dive-In-Movie‘ for free at Birrong Leisure Centre whenever they purchase a ticket.

To be eligible for the Buy-One-Get-One-Free offer, participants must show their Active Bankstown membership card.

When you join the Active Bankstown Club, you’ll be the first to learn about our programs and events, as well as receive a free welcome pack, the chance to win fantastic prizes and access to ‘members only’ events.

Membership is free; simply register online at www.bankstown.nsw.gov.au or call our Recreation Officer on 9707 9999 and Council will send you a registration form.
Bankstown City Council staff member Angela Tocher and students from Birrong Girls High School Bankstown Foodies Recycle Right Council’s Recycle Right initiative collected almost 100kg of recyclables using highly-visible recycling services, at this years Bankstown Bites Food Festival.

The annual Bankstown Bites event attracted close to 15,000 people from all over Sydney and surrounding areas. As part of Council’s Sustainable Events Policy, bin stations and flags were used all around the site to encourage visitors to think about how they disposed of their waste. A number of Council staff were also present at the event and spoke to many visitors about the correct way of recycling, to ensure the facilities were used properly.

Recycle Right is an ongoing Council initiative which is committed to ensuring the residents of Bankstown learn how to recycle correctly.

For more information on how to Recycle Right contact Council’s Resource Recovery team on 9707 9999.

Residents Recover Recyclables Well Council recently completed an audit across the Bankstown local government area of household bins, to assess how well its Recycle Right service is being used by residents.

The results found that many households do the right thing and use the bins correctly, however some households are still showing signs that they may be in need of assistance.

It is easy to Recycle Right!

Here are some simple ways you can learn from common mistakes and become a better recycler:

1. Empty your bottles and containers of food and liquid before putting in the yellow bin.
2. Clothes and linen are only reusable by charity banks and stores.
3. Put plastic bags, plastic wrap and plastic film in your red bin.

Council is working to make Bankstown a place we are all proud to call home, so give us a hand by recycling your waste into the correct bins.
How to contact your local Councillors

North
Chester Hill
Villawood
Sefton
Regents Park
Potts Hill
Birrong
Yagoona

PAM GAVIN (Lab)
M 0434 359 215

ALEX KUSKOFF (Lab)
M 0403 602 924

MICHAEL TADROS (Lib)
M 0434 315 963

TANIA MIHAILUK (Lab)
P 9707 9536

NAJI NAJJAR (Lib)
M 0421 057 244

KHAL ASFOUR (Lab)
Mayor
M 0411 412 396

GLEN WAUD (Lib)
M 0434 360 791

ALLAN WINTERBOTTOM (Lab)
Deputy Mayor
P 9785 9091

IAN STROMBORG (Lab)
T 9777 4843
F 9712 3779

East
Chullora
Greenacre
Mount Lewis
Bankstown
Punchbowl

Padstow
Revesby
Panania
East Hills
Padstow Heights
Revesby Heights
Picnic Point

LINDA DOWNEY (Lab)
M 0411 462 287

GLENN BROOKES (Lib)
M 0412 956 427

MAX PARKER (Ind)
M 0411 464 647

South

WEST
Lansdowne
Bass Hill
Georges Hall
Bankstown Airport
Condell Park
Milperra

IAN STROMBORG (Lab)
T 9777 4843
F 9712 3779

GLEN WAUD (Lib)
M 0434 360 791

ALLAN WINTERBOTTOM (Lab)
Deputy Mayor
P 9785 9091
M 0412 788 235

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M 0411 462 287

GLENN BROOKES (Lib)
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