It’s time to celebrate
Australia Day with us at Garrison Point

Australia Day is a great family day out for all the residents of Bankstown. The great Doug Parkinson and Diesel head the entertainment line-up, along with our inspirational TAP singers, Latin Oz Dance Mania and The Australian Blues Brothers Show. Damien Leith will join this great line-up of entertainment.

And there’s heaps of fun for the kids, with Humphrey Bear plus 20 free amusement rides and great activities including a Kiddies Corner, with shows, face painting, karaoke, magic and balloons for absolutely everyone!

Mark the date in your diary now and make sure you’re at Garrison Point, Georges Hall for the FREE concert, FREE parking, FREE amusement rides and a spectacular fireworks finale!

Australia Day citizenship ceremony and announcement of the Bankstown Australia Day Award winners will take place earlier in the day.

Food stalls operate from lunchtime and 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 festival site at Garrison Point.

See you there!

Note that while Bankstown City Council makes every effort to ensure programming details are correct at time of going to print, acts are subject to change without notice.

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Bankstown Directory

Bankstown City Council contacts
Bankstown City Council
Phone: 9707 9999
Fax: 9707 9495
Website: www.bankstown.nsw.gov.au
Email: council@bankstown.nsw.gov.au

Emergency numbers
Fire Brigade 000
Ambulance 000
Police - general 000

Swimming Pools
Birrong Swim Centre 9644 8300
Revesby Swim Centre 9771 2148
Greenacre Swim Centre 9796 7015
Wran Leisure Centre 9726 2283

Libraries
Bankstown 9707 9708
Chester Hill 9707 9740
Greenacre 9707 9744
Padstow 9707 9747
Panania 9707 9737

Contact your Council
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 Victoria Walker on 9707 9075.

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After hours emergency: 9707 9999
Telephone Interpreter Service 131 450
This year we celebrated our 30th year as a city and delivered extensive town centre renewal works to reflect our place as a major business and residential hub in Sydney.

Work on the renewal of the three town centres of Yagoona, Padstow and Georges Hall is near completion. Punchbowl town centre renewal is still in the design stage, with work expected to start in the New Year.

In the CBD, streetscape improvements to the shopping precinct at North and South Terraces began in late October and are scheduled for completion in March 2011.

This will result in a CBD to be proud of with expanded plaza and cafe areas, more green space and trees, a performance space, footpath widening, improved parking and modern signage and street furniture. A feature of the area will be the granite paving with inlaid koi carp brass paving art evoking and directing pedestrians from the train station to the Arts Centre.

Works have commenced on the construction of the North-South Terrace Underpass. Residents and commuters will notice changes in the area in the New Year with alternative traffic arrangements in place during some stages of the construction works.

The new multipurpose Bankstown Arts Centre in Olympic Parade will open its doors in early 2011, providing a great performance and display space.

Tenders have been accepted for the redevelopment of the Town Hall which will also include the library, theatre and meeting places. By mid-2011 we should see the elegant new façade of the building beginning to take shape. When it’s complete, our community can enjoy a library and knowledge centre designed to suit the needs of our 21st century community.

Council is continuing to develop environmentally responsible projects. The innovative stormwater recycling system at the Crest in Georges Hall will capture urban runoff and rainwater from the Dunc Grey Velodrome roof. The water will be used to irrigate all the playing fields at the Crest – harvesting 20 million litres of water for reuse each year.

This year we also asked you what your vision for Bankstown’s future was. We thank all who participated in our Community Plan consultations for their feedback which will be built into our planning decisions for the next 20 years.

While Council may be improving the infrastructure in our community, it is also vital that we take a lead in improving major transport routes for the City. For this reason I convened a taskforce of local government representatives from Campbelltown to the coast to advocate for a definite and firm State and Federal Government decision to duplicate the M5 East.

I will continue to lobby for this improvement and for better infrastructure for the people of Bankstown.

Dynamic and highly enjoyable festivals and social events were highlights of the year, with Australia Day, Lunar New Year and Bankstown Bites the standouts. In October, we celebrated our first Crosscurrents environmental arts and water festival on the Georges River at Garrison Point and I look forward to attending this event next year.

My thanks go to the wonderful volunteers who have worked so tirelessly for the community over the past year – from the Meals on Wheels volunteers who make their daily visits to our frail and elderly to the bushcare groups who help protect our environment.

On behalf of the councillors and staff, I wish all our residents and their families a safe and peaceful Christmas and prosperous 2011.
Mayor heads M5 taskforce

Mayor Tania Mihailuk is determined to get better transport infrastructure for the people of south-western Sydney and our local government area.

In October she convened a meeting of local government representatives from Campbelltown to the coast, to advocate for a definite and firm state and federal government decision to duplicate the M5 East.

Mayor Mihailuk said a taskforce had been formed to advocate for the duplication of the M5 East.

“The taskforce members represent one-third of Sydney’s population and we are determined to improve transport links for our people,” Mayor Mihailuk said.

“Expansion of this vital piece of infrastructure is needed to drive the economy and jobs growth in Sydney, with the corridor itself representing 45 per cent of Sydney’s jobs and 10 per cent of the nation’s jobs.

“These figures will only grow as more than 200,000 homes are expected to be built along the road corridor.

“From Campbelltown to Botany Bay and all the suburbs in between, people are suffering while we wait for a decision on this vital piece of infrastructure.

“We want a commitment from the governments to duplicate the M5 East, with a firm date and budget to be allocated for this project to be built quickly.

“Unless we get action, this road will choke Sydney. It’s not just the south and south-west that so desperately need this vital piece of infrastructure – if it’s not addressed the impacts will be felt right across the Sydney metropolitan area.

“By joining forces, we will make our combined voices – and the combined voices of the people we represent – heard in Sydney and Canberra.”

Good health on the way

Council is about to commence construction on the new $1.5 million Women’s and Children’s Health Centre at Jacobs Street, Bankstown, with construction getting underway in the first week in November 2010. The new centre will be operational by May 2011.

This exciting new centre will contain an immunisation clinic for children, a women’s health centre and an occasional child care centre.

The health centre will provide women with a range of medical practitioners and counsellors.

This centre is part of Bankstown City Council’s CBD Renewal Program, which is upgrading public infrastructure of the centre to accommodate future growth and development over the next 20 years.

The construction of the centre is totally funded by Bankstown City Council.

Seniors Week 20-27 March

It’s on again – a full week of activity and entertainment for all Bankstown seniors! Keep the dates in your diary and keep tuned for more information on Seniors Week.
Run for your life

Thank you to all the wonderful local residents and council employees who got out there and participated in the 2010 Relay for Life!

And thank you to all the sponsors whose contributions helped us raise funds to fight cancer.

Relays for Life are run in all local government areas but we know we do it better in Bankstown.

“Run for your life” is a unique overnight fundraising event which celebrates cancer survivors, remembers our lost ones and is an opportunity to raise much needed funds for cancer research.

Cancer is the leading cause of death in Australia, with more than 43,000 people expected to die from cancer this year alone.

All proceeds raised from the event will go toward providing practical support and information for cancer patients and their families, health promotion to reduce risks of getting cancer and funding for cancer research.

Don’t smoke near our kids

In October, council installed kids at play keep smoke away signs at strategic children’s playgrounds across the local government area.

Mayor Tania Mihailuk said council wants to encourage smokers to keep at least 10 metres or more away from children’s playgrounds.

“Initially, we’re installing the signs near play areas with a high amount of business or pedestrian traffic where people are more likely to smoke,” Mayor Mihailuk said.

“The signs have bright easy to read graphics and large photos of those most affected by smoking – our kids.

“Second-hand smoke is harmful to all of us and especially to the developing lungs of our kids – it increases the risk of heart disease, cancer, asthma and other respiratory problems.

“We’re relying on the community to get behind council and help provide a healthy environment for our children – all we’re asking is that smokers move 10 metres or more away from the playground whenever they light up.”

Underpass gets under way

Bankstown City Council’s commitment to improving the CBD continues with preliminary work on the upgrade of the rail underpass between North and South Terrace expected to commence shortly.

Mayor Tania Mihailuk said work on the underpass will provide the community with a greater degree of flexibility to commute in and around the city.

“The underpass will also support the continued growth of the business and residential sectors in the CBD,” Mayor Mihailuk said.

“With an estimated 1,800 vehicles an hour using the underpass in peak periods, the proposed works will assist in tackling the cost of congestion and undue delays faced by motorists on a daily basis.”

An integral component of council’s Public Domain, Transport and Traffic Improvement Plans for the CBD, the underpass will provide four traffic lanes, signalised intersections, pedestrian pathways and improved bicycle access.

The project will take six months to complete and during some stages of construction alternative traffic arrangements will be in place.
Slow down now

In the lead-up to the summer holidays, from 11 October to 7 November, Council joined with the RTA in a campaign to educate young drivers about the dangers of speeding.

At numerous locations around the local government area, Speeding – no one thinks big of you posters were displayed.

Mayor Tania Mihailuk said she hoped that young drivers, particularly young male drivers, had noticed the signs and taken the message to heart.

“Council wants the young people of Bankstown to take note of the campaign and remember that speeding is a factor in about 40 per cent of NSW road deaths each year,” Mayor Mihailuk said.

“The stats tell the sad truth – the biggest killer of young drivers is speeding and around 80 per cent of those killed are male.

“As a community, we urge all our young people to drive in a responsible manner.”

Shop locally and win!

When you shop in Yagoona and Padstow town centres this December and January you could win a fantastic prize in our Boost for Business campaign.

In Yagoona and Padstow, council and the town centre retailers want to reward loyal local shoppers for their patience during our town centre renewal projects, so when you spend $10 or more in one transaction or $10 or more in several transactions in one day, you have a chance to win a great prize or coupons!

In Yagoona, during December and January, as soon as you spend $10 in one day at one or more retailers, you’ll receive coupons which will entitle you to great discounts at your favourite retailers.

If you shop in Padstow town centre this December you’ll get the chance to win a $3,000 travel voucher for you and your family.

In Padstow, just keep your receipts, fill out an entry form at participating retailers and place in the competition barrel at Padstow Australia Post or our Library.

The winning entry will be drawn on 17 January and winner announced on council’s website.

Enjoy your Christmas shopping at Yagoona and Padstow town centres!

Recycling our water

The Crest Sporting complex in Georges Hall is set to benefit from an innovative stormwater recycling project.

As part of council’s commitment to make the best use of stormwater, the Crest complex will harvest and reuse non-potable water to irrigate the sports fields at the complex.

Bankstown Mayor Tania Mihailuk said that urban runoff and rainwater from the Dunc Grey Velodrome roof will be captured and then treated using a natural rain garden.

“The water will then be stored in an expanded pond before being used to irrigate all of the playing fields in the area,” Mayor Mihailuk said.

“The project will also focus on improving stormwater quality in the Prospect Creek catchment which will increase biodiversity, help mitigate floods downstream and supply more than 80 per cent of irrigation demands for the area.”

Works will include the expansion of the existing pond in the cycling track north of the velodrome which currently captures water from the velodrome roof, with water from a small urban catchment also being diverted into the expanded pond.

“Stormwater management for our local area requires ongoing planning, construction and maintenance,” Mayor Mihailuk said.
Padstow open for business

In November, the Padstow community celebrated the completion of the $2 million town centre improvement works

Council’s town centre improvement program is an initiative which results in major improvements to the public domain and physical infrastructure in the priority town centres across the city.

Padstow is the third town centre to get an upgrade, with Yagoona and Georges Hall the first two cabs off the rank.

Among the many fine new civic embellishments to the town centre are five artworks: Vessels – two large polished concrete terrazzo seats at Stephens Lane/Padstow Parade, with a carpet of hand-made mosaic paver tiles stretching between them; Summertime – a set of 38 hand-forged native wildflowers near the library; Postcards From Padstow – a painted mural; Hopscotch – hand-made mosaic paver tiles form the hopscotch game and depict local native species found in Padstow; and Giant Chess – the giant chess pieces are located in brightly coloured chess boxes in front of the library.

In the town centre, we’ve widened the footpath to enable the inclusion of small native and deciduous trees behind the kerbline.

We would like to thank all the residents and business owners in Padstow who have been so patient during the improvement program.

Beautiful Bankstown

The Bankstown CBD area is getting a facelift! Streetscape improvements to the shopping precinct at North and South Terraces are underway, with work on the project starting in late October and scheduled for completion in March 2011, weather permitting.

On North Terrace, works include improved setdown and loading bay areas in the old bus interchange area, an expanded plaza and cafe area, more green space, new plantings and an informal small performance space. Modern signage, street furniture, light fittings and new footpaths and plaza paving complete this area.

Work on the South Terrace side is more extensive, with major road improvements, footpath widening to 5.8m and split into trading/pedestrian and street furniture zones with great new street furniture and granite pavement.

New street trees, feature lighting totems and inlaid koi carp brass paving art evoke the old fish pond and direct pedestrians from the station to the Arts Centre. On Chapel Road South, road improvements will result in eight extra car spaces with other improvements including a new shade structure with folded panels reminiscent of oregami shapes, feature lighting in the gums and on banner poles.

The CBD will be reborn as a modern and contemporary area which pays homage to all the cultures that make up our great community.

Meals on Wheels on the move

The Meals on Wheels service is moving to a permanent home at Greenacre Senior Citizens’ Centre.

Council has provided $155,000 to relocate this vital community service from the Town Hall basement it has called home since 1966 to its new Greenacre premises.

The service currently provides meals to 360 clients and is supported by 185 volunteers many of whom have notched up more than 15 years’ service.
In September, council workers Colin Brennan and Alan Ally were mowing a reserve in Padstow when a smoke alarm went off in an adjacent house.

Entering the house through a thick haze of smoke, they found a very distressed resident and a frying pan on the stove ablaze. Extinguishing the fire, they alerted emergency services and helped householder Angela Horvat from the dwelling.

Mayor Tania Mihailuk said Mrs Horvat was extremely grateful for Colin and Alan’s assistance.

“There is no doubt Colin and Alan’s actions averted a far more serious incident,” Mayor Mihailuk said.

“But there is a far greater safety message here – we should all ensure that our older relatives and friends are living in a safe environment and that they are able to look after themselves.

“I would like to congratulate Colin and Alan for their quick thinking in helping Mrs Horvat.”

Mayor Mihailuk said consolidating the library, theatre and meeting places into the one building will give residents easier access to civic, library and community facilities.

“The new facade of the building will complement the existing 1970s architecture and expresses the architecturally rhythmic lines of the building,” Mayor Mihailuk said.

“A major portion of the old façade will be maintained as a memory of the existing building, while the layout of the interior will reflect the needs of our Bankstown residents.

“Our community will have a state of the art library and knowledge centre designed to suit the needs of the 21st century Bankstown community.”

This elegant line drawing of the town hall complex shows how the building seamlessly merges with the Paul Keating Park surrounds.

Spray fun!

Birrong and Revesby pools are the most exciting places for kids this summer. Just in time for the school holidays, we’ve opened our great new children’s spray park and we’re inviting all our kids to come and have some great summer fun!

The spray parks look like tropical gardens with giant powder-coated waterplay equipment such as the Crazy Hose, Poly Palm, Sneaky Soaker and Cosmic Canon just waiting to cool you down. At Birrong, we’ve filled in the wading pool, installed a shade screen and turned the area into a wet and dry water feature playground – just pick your season and play wet or dry and you’ll still land on the soft fall spongy surface.

Parking is so much easier for the mums and dads at Birrong and Revesby pools – we’ve resurfaced the parking area, making for more efficient and easier use.

We’ve removed the covered walkway at Birrong and opened up the area and there’s more exciting new works to come! In 2011, we’ll be upgrading the main pool areas at both swimming centres.
Your library – your activities

Bankstown’s five libraries are offering some great activities for all ages over the summer months. Come and join us at the Summer Reading Club for children up to 18 and their families; make use of the great Bus to Library service for seniors with limited mobility or difficulty accessing transport; check out the school holiday games and face painting; or try your hand at the Youth Console Games Challenge. Plus all the other great summer holiday activities we have lined up for you.

Books to home

If you’re confined to your home due to frailty or illness and are missing out on all your library services, we come to you.

Bankstown’s Home Library Service delivers books, magazines, talking books, DVDs and CDs right to your door! It’s easy to join the Home Library Service – just call us on 9707 9733 and we’ll deliver your order!

Free bus to library

Love to visit the library but have limited mobility? Call the Bus to Library service 9707 9733, we’ll join you up immediately and the bus will come and collect you and take you to the library. Check out our new books in large print or in talking book format, CDs, DVDs and magazines, have morning tea and chat to your fellow library lovers. The bus then takes you home.

After Dark Adventures

Working parents should check out the evening storytime sessions for preschool and primary school kids at all our libraries. It’s a great way to spend time with your kids, watch them learn through reading and play with their parents in a supportive and caring environment.

Family history big success

Our Family History Workshops are so good we’re teaching librarians from other local government areas how to go about it. Our 2010 series of Family History Workshops have revived interest in the history of the local area and families. We’re going to repeat these workshops in 2011, so watch our website and council pages for the next course.

Computer Savvy Seniors

We want all our older residents to be computer savvy and we’ll be continuing our Computer Savvy Seniors classes in 2011. The classes cover the absolute basics – using the mouse, shutting down safely and printing – and also the Internet and getting to websites and using email. The classes are held at Bankstown Library Technology Centre from 9.30am-12noon on the last Tuesday of the month. A booking fee of $3 covers the cost of workbooks. Call 9707 9713 for more details on the next available class.

eBooks 24/7

Our libraries have a great collection of eBooks on a variety of subjects and topics. To access eBooks, all you need is a current Bankstown Library membership card number and then just go to http://www.bankstown.nsw.gov.au/eBooks/default.aspx and find your book! To find out more, call 9707 9708.
Doing business in Bankstown

2010 has been a busy and eventful year for the Bankstown Business Advisory Service (BBAS).

We celebrated the first year of our service, the opening of the Visitor Information Centre and hosted four business and industry breakfasts and a number of workshops and seminars. Our Start Up Business Workshop and Growing Your Business Workshop Series were welcomed by our business community who discussed topics as varied as marketing, employee management, networking for success and financial reporting.

Australian Tax Office workshops, 2010 career compass jobs and training expo, the UWS hosted and NSW government funded Building Arabic Business and the Attorney General’s Project: Retail Security were other business focused events attracted to the area by BBAS.

As part of Small Business September, the Business Advisory Service also facilitated 10 small business workshops, with over 180 local business people attending the sessions.

Better business

Council wants to know how we can help our business owners in the CBD and town centres, so we’re undertaking a survey to assess the types of businesses in the local government area and what kinds of workshops you’d find beneficial to your business.

When this information is collated, council wants to hold discussions with the industry groups identified in the survey with the intent of focusing future workshops where they are most needed by our business community.

To find out more about this survey, call our Business Advisory Service on 9707 9228.

Online tutoring

Following the success of a recent trial of on-line tutoring resource Yourtutor, Bankstown Library has now expanded this innovative service.

Yourtutor is a free on-line service which offers direct support on a range of subjects for years 4 to 12, TAFE and first year university students.

Bankstown Mayor Tania Mihailuk said the use of technology such as Yourtutor is revolutionising the way our young people are educated.

“The interactive approach of Yourtutor allows students to learn at their own pace while receiving full educational support along the way,” Mayor Mihailuk said.

“I encourage all the students in the Bankstown local government area to go to their local library and take advantage of this free tutoring service as well as the range of other educational resources offered by our libraries”

Access to Yourtutor is provided through the library’s website using membership details which allow students to connect with qualified tutors for one-on-one help with assignments, exam preparation and study questions.

Information is shared using computer features such as controlled chat, interactive whiteboards and shared web browsing.

Yourtutor, which operates 4-8pm Monday to Friday, can be accessed from all library branches or at home.

Yourtutor supports maths, science and English subjects, as well as research and study techniques.

To find out more about Yourtutor email libraries@bankstown.nsw.gov.au or join up by just going to bankstown.nsw.gov.au and entering your library membership number.
2011 Recreation Expo!

Don’t miss out on the 2011 Bankstown Recreation Expo at Carysfield Reserve, Bass Hill, 2-6pm on Saturday 12 March!

There’ll be something for everyone from skate boarding to kitemaking, circus skills, reptile show, giant games, belly dancing and pilates.

If you work for a leisure, sport, health or recreation organisation and want to be part of the 2011 Recreation Expo, call 9707 9999. If you simply want to remind yourself not to miss out on the fun, mark the date on your calendar and keep going to www.bankstown.nsw.gov.au for updates.

And you could win a $100 gift voucher in the 2011 Bankstown Recreation Expo photo competition. It’s an Active Bankstown event, so we want to see you, your friends and family being active in Bankstown.

Go to the Active Bankstown page on our website, complete the registration form, select the category you want to enter (experienced or amateur) and we’ll send you further information.

Entries close Friday 25 February 2011. Winners will be announced at the Recreation Expo and on our website.

School holiday boredom?

Get into council’s Month of Sport!

There’s lots of activities to keep you and your family entertained in January 2011.

Call 9707 9999 and ask for a Month of Sport brochure to be sent to you or go to www.bankstown.nsw.gov.au

Summer at your leisure centre!

This summer there’s plenty of fun for all the family:

- Large pool inflatable obstacle course
- Dive in Movies – a large inflatable screen projects movies while you keep cool in the pool
- Group fitness yoga and zumba classes
- New Waterplay/Spray Park at Birrong Leisure Centre.

A festival of water

In October, 500 residents turned out to celebrate the first Crosscurrents Festival on the Georges River at Garrison Point.

This inaugural festival was celebrated as part of Water Week and encourages residents to play an active role in protecting our natural environment and raises awareness of water issues.

It was a great family day out where residents enjoyed live music and performances, creative activities, storytelling, short educational bush walks, fly fishing demonstrations, interactive workshops, stalls and the Go with the Flow bus tour which featured a guided walk around Bankstown’s waterways.

A main feature of this year’s event was the Stories of Water Project which explores the significance of water in the lives of people living in the Bankstown area.

The project explores local stories and experiences through a range of creative works including painting, photographs, weaving and videos.

Swim for FREE this summer

This coupon gives you and your family free entry into any of these leisure centres.

This coupon is for up to two adults and three children and is valid for one use only. The coupon, which expires 30 June 2011, must be presented at the cashier when entering the leisure centre. No booking required.

**COUPON**

REVESBY SWIM CENTRE
Marco Avenue, Revesby 9771 2148

BIRrong SWIM CENTRE
Wellington Road, Birrong 9644 8300

GREENACRE SWIM CENTRE
Off Banksia Road, Greenacre 9796 7015

WRAN LEISURE CENTRE
Gundaroo Street, Villawood 9766 2283
Bike around Bankstown scores!

Parks and Leisure Australia awarded Bike around Bankstown Best Event in NSW 2010.

Bike around Bankstown, which took place earlier this year, included an intermediate to advanced cyclists 20km ride through the Bankstown local government area and a beginners and families 6km ride in the Mirambeena Regional Park.

The 2011 event will be held on Saturday 7 May. To find out more about Bike around Bankstown and cycling in your area, call the Recreation Officer on 9707 9999.

Sefton Golf Course

It’s Twilight Golf season at Sefton Golf Course and golfers can now play unlimited golf from 3-7pm seven days a week for just $12.

Our pro shop can cater for all your golfing needs, including hire equipment, buggies, golf carts and lots more.

And if you’re feeling hungry, try some of our great food to keep you full of energy while you make your way around the golf course.

At Sefton, visitors are welcome every day and so are family and group bookings. We’ve also got a great loyalty program and we want you to take advantage of all the loyalty program benefits when you come out for your first visit.

To find out more about a great golfing experience, call 9743 9436.

Bankstown Australia Day Celebrations

Wednesday 26 January 4-9pm
Fireworks Finale!
Garrison Point Georges Hall

Bankstown Lunar New Year Festival
Saturday, 29 January, 10am-3pm
Bankstown City Plaza
Kids’ birthday parties
Looking for the perfect place to hold a great kids’ party?
Celebrate your child’s birthday at one of our four leisure centres.
Make it a fun-filled day with giant inflatables at Revesby and Birrong Leisure Centres and choose from great birthday packages starting from $20 a child.
So what are you waiting for? Decide what date suits you (weekends and school holidays only) and call us on 9644 8300 (Birrong Leisure Centre) or 9771 2148 (Revesby Leisure Centre).

Eco-cool this summer
This summer, be smart and keep cool the eco-friendly and energy-efficient way:
- Switch off lights and appliances
- Cook outside to avoid adding extra heat to your home
- Leave ironing and cooking to cooler times of the day
- Close curtains to keep heat out
- Open windows in the evening to let daytime heat escape
- Buy a portable fan
- Close doors and only cool rooms being used
- Wear lighter clothing made of natural fibres
- Cool off as a group - cool one home rather than several
- Visit a council pool.
To find out more about cooling your home go to www.environment.nsw.gov.au or www.savepower.nsw.gov.au

Many hands – light work
Register early to help save our planet – join the thousands of volunteers on Clean Up Australia Day on Sunday 6 March 2011.
Council hopes that many more local residents will volunteer an hour or two to help clean up their area. We’re proud of our precious environment and we’d love you to join us in this nationally celebrated event.
Site registrations open in early 2011 at www.cleanup.org.au and we need residents to help supervise local cleanup sites. To find out more, call the Resource Recovery Education Officer on 9707 9999.

Recycling...it’s not silly
Australians generate more recyclable materials over the Christmas-New Year period than at any other time of the year.
Glass and plastic bottles, aluminium cans and wrapping paper find their way to a recycling facility where they’re sorted by hand first, then mechanically and made into new things.
This Christmas, follow the Planet Ark Festive Season Green Guide http://festiverecycling.planetark.org.au and help reduce our impact on the planet during the festive season. Wrap gifts in teatowels, make your own cards, don’t over-cater, give gifts that’ll be used, compost food scraps or take a local holiday.
Serving our city

The last few months of the year are always a busy time and we’d like to thank all the people who participated in our many events and projects.

Carers Ball 22 October: To celebrate Carers’ Week, 450 carers attended the inaugural Carers Ball at Bankstown Sports Club’s Grand Ballroom. A great night was had by all at this event organised by a group of non-profit organisations and Bankstown and Campbelltown City Councils.

International White Cane Day 15 October: To bring home the importance of a clear footpath to someone who is vision impaired, Mayor Tania Mihailuk walked blindfolded through Bankstown with a cane. The Mayor was accompanied by vision impaired resident Rebecca Loftus, a member of the Council’s Access Committee.

Dementia Picnic Day 23 September: Sydney South West Area Health Service and council partnered to invite several dementia-related service providers to a picnic to raise community awareness on dementia. Seventy families and friends of people with dementia and seniors attended the picnic and enjoyed the performances.

Access Award: You have until 4 February to nominate a local business or service for our Access Award. The award acknowledges local businesses, organisations and community groups which provide easy access for people with disabilities. Access includes clear signage; easy to understand information; friendly, welcoming and respectful attitude. To nominate a deserving business or service or find out more about the Access Awards, call 9707 9464, go to www.bankstown.nsw.gov.au or email deedee.sanjose@bankstown.nsw.gov.au

To provide good access, keep it clear:
- Trim trees and bushes away from footpaths
- Move outside café and restaurant chairs, tables, goods and signage in to provide a clear footpath.
- Tables and chairs should be enclosed by barriers.
- Do not put bins and council cleanup rubbish on footpath.
- Report hazards such as uneven paths to council.

Don’t drink and drive

Licensed venues in Bankstown are joining with police, the RTA and Bankstown City Council to help you get home safely over the holiday season.

TV ads will feature a guilty drinker who keeps seeing police and mobile RBTs every time he gets near his car, while posters and coasters will bear the joint council RTA RBT warning.

The drunken driver is becoming paranoid about road safety and the fear of being caught. And the fear is real – if you drink and drive, a mobile RBT will catch you this holiday season.

From 1 December to 26 January, some of Bankstown’s licensed venues will be joining police in the Paranoia drink driving prevention project. They’ll be continuing to practise responsible service of alcohol and in a lot of cases they’ll be putting on transport to make sure you get home OK. Just remember, every police car can carry out RBTs and every police car is out there on the roads these holidays to make sure we all get home safely.

So, if you’re planning to drink during the festive season, then plan not to drive. Mobile RBT. You don’t know where. You don’t know when.

Events roundup

Children’s Festival:
In September, thousands of families gathered in Paul Keating Park for the annual Children’s Festival. The children’s and lantern parades and dragon and lion dances were once again highlights of the event which culminated in a spectacular fireworks display.

Padstow on Parade:
October showers failed to stop the crowds which thronged to the annual Padstow on Parade street fair in the revitalised town centre of Padstow. Young performers from local dance and vocal academies, Humphrey Bear, Funky Bugs and Dora the Explorer thrilled the littlies and mums and dads took advantage of the great local shopping and the many festival stalls.

Bankstown City Christmas Carols:
The best community carols in Sydney were held at Paul Keating Park in early December. The wonderful Katie Underwood led the carollers in Jingle Bell Rock, Silent Night and many other traditional carols, enthralled the families and friends who enjoyed this great festival. The fireworks finale was enjoyed by adults and kids alike.

TAP wrap:
The year is drawing to a close for the young vocalists from the Bankstown Talent Advancement Program 2010. With a string of high profile events and wonderful performances to their credit, we congratulate all 22 students on this year’s achievements. Auditions for 2011 have just taken place and a music camp in February will put the top 30 applicants through their paces. To find out more about TAP, call 9707 9447.
Community Events

JANUARY
26 January 2011
Australia Day
29 January 2011
Lunar New Year

MARCH
20-27 March 2011
Seniors Week

CHRISTMAS / NEW YEAR CLOSURES 2010/2011

All Council services and buildings will be closed on Christmas Day.

The Customer Service Centre, libraries and Women’s Rest Centre will also be closed on all other public holidays including New Year’s Day, Sunday 2 and Monday 3 January 2010.

The Immunisation Clinic will be closed from Wednesday 22 December 2010 to Monday 10 January 2011 inclusive.

Bankstown Senior Citizens’ Centre will be closed for meals from 18 December 2010 until the relocated service opens again on 28 February 2011.

Collection of your rubbish, recycling and garden waste bins will not change.

NEW YEAR FIREWORKS WARNING

Police will be targeting the unlawful use of fireworks around Bankstown over the New Year period.

Remember fireworks are banned in Australia, without a permit, and you could incur a $1,000 fine.

Keep safe and secure these holidays, and leave the fireworks to the professionals.

Illegal use of fireworks should be reported to Bankstown Police on 9783 2199.

Bankstown Directory

Crisis Intervention and General Emergency numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AIDS Information Line</td>
<td>9332 4000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bankstown Hospital</td>
<td>9722 8000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bankstown Police</td>
<td>9783 2199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bankstown SES Headquarters</td>
<td>9707 2711</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bass Hill Police</td>
<td>9645 9999</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cancer Council Helpline</td>
<td>131 120</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chemist – Emergency Prescription Service</td>
<td>1300 882 294</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Abuse Prevention Service (24 hours)</td>
<td>9716 8000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Damage to bus shelters</td>
<td>1800 501 402</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Community Services – DOCS helpline (24 hours)</td>
<td>132 111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Community Services (Bankstown)</td>
<td>8713 7800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dog Catcher – Animal Control Officer</td>
<td>9707 9636</td>
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<tr>
<td>Domestic Violence Line (24 hours)</td>
<td>1800 656 463</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electricity – Energy Australia</td>
<td>131 388</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electricity – Integral Energy</td>
<td>131 003</td>
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<tr>
<td>G Line (gambling support)</td>
<td>1800 633 635</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gas – AGL Gas Company</td>
<td>131 909</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gay &amp; Lesbian Line (4pm to 12 midnight)</td>
<td>8594 9596</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interpreter – Translating and Interpreter Service (24 hours)</td>
<td>131 450</td>
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<tr>
<td>Karitane Careline (24 hours)</td>
<td>9794 1852</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kids Help Line</td>
<td>1800 551 800</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lifeline (24 hours)</td>
<td>131 114</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mental Health Carers (ARAFMI)</td>
<td>9805 1883</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poisons Information Centre (24 hours)</td>
<td>131 126</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rape Crisis Centre (24 hours)</td>
<td>1800 424 017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tenants’ Hotline</td>
<td>1800 251 101</td>
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<tr>
<td>TTY (hearing impaired)</td>
<td>133 677</td>
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<tr>
<td>Speak &amp; Listen</td>
<td>1300 555 727</td>
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<tr>
<td>Revesby Police</td>
<td>8724 6099</td>
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<tr>
<td>Salvo Care Line (24 hours)</td>
<td>9331 6000</td>
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<td>Salvo Crisis Line (24 hours)</td>
<td>9331 2000</td>
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<tr>
<td>SIDS – Sudden Infant Death Society (24 hours)</td>
<td>1800 651 186</td>
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<tr>
<td>State Emergency Services (wind tree damage etc.)</td>
<td>link: <a href="http://www.ses.nsw.gov.au">www.ses.nsw.gov.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victims Support Service (24 hours)</td>
<td>132 500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Water – Sydney</td>
<td>132 092</td>
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</tbody>
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Weather Warnings link: www.bom.gov.au/weather