Community Link

Council is proud of what it has delivered in its four year term

Birrong and Revesby Leisure Centre upgrades Jan 2012.

Liberty swing for children with a disability opened June 2012.

Bankstown Arts Centre opened Feb 2011.

Bankstown rail underpass opened July 2011.
Record Crowd

Foodies converged on Bankstown in their thousands when Bankstown Bites was staged at the new location of Griffith Park and Arts Centre on 14 July.

The Discovery Food Tours were the highlight with all 27 booked out. Many people taking part for the first time.

Irene and John from Avalon said it was well worth the 5:30am wake up.

“The morning was surreal, it just felt like I was in another world,” Irene said.

Fran and Nick from Austinmer hadn’t been to Bankstown before yet after their experience at Bites, believe it to be a very yummy place and will definitely be bringing their children back.

“The spring rolls and Beef Pho at Phat Dat alone are worth coming back for,” raved Fran.

Erica and Hugh Cameron from Baulkham Hills hadn’t been to Bankstown before.

“Bankstown offers so much diversity and we were blown away by the variety of multicultural food available, everything from Vietnamese, Lebanese and beyond,” Hugh said.

“I encourage people to get out of their own area and expand their minds and palette here in Bankstown,” said Erica.

Locals, Margaret and Belinda from Revesby, love the diversity of cultures in the Bankstown area and the variety of food on offer. The women are regulars at Bankstown Bites and look forward to coming back year after year.

“The Sweet Fantasy Tour was the highlight for us. It was a chance to sample the many flavours on offer,” Belinda said.

For those who couldn’t make it to Bankstown, they still experienced the atmosphere and colour on 702 ABC radio, with regular live reports as part of a special breakfast tour staged for announcer Simon Marnie’s listeners.

Celebrity cook, Justine Schofield, proved a real hit on the day as were our local My Kitchen Rules contestants, Steve Georgiou and Helen Demetriou, who purchased all their ingredients for their demonstrations from stores within 500 metres of the event site.

“We found everything we needed in just eight minutes and it was all soooo fresh,” said Helen.
Record amount raised for Paediatric Unit

Bankstown City Council Mayor, Councillor Khal Asfour, will shortly hand over a cheque for $80,000 to the Paediatric Unit at Bankstown Hospital.

The amount is a fundraising record for the Mayoral Charity Dinner, which was held on Friday 29 June at Bankstown Sports Club.

The 500-strong crowd was treated to a spectacular line-up of entertainment, headed by one of Australia’s leading MCs, Bankstown’s own Vince Sorrenti.

Outstanding performances by Bankstown’s Talent Advancement Program (TAP) vocalists, Nicole Thornton and Sinead Lee; award-winning illusionist, Adam Dean; ATSUI Fire & Light Show and other entertainment acts also featured on the night.

Bankstown Sports Club underwrote most of the costs of the night, while many local businesses generously supported the event.

The funds raised will be used to establish a short stay unit at Bankstown Hospital, where the sickest children can be carefully monitored in a more suitable area in the paediatric unit, rather than in emergency.

Around 10 special pieces of monitoring equipment will also be purchased to help the hospital staff do what we do best, save lives.
Council roadshows

Around 200 people have attended each of Council’s travelling roadshows held throughout Bankstown over the past 12 months. The roadshows enable residents and ratepayers to ask questions, provide feedback and raise any issues of concern about city services with Council staff and Councillors.

Council supports locals

In addition to its Community Grants program, Council supports numerous other local initiatives with financial assistance. So far this year, more than $56,000 has been distributed including:

- $3,000 to Punchbowl Boys High School’s ‘Boys on Bikes’ program;
- $2,000 to Wishing Hearts Foundation fundraiser for Westmead Hospital Heart Centre for Children;
- $1,000 to Young UN Women Sydney 2012 Metro Leadership Forum;
- $750 to Royal Knights Hip Hop dance group representing Australia at the 2012 World Hip Hop Championships in Las Vegas;
- $500 each to Andy Lieu, Christopher Hill and Shervin Varga who are members of the Australian Vikings Schoolboys Futsal Team which is competing overseas; and
- $500 to Melissa-Maree Farrington who represented Australia at the 14th IAAF World Junior Athletics Championships in Spain.

Bankstown the real international food capital of Sydney!

The Mayor of Bankstown, Councillor Khal Asfour, recently called on the NSW Government to include Bankstown in a survey profiling ethnic eat streets in Sydney.

Many suburbs can claim fame to just one style of cuisine, however here in Bankstown, we have a multicultural menu as thousands of visitors to Bankstown Bites can testify.

Following the Mayor’s request, Bankstown has now been added to the state government list.
Budget hits the mark for investment

For the 37th consecutive year, Council has not increased rates above the benchmark set by the NSW Government and is on target to be debt-free by 2018.

Council’s $152 million budget for 2012/13 has been adopted after being placed on public exhibition for a month. It includes $119 million for day-to-day operations and $33 million for capital works.

Among the budget highlights:

- $9.8 million for local roads including $1.3 million for Greenacre and Waterloo Roads at Greenacre, $593,000 at Koonwarra Street at Villawood, $538,000 for Edgar Street at Condell Park, and $340,000 for Tower Street at Panania;
- $3.2 million for parks and sporting fields including four new hard surface netball courts at Deverall Park, and installation of fitness equipment and lighting in Roberts Park at Greenacre;
- $2.5 million for stormwater and drainage projects including Lake Gillawarra, Georges River Bank stabilisation and Little Salt Pan Creek;
- $1.6 million for Panania town centre improvements;
- $1.4 million for the upgrading of the Chester Hill Library as part of council’s library renewal program; and
- $1.1 million for footpaths including Mundamatta-Lowana Streets Villawood, Marco Avenue Revesby-Marshall Lane East Hills and Maclaurin Avenue-Henry Lawson Lawson Drive East Hills.

Punchbowl undergoes a facelift

Punchbowl has had a facelift resulting in a vibrant, modernised town for its businesses and residents.

This facelift is more than cosmetic, it also includes functional improvements such as stormwater irrigation works, re-positioning of a pedestrian crossing and road safety fencing.

Rejuvenation of garden beds including trees, replacement of street furniture, new street tiles and refurbished shops deliver a real sense of style and charisma.

The Punchbowl upgrade is a key project in Bankstown City Council’s extensive Town Centre Improvement Program (TCIP).

Council has now completed upgrades at:

- Condell Park
- Greenacre
- Punchbowl
- Chester Hill
- Bankstown CBD
- Yagoona
- Padstow

Stage one of the Panania project has been completed with stage two expected to commence in September.

Chester Hill pedestrian crossing

Local residents have welcomed the installation of a pedestrian crossing in front of Chester Hill RSL, thanks to the allocation of $18,000 from Cllr Alex Kuskoff’s Councillor Discretionary Fund.

The new crossing is also in the immediate vicinity of Chester Hill Primary School, Chester Hill Library and Chester Hill Multi-purpose Community Centre.

2011 Census Snapshot of Bankstown

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>170,619</td>
<td>182,964</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Male-female share of population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Census Male Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011 49.3% 50.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006 49.2% 50.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Birthplace</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australia 102,370 (56%) 96,311 (56.4%)</td>
<td>- 0.4%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elsewhere 68,644 (37.5%) 60,975 (35.7%)</td>
<td>+ 1.8%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Disabled Parking

In response to a number of community complaints, Council commenced a crack down on the illegal use of disabled parking spaces and permits. A total of 318 people have been fined for using disabled spots without a permit. March was the worst month with 87 fines issued. Disabled spots and permits are for residents with special needs only, so people can ‘dob in an offender’ by contacting Council on 9707 9999, Roads and Maritime Services on 1300 884 899, or by emailing Customer_Service_Centre@rtt.nsw.gov.au. Offences committed in privately operated car parks or shopping centres should be reported to the management of those facilities. Council has also adopted rigorous guidelines requiring parking spots in all new developments to have a minimum width of 4.8 metres, as opposed to the old standard of 3.2 metres. This will provide more space for people with a disability to move in and out of their vehicles.

Boarding House Test Case

Bankstown recently became the first council in NSW to win a court case against the construction of boarding houses in low residential housing areas.

Council successfully argued a 12-room boarding house proposed at 78 South Terrace in Punchbowl and a 10-room boarding house planned at 172 Hillcrest Avenue in Mount Lewis did not meet the criteria under the State Affordable Housing SEPP and would negatively impact surrounding residents.

Condell Park Traffic Management Plan

Condell Park residents can look forward to safer conditions on their roads, after the development of the Condell Park Local Area Traffic Management Plan.

The latest improvement is a new roundabout which has been installed at the intersection of Townsend Street and Simmat Avenue. Many drivers use Simmat and Townsend on a daily basis as a thoroughfare and short cut from Georges Hall to Yagoona. A number of other key projects have also been identified as a priority including:

- Railway Parade, Condell Park - relocation of a speed cushion;
- Fourth Avenue, Condell Park - installation of kerbside islands, speed cushions and median islands; and
- Fifth Avenue, Condell Park - installation of kerbside islands, speed cushions and median islands.
Meet our newest citizens!

Each month, Bankstown welcomes up to 120 new Australians to our community when they make the pledge and receive their citizenship.

Revesby residents, Louie and Silvia initially came to Sydney from Slovakia as students back in 2003. The couple soon fell in love with Australia, decided to get married here, apply for residency and make Australia their permanent home. They purchased their first property in Bankstown because of affordability and its standout location being so close to Sydney’s CBD.

Now two Slovakian friends have decided to follow Louie and Silvia’s lead and make Bankstown their home, moving into the same townhouse complex.

Local Government Elections

On Saturday 8 September 2012, Local Government elections will be held throughout NSW including Bankstown. Voting is compulsory.

Councillors are elected by the community with residents voting for their preferred candidate in their own ward. The city of Bankstown is divided into four wards – North, South, East and West – with three Councillors being elected to represent each ward.

For further information on the election, where to vote, what ward you live in, or if you are interested in working at the election, contact the NSW Electoral Commission on 1300 135 736 or www.elections.nsw.gov.au

Bankstown City Council’s commitment to our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community has been celebrated through the recent adoption of the city’s first ever Reconciliation Plan.

It was signed in the weeks leading up to what was another very successful NAIDOC Week.

The plan is designed to advance a deeper appreciation across Bankstown’s wider community of the issues faced by our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents.

This initiative was developed in consultation with Bankstown City Council Reconciliation Working Party and symbolises the deep respect and commitment to empowering this group as a community, helping it to achieve its goals and aspirations for the future.

To find out more information about Bankstown’s Reconciliation Plan contact Council’s Community Development Officer on 9707 9863.
Quickstep takes flight

Did you know Bankstown is now home to the most advanced independent aerospace manufacturing facility in the southern hemisphere?

Quickstep Holdings has opened a $15 million manufacturing facility at Bankstown Airport. It will be used to produce carbon fibre parts for the new F-35 Lightning II fighter jet and the C-130J Hercules military transport aircraft. Contracts valued at $800 million over 20 years.

More than 200 jobs will be created while Quickstep is confident its workforce will double if it is successful in tendering for other projects in the pipeline and is successful in entering the car parts market.

Business breakthroughs

Earlier this year, around 100 companies took part in Bankstown City Council’s inaugural Business Roundtable, addressed by futurist Bernard Salt.

A discussion paper is now being finalised and will be distributed to businesses shortly so they can provide final feedback.

The completed paper will be used to help inform Council on future strategic direction as Bankstown moves forward in economic and jobs growth.

Bankstown Business Roundtable
14 May 2012

Bankstown City Council is committed when it comes to supporting our local business, offering free advice and assistance to new and existing businesses in the Bankstown area through the Bankstown Business Advisory Service (BBAS).

The BBAS provides everything from networking events for existing business owners, to mentoring programs for those just starting out.

Some of our upcoming BBAS events include:

- Business Advisory Service – every Thursday – various times available;
- Let’s Talk English every Wednesday between 10am-Noon;
- Working Beyond Age Pension Age – 7 August – 1pm;
- Get That Job Day – 21 August – Bankstown Sports Club (5,000 apprenticeships and traineeships on offer to local school students);
- Managing Your Money - 5 September – 5:30pm;
- Understanding Superannuation - 12 September – 5:30pm.

This is exciting news for our city and comes hot on the heels of Volkswagen opening its Australian headquarters at Chullora.

Continuing to attract these industry leaders to Bankstown is part of Council’s business growth strategy.
Breathing new life into Newlands Reserve

The project to revitalise Milperra’s Newland Reserve, and eliminate the odour and build-up of weeds and sediment, has been completed well under budget. Work included draining the entire pond, planting aquatic flora and the temporary relocation of the area’s resident turtle population to Sefton Golf Course. Sandstone embankments, a new inlet, sediment basin and vegetated aquatic habitat formed a further part of the improvement program. The sediments and soils removed from the pond were used to help build some of these improvements resulting in a $100,000 saving on the project.

Recycle Right because it’s the right thing to do!

Bankstown’s ability to think outside the square when it comes to waste recycling has received national recognition. Our Recycle Right program has taken out first prize at the 2012 Local Government Innovation Awards in the waste category. This award recognises Council’s program as the best innovative waste management project in local government in Australia. We have now won three major awards for the Recycle Right program over the past 12 months, having earlier taken out the Community Education and Empowerment Award and the Best Government Community Engagement Award.

The Recycle Right program resulted from a household waste audit, extensive community consultation and a very successful trial period. We asked you to tell us what motivates you to Recycle Right and the overwhelming response was that recycling is simply just the right thing to do!

Council is providing households with feedback on what they are doing well or areas that need improvement.

We’d love to see every household Recycle Right!

One of the most common problems across the community is the inclusion of plastic bags in the yellow bin. We ask one small favour - put plastic bags in your red bin or take them back to your supermarket to be recycled. This one simple action will make a huge difference.

Council supports street lighting improvement initiative

Bankstown City Council has recommitted its efforts to sustainability, agreeing to undertake a trial of LED street lighting as part of the Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils Street Lighting Improvement Initiatives. Bankstown is one of 33 councils to join the program. Through this initiative, Bankstown City Council will save on costs as well as being in a position to provide improved and safe street lighting. By introducing LED lighting to our streets, there are a number of positive benefits including energy efficiency, longevity of the globes and almost no maintenance.

The LED lighting trial is part of Council’s commitment to creating a sustainable city for the people of Bankstown.
$2 Million boost for Tri-Generation Project

Bankstown City will continue to be a leader in innovation and sustainability after receiving a $2 million boost from the Federal Government.

The $2,012,450 grant will go towards the $4 million Bankstown Power Generation Project which includes the installation of a tri-generation system generating 500KW of electricity.

Tri-generation is a high-efficiency energy system that produces both electricity (and mechanical power) and valuable heat from a single fuel source. It provides economic as well as environmental benefits because it turns otherwise wasted heat into a useful energy source.

The Bankstown tri-generation plant would supply power and heating for the Civic Tower (34,000sqm floor space occupied by Council and NSW Government agencies) and new Library and Knowledge Centre (5,000sqm of library, community meeting rooms and 300-seat theatre).

The tri-generation system will reduce demand on the electricity grid by an estimated 40% - a saving of more than $137,000 a year to ratepayers.

It would also be supported by an energy efficient retrofit of electrical services with a focus on interior and car park lighting in the Civic Tower.

Other benefits include:

- Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions;
- Reduction in transmission losses;
- Reduction in reliance of grid electricity;
- Additional backup electricity whilst providing cooling and heating;
- Reduction in electricity used by the chiller plant through the use of absorption chillers;
- Gas used by the boiler’s plant through the use of hotwater heat exchanger; and
- Reduction in the building’s power demand and therefore costs.

Work is expected to start later this year and be completed in 2014.

Say goodbye to your second fridge or freezer

Old fridges or upright freezers are often one of the biggest energy users in your home, costing residents an average $265 per year to operate.

With energy prices rising, residents are being urged to take the easy step of getting rid of their old, inefficient second fridge or old upright freezer.

A $35 rebate is paid for collection from homes with six steps or less. Collection is free, but no rebate is paid, where collection involves between seven and 20 steps.

Second fridges or upright freezers must be in regular use, built before 1996 and be 200 litres or greater in size.

See www.fridgebuyback.com.au or call 1800 708 401 to make a booking.

Make Your Home Safe – for FREE

It is that time of year again when we urge residents to remove unwanted chemicals stored in garages and sheds through our free service.

The next free drop-off day for the Bankstown area is on Saturday 11 August from 9am-3:30pm at Bankstown Paceway in Eldridge Road, Condell Park.

This is a perfect opportunity to safely dispose of your old paints, motor oils, batteries, gas cylinders and other chemical waste. These can be very dangerous to you and your family, particularly if stored for long periods of time.

(Please note: no queuing on or around the Bankstown Paceway site prior to 8:30am).
Bankstown Library & Knowledge Centre

Work is expected to start in September on the Bankstown Library and Knowledge Centre after Council awarded the construction tender to Watpac Construction (NSW) Pty Ltd. Council received 26 expressions of interest back in May from companies interested in completing the project.

A special assessment panel, made up of five senior Council staff, the architect and an independent construction adviser, assessed the submissions and carried out reference checks before making a final recommendation to Council.

This entire process was overseen by an independent probity officer.

Chester Hill Library Upgrade

Work is expected to start on the $1.4 million redevelopment of Chester Hill Library at the end of the year.

The current facility was built in 1958 and later expanded in 1979 and 2003. As a result of an increased demand for more efficient and better quality services, together with maintenance problems due to the age of the building, Council has decided to refurbish the facility.

Key improvements include:

- Increased library floor space;
- The creation of four new group study rooms;
- A new children’s area;
- The provision of additional public PCs; and
- A new amenities area.

Chester Hill Library Upgrade

Work is expected to start on the $1.4 million redevelopment of Chester Hill Library at the end of the year.

The current facility was built in 1958 and later expanded in 1979 and 2003. As a result of an increased demand for more efficient and better quality services, together with maintenance problems due to the age of the building, Council has decided to refurbish the facility.

Key improvements include:

- Increased library floor space;
- The creation of four new group study rooms;
- A new children’s area;
- The provision of additional public PCs; and
- A new amenities area.

Book Week (18-24 August)

More than 1,000 children from 50 primary schools will be invited to attend 27 author/illustrator talks in Bankstown City Council’s five libraries.

Five well known Australian children’s author/illustrators – Jacqueline Harvey, Frances Watts, Moya Simons, James Roy, Wayne Harris, Jo Oliver, & Lisa Shannahan - will be visiting Bankstown, Chester Hill, Greenacre, Padstow, and Panania libraries.

If students are unable to attend their local library, library staff will visit their school.

Book Week raises awareness of the high quality of Australian children’s literature and promotes reading and literacy in Bankstown schools.

For more information contact Bianca Luks, Children’s and Youth Technical Specialist on 9707 9731.

HSC program

Council’s libraries will host a variety of workshops, lectures and tutoring sessions to assist this year’s HSC students in September and October.

Bankstown, Chester Hill, Padstow and Panania Libraries will also be open every Wednesday night from 5-8pm for HSC study.

As part of My Study Space @ your library, experienced tutors will be available for English, Mathematics and Biology at Bankstown, Padstow, Panania and Greenacre Libraries.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Library</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Library</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>Bankstown</td>
<td>Tue 18/9/12</td>
<td>Padstow</td>
<td>Wed 19/9/12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bankstown</td>
<td>Thu 27/9/12</td>
<td>Panania</td>
<td>Wed 3/10/12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Greenacre</td>
<td>Thu 4/10/12</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Bankstown</td>
<td>Thu 20/9/12</td>
<td>Bankstown</td>
<td>Tue 25/9/12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Padstow</td>
<td>Wed 26/9/12</td>
<td>Panania</td>
<td>Wed 3/10/12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Greenacre</td>
<td>Tue 9/10/12</td>
<td>Panania</td>
<td>Wed 10/10/12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>Greenacre</td>
<td>Thu 18/10/12</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Active Bankstown Club

More and more residents are taking part in Council’s ‘Active Bankstown’ program which was developed in 2004.

Over the past eight years, Council has created many award-winning ‘Active Bankstown’ programs and events such as Sport a Month, Bankstown Recreation Expo and Bike around Bankstown.

By joining the Active Bankstown Club, you will always be one of the first to hear about these fantastic programs and events. You also receive:

- An Active Bankstown Club membership card;
- A welcome pack;
- Special offers for free or discounted events and activities;
- The chance to win some fantastic prizes;
- An opportunity to have your say about and make suggestions for Active Bankstown events and activities; and
- Access to members-only events.

The Active Bankstown Club is FREE to join. You can register online at www.bankstown.nsw.gov.au on the Experience Bankstown pages under Active Bankstown, or you can call Council’s Recreation Officer on 9707 9999 for a registration form.

Sports Equipment ‘Recycling’ program

Do you want to get involved in a sport but can’t afford the essential items? Do you have tennis racquets in your garage you no longer use? Does your club need some additional equipment?

Bankstown City Council has recently introduced a new Sports Equipment “Recycling” Program, designed to tackle the above problems and help encourage more residents to become active in our community.

The program aims to provide an outlet for residents of the Bankstown LGA to advertise (for sale or giveaway) new and used items of sporting equipment, in turn making sports participation more affordable for a wider range of residents and reducing unnecessary wastage of valuable equipment.

A page on Council’s website has been dedicated to the program, and any resident of the Bankstown LGA is eligible to advertise their non-retail quantities of equipment such as bats, balls, boots, gloves and rackets etc.

To find out more about the program, see items currently on offer, or to advertise your own items, go to www.bankstown.nsw.gov.au and look under “Community & Culture” and “Sporting Groups”. Alternatively, you can contact Council’s Recreation Coordinator on 9707 9999.

Winter ‘Twilight’ Golf teeing off at Sefton Golf Course!

In order to keep you active during winter, Sefton Golf Course has introduced its popular ‘twilight’ concept in July and August starting from 1pm Monday to Friday. Golfers receive a discounted ‘twilight rate’ and can play as many holes as they can fit in from 1-5pm.

Sefton Golf Course is the perfect golf course for beginners, students, seniors and for those golfers whom are short on time to play. The great advantage of playing at Sefton is that you can complete 18 hole par 54 course in only two and a half hours.

If you need help with your game then resident Teaching and Service Professional Tim Hosking can lend a hand. He offers individual and group lessons for golfers of all levels. Junior holiday clinics are also held, they are a great way to introduce youngsters to the game in a fun and safe environment.

Sefton Golf Course is located at 160 Rose Street, Sefton.

For more information about Winter ‘twilight’ golf or to enquire about bookings, contact Sefton Golf Course on 9743 9436.

Leisure Centres

Leisure Centres  Birrong Leisure Centre 9644 8300  Revesby Leisure Centre 9771 2148
Greenacre Leisure Centre 9796 7015  Wran Leisure Centre 9726 2283
Art Exchange

Local indigenous artist Noeline Holten spent a week in Broken Hill as part of Bankstown City Council’s Artist Exchange program.

Noeline is a self-taught artist who has been producing art for more than 40 years. Fifteen of her paintings were displayed at the Broken Hill Regional Art Gallery.

Noeline and Bankstown Arts Centre Director, Vandana Ram, also met with artists in Broken Hill with a view to developing future exhibitions and cultural exchange.

The Bankstown Arts Centre has details on the Bankstown and Broken Hill Artist Exchange Program 9707 9224.

Swim Safety – a year long concern

Unfortunately, one of the activities and skills often forgotten over the cooler months is water safety and learning how to swim.

Water safety is one of Council’s year-long priorities and the cooler months provide a great opportunity to beat the crowds and learn how to swim.

Our Swim School’s operate out of heated pools maintained at 30 degrees.

The program operates at our Revesby, Birrong and Wran Leisure Centres. Drop into the Centre of your choice or give us a call on 9707 9296 to enrol today.

Lessons start from $13 per session and discounts are available for subsequent children from the same family. Private lessons are available on request (starting from $30 per lesson). Up front payment for the term is required.

www.leisure.bankstown.nsw.gov.au

Imagine, Create and Inspire at the Bankstown Arts Centre!

A dynamic program of arts and cultural activities has commenced at the Bankstown Arts Centre.

Council launched its first Arts Centre program in the Easter school holidays. It provided an opportunity for local children to channel their creativity with a great range of fun courses to keep them busy over the holidays. From dabbling with clay and creating crazy animals and sculptures in the Creative Ceramics workshop, to making beautiful fragrant fantasy flowers with tissue paper, cellophane and foil, and breaking some moves in the Hip Hop dance classes.

A full program of classes and workshops has now commenced and will run in-line with the annual school terms and holidays. Workshops include hip hop, singing, guitar, printmaking, the Bankstown Arts Centre is also running a series of seminars entitled GetSmart. Held on a bi-monthly basis, these seminars focus on professional development opportunities, resource funding and other issues impacting on artists practising in the local area. Opportunities for creative collaboration between local artists are also explored.

To find out more about the range of creative opportunities taking place at the Bankstown Arts Centre visit www.bankstown.nsw.gov.au or call 9707 5400.
Sister Cities in Song

For the past 25 years, Bankstown and Broken Hill City Councils have co-hosted an annual youth sporting exchange as part of their Sister City Program.

Inspired by the silver anniversary of this relationship, both Councils committed to diversifying and building on the links already established between our cities. The result - Bankstown and Broken Hill in Song.

The Bankstown Talent Advancement Program (TAP) ran a special holiday program and hosted eight talented vocalists from our sister city.

Starting with auditions in March, eight aspiring singers aged between 13 and 18 were selected to represent Broken Hill.

They joined 13 members of TAP for workshops, performance opportunities and visits to places of interest in Bankstown and the greater Sydney area.

The TAP soloists not only shared their knowledge gained through time already spent in the program but also opened their homes to host our visitors.

For more information about the Sister Cities in Song program call Council’s Sister City Coordinator on 9707 9446.

Young stars shine

The youth talent program which has developed the likes of Australian Idol winner Casey Donovan and Paulini has unearthed some new stars.

17-year-old Sinead Lee recently took out the prestigious Roselands Talent Quest. In fact, Bankstown’s Talented Advancement Program (TAP) provided three of the eight finalists with Sinead, Lauren Ojurovic and Britney Trewhick.

Sinead is hoping to attend the Australian Institute of Music next year to build on the expert tuition received from TAP Directors Kerry Sebio, Wendy Tierney and Helen Payne.

It’s been a big year for Bankstown’s TAP performers, with 17-year-old Heather Riley named the Local Government Superstar after her performance at a state-wide conference.

Heather has also been chosen by the Department of Education and Communities to record a song for Education Week.

Heather was a featured performer in last year’s Schools Spectacular, while three other students have received final call-backs for this year’s event. On top of that, TAP students hosted and performed with a group of vocalists from Bankstown’s sister city of Broken Hill at various venues including Darling Harbour.

Bankstown’s TAP performers feature on the entertainment bill at a number of high-profile events throughout the state and have once again been asked to showcase their vocal talents at the NSW Parliament Charity Ball later this year.

TAP will be celebrating its 10th anniversary in November when most of its past stars, including Paulini and Shaun Rennie who were part of the first program in 2002, will return for a reunion.
Local young people ‘Imagine, Create, and Inspire’ throughout Youth Week

National Youth Week (13-22 April) proved a real hit with the city’s young people, with the year’s theme being ‘Imagine, Create, and Inspire’.

Hundreds of our local youth participated in events such as the skate jam and multi sports day, pool party, movie night and writing competition won by 15-year-old Ushna Bashir from Greenacre.

However, the highlight of the program was Bankstown’s Amazing Race. Ten teams spent the day completing challenges throughout the Bankstown LGA.

Challenges included hip hop dance routines, cycling and eating a variety of wonderful (and a few wacky) foods reflective of our multicultural cuisine.

For more information about Bankstown’s Youth Week events or other youth programs, visit www.bankstown.nsw.gov.au or call 9707 9605.

International Youth Day

Bankstown will be showcasing the talents of the city’s talented youth on Friday 10 August - International Youth Day.

Activities include a debating competition for local students.

For more information about International Youth Day or how to get involved, visit www.bankstown.nsw.gov.au or call 9707 9605.

Third Round of Graduates perform a U-Turn

Bankstown City Council is delighted to celebrate the graduation of another eight local boys following the successful completion of the U-Turn for Youth program.

The latest group is the third class of graduates to have completed the Introduction to Automotives Course at Padstow TAFE, the key component to the U-Turn for Youth program.

This unique intervention program is delivering skills that our youth can utilise to gain employment opportunities, build confidence and self worth.

To find out more about the U-Turn for Youth Program go to www.bankstown.nsw.gov.au or contact Community Safety and Crime Prevention Officer on 9707 9471.

Youth answer call for help

Bankstown’s youth answered an SOS from community groups to help out during school holiday breaks.

While most students take a well earned rest, 55 decided to make a difference in the community.

Around 20 teenagers took part in a graffiti clean-up at Revesby Skate Park and a further 35 assisted in the delivery of food with the local Meals on Wheels service.
How to contact your local Councillors

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 Amber Cameron on 9707 9558.