Work is now underway on the development of Bankstown’s new Central Library and Knowledge Centre.

Demolition of the southern end of the former Town Hall began in April, making way for the construction of a brand new, state-of-the-art, tri-level library.

Valued at about $22 million, the development is the largest carried out by the Council in the past 20 years and aims to put the area on the map in terms of community infrastructure.

Mayor Clr Tania Mihailuk said libraries are one of the city’s most important community assets and it is vital council provides residents with a centre to meet both their current and future needs.

“Bankstown is a city in progress and this multi-million dollar development will be an important landmark, providing first-class community infrastructure,” Mayor Mihailuk said.

Bankstown’s new Central Library and Knowledge Centre will include a large community space, improved library facilities, cafe and exhibition area.

In addition to taking books home, visitors will also be able to choose between temporarily checking out books to read in a sun-drenched outdoor area, or settling down in one of a number of comfortable internal reading rooms.

The new library will be a green community facility due to a number of environmental design components, including a unique quality air system which uses the natural filtering properties of plants.

To find out more about the new Central Library and Knowledge Centre, go to www.bankstown.nsw.gov.au or call 9707 9606.
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 Nikki Taylor on 9707 9558.
The past three months have seen a number of new developments and improvements happening around the Bankstown local government area.

Work has commenced on Bankstown’s new Central Library and Knowledge Centre with demolition starting on a section of the existing Town Hall building to make way for the new state-of-the-art, three-level library. With the demolition process almost complete, building is expected to begin shortly. The new centre will include a 300-seat theatre, community rooms, exhibition space and café.

Work on the new Women’s and Children’s Health Centre is nearing completion, with the centre expected to be open to the public shortly. The $1.5 million health centre will include a children’s immunisation clinic, a women’s health centre and occasional childcare centre, providing a one-stop shop for women’s and children’s health needs.

To recognise and celebrate the contribution Vietnamese-Australians have made to shaping Bankstown City, Council recently committed to building a Vietnamese Boat People Monument at Saigon Place. The monument will be built in partnership with the Vietnamese Community in Australia - NSW Chapter (VCA) and honours our local Vietnamese community by commemorating the sacrifices and hardships of thousands of Vietnamese people who lost their lives in the pursuit of freedom, democracy and human rights.

The new Bankstown Arts Centre was recently recognised at the 2011 NSW Local Government Cultural Awards, winning the Cultural Infrastructure category. The award is acknowledgement of the Centre’s significance as an arts venue for Western Sydney, and beyond.

The Draft 2011/12 Budget was recently adopted for exhibition along with the Draft Delivery Program 2011/15. Council will invest $130 million in capital works in the next four years and use existing funds to further improve the city’s assets. Bankstown’s focus is to be debt free by 2018.

Council is strongly committed to supporting and improving the lives of people with a disability and their carers. At the recent Disability Expo, I had the pleasure of presenting the Commendation Awards as part of Council’s new Access Awards which recognises the efforts of local businesses and organisations who contribute to improving access for people with a disability.

With winter fast approaching, it is almost time for one of Bankstown’s biggest events, Bankstown Bites. To be held on 30 July, Bankstown Bites will again be one of Sydney’s premier events and everyone is invited to join in the festivities.

Last year more than 20,000 people from across Sydney turned out for the festival. I am sure this year will prove just as popular with a winning combination of celebrity cooking demonstrations, the new Saigon Place Discovery Food Tours, exotic international stalls, live performances and a range of children’s activities.
Business Mentoring Program for local businesses

In April, Bankstown City Council demonstrated its commitment to local business by launching a pilot Business Mentoring Program. The program allows some of the area’s most experienced business people to act as mentors to up-and-coming business owners, sharing their experience and skills.

The first Business Mentoring Program, running from May to July, is focused on improving business development, networking and growth opportunities for small business in the Bankstown local government area.

Mayor of Bankstown Clr Tania Mihailuk said the introduction of the Bankstown Business Mentoring Program provides businesses with an opportunity to share experience, knowledge and skills.

“With over 15,000 small businesses operating out of the Bankstown area, it is vital for Council to provide a range of business development and growth opportunities for business owners,” Mayor Mihailuk said.

To find out more about Bankstown City Council Business Mentoring Program or to register as a mentor or mentee, call 9707 9483.

Major Works Update

Work is nearing completion on the Women’s and Children’s Health Centre scheduled to open this month. Work began on the $1.5 million Jacobs Street project in November last year and will include a children’s immunisation clinic, women’s health centre and occasional childcare centre.

The Bankstown Seniors Centre was completed in March and features a new office and aged-care hall.

The Chapel Road upgrade is set to be completed this month and will include a new footpath, kerb and gutter, road re-sheeting, replacement of trees and new traffic lights.

Work on the new Bankstown underpass is scheduled for completion this month. The $6.5 million project will be a key transport corridor to support the predicted growth of the CBD. Once completed, the four-lane underpass will play an integral role in easing traffic congestion, while also providing signalised intersections, pedestrian pathways and improved bicycle access.

Major civil works for North and South Terrace will be completed by June with the remaining public domain works to be finalised by July. New footpath paving, landscaping, street lighting and outdoor furniture are part of the upgrade.
Monument site chosen
‘Saigon Place’, in Bankstown’s CBD has been chosen as the location for a bronze Vietnamese Boat People monument which will depict five refugees. The monument is being developed by Bankstown City Council and the Vietnamese Community in Australia – NSW Chapter (VCA).
Bankstown City Council was approached late last year by the VCA to build a fitting monument to reflect the history and contribution of the Vietnamese community in Bankstown.
In April, a plaque depicting the chosen site was unveiled by Mayor of Bankstown Cllr Tania Mihailuk and Vietnamese Community in Australia – NSW Chapter President Thanh Nguyen.
“Vietnamese-Australians are an integral part of the community and culture of Bankstown and building this monument allows Council to show support for them.
“The monument will commemorate the hardships and sacrifices faced by thousands of Vietnamese people in their pursuit of freedom, democracy and human rights,” Mayor Mihailuk said.

Community groups set to receive assistance
Submitting an application for Bankstown City Council’s Community Grants program will be even easier this year now that the process is available for the first time online.
The Council is set to hand out almost $400,000 in grants to community groups across the area. The funding can be used for a variety of projects including youth programs, arts, culture and sport.
Last year 50 community groups shared in funding of $392,000 made available by Bankstown City Council.
The Council will hold a workshop on Wednesday, 22 June for anyone needing assistance on how to apply using the internet.
Applications for the Council’s Community Grants Program open on 15 June and close on 15 July. For more information call 9707 9540 or go to www.bankstown.nsw.gov.au and look for the Community Grants icon.

Join a Library
There are now more reasons than ever to join your local library. Bankstown libraries offer a wide range of services including access to the internet, reading groups and tutoring as well as books.
Some of the library’s most popular programs include, Book Chatters - a reading group, Social Knit - a regular knitting club and International Films - a monthly international film festival offering foreign films for just $3.
Joining is easy, simply go to your nearest branch and sign up, it’s free!
Branches are located at Bankstown, Chester Hill, Padstow, Panania and Greenacre. For more information call 9707 9708.

Bankstown business profile
Despite some economic challenges as a result of the recent global financial crisis, a report commissioned by Bankstown City Council has found the economic activity of the area has increased taking the economy to $7.9 billion.
The economic profile, found the population of Bankstown also increased by almost 3,000 residents in 2010, taking the area’s population to an estimated 185,000.
Median housing prices rose to $515,000 in December last year, an increase of 12.3 per cent since the last census in 2006/07.
Bankstown has also seen a recent rise in tourism with motel, serviced apartments and hotels reporting a combined 4.4 per cent hike in occupancy rates during the latter part of 2010.
Take a bite out of Bankstown

On Saturday 30 July, the fabulous Bankstown Bites food festival will once again bring the streets alive with colour, life and fantastic food. With a crowd of more than 20,000 in 2010, the event this year is expected to prove just as popular.

Now in its seventh year, Bankstown Bites is the biggest and most celebrated food festival in Sydney. It showcases the area’s rich culinary diversity with a great mix of gourmet food stalls, cooking demonstrations, celebrity chefs, live entertainment, children’s activities and rides.

This year’s celebrity chef is Irish-born Darren Simpson who is famous for his Italian cuisine as well as his appearances on Sunrise, presiding as judge on hit reality show My Restaurant Rules and as presenter of lifestyle programs Live This and Ready Steady Cook. Tony Chayna - Sous Chef, Platform 1, a fine dining restaurant at Bankstown Sports, will also be joining the festival to demonstrate some of his favourite recipes.

Join one of the many Discovery Food Tours for your chance to spend the day tasting authentic cuisines from across the globe at a variety of local restaurants with everything from mouth-watering baklava to incredible Vietnamese dishes. There are also award-winning coffee shops, continental grocery shops and specialty bottle shops.

To find out more about Bankstown Bites, a world tour for the tastebuds, go to www.bankstownbites.com.au.
A new and improved Paul Keating Park was recently opened to the public after undergoing a major overhaul.

The revitalisation of the village green was a great addition to the CBD. The goal was to provide a wonderful green space in the town centre for local residents, where children can kick a ball and families can stop and picnic.

Work carried out on the area included the removal of existing turf and soil and upgrading the irrigation system. The park will be partly irrigated by a 160,000 litre in-ground rainwater tank to be installed as part of the new adjacent Central Library and Knowledge Centre development.

Additional power supply for community events was also added along with a new hard-wearing grass.

A pair of banner poles was also installed and will protect existing trees by providing a new place for signage during community events.

The project was carried out as part of Bankstown City Council’s major works program.

National Tree Day

Everyone is invited to join Bankstown City Council staff at Carysfield Reserve, Bass Hill on Sunday, 31 July to take part in National Tree Day.

National Tree Day for Schools will be held on Friday, 29 July.

National Tree Day is a great day out for the whole family with council staff on hand to demonstrate the best tree planting and care techniques.

Run in conjunction with Planet Ark, National Tree Day aims to promote native flora and highlight local diversity within ecosystems.

In 2010, about 700 seedlings were planted around Bankstown by 75 volunteers as part of National Tree Day. Australia wide, more than one million trees and shrubs were planted with 312,000 people taking part at 3,500 different sites.

The day will begin at 9.30am and run until 2pm. Please bring your own hat, sunscreen, drinking water and wear sturdy shoes.

To find out more, go to http://treeday.planetark.org/ or call 9707 9999. Tree Day is organised nationally each year by Planet Ark.
Midnight Basketball begins

A large number of girls and boys aged 12 to 18 are participating in Bankstown City Council’s Midnight Basketball tournament which started on 7 May.

The eight-match tournament is running on consecutive Saturdays skipping the Queen’s Birthday long weekend.

Midnight Basketball is a joint initiative of Bankstown City Council, Police and local community organisations giving Bankstown youth the opportunity to develop their skills in basketball and participate in a range of interactive life skills workshops.

The workshops focus on essential life skills topics such as: health and wellbeing; conflict resolution; communication and decision making; cultural development and awareness; and community engagement skills.

In keeping with the Midnight Basketball motto of NOWORKSHOP NOJUMPSHOT® players must attend these workshops in order to take part in the basketball competition.

The program offers a great active and educational evening and organisers provide a bus to ensure the teens have a safe ride home.

If you’ve missed out on this tournament, registrations open for the October tournament in August.

To find out more or to register, go to www.bankstown.nsw.gov.au or call the Crime Prevention Officer on 9707 9471.

Try a new sport

Bankstown City Council’s Sport A Month program allows residents of all ages to try a variety of different sports completely free of charge. The program is held at different locations across Bankstown.

Tennis is the featured sport for the month of June, then give Gymnastics a try in July, and Cricket in August.

Sport A Month, an Active Bankstown initiative, has been running since 2005 and won a Heart Foundation NSW award in 2007. The initiative has also been copied by a number of other NSW councils.

This fantastic program is a great opportunity to have a go at different sports and get a feel for what they are all about.

To find out more about Sport A Month call the Recreation Officer on 9707 9641.

Seniors Golf a hit

A change of date due to rain did nothing to dampen the enthusiasm of 115 seniors keen to head out on to the green for a day of golf at Sefton Golf Course.

Scheduled to be held on Monday, 21 March, as part of Seniors Week, the day was rescheduled and held on 4 April.

In addition to the competition, cheese and champagne were served at the halfway point, followed by a barbeque lunch.

To find out more about Sefton Golf Course or to book a round call 9743 9436.
Residents think mulch is magnificent

Bankstown City Council’s free mulch and plant giveaway will again be available to residents in September.

The program has been a huge success with 66 tonnes of mulch handed out to residents in April. To put into perspective just how popular the program is, 66 tonnes is the same weight as a large military tank!

Residents also took home a total of 1,300 free native plants as part of the program. The plants made available to residents are native to the Bankstown area and including them in a garden encourages local biodiversity to flourish.

This year a new mapping system is also being trialled which allows residents to match their suburb to the most suitable plants for their soil type.

The free mulch and plant giveaway program, which continues to grow in popularity, has been running since 2004 and a survey taken in April found that 53 per cent of residents were first time users of the program, while eight per cent had collected free mulch and plants from Council at least eight times.

Using mulch on a garden offers a number of benefits, including protecting plant’s roots from frost during the winter months. Mulch also holds moisture in the soil and protects the plant from drying out too quickly.

Free mulch programs are available twice a year for residents with a limit of four plants and a trailer load of mulch per household. Customers must also bring ID to show they are a resident of Bankstown.

Savvy seniors enjoy special week

This year’s Seniors Week, run by Bankstown City Council, was a huge success giving more than 2,000 local seniors the chance to enjoy a range of activities.

Held from 20 to 27 March, Seniors Week included everything from gardening workshops to technical classes.

A bus tour to the Central Coast proved the most popular this year, with more than 550 people taking part in the trip.

Other popular events included the opening concert spectacular at Bankstown Sports Club. The two-hour event drew a crowd of 400 to see comedian Keith Scott, Mo Award winner Fallon, entertainer Rowena Michael and local vocalists from the Bankstown Talent Advancement Program.

Bankstown Library also conducted a range of Seniors Week activities, including a technology expo and computer classes, while a gardening expo was held at Revesby Workers Club.

Other activities included a Cinema Screening Day at Hoyts Bankstown, and a concert and lunch day for Day Care and Meals on Wheels clients at Bankstown Trotting and Recreational Club.
Libraries become Bankstown hotspots

Residents are lining up outside Bankstown Arts Centre and their local libraries to take advantage of a new free Wi-Fi service offered by Bankstown City Council.

The Wi-Fi service, or wireless networking technology, allows residents to bring their laptops and do on-the-spot research, look through library catalogues or online databases, check on the progress of a development application or conduct business online. Social media, email, Google and a range of other internet services can also be accessed.

Wi-Fi technology uses radio waves to provide wireless high-speed internet and network connections to hotspots or designated areas where a radio receiver operates.

Users simply use the hotspot to log on to Council’s internet service provider. The Council is pleased to offer this free service to the Bankstown community.

Information technology is key to communicating with our residents, business owners and visitors and offering this service is just one more way the Council is fulfilling the needs of our community.

To find out more about Bankstown City Council’s Wi-Fi hotspots, call your local library or go to www.bankstown.nsw.gov.au.

Bankstown’s U-Turns for Youth Program

The U-Turns for Youth Program offers young offenders the chance to change their lives by participating in an educational program in automotive mechanics.

The initiative is a collaborative approach by Bankstown and Canterbury City councils together with Bankstown and Campsie local area commands, TAFE NSW, the Department of Juvenile Justice NSW and Bankstown Multicultural Youth Service.

Mayor of Bankstown Cllr Tania Mihailuk said the U-Turns for Youth Program aims to deter young offenders at risk of committing motor vehicle crimes.

“Thiss program will assist young people to enter the workforce by providing an insight into the mechanics industry and helping to develop a range of personal life skills,” Mayor Mihailuk said.

In 2010, Bankstown and Canterbury City Councils received over $100,000 in funding under the Proceeds of Crime Act to develop the U-Turns for Youth Program in the local area.

The first intake of young people began in May and Bankstown City Council is now calling on youths to participate in the upcoming July program.

The program will run for six weeks at Padstow TAFE, providing participants with the opportunity to see and understand how an engine operates, how to service a car, panel preparation and air brushing.

For more information call 9707 9019 or email uturns4youth@bankstown.nsw.gov.au.
Fun format for road safety

It is never too early to teach kids about road safety. Bankstown City Council’s - Hold My Hand and Buckle Me Up delivers the message of road safety to local kindergartens and playgroups using a fun format.

Road safety talks were recently held at playgroups in Greenacre and Bankstown. Bankstown City Council’s Road Safety Officer Jenny Murray runs the workshops on a regular basis and is available for bookings throughout the year.

Bankstown City Council also conducts free bi-monthly child restraint checks with the next to be held in August. Restraints are checked by an RTA authorised fitter and bookings are essential.

All children under seven years of age must be restrained in a suitable and approved child restraint or booster seat for their age when travelling in a vehicle.

Bankstown City Council also reminds parents and carers to hold their child’s hand in the road traffic environment.

Bookings for restraint checks can be made by contacting 9707 9424.

Dial Triple Zero

With the constant rise in popularity of American crime shows, more and more people are calling 911 in an emergency instead of 000. Confusion can also occur for residents new to Australia who may not be familiar with local emergency contacts and procedures.

To address this problem, Bankstown City Council has joined with the National Triple Zero Awareness Work Group to inform and remind residents of the correct use of the Triple Zero Emergency phone number.

As part of the program, we urge residents not to use 112 on mobile phones or to mimic US TV shows and call 911.

When reporting an emergency, call Triple Zero (000) from any phone.

It is the best number to contact the Police, Fire Brigade or Ambulance during an emergency situation.

For residents who are hearing impaired, a text-based relay service is available on 106, but this number does not work from fixed phone lines.

To find out more about Triple Zero, go to www.triplezero.gov.au.

Keeping it Clean

Local residents recently had the chance to put on their rubber gloves and take a stand against graffiti. As part of National Graffiti Action Day, held on Sunday, 15 May a number of residents met at Revesby to learn how to keep their city clean.

“National Graffiti Action Day allows residents to join the fight to make Bankstown a graffiti free city,” Mayor of Bankstown Cllr Tania Mihailuk said.

Graffiti removal is a high priority for Bankstown City Council. In 2010 almost $450,000 was spent removing 3,900 incidents of graffiti from parks, residences, community facilities and businesses across the local government area.

Members of the Council’s Community Safety and City Cleaning Graffiti teams were on site to teach residents safe graffiti removal techniques. Residents who took part in the program also received a free SoSafe graffiti removal kit to take home containing the necessary chemicals to safely remove graffiti.

All residents are encouraged to report incidents of graffiti to both Police and Council.
Parting is such suita sorrow

Seventeen lucky Japanese students took a break from post-tsunami and earthquake-stricken Japan to experience some downunder hospitality as part of a youth cultural exchange in Bankstown.

Between 29 March and 4 April, guests from the Council’s sister city of Suita spent a week packing in a diverse range of Australian experiences.

Hosted by local families, the 13 to 17 year olds enjoyed visits to Tower Street Public and Chester Hill High schools, a city tour of the Opera House, Rocks area and Taronga Park Zoo, and of course local tourism hotspots such as Flinders Slopes and the Georges River.

At the farewell function, Mayor of Bankstown Clr Tania Mihailuk said her sympathies went out to the Japanese people in this time of national tragedy.

“The people of Japan have endured a great deal and I hope this opportunity has allowed students from our sister city to take a break and enjoy the opportunity to discover a culture which they would not ordinarily experience,” Mayor Mihailuk said.

“Sharing their daily life with a host family is the most valuable element of our sister city program and we couldn’t do it without our volunteer families.”

Bankstown signed a sister city agreement with Suita in 1989, a relationship which has continued to culturally enrich both cities, with regular youth exchanges taking place over the last 22 years.

If you would like to host a youth from Japan or from Bankstown’s other Asian sister city, Yangcheon in Korea, call the Sister City Coordinator on 9707 9446.

Bounce back from car theft

Bankstown and Canterbury City councils have joined forces to deliver “Operation Bounce Back” - a national educational campaign aimed at preventing motor vehicle theft in local communities.

As part of Operation Bounce Back, both Councils will offer eligible residents a voucher for a FREE car immobiliser, installed by a locally approved auto technician.

Mayor of Bankstown Clr Tania Mihailuk said Operation Bounce Back is an opportunity for Bankstown City Council to help residents actively reduce motor vehicle theft.

“Since the program was first introduced in Bankstown in 2004, motor vehicle theft across the city has declined by over 41 per cent and I encourage residents with high-risk vehicles to take advantage of the free car immobilisers and protect their vehicles,” Mayor Mihailuk said.

The campaign runs until the end of June. Vouchers for the free immobilisers will be given away for the first 300 vehicles made prior to 1998 which are owned and driven by residents living within the Bankstown and Canterbury local government areas.

To register for an immobiliser voucher or for more information on the program call Bankstown City Council on 9707 9471 or Canterbury City Council on 9789 9509.
Email alert
Library members can now sign up for a free courtesy reminder to let them know when their loans are due for return. Sent via email, the alerts are available to everyone who has a current library membership card. To sign up go to www.bankstown.nsw.gov.au click on the library tab and then click on Announcing Email Alert Service and complete the sign up form.

Super Search
The Library’s new Super Search online system can search any of the databases and catalogues and is available from the library catalogue at http://library.bankstown.nsw.gov.au, all you have to do is click on the Super Search tab and use your library card number to see all the choices to search. Using Super Search will save you time and give you information from encyclopaedias, newspapers, magazines and the library. For more information call 9707 9708 or email libraries@bankstown.nsw.gov.au.

Homework help at home!!
So much homework, so little time? Help is at hand from Bankstown City Council libraries. At our libraries there is a feast of information, and online tutoring is also available from 4pm to 8pm during school term. There are loads of books to help you, PLUS real life help from librarians. If you are busy with school and TAFE assignments, make sure you join the library. The library staff can help you find all the information you need, so call your local library today, or visit online at http://library.bankstown.nsw.gov.au to join online.

eBooks 24/7
Our libraries have a collection of eBooks available on a variety of subjects and topics. An eBook is a full-length publication including text, images or both, available in digital form on computer and other electronic devices. To access eBooks, all you need is a current Bankstown Library membership card number and then go to www.bankstown.nsw.gov.au/ebooks/default.aspx or call 9707 9708

Monkey Business@your library
The Bankstown Library Lapsit Storytime for babies and parents has been recognised as an award winning program across NSW public libraries. The program is designed for babies aged six to 24 months and their parents. Including stories, songs, nursery rhymes, and simple finger puppets, the program is called “Monkey Business” because it develops the baby’s skills in sounds, pictures, rhythms and rhymes over a four week period. Monkey Business will be held at Panania and Bankstown Libraries in May and at Greenacre Library in June. For more information call 9707 9708.

Book Chatters at Bankstown Library
This free monthly book club offers the chance to meet fellow book lovers of all ages to talk about books and see some of the great books the library has available. Book Chatters is not a traditional book club – you are not limited to reading the same book as everyone else. Book Chatters will discuss a range of authors and books and allow readers to share ideas and opinions with fellow book lovers. Book Chatters is held once a month, 10am - 12pm at Bankstown City Library, starting Wednesday 13 July. Refreshments are provided. Please call 9707 9708 with any inquiries.

International Films come to Bankstown Library - The Fatality
On Friday, 29 July Bankstown Library will kick off its monthly International Film Festival with a horror film from Hong Kong. The Fatality is 98 minutes long, in Mandarin Chinese with English subtitles. It’s the spooky story of a man from Taipei who wakes up from a coma in Thailand with some unusual identity issues. For only $3 you can enjoy a movie, refreshments and a social outing. The night will begin at 5.30pm and runs until 7.30pm.

July School Holiday Activities
All Bankstown libraries will be offering exciting school holiday activities designed for kids aged five to 12 years and their parents. Youngsters will be invited to create a range of arts and crafts including:

- backpack buddies in Animal Clips
- a fuss free paper aquarium with their own Under the Sea Mobile
- a colourful backyard Straw Spinner.

Bankstown and Padstow Libraries will also host the new and improved Game On, a youth PC console games challenge. School Holiday activities will fun from 5 July through to 15 July across all Bankstown City Council libraries. Contact your local library for full details.

Bus to Bankstown Library for seniors
If you love to visit the library but have limited mobility, call the Bus to Library service on 9707 9733 and 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, talking book format, CDs, DVDs and magazines, have morning tea and chat to your fellow library lovers. The bus then takes you home. Bookings are essential so contact the Community Access team on 9707 9733.

Computer Savvy Seniors
We want all our older residents to be computer savvy and we’ll be continuing the library’s Computer Savvy course throughout the year. The classes cover the absolute basics – using the mouse, shutting down safely and printing – and also how to use the internet, getting to websites and using email. Classes will be held at Bankstown Library Technology Centre on Tuesday 26 July, 30 August, 27 September, 25 October and 29 November from 9.30am to 12pm. To find out more call 9707 9713.

Tell me a story
Pre-schoolers aged two to five years are invited to attend the Chester Hill Library’s Evening Storytime. Evening storytimes are the perfect opportunity for you and your little ones to climb into your favourite pyjamas or fancy dress for a night of stories, games, dancing and craft. After that children can snuggle up with their blanket and pillow, while you watch a movie. Bookings are essential and open 9am of the morning of the evening storytime party. Storytime will be held on the last Friday of the month from 29 July through 25 November 2011 from 6.30pm to 7.30pm. For more information or to make a booking contact 9707 9740.

FREE Social Knit In @your library
Bankstown libraries are hosting a Knitting Club on a regular basis. The Library has a number of volunteers who donate to the Wrap With Love project and are interested to meet others in the local area who love to knit and have a chat. For those who have been knitting squares and wraps for the ABC Knit In, there is now a social knitting group to look forward to attending every month at Bankstown Library. Social knitting groups are for young and old, women and men, people of all backgrounds and abilities who find that knitting in a group creates opportunities for social engagement and learning from others. For information on classes call 9707 9708.
Join the **Active Bankstown Club**

Join the Active Bankstown Club and keep fit and healthy.

Our fantastic programs and events include Sport A Month, the Bankstown Recreation Expo and Bike Around Bankstown.

When you join the club, you’ll be the first to learn about our events as well as getting a 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 we’ll send you a registration form.

---

## 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 know the links to Swim School to address your interest!

Proudly owned & managed by Bankstown City Council

---

## Come on in, the water is fine

The next enrolments for Bankstown City Council’s Swim School will open in the final week of June. It might be cold outside but inside the Council’s leisure centres the water temperature varies between a warm 30 and 32 degrees.

Swimming is a skill for life and the program focuses on teaching kids pool and water safety. Term 3 classes will be held at Birrong, Revesby and Wran Leisure Centres.

A range of classes will be available including private coaching, swim squad and mother and child lessons.

Lessons cost $13/lesson for the first child, $12/lesson for each subsequent child, $30/private lesson for a single child or $45/private lesson for two children from the same family.

To see the Term 3 timetable, enrolment form and important Swim School information, go to www.leisure.bankstown.nsw.gov.au or to find out more, call 9707 9296.

---

## Our Amazing Heritage

Amazing Stories was the theme of the recent National Trust NSW Heritage Festival in Bankstown which celebrated the Georges River.

Bankstown City Council and the Heritage Committee organised bus and walking tours over a number of days to visit some of the riverside “Crosscurrents” artworks which tell the local Aboriginal, colonial and migration heritage stories of the Georges River and the City of Bankstown.

Led by Council and Bankstown Historical Society tour guides Sean Mooney and Ken Willis, the tour also included visits to East Hills Park, Lambeth Reserve, Kentucky Reserve, Garrison Point, Flinders Slopes, Shortland Brush, Milperra Soldier Settlement, Bankstown Airport and the Homestead in Georges Hall.

The tours attracted local residents as well as visitors from others areas around NSW including Bondi, Dapto and Lane Cove.
Share your passion for the environment

Bankstown City Council is running two separate competitions this September to give residents the opportunity to share with the community their passion for art, the environment and to win some great prizes.

The HomeGrown Garden Competition recognises the creation of wonderful home, school or business gardens, with bonus points given for sustainable features like native plants, frog ponds or large trees. Entrants will have their gardens viewed by council staff and professional judges as part of the competition process.

If you enjoy photography and are handy with a camera, take the time to enter the HomeGrown Photography Competition. A picture tells a thousand words so let your camera tell us a story about the natural place that you love, or the plants and animals that make Bankstown home.

Both competitions are free and entries open 1 September and close 14 September. All works and garden images will be displayed at the Bankstown Arts Centre in October.

Keep an eye out for categories and entry details on the Environmental News and Events page of our website.

LOVE FOOD
hate waste

Households waste about $20 of their budget each week throwing out unused food. In response to this, Bankstown City Council recently joined with the NSW State Government in a Love Food, Hate Waste partnership to educate people on the proper management of food.

Around 800,000 tonnes of food is thrown out by NSW households each year and by wasting food, residents also waste money, energy, water and other resources that go into growing, processing and transporting food.

The Council will also be promoting the program throughout the local government area, starting with Bankstown Bites on 30 July.

A helpful tip for saving money on food is not to shop when hungry because this often results in buying more groceries than required.

To find out more about reducing food waste, go to www.lovefoodhatewaste.nsw.gov.au.

Bankstown Community Directory

A handy to use brochure containing all the community contacts residents need is now available to pick up from Bankstown City Council’s Customer Service Centre and Bankstown libraries.

The Bankstown Community Directory contains more than 1,000 entries covering emergency contacts through to recreational, leisure and sporting facilities, community programs and council services.

Contacts for community services can also be found at LINCS - Local Information Network for Community Services. LINCS is an online community directory provided by a partnership of more than 30 local councils, State Government departments and community organisations.

The LINCS website is updated in real time and contains up-to-date information. Should a search for local services in the online community directory be unsuccessful, the database automatically broadens the search to the entire Sydney region and locates the nearest matches.

To use the LINCS website go to www.datadiction.com.au/lincs or www.bankstown.nsw.gov.au and go to Community Information.