Aged to benefit from **Mayoral Charity Dinner**

**Bankstown City Aged Care** was the recipient of more than $53,000, raised by this year’s **Mayoral Charity Dinner**.

The event was held in the Grand Ballroom at Bankstown Sports Club on 12 August and was attended by more than 450 guests.

“The support for this year’s Mayoral Charity Dinner was astonishing, with the Bankstown community once again coming together and showing their true community spirit and generosity,” Mayor of Bankstown Cllr Khal Asfour said.

Bankstown City Aged Care was chosen as the recipient by former Mayor of Bankstown Cllr Tania Mihailuk.

Bankstown City Aged Care is a local not-for-profit organisation which has been providing care for the aged community for the past 39 years. The organisation offers general aged-care, respite services, at-home care, as well as the Betty Sussman Dementia Day Care Centre.

Bankstown City Aged Care was the result of former Bankstown Mayor Ron Lockwood’s vision to provide at-home services to the aged community.

“Bankstown City Aged Care is a wonderful example of what one person’s insight can achieve within a community,” Mayor Asfour said.
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.

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

If you need help understanding this document please contact Council on 9707 9999.

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.

Contents

Mayoral Message 3
Bankstown Bites success 4
New Mayor for Bankstown 5
VCA Monument almost complete 6
Council environment team commended 7
Midnight Basketball scores 8
Eye in the Sky on Library 9
Underpass open 10
Crime Rates down 11
Tree Day record set 12
Newland Pond renewal 13
Sister City Anniversary 14
Students experience Council 15

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

If you need help understanding this document please contact Council on 9707 9999.

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.

Contents

Mayoral Message 3
Bankstown Bites success 4
New Mayor for Bankstown 5
VCA Monument almost complete 6
Council environment team commended 7
Midnight Basketball scores 8
Eye in the Sky on Library 9
Underpass open 10
Crime Rates down 11
Tree Day record set 12
Newland Pond renewal 13
Sister City Anniversary 14
Students experience Council 15

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

If you need help understanding this document please contact Council on 9707 9999.

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.
Since being elected Mayor in June 2011, I have kept busy with many key projects and events.

Two of our city’s signature events were recently held, Bankstown Bites Food Festival and the annual Mayoral Charity Dinner. I was thrilled to see a crowd of 20,000 people turn out for this premier celebration of our local cuisine. With perfect weather and a great mix of cooking demonstrations and entertainment, the event was once again a huge success.

On a personal note, I would like to thank everyone who attended the 2011 Mayoral Charity Dinner at Bankstown Sports Club. The event raised over $53,000 for Bankstown City Aged Care.

For close to 40 years, Bankstown City Aged Care has been a beacon in our community, providing quality care for the frail and aged residents of Bankstown. The evening was an opportunity to honour and celebrate this contribution and give something back to their dedicated staff and volunteers.

Bankstown Council is in a sound financial position and under my mayoralty I am committed to ensuring that Council is debt free by 2018. Should a carbon tax be introduced, I would like to assure residents that Bankstown City Council will not be increasing rates above the level set independently by the NSW Government.

Significant progress has been made on a number of projects as part of the CBD Renewal Program including the recently completed $6.5 million Bankstown Underpass. Residents will have noticed that since it’s opening, traffic flow has improved significantly in the CBD with increased safety for pedestrians and cyclists.

Work is also continuing on Bankstown’s new Central Library and Knowledge Centre. Partial demolition of the former Town Hall site is now complete and a building tender is expected to be announced very soon. Once completed, the project, valued at more than $20 million, will provide our residents with a state-of-the-art facility.

The upcoming completion of the Women’s and Children’s Health Centre in Jacobs Street, Bankstown will provide residents with an integrated health facility within walking distance of the CBD and public transport. This is a project that was championed by former Mayor and now State MP Tania Mihailuk.

As the current Mayor it is now my goal to continue the great work Clr Mihailuk began, and further the relationships between Council and the community.

I am also proud of the work we are doing around our local town centres. Works as part of Council’s Town Centre Improvement Program have previously been undertaken at Chester Hill, Condell Park, Georges Hall, Greenacre, Padstow, Sefton, Villawood and Yagoona.

Upgrade works with a combined value of more than $3 million are also scheduled for Punchbowl and Panania and will include various improvements to the streetscapes and infrastructure.

I recently announced the establishment of a Bankstown Sporting Hall of Fame. To be housed at the soon to be redeveloped Memorial Park Sports Centre, the Hall of Fame will be an exciting recognition of the contribution made by people from our sporting community. It will feature a mix of memorabilia, exhibitions and audio visual displays and will allow both residents and tourists to appreciate the City’s rich and diverse history of sport and sporting greats.

I am proud to have been elected Mayor of this great city and I look forward to working together with our community to make Bankstown a place we can all be proud of.
Bankstown’s signature event, Bankstown Bites has once again been hailed a success by thousands of festival goers.

Glorious weather combined with the freshest of ingredients and the talents of local and celebrity chefs, made this year’s event a memorable one.

“With more than 20,000 people from across Sydney enjoying the taste and experience of Bankstown, the festival has again lived up to its reputation as one of Sydney’s premier food events,” Mayor of Bankstown Clr Khal Asfour said.

“The blend of cooking demonstrations, live performances, international food stalls, creative workshops and kids activities was a perfect recipe and ensured a great day out for all who attended.”

Attracting people from as far west as the Blue Mountains, the festival’s main attraction was once again the Discovery Food Tours. All 30 tours were fully booked with visitors enjoying a range of multicultural cuisine around the Bankstown CBD.

Celebrity Chef, Darren Simpson used his Irish charm to entertain his audiences by whipping up a feast of Italian delicacies on stage and giving patrons a taste of his signature Pappa al Pomodoro and Spaghetti alla Vongole as part of the cooking demonstrations.

Local chefs Antonios Chayna, Ben Ndreka, Robert Green, Hung Le and Junior Chef Lena Dovan added their personal touch to the festival, showcasing some of our local favourite dishes.

Bankstown Bites is an initiative of Bankstown City Council, with the support of sponsors the Torch Newspaper, Bankstown RSL Club, Bankstown Sports, Revesby Workers Club, and the Canterbury-Bankstown Express.
Ensuring Bankstown remains a city of progress is one of New Mayor Clr Khal Asfour’s top priorities.

On Monday, 27 June 2011, Clr Asfour was voted in as Mayor of Bankstown following Clr Tania Mihailuk’s decision to resign as Mayor to focus on her obligations as the State Member for Bankstown.

Mayor Asfour, 33, has been involved with Bankstown City Council since 2004 when he was elected as an East Ward councillor. He was then voted in as Deputy Mayor in 2008.

In accepting the role, Mayor Asfour said it was a privilege to be elected as Mayor of the great city he grew up in.

“Incipient being elected to Council, I have worked hard to deliver important infrastructure improvements, encourage business growth and provide support to our community based organisations and service clubs,” he said.

“As Mayor, I look forward to continuing to ensure that Bankstown remains a city of progress and will lead a Council committed to delivering positive outcomes for our community.”

Mayor Asfour is a life-long resident of Greenacre, having also completed his education in the area. He continues to live in Greenacre with his wife Sally and their newborn son Elias.

When speaking of his vision for Bankstown, Mayor Asfour also paid tribute to outgoing Mayor Clr Tania Mihailuk on her achievements, strong leadership and dedication to serving the community.

Working alongside Mayor Asfour is new Deputy Mayor Clr Allan Winterbottom.

Clr Winterbottom said he is looking forward to supporting Mayor Asfour and believes their leadership qualities compliment each other.

“Bankstown is a great city and I am extremely proud of my achievements as a Councillor, and how much Bankstown has developed during the years.

“I look forward to working with my fellow Councillors to continue to deliver great things for our community,” he said.
Million dollar makeover for town centres

Punchbowl and Panania Town Centres are set to receive a $3 million plus makeover as part of Bankstown City Council’s Town Centre Improvement Program.

Works at Punchbowl are expected to be completed by the end of this year, while Panania works are scheduled for completion in late 2012.

Both improvement programs will focus on beautifying the area and supporting the viability and operation of both Punchbowl and Panania Town Centres.

Designs have been completed for the Punchbowl Town Centre and a preliminary concept plan is being developed for Panania. Council will be seeking community feedback on the initial ideas very soon.

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

New golf pro at Sefton

Sefton Golf Course has recently welcomed the services of a new golf professional.

Golf pro Tim Hosking has been appointed as the club’s Teaching and Service Professional.

Mr Hosking completed his junior career at Bankstown Golf Club before playing golf all around the world, including the South Pacific, Africa, Asia, U.K, U.S.A and Canada.

He is now dividing his time between teaching three days a week at Sefton and competing on the China PGA Champions Tour.

“I like Sefton it’s a good course, close to home and I know the locals,” he said.

Mr Hosking offers a range of junior clinics from beginners to advanced, as well as group and individual lessons.

Lessons range from half-an-hour to one-hour on a nine-hole or 18-hole course and cover all areas of golf.

Mr Hosking will also be available for services such as club fitting and repair.

For more information, please contact Sefton Golf Course on 9743 9436.

VCA Monument almost complete

The development of a Vietnamese Boat People monument, to be located in Saigon Place, is well on its way to completion.

Blue Mountains sculptor Terrance Plowright is working on the monument which is expected to be installed at Saigon Place in October.

Bankstown City Council was approached late last year by the Vietnamese Community in Australia-NSW Chapter, to assist in building a fitting monument to reflect the history and contribution of the Vietnamese community in Bankstown.

“Being involved in the creation of this very important monument is a wonderful opportunity for Council as it offers us the chance to celebrate the Vietnamese community and their contribution to Bankstown,” Mayor of Bankstown Cllr Khal Asfour said.

Once completed the bronze monument will depict four Vietnamese boat people and a baby in a vessel at sea.
Environment team commended

The commitment of Bankstown City Council’s Resource Recovery Team was recently acknowledged with a High Commendation by the NSW Government.

The team, led by Daniela Santucci Coordinator of Research Recovery, was recognised for its innovative approach to encouraging members of Bankstown’s multicultural community to Recycle Right.

As a result of researching behavioural psychology, the team developed a campaign which has reduced incorrect recycling techniques of household rubbish in Bankstown by half.

The simple, non-confronting system uses two cards, one with a smiley face and the other with a frowning face, to let residents know how well they have recycled their domestic waste.

“The biggest lesson the team has learnt is how powerful simple feedback can be.”

“Every day members of the Research Recovery team go out and choose household bins at random and leave feedback cards,” Ms Santucci said.

Illegal dumpers beware

Bankstown City Council has joined forces with the Regional Illegal Dumping Squad (RID) to stop illegal dumping in our local area.

The collaboration commenced in 2000, and Bankstown City Council has so far been involved in 2,230 successful illegal dumping investigations and issued more than $110,000 worth of fines.

The joint effort has also allowed Council to trial a range of new surveillance and deterrence strategies, including regular patrols and video surveillance of hotspot areas.

“With the help of the RID Squad and local residents, Council can continue to identify, investigate and successfully prosecute illegal waste dumping offenders in the Bankstown area,” Mayor of Bankstown Clr Khal Asfour said.

In an effort to further combat the issue of illegal dumping in our city, Council recently adopted a Notice of Motion by North Ward Councillor Alex Kuskoff to establish a task force to focus on illegal dumping.

Council spends more than $500,000 each year on illegal dumping. This includes clean up costs, prevention and enforcement.

To find out more about the RID Squad or to report someone dumping waste illegally contact Bankstown City Council on 9707 9999 or RID on 131 555.
Midnight Basketball scores well with youth

Registrations are now open for Bankstown’s second Midnight Basketball tournament set to begin on Saturday, 22 October 2011.

Following the success of the first program, Bankstown City Council is proud to once again offer the program to youth in the Bankstown area.

The tournament will run on Saturday nights for eight consecutive weeks, offering participants a nutritious dinner, life skills workshop, three competition basketball games and a bus ride home, all at no cost.

The success of this program is largely due to the collaborative effort between Bankstown City Council, local Police and local community organisations involving and working with the youth of Bankstown.

Midnight Basketball aims to give Bankstown youths aged 12 to 18 the opportunity to develop their basketball skills and provide a positive, safe and fun activity on a Saturday night.

In conjunction with the motto NOWORKSHOP NOJUMPSHOT, participants will be required to attend a range of compulsory workshops focusing on essential life skills such as health and wellbeing, conflict resolution, communication and decision making, cultural development and awareness, and community engagement skills.

To register for the second program contact Margaret Southwell on 9707 9471 or visit www.midnightbasketball.org.au/bankstown

Free Youth Sports Program

During the July School Holidays, Bankstown City Council offered a free youth sports program for young people aged between 9-18 years. The two-day program saw more than 40 young people participate in drills and games which taught them skills in oztag, soccer and teamwork.

The sports program was held at Ruse Park, Bankstown and all participants got active and enjoyed a free BBQ lunch. To find out more about future school holiday activities around the Bankstown area, call 9707 9605 or visit www.bankstown.nsw.gov.au

Join the Active Bankstown Club

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

This fantastic club includes Sport A Month, a free program which introduces residents to a variety of different sports.

In September try Martial Arts, October Bushwalking and in November learn how to Fly Cast.

By joining the Active Bankstown Club, residents will learn about Council’s sports programs and events, as well as receive a free welcome pack, the chance to win fantastic prizes and gain access to ‘members only’ events.

Membership is free. Simply register online at www.bankstown.nsw.gov.au or call Council’s Recreation Officer on 9707 9999 and we’ll send you a registration form.
Eye in the sky on library

The development of Bankstown’s new Central Library and Knowledge Centre, worth more than $20 million, is the largest infrastructure project announced by Bankstown City Council in the past 20 years.

To ensure every historical moment is captured, Council has installed a webcam on the roof of the Civic Tower building to record photographic images each day of the development.

The first image was taken on Tuesday, 12 April at 9am with an additional image taken every hour since. To date approximately 2,000 images have been taken of the development in its various stages.

To view the webcam images as a slideshow go to www.bankstown.nsw.gov.au and click on the major projects link.

Keeping the community safe

The safety of residents is important to Bankstown City Council, and in support of this, a free Safety Expo will be held on Saturday, 8 October 2011.

To be located in the Centre Court at Centro Bankstown, Council staff and other safety experts will be on hand to provide information on emergency and support services, practical advice on personal and property safety, as well as performances and demonstrations on stage throughout the day.

The expo will include information stalls from Bankstown City Council, NSW Fire Brigade, Police, Neighbourhood Watch, NSW State Emergency Service, St John Ambulance, NSW Ambulance Service and Bankstown Multicultural Youth Service.

For more information contact Bankstown City Council’s Community Safety and Crime Prevention Officer on 9707 9471.

Council in the black

Bankstown City Council will be debt free by 2018 and $132 million will be invested into Capital Works projects. These are two highlights from the 2011/12 Budget and four-year Financial Plan adopted by Council in June 2011.

These decisions represent a major milestone in setting a clear long-term agenda for Council and will ensure it remains financially sustainable.

Mayor of Bankstown Clr Khal Asfour said the Budget for 2011/12 will deliver more than $52 million in Capital Works and build on the $4 million in cost savings achieved since 2009.

“The goal of Council is to be debt free by 2018, and thanks to sound financial management we are well placed to deliver a large number of service improvements across the city.”

As part of its long-term financial plan, Council is committed to not increasing rates above the level set by NSW Government.

As part of Council’s Community Plan 2021, adopted in February 2011, priority projects for 2011/12 include:

• The construction of the new $20 million plus Central Library and Knowledge Centre
• A $14 million transport and infrastructure program
• $6 million investment into parks and recreational programs
• Continued Town Centre improvement program focusing on Panania and Punchbowl.
Switch on to electronic waste recycling

Bankstown Underpass open

Bankstown’s new $6.5 million Underpass project officially opened to traffic on Monday, 18 July 2011.

The Underpass has gone from providing two traffic lanes to four, with signalised intersections, pedestrian pathways and improved bicycle access.

Mayor of Bankstown Clr Khal Asfour said the new Underpass will have a positive impact on relieving traffic congestion within the Bankstown CBD.

“The delivery of this project is an important aspect of Council’s commitment to upgrading and renewing our city’s assets and infrastructure,” he said.

“The new Underpass will significantly improve traffic flow, reduce traffic congestion and provide pedestrian and cycle access between North and South Terraces.”

Additional features of the Underpass include crash barriers to prevent possible damage caused by an over-height vehicle, improved street lighting and footpaths on both sides of the rail bridge.

The stormwater drainage capacity has also been increased to provide better access during large storm events and the rail structure has been designed to reduce noise levels of passing trains.

Revesby Carpark Opens

Revesby residents now have 135 reasons to shop locally.

A new carpark which can be entered via Simmons Street or The River Road now offers 135 three-hour-limit spaces for shoppers.

The new car park also contains lift access, security lighting and CCTV surveillance.

Bankstown City Council’s first e-waste collection, held earlier this year, attracted a NSW record of 1,300 vehicles and 70 tonnes of material.

Don’t miss out on your opportunity to recycle your e-waste for free at the next community collection day on Saturday, 15 October 2011 at the Bankstown Paceway (Eldridge Road, Condell Park).

Gates open at 9am and close at 3.30pm. Residents can bring along old, unwanted or out-of-date electronics such as TVs, computers, printers, small electrical appliances, battery of power operated tools and toys, mobile phones and other such materials.

For more information visit www.bankstown.nsw.gov.au or call the Resource Recovery Team on 9707 9999.
Crime rates down in Bankstown

Data released by the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) reveals a steady decrease in the rate of reported crime in the Bankstown local government area, over the past ten years.

Bankstown City Council in conjunction with the local Police, and community services have worked hard to improve safety and reduce criminal activity in the Bankstown area.

BOCSAR data also shows a 65 per cent reduction in local Motor Vehicle Theft, a 54 per cent decrease in Steal from Motor Vehicle and a 44 per cent reduction in Steal from Retail Store. Not only has Bankstown seen a drop in the rate of Robbery Without a Weapon, but a steady decrease has also been recorded for Break and Enter-Dwelling, Steal from a Person, Malicious Damage to Property and a number of other crime categories.

Bankstown City Council has also been working in partnership with Canterbury Council and the Bankstown and Canterbury Domestic Violence Liaison Committee to raise awareness about domestic violence issues in our local communities.

In 2009, Bankstown City Council’s *It’s Time to Talk* program was awarded a Certificate of Merit in the National Crime and Violence Awards.

While Domestic Violence is traditionally an under-reported crime, programs to raise awareness and reduce the stigma associated with reporting violence in the home has led to a 36 per cent increase in reporting of incidents in Bankstown in the last 10 years.

For more information on crime rates in Bankstown you can visit www.bocsar.nsw.gov.au or visit the Council’s website to see our current community safety projects at www.bankstown.nsw.gov.au

Road Education Scheme

Local families are invited to participate in a free cycle training day at the Community and Road Education Scheme (CARES) Centre at Bass Hill.

To be overseen by Bankstown City Council, the workshop will provide a combination of practical activities for cyclists to develop a greater degree of road safety knowledge.

The program focuses on road safety, bicycle skills and coping with traffic, with a date for the workshop to be set once enough families have registered their interest.

CARES will also hold an open day at the centre on Wednesday, 5 October 2011 to allow residents to see what programs are on offer. The day will be run in conjunction with Bankstown Council and Bankstown Police Local Area Command.

To register for the upcoming weekend cycle training workshop, or the CARES open day, please contact Council’s Road Safety Officer on 9707 9424.

Keep your child safe in the car

This September, Bankstown residents can have their child’s safety restraints checked by an RTA authorised fitter, free of charge.

By law, children under the age of seven must be restrained in a suitable and approved child restraint when travelling in a vehicle.

Places are limited and bookings are essential, so please contact Council’s Road Safety Officer on 9707 9424 to make a booking.
Show us your HomeGrown spaces

Bankstown City Council has two competitions running, to celebrate local living spaces, as part of its HomeGrown program.

The first is a photographic competition, and the second a garden competition.

To enter the photo competition, get snapping and send in your photos for either the ‘My Place’ or ‘Wildlife’ categories. Show us your favourite natural spaces and what you like doing there, or the amazing plants and animals that make Bankstown home.

Is your garden your pride and joy?

Sign up for the garden competition and show off your garden to the rest of Bankstown. Local homes, schools or business gardens can enter. Bonus points are given for features like native plants, frog ponds or large trees.

The HomeGrown competitions include a total prize pool of more than $1,200, so get creative. Entries close on Wednesday, 21 September 2011.

Top photos and garden images will be exhibited at the new Bankstown Arts Centre. Come along to the exhibition between 13-20 October to check out the images of Bankstown’s beautiful living spaces captured by our local residents.

1-21 September
Entry period for HomeGrown photo and garden competitions

13-20 October
HomeGrown Exhibition at Bankstown Arts Centre
Monday - Friday 9.00 - 5.00
Saturday 10.00 - 4.00

Go to www.bankstown.nsw.gov.au or call 9707 9431 for more information.

Celebrating NAIDOC Week

Bankstown residents recently showed their support for the area’s Indigenous community with more than 1,500 people taking part in NAIDOC Week celebrations.

Mayor of Bankstown Clr Khal Asfour said the NAIDOC Week celebration, held in July, was a great opportunity for Council and residents to show their support for the Indigenous community.

“The Bankstown has a proud connection with Indigenous culture and history in our area,” he said.

“I am proud to see how many residents of Bankstown came out to acknowledge the contribution Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents make to our community.”

The event included the raising of both the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags, Aboriginal dance displays and an Australian Wildlife display.
Bringing Newland Pond back to life

Newland Reserve pond is being brought back to life as part of a major upgrade being carried out by Bankstown City Council.

The rejuvenation works are currently in progress and include draining of the entire pond to improve water quality, planting of aquatic flora and the temporary relocation of the area’s resident turtle population.

The turtles have been re-homed at Sefton Golf Course and will be reintroduced back into the pond once the works are complete.

“The Newland Reserve pond is a vital asset to the community,” Mayor of Bankstown Cllr Khal Asfour said.

“Bankstown City Council has committed significant resources into the improvement of water conditions in the Newlands Reserve pond.”

“This project is part of our asset renewal program and will include the installation of a new sediment basin which will collect sediment from storm water and make the pond easier to maintain.”

The Newland Reserve upgrade project is expected to be completed later this month.

International Youth Day

A debating competition to mark International Youth Day 2011 was held by Bankstown City Council’s Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) on Friday, 12 August.

The competition targeted year nine students from five local high schools, including Sir Joseph Banks High School, Bass High, Georges River Grammar, Birrong Boys and Birrong Girls.

Students from Sir Joseph Banks took out first place in the grand final debate. The debating competition covered a number of topics, including democracy, religion and social media.

The debating competition was an initiative of Bankstown City Council’s Youth Advisory Committee (YAC). The purpose was to provide young people opportunities to have their say, and to develop their skills in public speaking and gain confidence.

YAC is a committee of young people selected by Bankstown City Council to advise and assist Council in making decisions on issues and strategies that affect the area’s youth.

Report It, Don’t Ignore It!

Police are asking residents to report any criminal activity they may witness in the Bankstown local government area.

Bankstown City Council, in partnership with the Police, will use information gathered from reports to identify crime ‘hot spots’ in the area.

According to the NSW Police Department, there is a number of factors which prevent people from reporting criminal issues in their local areas. These include the person feeling that the issue is too minor to be a concern, that someone else will report it or they feel that there is nothing that can be done.

Police say residents are in the best position to identify suspicious or anti-social behaviour in Bankstown, and crimes such as graffiti on private and public property, littering and dumping, malicious property damage, and dangerous driving.

This information will assist Police, in partnership with Council, to address concerns before they escalate.

To report a crime in Bankstown, call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or the Police Assistance Line on 131 444.

In an emergency always call 000.
Anniversary in the Silver City

Bankstown City Council’s Talent Advancement Program (TAP) recently visited Broken Hill to celebrate the 25 year anniversary of Council’s first Sister City relationship.

In the late seventies, the Broken Hill artist group ‘Brushmen of the Bush’, exhibited their artwork at the Bankstown Town Hall. This initial contact led to Council’s first Sister City relationship being formalised in 1986 and 25 years later the relationship is stronger than ever.

To celebrate this milestone, 16 members of Bankstown’s TAP group embarked on an amazing week-long journey to the Silver City.

Selected to represent Bankstown, the TAP soloists collaborated with other youth artists from Broken Hill to perform song and dance at a silver anniversary concert on Friday, 8 July.

The concert marked the second trip made to Broken Hill by TAP performers. In 2007, performers also shared their gift of song with Broken Hill, having travelled there to celebrate the 21st anniversary of the partnership.

It wasn’t all hard work though, with TAP soloists enjoying an itinerary of sight-seeing in the iconic Aussie city. All of the soloists were home-hosted by Broken Hill families and enjoyed a real city meets country experience.

Celebrating the silver anniversary doesn’t end with TAP on tour. The celebrations will conclude with the annual youth sporting exchange from 23 – 30 September. This exchange will see 200 youth and supervisors from a number of sporting codes travel to Broken Hill for a week of friendly competition.

During the sporting exchange a silver anniversary function will be hosted by the Mayor of Broken Hill which will incorporate the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between our two cities. This MOU will shape the progress of the Sister City relationship over the next 25 years in the fields of sport, art, culture and Council to Council support and exchange of expertise.

Get active in the water

Aqua aerobics is a great way to get fit without impacting your joints. Residents can try aqua aerobics classes at one of Bankstown City Council’s leisure centres.

Aqua aerobics is an activity for all fitness levels and is a perfect option for seniors, pregnant women and those wanting to lose weight. The classes are not just for women, with a number of men also participating.

Classes are held in the indoor pools at Birrong, Revesby and Wran Leisure Centres, and are also a great way to meet new people.

Class timetables are available at www.leisure.bankstown.nsw.gov.au and evening classes will be available during summer.

Enrol your child now for term four of Swim School before summer arrives.

The program, proudly owned and managed by Bankstown City Council, caters for all ages and swimming abilities. It focuses on teaching local swimmers the importance of safety in an aquatic environment and provides the skills needed to be safe in and around water.

The program also has a focus on enhancing social, emotional and physical health, and will operate from Revesby, Birrong and Wran leisure centres. Drop into the centre of your choice or call 9707 9296 and enrol today. Lessons are $13 per student and discounts are available for subsequent children from the same family.

Private lessons are also available upon request and start from $30 per lesson. www.leisure.bankstown.nsw.gov.au

Enrol now
Keep me safe,
teach me to swim

Enrol your child now for term four of Swim School before summer arrives.

The program, proudly owned and managed by Bankstown City Council, caters for all ages and swimming abilities. It focuses on teaching local swimmers the importance of safety in an aquatic environment and provides the skills needed to be safe in and around water.

The program also has a focus on enhancing social, emotional and physical health, and will operate from Revesby, Birrong and Wran leisure centres. Drop into the centre of your choice or call 9707 9296 and enrol today. Lessons are $13 per student and discounts are available for subsequent children from the same family.

Private lessons are also available upon request and start from $30 per lesson. www.leisure.bankstown.nsw.gov.au

Private lessons are also available upon request and start from $30 per lesson. www.leisure.bankstown.nsw.gov.au
Students experience working life at Council

A new partnership developed between Bankstown City Council and Birrong Girls High School has allowed six Year 11 students studying Business Services as part of their HSC, to experience real-life work scenarios.

The six-week program allowed the students to develop a variety of new skills by working with employees who act as mentors in a number of workplace environments.

Bankstown City Council Policy Analyst, Angela Tocher joined with a number of Council employees to provide students with opportunities to work in Council’s Business Advisory Centre, customer service, environment and waste management teams.

A graduation ceremony held at the Council Chambers gave the students an opportunity to speak about their experience. All six students described their time at Council as both inspiring and valuable.

Work placements are a mandatory component of a number of industry-based vocational education and training (VET) courses that students can choose as part of their study for the Higher School Certificate.

Bankstown celebrates international film

Bankstown City Library Services has launched an International Film Festival, right in the heart of the Bankstown CBD.

The festival will celebrate the cultural diversity of film and give the community a chance to see some great foreign films on the big screen.

Included in the line up of films are a Japanese animation, an Arabic love story and a French drama.

Films will be shown on the last Friday night of every month until June 2012. Bookings and inquiries can be made on 9707 9708 and a booking fee of $3 applies for each session. Refreshments will be provided and films will be shown 5.30pm – 7.00pm.

White Ribbon Day

In Australia, one in three women will be assaulted or abused in her lifetime, according to the White Ribbon organisation.

The White Ribbon Campaign aims to raise awareness amongst Australian men and boys about the roles they can play to prevent violence against women.

The campaign calls for men across Australia to speak out and pledge not to commit, condone or remain silent about violence against women.

On Friday, 25 November a number of events will be held across Bankstown to raise awareness about the issue of violence against women, and allow local men to take part in this national campaign.

Men can sign up to participate in an exercise workout in Paul Keating Park before work, enjoy a BBQ lunch at Bunnings Milperra, sign the White Ribbon Day Commitment book, attend the youth showcase in Bankstown Plaza or purchase a white ribbon or wristband from any of the local libraries or Council’s customer service centre.

For further information regarding each event contact Bankstown City Council’s Community Safety and Crime Prevention Officer on 9707 9471.
How to contact your local Councillors

**North**
- Chester Hill
- Villawood
- Sefton
- Regents Park
- Potts Hill
- Birrong
- Yagoona

**East**
- Chullora
- Greenacre
- Mount Lewis
- Bankstown
- Punchbowl

**West**
- Lansdowne
- Bass Hill
- Georges Hall
- Bankstown Airport
- Condell Park
- Milperra

**South**
- Padstow
- Revesby
- Panania
- East Hills
- Padstow Heights
- Revesby Heights
- Picnic Point

**North Ward**
- PAM GAVIN (Lab) M0434 359 215
- ALEX KUSKOFF (Lab) M0403 602 924
- MICHAEL TADROS (Lib) M0434 315 963

**East Ward**
- TANIA MHIAILUK (Lab) P9707 9536
- NAJI NAJJAR (Lib) M0421 057 244
- KHAL ASFOUR (Lab) M0411 412 396

**West Ward**
- GLEN WAUD (Lib) M0434 360 791
- ALLAN WINTERBOTTOM (Lab) M0412 788 235
- IAN STROMBORG (Lab) T9771 6540 P9772 3770
- GLENN BROOKES (Lib) M0412 956 427

**South Ward**
- MAX PARKER (Ind) M0411 464 647
- LINDA DOWNEY (Lab) M0411 462 287
- GLENN BROOKES (Lib) M0412 956 427
- TANIA MIHAILUK (Lab) P9707 9523

**Mayor & Deputy Mayor**
- KHAL ASFOUR (Lab) M0411 412 396 (m) P9707 9523
- ALLAN WINTERBOTTOM (Lab) M0412 788 235 (t) P9785 9091