



Our Community Place

THE BUZZ



December 2022

Newsletter of Our Community Place - a local Neighbourhood Centre

c/ PCYC 2b Lake St Windale NSW 2306
(PO Box 30)

coordinator@ourcommunityplace.org.au

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www.ourcommunityplace.org.au



Our Community Place



Thanks to CWA Belmont Branch!

We are once again very thankful to a local CWA (Country Women's Association) for their donation towards our Lunch Hub program.

The donation will be used to purchase food and consumables for the Monday lunch activity.

Our lunch attracts between 30 and 50 people each week for a nutritious sit down meal.

Photo: Our Community Place Manager Lydia Manusiu with CWA Belmont Branch's Kerry Warne

Published by
Our Community Place
2B Lake Street Windale NSW 2306
(PO BOX 30)



Staff

Lydia Manusiu
Manager

Elizabeth Hyslop
Community Development Worker

Teagan Pattison
Program Support Worker



**Our location - Inside the Lake Macquarie
PCYC. Lake St, Windale**

Our Office Hours are:

Monday to Thursday
9.00am - 4.00pm
(Closed Fridays & Public Holidays)



Subscribe to our **FREE**
Newsletter (The BUZZ) to
receive updates on our activities
and services as well as local community
information. Just go to
www.ourcommunityplace.org.au

All community news,
editorial and distribution enquiries
should be directed to:

admin@ourcommunityplace.org.au
P.O. Box 30, Windale NSW 2306

Manager's Message

Hi Everyone

Welcome to our final newsletter for 2022.

It has been a busy year and we are now at the phase of winding down all our programs. I am sure we are all looking forward to taking some time off to enjoy the warm weather and spending the festive season with our loved ones.

OCP will close from the 21 December 2022 and resume back on 9 January 2023.

On behalf of OCP, I wish you all a happy Christmas and prosperous and healthy New Year.

Lydia

Our Partners & Supporters



**Collective
Financial
Partners**



Many Thanks..

'Our Community Place' Update



Christmas Closure



Our Office will be closed for the
Christmas/ New Year period from
Tuesday 20 December to Friday 6 January

We will reopen on Monday 9 January

**If you need any assistance during this
closure period, please see below;**

*** Lifeline - 13 11 14**

*** Link 2 home - 1800 152 152**

*** Samaritans - 4922 1540 (*Emergency Relief*)**

*** Salvo's Emergency Relief Assistance line - 1300 371 288**

Restart Dates

Please note below the dates that our activities will cease for the year,
and the re-commencement dates for 2023

Activity	Last day for 2022	Date back in 2023
Sister Talk	Fri 9 December	Fri 3 February
Young Parents Group	Fri 9 December	Fri 3 February
Food Share	Mon 12 December	Mon 30 January
Women's Shed on the Lake	Fri 16 December	Fri 3 February
Lunch Hub	Mon 19 December	Mon 30 January
Information, referral, advocacy	Wed 21 December	Mon 9 January

'Our Community Place' Update

Management Committee

2023

Congratulations to the newly elected Our Community Place Management Committee following our AGM on 23 November 2022

Margaret Standen

(President)

Alison Johnson

(Vice President)

John Falconer

(Treasurer)

Lyn Dennis

(Secretary)

Jeff Riley

(Public Officer)

Libby Muir

(Committee member)



Sister Talk is a relaxed group for women of all ages. The group provides a safe space for women to meet others , support others and have a cuppa, conversation and a laugh.

We run a varied program including opportunities for socialising, hands on activities (eg. crafts, arts), food activities, guest presenters plus more! Children (babies to pre-schoolers) are welcome.

The group meets fortnightly Fridays in the café/ community room of BaptistCare HopeStreet Windale (Shop 1, 124 South Street Windale)

Our last activity for the year will be a Christmas Party on Friday 9 December.

Women are asked to 'bring a plate' for a grazing morning tea.

We will restart up again on Friday 3 February

If you would like to know more information about this group, please contact Elizabeth at the office

A big shoutout to our team of volunteers who have supported us throughout 2022 with your amazing dedication and hard work!

We couldn't run our services and activities without you! We thank each and every one of you for your support and encouragement



Thank you!

'Our Community Place' Update



Lunch Hub is a free two course sit-down lunch held on Mondays at 12.00 noon at the PCYC. These meals are held during school terms.

Numbers have increased as the word has been spreading.

We now average around 45 to 50 people each week.

As the cost of living increases, the weekly lunch gives people an opportunity to have a home cooked nutritious meal.

Our fantastic volunteers cooked up some delicious meals over 2022! The menus were varied ranging from roasts, pasta dishes, curries, bakes to quiches . All accompanied by a dessert.

Some of the groceries used for the meals are sourced from our weekly Oz Harvest delivery. Apart from saving valuable, nutritious food from landfill, it is also saving us money!

Lunch Hub continues to be a popular meeting place for the local community. Many guests are enjoying socializing with others and strengthening their friendships.

Our last lunch will be on Monday 19 December and then we will be taking a break over the summer and will restart on Monday 30 January



'Our Community Place' Update



Women Shed on the Lake is an inclusive group for women of all ages. They are enthusiastic about community projects, craft activities, outdoor activities, health and wellbeing and socialising.

The 'Shed' meets on Fridays at Warners Bay Baptist Church Hall (64 Queen Street Warners Bay)

Upcoming activities for December

Fri 2 Dec - Christmas craft

**Fri 9 Dec - In house Market for
Shed members**

**Fri 16 Dec - Christmas Lunch.
BYO salad to share.**

To be held at the PCYC

For all the details on their activities find them on Facebook or contact them on womensshedonthelake@gmail.com or 0458 407 749

Step Forward!

During September, we teamed up with Baptist Care HopeStreet and the Central Coast Community College to run a program called Step Forward.

Step Forward is comprised of four accredited steps to progress skills and personal capabilities. It covers a range of skill-based essentials, industry accreditations and job readiness training.

These recent sessions were focused on Industry Essentials, which included White Card, First Aid, Barista, RSA & RCG.

Several of these people attended a graduation on 25 November to receive their certificates. Well done !



'Our Community Place' Update



YOUNG PARENTS GROUP

A FREE social group for parents in their teens & early twenties

FRIDAYS 12:15 - 1:30PM

AT THE PLACE: CHARLESTOWN COMMUNITY CENTRE

CALL (02) 4032 5500 FOR INFO

FACEBOOK @YPGCHARLESTOWN

The Young Parents Group has a couple of more meeting dates until the end of the year.

Friday 2 December - DIY Christmas Craft

Friday 9 December - Christmas Party!



'Our Community Place' Update

2022 highlights



Sister Talk



Lunch Hub



Volunteer 'Thankyou' Lunch



Young Parents Group



Sorting groceries for Food Share



Women's Shed on the Lake - Cruise day



Women's Shed on the Lake



Lunch Hub volunteers

'Our Community Place' Update

2022 highlights



Young Parents Group



**Women's Budgeting
info session**



Ladies Coffee Catch-up



Women's Shed on the Lake



**Women's Building Healthy
Relationships seminar**



Lunch Hub



**Food Share grocery
hampers**



**Oz Harvest Nourish
students
assisting at Lunch Hub**

Community Information

Local Christmas Events

Christmas Markets

Sun 4 & Sun 18 Dec - 10.00 to 2.00pm

Speers Point Park.

Santa will be at this market! 180+ stalls, street food, live music, inflatables and face painting.

Lake Mac Carols

Sun 11 Dec - 3.00 to 8.00pm

Speers Point Park. Free

Lake Macquarie City Council is proud to present a spectacular evening of entertainment

Carols by the Lake

Sun 18 Dec - 6.00 to 9.00pm

Thomas H Halton Park Bareki Road, Eleebana. Free

Carols, local community stalls, free kid's activities, a sausage sizzle, child-friendly entertainment, plus so much more! Bring your family and friends, a picnic mat and your best singing voice.

Avenue of Trees

**Sun 18, Mon 19, Tues 20 Dec
6.00 to 8.00pm**

Belmont Salvation Army

- 360 Pacific Hwy, Belmont North

Come along and wander through the display of trees and nativities. Hot drinks and sausage sandwiches available for a small fee.



School Holidays

For local school holiday activities for children and teenagers, contact these Windale based organisations or look them up on Facebook

Arise Community Support (Based within the PCYC - Lake St Windale)

- www.arisecommunity.com.au
- info@arisecommunity.com.au
- 4948 8488

Centre for Hope (1 Corona St, Windale)

- www.centreforhope.com
- info@centreforhope.com
- 0493 206 743

PCYC (Lake St, Windale)

- www.pcycnsw.org.au/lake-macquarie/
- lakemacquarie@pcycnsw.org.au
- 4948 6622

For ideas and activities for the broader Lake Macquarie / Newcastle areas try these sites;

Lake Mac Family Life

www.lakemacfamilylife.com.au

Newy with Kids

www.newywithkids.com.au

Community Information

HIPPY Eastlakes



HIPPY is a free two year, play based curriculum of fun activity packs. Starting when your child turns three.

HIPPY Eastlakes covers the suburbs of Belmont North, Belmont, Charlestown, Charlestown South, Tirgira Heights, Mt Hutton, Gateshead and Windale.

For further information scan the QR or contact them on 0493 201 944 or hippy@jobquest.org.au



Jobquest
Connecting People and Skills

HIPPY Australia acknowledges Elders and Traditional Owners of the lands and seas across Australia.

The Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters is funded by the Australia Government through the Department of Social Services. The Brotherhood of St Lawrence holds the licence to operate HIPPY in Australia.

Welcome
PLACE

**12PM TO 1PM
THURSDAYS**

**CONNECTIONS
FOOD PACKS
FREE AFTERNOON TEA
EPA SERVICES & JP**

PH: +61 2 4393 3764
80 Felton St, Gateshead
(HopeUC Newcastle Campus)

HOPEUC

**THERE'S A PLACE
FOR YOU HERE!**

Relationships & You...

*Incorporating 'THE SHARK CAGE'©
Moving on from unhealthy relationships
Presented by Staying Home Leaving Violence –Lake Macquarie*

**When: starting Thursday 9th February 2023
for 8 weeks**

Time: 10.30 am - 1 pm

**Where: Eastlakes Family Support Service
14 Hickory Road, Gateshead**

Topics Include -

- * Identifying Domestic and Family Violence
- * Identifying 'red flags'
- * Concepts of Power and Control
- * Healthy v Unhealthy Relationships
- * How to Set Healthy Boundaries
- * How to Look After Yourself
- * Impact of Domestic Violence on Children



Morning Tea and Limited Child Minding will be Provided.

Bookings essential

RSVP: Deb, Julie, Kelsey or Roz on 4943 9255

Regular Activities & Services

Information & Support

We provide information, referrals and advocacy. We can also help you to use our laptops and the internet.



Sister Talk

A group for women who are needing some extra support and / or some social connection. Variety of activities! Children (under 5) welcome. Held fortnightly Fridays in Windale



Lunch Hub

Free two-course lunches Held at 12 noon on Mondays (during school terms) in the PCYC Windale



Ladies Coffee Catch-up

Held monthly on a Tuesday or Thursday morning (see Facebook for upcoming dates). BaptistCare HopeStreet Café Windale



Young Parents Group

Free social group for parents in their teens & early twenties. *In partnership with The Place, Charlestown; LMCC; The Family Action Centre & The University of Newcastle*



Women's Shed on the Lake

An inclusive group for women. Activities include; workshops, arts/ crafts, community projects, friendship and support. Held on Fridays at Warners Bay



Food Share

Free bags of groceries (courtesy of Oz Harvest) are available on Mondays to people needing support with food. Please call to enquire about availability. Note: For people in the Windale, Gateshead, Mt Hutton areas



Courses

We also occasionally run one-off courses and programs based on need and interest.



Resume Kiosk

Free assistance with preparing and writing resumes. Wednesdays 10am - 1pm. Bookings required.



Office Facilities

Use of our office facilities for free or minimal cost - Photocopier, computer use and laminator.



Volunteering Opportunities.

Our programs rely on a team of dedicated volunteers. If you would like to know more about how you can become involved, feel free to contact us.

