



## From The President

In this area we are very fortunate to have excellent community facilities including the Ponds Community Hub and the nearly completed Lakes Community Hub. These facilities are owned by Blacktown City Council and are managed by a Community Committee appointed by the Council. The Council policy is that each Centre must be financially viable and each year the Council sets the fees which must be charged by the Committee for the use of the facilities. The fees charged are used to cover outgoings such as the wages of any staff employed, electricity charges, water rates, equipment and maintenance. For this reason it is not possible to provide free use of the facilities but the Council does give a discount to the residents of Blacktown City Council.

Recently the Management Committee installed a computerized booking system so it is now possible to check the availability of the facility on any date. You shortly will also be able to pay the hire costs on line too. However you can also phone the caretaker Oscar Cortez to discuss your event.

Phone: 8814 5385 or

Email: [thepondshub@gmail.com](mailto:thepondshub@gmail.com)

The link to the online booking system is

[www.gobookings.com/au/clients/12151530903261](http://www.gobookings.com/au/clients/12151530903261)

When you make a booking you are required to pay a deposit to hold the booking and then the full hire fee and a bond closer to the date of the event. The bond will be used to cover any damage caused by the people attending the event. If there is no damage and the hall is left in a clean and tidy condition the bond is refunded in full.

The Community Facilities are extremely popular and you need to book as early as possible to secure your dates. Currently there are very few dates available in June, July or August.

The Community Association is only as strong as its members and the bigger the membership the stronger is our voice with our local council and government. Membership is \$5 per annum or \$10 for Life Membership, To join complete the application form on the Ponds Community Website.

In this edition of our Newsletter you will hear about some of the activities being run by Ponds residents in a volunteer capacity. These activities assist us in our goal of "Connecting the Community".

### June Heinrich

President, The Ponds & Kellyville Ridge Community Association

## Community News

### Movies Under the Stars - 9 April

Approximately 300 residents attended the recent Outdoor Movie Night held in the Plaza Park. This event, which was sponsored by Telstra, featured the movie "Paper Planes". Free popcorn was also supplied by Telstra. It was a great family night! It is hoped to have a similar event later in the year.

### Keeping It Clean Community Picnic - 6 April

A "Keeping Australia Clean Community Picnic" was held at Waterfall Park on 6 April. Those present enjoyed a friendly games of table tennis and cricket, a clean up within Waterfall Park and tips on keeping our picnic areas beautiful and clean. The event was organised by Steve Decker from The Ponds & Kellyville Ridge Community Association and run by Claire Gaudi (Adopt a Park Officer) and her assistant Katrina from Blacktown City Council. If you would like to Adopt a Park in your area to keep it clean and safe please contact Claire on 02-9839 6000.

### Harmony Day/Holi - 20 March



The Harmony day and Holi-Festival of Colours was celebrated in The Ponds at the Plaza Park, Pebble Crescent on the 20th of March 2016. Harmony Day is a day to celebrate Australia's diversity and Holi is a festival celebrated in India and Nepal known as the festival of colors, of sharing love and in general indulging in merrymaking. The essence of Harmony Day and Holi were observed in their true senses with people from diverse groups playing with colours and completely lost in the fun. There were dance performances presented by the local community and some dance schools too and food stalls selling sumptuous Indian delicacies. The dignitaries too visited the venue to meet and greet the people on this occasion. Thanks to the Council of Indian Australians and The Ponds and Kellyville Ridge Community Association for having organized this event in The Ponds for the local community.

## Harmony Day - 21 March

On Monday 21 March, the Member for Greenway, Michelle Rowland MP hosted The Ponds community to celebrate Harmony Day. Local residents joined together at the Community Hub to share morning tea and enjoy cuisines from all over the world. Guests were treated to a beautiful musical performance by the talented choir from Riverbank Public School. It was a great opportunity for residents of The Ponds community to celebrate the wonderful cultural diversity that makes Australia the most successful multicultural nation on earth. We are already looking forward to next year's fun event!



## Clean Up Australia Day - 5 March



A group of committed residents gathered on Saturday 5 March to clean up three parks in The Ponds. At the Lakes Edge there was a team of 11 and the team picked up many cigarette butts, fast food bags, soft drink cans and glass bottles. Approximately 30kgs of recyclables were gathered.

## Meet Your Neighbour Night - 4 March



Approximately 80 residents gathered in the Ponds Community Hub for the 1st Meet Your Neighbour Night of 2016, which was hosted by The Ponds & Kellyville Ridge Community Association. The guest speakers included our Federal Member, Michelle Rowland MP, the Mayor of Blacktown Councillor Stephen Bali, and representatives from Quakers Hill Police Local District Command and the NBN.

## Upcoming Community Events

### Father/Daughter Dance

The Father/daughter Dance is on again this year. Visit the website to get all the information and book your ticket. The link to the website is: [www.facebook.com/ThePondsFatherDaughterdance](http://www.facebook.com/ThePondsFatherDaughterdance)

### TPKR Community Association AGM

Save the date! The Annual General Meeting for The Ponds & Kellyville Ridge Community Association will be held on 16 September at 7:30pm in the Ponds Community Hub.

## Regular Groups

### The Ponds String Ensemble

The Ensemble Group is still in the process of purchasing musical scores for the group. The Ponds Shopping Centre has asked the Ensemble to play for the first birthday celebration of the shopping centre on Sunday afternoon 29 May 2016. For further information about The Ponds String Ensemble contact the Director, Sven Ostring on 0422 544 183

### The Jogging Group

The Jogging Group continues to meet on Saturdays at Jonas Bradley Oval at 7:30am. Their walks/runs are between 3-5kms and take about 2-3- minutes for most participants. Check out the facebook page: [www.facebook.com/ThePondsJoggers](http://www.facebook.com/ThePondsJoggers)

### The ESL Conversation Group

This group has been meeting for just over 18 months and continues to be enjoyed and appreciated by all those who attend. During this time more than 40 people have joined the class. Currently, three members are native English speakers while the remaining group members come from India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, China, Malaysia and South Korea as well as from Egypt and Peru. For further information contact Megan Cooper on [megloucooper@gmail.com](mailto:megloucooper@gmail.com)

### Playgroups

The Ponds King Tots have playgroups that utilise the specially constructed 'Kids Craft' room in The Ponds Community Hub, and soon to be in The Lakeside community centre as well. If you are interested, please connect with us via our closed Facebook group, to view current vacancies and group coordinators - [www.facebook.com/groups/ThePondsKingTots](http://www.facebook.com/groups/ThePondsKingTots)

### +50 Group

The +50 Group continues to meet fortnightly for dinner on a Wednesday night in one of our local pubs/clubs. There is also a group who gather for coffee on a Monday morning and a Friday afternoon as well as the occasional Saturday function. For more information contact June Heinrich on [heinrichjune@gmail.com](mailto:heinrichjune@gmail.com)

### New Groups starting

Two new groups will be meeting in the Community Hub on the following dates from 10am-12:00pm. These are:

**Card Making with Belinda:** Are you looking for something new to do? Do you enjoy paper craft? Are you interested in learning how to make some beautiful handmade cards?

Thursdays: 2 June, 21 July, 4 August, 1 September and 13 October. The cost is \$5 per person. All products will be provided as well as a light morning tea. If you would like to join this group contact Belinda Brown on 0400 119 499.

**Painting with Acrylics with Lisa:** Discover & share your unique creative style in a fun and relaxing environment.

Thursdays: 23 June, 28 July, 18 August, 15 September, 27 October. The cost for this group is a \$5 per person. All products will be provided as well as morning tea. If you would like to join please contact Lisa on [lisa.g.bauer@gmail.com](mailto:lisa.g.bauer@gmail.com).