



**Link
Wentworth**
Providing homes, building futures.

In this edition

TAG+ Chatswood update
Resident Stories
Community Calendar
Resilience Committee
Meet the Team
Your Suggestions

EDITION 1 May 2021

Link Wentworth News



Link Wentworth wishes to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the Land on which we live and work and pay our respect to the Elders both past, present and emerging, and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Street libraries catching on

Written by John Murray

I started building street libraries when a friend and member of a book club asked me to build her one.

Then, I built four street libraries for friends in Baulkham Hills, Killcare, Gerringong, and Pennant Hills.

Each library echoes the character of the home. And it helps create a system of recycling books and a conversation starting point.

One of Link Wentworth's Community Engagement staff came to visit me and thought it was a great idea and asked me if I could build five more libraries.

I think it is a lovely community engagement project.

These street libraries are small pieces of public infrastructure and need to last. During the storm on 9 February 2020, my first piece survived a large gum tree falling on it!

I love doing woodwork. I started woodwork when I was twelve, and now I have a workshop on my balcony at home. My favourite piece that I have made is a coffee and games table which sits in my lounge room.



It would be great if residents in the local community could support the Street Library project so more books can be recycled and shared.

Join us online

**Our social media accounts
have moved to a new home –**

Follow us below so you don't miss out on competitions, events, and much more!

 @LinkWentworthHousing  @LinkWentworth  @LinkWentworth

Please visit the website to read more about Link Wentworth, linkwentworth.org.au.

Hello from Andrew



I am very excited to write my first welcome to all of you in my new role as Chief Executive of Link Wentworth.

Link Wentworth is ideally positioned to make more of a difference, and provide enhanced services for you, our tenants. I'd also like to say a special hello to all our tenants whose tenancy was previously managed by Wentworth, who might not know me yet. I've been regularly visiting our offices in Western Sydney and Lithgow and look forward to seeing some of you at our local events and Tenant Advisory Group meetings over the coming year.

We have now been Link Wentworth since 31 March 2021 and we officially celebrated this achievement at the NSW Parliament House on 15th April with the Hon. Gareth Ward, Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services, alongside our board members, valued TAG members, special guests from government and community and staff. You can read more about the launch in an article written by one of our tenants Mary, who celebrated with us on the day and is one of our tenant stars in our first Link Wentworth video!

At Link Wentworth, our mission is to not only create more community housing and better services, but to also advocate for inclusive and forward-thinking housing policy that will deliver a range of solutions to meet the current and future demand of all Australians. To embark on our new journey, we have a refreshing new brand identity. The new teal logo represents growth and renewal, with housing and communities at its core.

'Providing homes, building futures' is what we are passionate about. It's what we do.

Earlier this year we talked to all our Tenant Advisory Groups (TAGs) and invited feedback about what you want from your newsletter. We have listened to this feedback and this first edition of the Link Wentworth newsletter includes more articles written by our tenant community as well as local activities that you can get involved in.

I also invite you to get involved with our very first Link Wentworth 'No Place Like Home' art exhibition. This is an annual event and highlights the importance of safe, affordable, and secure housing, and through art, shows how a home can transform lives. We are inviting all community members with an interest in art to submit an artwork by 14th May 2021.



You will also notice that we have called the title of this newsletter "Link Wentworth News". This is only a temporary name and we would love your ideas for a new name—suggest a new name for the newsletter by 5 pm 15 June 2021 for the chance to win one of 3 x \$50 eftpos gift cards!

This is an exciting time for Link Wentworth, and I look forward to taking you, our tenant community, on the journey with us.

Yours sincerely

Andrew McNulty
Chief Executive Officer

Calling all artists ...



**Link
Wentworth**

No Place like
HOME



Community Art Exhibition 2021

Application Form inside this pack

Enter by
Friday 14 May

TAG +



Update from Chatswood TAG

Your local Tenant Advisory Group (TAG) is a forum for all tenants to comment on services, policies and procedures and this will continue with the new, merged organisation, Link Wentworth.

In the last year, members of the Chatswood TAG have been able to:

- comment on a number of policies
- review complaints handling procedures and suggest improvements
- give feedback for communications sent out to residents about the merger and the new logo and branding.

In July this year, members from our local TAGs will be able to attend the annual conference of the Community Housing Industry Association.

Please join your local TAG to be a voice for residents. Residents living in any Link Wentworth Housing managed property are welcome to join. To find out more, speak to your Community Programs/Sustainable Communities Team or visit our website, linkwentworth.org.au 🏠

TAG meetings

Chatswood:

6 July 2021, 10:30 am – 1:00 pm

7 September 2021, 10:30 am – 1:00 pm

Christmas lunch on 7 December 2021.

Penrith:

Friday 28 May, 11:00am – 12:30pm

Friday 27 August, 11:00 – 12.30pm

Friday 26 November, 11:00 – 12:00pm

Hawkesbury:

Thursday 27 May, 10:30am – 12:00pm

Thursday 19 August, 10:30am – 12:00pm

Thursday 18 November, 10:30am – 12:00pm

Blue Mountains:

Friday 7 May, 1.30 – 3:00pm

Friday 6 August, 1.30 – 3:00pm

Friday 5 November, 1.30 – 3:00pm

YarnUp Blue Mountains:

Friday 14 May, 1:30 – 3:00pm

Friday 13 August, 1:30 – 3:00pm

Friday 12 November, 1:30 – 3:00pm

RESIDENT STORIES



A recap of Link Wentworth's launch at NSW Parliament House

Written by Mary Conyard – Member of the Hawkesbury TAG and Resilience Committee

On Thursday 15 April 2021, I was invited to the official Link Wentworth Housing Launch at NSW Parliament House. When I arrived, the room was full and positive and the staff were helpful in every way—it felt very organised.

I thought it was good to sit and have a coffee and listen to speeches from the new CEO of Link Wentworth, Andrew McNulty, as well as the Chair Mike Allen. Aunty Ann Weldon from Metro LALC did a strong Welcome to Country. We also had a special guest, which was the Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services, The Hon. Gareth Ward.

As we were listening to the speeches, we got to enjoy a nice breakfast. There was also yummy cake, which was cut by Mike Allen and The Hon. Gareth Ward.

The atmosphere was positive and it was good to be able to move and mingle with the Directors and guests.

The morning for me was a good one, due to being part of a new chapter with the hope of improvement for tenants and the community. It's good to know that the Link Wentworth Board, CEO and staff are willing to do their best.

Thank you for the opportunity to be part of the launch. ▲

Community Calendar

Have a look at some free, upcoming events across Greater Sydney and the Blue Mountains.

Colonial walk in modern Sydney – City of Sydney

Learn more about your city with a free walking tour in the heart of Sydney's historical district.

When: *Each Friday, 16 April to 14 May 2021, 10:30 am – 1:00 pm*

Location: *110 Elizabeth St, Sydney*

Website: *whatson.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/events/free-walking-tour-colonial-walk-in-modern-sydney*

Seniors Community Choir – Ryde

New choir for seniors living in the Ryde community. No singing experience required. The Shalom Centre is wheelchair accessible.

When: *Wednesday 7 May to Wednesday 21 July 2021, 3 pm – 4 pm*

Location: *Shalom Centre BaptistCare, 159/165 Balaclava Rd, Macquarie Park*

Phone: *9346 1240*

Email: *jhill4@baptistcare.org.au*

Website: *ryde.nsw.gov.au/Events/Listing/Seniors-Community-Choir*

Community Lunch – Blue Mountains

For a gold coin donation, you can join your neighbours for a delicious two-course lunch.

When: *Every Monday except public holidays, from 10:30 am*

Location: *Baptist Church Hall, Macquarie Rd, Springwood*

Phone: *4754 4050*

Richmond Good Food Market – Richmond

Browse local stalls and pick up some of the Hawkesbury's finest fruit, veggies and other delicious goods.

When: *Every Saturday, 8 am – 1 pm*

Location: *Richmond Oval, 180 Windsor St, Richmond*

Phone: *0427 892 960*

Email: *info@richmondmarket.com.au*
Website: *richmondmarket.com.au*

Australian Heritage Festival – North Sydney

Take a guided tour of the Coal Loader with historian Dr Ian Hoskins and Karen Smith from the Aboriginal Heritage Office. Learn about the history including the Aboriginal significance of the site.

When: *Saturday 15 May 2021, 10:30 – 11:30 am*

Location: *The Coal Loader Centre for Sustainability, 2 Balls Head Dr, Waverton*

Website: *northsydney.nsw.gov.au/Environment_Waste/The_Coal_Loader/Coal_Loader_Events/Australian_Heritage_Festival*

Castlecrag Meander & Poetry Reading – Willoughby

Enjoy morning tea, poetry readings and a walk through Walter Burley Griffin Reserves and Castlecrag.

When: *Thursday, 20 May 2021, 10 am – 12 pm*

Location: *Grassed area opposite 56 Sunnyside Cr, Castlecrag.*

Phone: *9777 7942*

Email: *emma.hayes@willoughby.nsw.gov.au*

Website: *willoughby.nsw.gov.au/Eventbrite/Castlecrag-Meander-Poetry-Reading-137559828149*

Blacktown City Festival Week – Blacktown

A whole week of fun events kicks off to celebrate Blacktown City Festival Week, beginning with the famous Medieval banquet.

When: *Saturday 22 May to Sunday 30 May 2021*

Location: *Across the Blacktown council district*

Phone: *9839 6000*

Email: *events.team@blacktown.nsw.gov.au*

Website: *blacktown.nsw.gov.au/festival/Home*

Creating canopies at Schoolhouse Creek – Penrith

Give back to your local community by planting some trees and restoring our precious habitat. Training, tools and refreshments provided.

When: *Wednesday 9 June 2021, 9 am – 3 pm*

Phone: *4724 2148*

Email: *kiera.turner@greatersydneylandcare.org*

Website: *eventbrite.com.au/e/creating-canopies-at-schoolhouse-creek-tickets-147697020765*

Birdland exhibition – Northern Beaches

Attend this exhibition featuring photos of birds by well-known Australian artist Leila Jeffreys.

When: *Saturday 3 April 2021 to Sunday 20 June 2021, 10 am – 5 pm*

Location: *Manly Art Gallery & Museum, West Esplanade Reserve, Manly*

Phone: *9976 1421*

Email: *artgallery@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au*

Website: *northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/things-to-do/whats-on/leila-jeffreys-birdland*

Introducing Link Wentworth's Resilience Committee

Written by Susan Lucock and Mary Conyard

Hi, we're Mary and Susan and we make up Link Wentworth's Resilience Committee. We are Link Wentworth tenants based in Western Sydney and we're also part of our local Tenant Advisory Group (TAG).

The Resilience Committee evolved out of the Flood Preparedness Project, which is facilitated by Inner Sydney Voice and Infrastructure NSW. This project created an awareness for tenants who might not be aware of how to prepare for life's ups and downs.

Through Link Wentworth's Resilience Committee, we hope to give fellow tenants some tips on how to cope with life's

challenges, including constructive ideas on preparing for floods, bushfires and other natural disasters. Our input will be included in each upcoming edition of the Link Wentworth newsletter.

We would love for you to contribute if you have any ideas—after all, information and communication is the key to help us all be resilient. Please email communications@linkwentworth.org.au to get in touch. ▲

Meet the Chief Customer Officer team

Now we've become Link Wentworth, we're pleased to reassure you that your Housing Manager or Client Service Officer will remain the same. You can contact them as you normally would, by calling 9412 5111 for tenancies formerly managed by Link Housing and 4777 8000 for Wentworth.

The one new development is the new Chief Customer Officer Leadership Team. Led by Chief Customer Officer Margaret Maljkovic, the team includes Alison O'Neill, Liz Breden and Tracey Kahi for the Chatswood Hub—they take care of all tenancies formerly managed by Link Housing—and Tabarah Hotchkis and Leonnie Carroll for the Penrith Hub, which is all tenancies formerly managed by Wentworth. As part of the broader team looking after tenant engagement and homelessness services are Robin Fletcher, Community and Partnerships at Chatswood and Heather Chaffey, Sustainable Communities and Jenny Ranft, Community Services at Penrith. In the Chatswood Hub, Matthew Jackson will continue to lead the

affordable housing team and Jane Cunningham and Arnel Landicho the Specialist Disability Accommodation team.

The Chatswood Hub covers the Chatswood and West Ryde offices. The Penrith Hub covers the Penrith, Katoomba, Lithgow and Windsor offices.

If your tenancy was formerly managed by Link Housing, we want you to know that from the 1 July this year maintenance for all Social Housing properties will be managed by Link Wentworth's Assets Team and delivered by a new contractor. We are currently finalising our new contractor selection and will provide more information in June.

We look forward to continuing to serve you as we enter this exciting new phase. If you have any questions about your new Customer Service Team, please email enquires@linkwentworth.org.au. ▲

Dine & Discover Vouchers



Try something new with family and friends this autumn with the help of the NSW Government's Dine & Discover vouchers.

NSW residents can use \$100.00 in free vouchers at most businesses. This includes:

- 2 x \$25 vouchers at cinemas, theatres, live music venues, amusement parks and other entertainment venues.
- 2 x \$25 vouchers for dining in restaurants, cafes, bars, wineries, pubs and clubs.

Dine & Discover ends on Wednesday 30 June 2021. Once you apply online you can use your vouchers through the Service NSW app on your phone. Read the Terms and Conditions and apply at service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/apply-dine-discover-nsw-vouchers

Meet the Link Wentworth Staff

Vanessa and Suzanne



Suzanne

Community Programs Officer

Favourite experience since joining Link Wentworth?

At one of the Chatswood end of year parties, all the residents, most of which had never met before, formed a conga line and danced around the room.

Favourite part of your job?

It's lovely to meet our residents, hear their stories and offer whatever assistance we can to assist with their life goals.

Favourite thing to do outside of work?

I love spending time with the family in the great outdoors.

Favourite holiday destination?

As I am Irish, a trip home to Waterford, Southern Ireland.

Favourite food?

I'm not a big foodie but there's nothing like my mam's cabbage and ribs.



Vanessa

Sustainable Communities Officer

Favourite experience since joining Link Wentworth?

I have been with the organisation for the past 5 years and have had so many wonderful experiences but a favourite would be the opportunity to run projects like the 'Journey project'.

Favourite part of your job?

I love that I get the opportunity to spend time with our wonderful tenants in our TAG meetings.

Favourite thing to do outside of work?

Cook and eat and spend time with my family.

Favourite holiday destination?

South of Spain with my Spanish husband.

Favourite food?

I have two so I can't choose, I love Spanish and Italian food. (But I can't disclose the love for Italian food to my hubby or he will be jealous!)

