



# 2017-2018

## Annual Report

[riverwoodcommunity.org.au](http://riverwoodcommunity.org.au)



Unity Diversity & Strength



## CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT



**My involvement with the Riverwood Community Centre started thirty years ago as an immigrant Housing Department tenant and volunteer, yet today I write this as chairperson of this magnificent centre.**

I want to pay tribute to the leadership of Morris Iemma who chaired the Board until I was elected in late 2017. Morris has always been passionate about Riverwood Community Centre and our community.

I also want to acknowledge the commitment of the members of the Board, who have contributed to the governance of the Centre over the past year.

I would like to welcome Michelle Newman, our new Chief Executive Officer, to the Centre. Michelle brings a depth of management experience, extensive knowledge of Aged and Disability services and a focus on the future that will benefit the Centre.

Michelle's appointment followed the resignation of Barry Higgins and the departure of Rachael Neal who left after a short period for personal reasons. I would like to thank them for their work at the Centre.

I am confident that with Michelle's skills, knowledge and leadership, together with the support of the board, our outstanding staff and volunteer team, Riverwood Community Centre will continue to move forward to provide a unique and high-quality service for our community over the coming year.

This Annual Report showcases the work of the Centre over the past year. It is an impressive record of community

services and new initiatives to meet needs identified by our clients and community and delivered by our dedicated staff and volunteers.

However, the Centre is also facing some major challenges. During the year, the first stage of the redevelopment of the Riverwood Estate – Washington Park – was completed, and we welcomed many new residents to our community. At the same time, the community was concerned at plans for the redevelopment of the remaining part of the estate to include more than 5,000 apartments. For many in our community, the pressure for increased development in Riverwood is causing prolonged uncertainty.

Many of the services that we are funded by Government to provide are also changing. Reforms to our Aged & Disability Services, Housing and Community Services and Youth and Family Support programs will require the Centre to redevelop many of our services.

In the coming year, the focus of the Centre will be to respond to these issues. The Board will be providing strong governance support and ensuring that there is a clear policy and strategic framework for the Centre's operations.

**“The Board will also continue to work with the CEO to ensure the community is able to gain the maximum benefit from our resources.”**

On behalf of the Board, I wish to thank our members, staff, volunteers, clients and our partner organisations for the support they have given to the Centre over the past year.

**Karl Saleh**

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge and thank the Traditional Owners of the land the Bedjigal Tribe of the Dharug Clan on which we meet, walk, work and live.

We acknowledge the Elders past and present and the care they have given this country.





## CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Michelle Newman and staff

**I have been working as the Chief Executive Officer of the Riverwood Community Centre since the end of July 2018.**

I come to the Centre following a lengthy period of working for Aged and Community Services Australia, where I focussed on the reforms to community aged care including the Commonwealth Home Support Program which the Centre delivers.

Although I am new to the Centre, I appreciate its long history of supporting people who are vulnerable in our community, of maintaining a broad membership and volunteer base, and of building strong and enduring relationships with all groups in our community. These strengths will help the Centre to respond to the challenges confronting us over the coming year.

The Annual Report highlights the services that the Centre provides and the success it has achieved. I look forward to

building on this success in the future. The Centre will, over the next year, need to deal with major changes in the local community and the services it provides. This will require a major focus on organisational renewal and building our staffing capacity following a number of departures.

The second stage of the redevelopment of the Riverwood estate and especially the scale of construction will be a priority. The reforms to all our programs: Aged & Disability programs – focusing on individual service and costing; Children, Youth and Family services – with a transition to Targeted Early Intervention; and Housing and Community Neighbourhood programs – facing uncertainty about the future of the tenant program in Riverwood and a re-focus by government of the community programs, will be the focus of the Centre's attention.

I wish to thank the Board, staff, volunteers and members of our community for welcoming me to the Centre, and I am looking forward to working with all groups to meet the challenges ahead.

**Michelle Newman**

## OUR VISION

**All Individuals in the areas Riverwood Community Centre services, will have the capacity to meet their own needs and develop a safe community they are happy and proud to live in.**

## OUR VALUES

1. Encourage, empower and support community participation.
2. Enable people to make their own choices.
3. Prioritise those with the highest level of need and vulnerabilities.
4. Respect and celebrate diversity and provide services that are inclusive and sensitive.
5. Deliver accessible, high quality services in caring, safe environments which create a sense of well-being.
6. Respond and be accountable to our communities and funding bodies.
7. Manage resources efficiently and effectively.
8. Value and respect staff and volunteers.



## We provide support for children, young people and families in the Riverwood area.

Our programs have been developed to respond to the multicultural character of our area, through bi-lingual staff, a focus on celebrating diversity, and specific activities and events.

Our Long Day Care and Out of School Hours Care Centres offer programs that nurture the development of children, and support parents to join the workforce.

We focus on providing support that responds to the particular circumstances that confront our clients. Our participation in NSW Health's healthy homes and neighbourhoods initiative underlines our commitment to extend support to families that are confronting complex problems.

Our Youth and Family Support programs are funded by the NSW Department of Family and Community Services to support vulnerable young people and families in our community.

Funding for the Youth and Family Support programs have been committed until mid-2020 while the NSW Government's Targeting Earlier Intervention Reforms are being implemented.

We are members of an extensive network of Government and non-Government services, including Canterbury Child and Family Interagency. We also supported many community events including White Ribbon Day.

We wish to acknowledge the support of Canterbury Bankstown Council, the Commonwealth Bank, Rotary Hurstville, Bunnings and local community members for our programs.





## LONG DAY CARE

**We conduct a Long Day Care Centre offering places for 29 children.**

**The Centre is open from 7.00am to 6.00pm on week days, and our qualified and thoughtful educators care for children from birth to 5 years.**

Our programs are based on children's developmental needs and interests, and recognize the multicultural nature of the Riverwood community. Working with parents, we provide a safe and stimulating environment to help children relate sensitively with others, listen to other perspectives, and solve problems.

We develop daily learning programs to progress children's learning skills, enhance their physical development, and prepare children for school. We regularly provide feedback to parents about their child's progress and operation of the Centre, especially through parent information events. During the year we provided support to 55 families and 59 children.

Our staff are the key to providing children with the Centre's high-quality education and care program. Staff are supported to attend professional training to develop and maintain their skills.



## OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE

**Our Out Of School Hours Care Centre offers care for children aged 5 – 12 before school (from 7am) and after school (until 6pm) during school terms, and vacation care during school holidays.**

Our Centre believes that children should enjoy a fun and supportive environment where they feel safe and welcome. Our program enables children to grow physically, emotionally, intellectually and socially through a balance of structured play, exploration, learning and group participation.

In addition, we offer children homework help during the week. Over the year we supported 133 families and provided care for 144 children.

**Our transport team supports the Centre by dropping children at the 5 local primary schools before classes start, and collecting them once school finishes.**

## CHRISTMAS TOYS APPEAL

Our 2017 Christmas Toys appeal was supported by Club Rivers, Campsie Police Local Area Command and All Saints Church, Belmore



## THIS YEAR'S HIGHLIGHTS

### EXCURSIONS EXCITE

Our major excursion this year was to Fairfield City Farm. Children learnt how to milk a cow, watched sheep shearing, and were able to feed goats and kangaroos. We also visited Riverwood Library, where children were able to find and read some of their favourite books. In addition, Police Officers visited the Centre to talk with children.

### A FOCUS ON EYES & TEETH

Through the Community Health Centre, an optometrist and a dentist visited our Centre to talk with children about health. The dentist focused on healthy diet and dental care, and the optometrist gave the children an eye test activity. Both provided reports for each child that were passed on to parents.

### CELEBRATING CULTURES

We enabled children to learn about different cultures by celebrating special events including Christmas, Chinese New Year, Eid, Mother's Day and NAIDOC week. The children also gave a short performance of song and dance to the Centre's older peoples social support groups in the Community Centre's hall.

### KINDERLOOP APP

This year we introduced parents to Kinderloop, a free App for families. The App gives parents access to their child's profile, daily routine and activities at the centre.

### TAEKWONDO

Following discussion with parents, we introduced classes in the Korean martial art, Taekwondo. Classes are held every Thursday afternoon and a large number of children enrolled. Taekwondo is grounded in self-discipline, respect, self-confidence as well as balance and strength.

### HEALTHY EATING

We provide a healthy breakfast and afternoon tea for children participating in the Centre to help ensure every child's daily transition to and from school runs smoothly. The menu is decided with children to reinforce healthy eating options.

### VACATION CARE

Our vacation care program includes activities at our Centre, as well as excursions of interest to children. A favourite over the past year was Disney on Ice which celebrated 100 years of magic!





## YOUTH SERVICE

**Our Youth Service supports vulnerable young people aged 12 – 17 years to build their resilience and wellbeing.**

Young people commonly confront issues like: domestic violence, sexual assault, drug and alcohol abuse, mental health, school disengagement, legal problems, and risk of homelessness.

We provide programs and activities to highlight new options and choices to overcome obstacles and empower young people to develop their skills to achieve positive outcomes. Our Youth Drop In Centre is open every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoon, and attracts an average of 30 young people every day for sport and fitness, board games and pool, cooking, Xbox gaming, music, arts and craft activities.

Over the past year our Youth Team provided individual case management support to 58 clients, with an equal number of young women and men. Of these, 22 were engaged in Work and Development Orders whose participation in our service resulted in more than \$5,500 of their fines being resolved. To provide a holistic service, we work closely with local community service organisations. Over 90% of participants told us that the youth service was 'very useful' to them.

## THIS YEAR'S HIGHLIGHTS

### WORKSHOPS AT GEORGES RIVER COLLEGE, PEAKHURST

Once again, our Youth Team delivered workshops to students in Year 7 and Year 10. Some 64 students attended the workshops which covered Domestic Violence, Healthy Relationships, Mental Health, Budgeting/Financial management, Police and the Law, Sexting, Cyber Bullying and Team Development.

## WE TRANSFORMED OUR YOUTH GYM!

Our Youth Team, with young people and community stakeholders have transformed the Youth Gym!

This was made possible because of generous donations from Canterbury Bankstown Council, Bunnings, the Commonwealth Bank and a wonderful local philanthropist.

Local young people collaborated with a graffiti artist to paint a mural celebrating diversity that covers the whole wall.



*Thank you*  
for your support

## YOUNG PEOPLE OUR FAVOURITE ACTIVITIES:



24% BASKETBALL

18% OTHER SPORTS

17% HEALTHY FOOD

16% WIFI

11% WORKSHOPS

14% OTHER



### LATE NIGHT DROP IN

This year, with support from Canterbury Bankstown Council we introduced Late Night Drop In until 9pm on the last Thursday of every month. An average of about 25 young people participate in the program.

### #GIRLCODE

A creative space, just for young women, is open every Tuesday afternoon, and is attracting up to 14 young women each week. We organise guest speakers from local services, and activities from arts and crafts, movies, and music, to cooking.

### TELL US YOUR STORY MUSIC AND SONG WRITING WORKSHOPS

These workshops, run over 9 weeks with 2Connect Youth and Family Services who gave 10 young people the opportunity to talk about their drug/alcohol use and life experiences. They collaborated with musicians, wrote, sang, played guitars and recorded a song.





"Riverwood Community Centre has become part of my life, because they not only care about me, but my family as well. They truly help families who really need support. They listen to you, they care about you. Not only that, they understand you too."

**Monica Sianipar**

## FAMILY SUPPORT

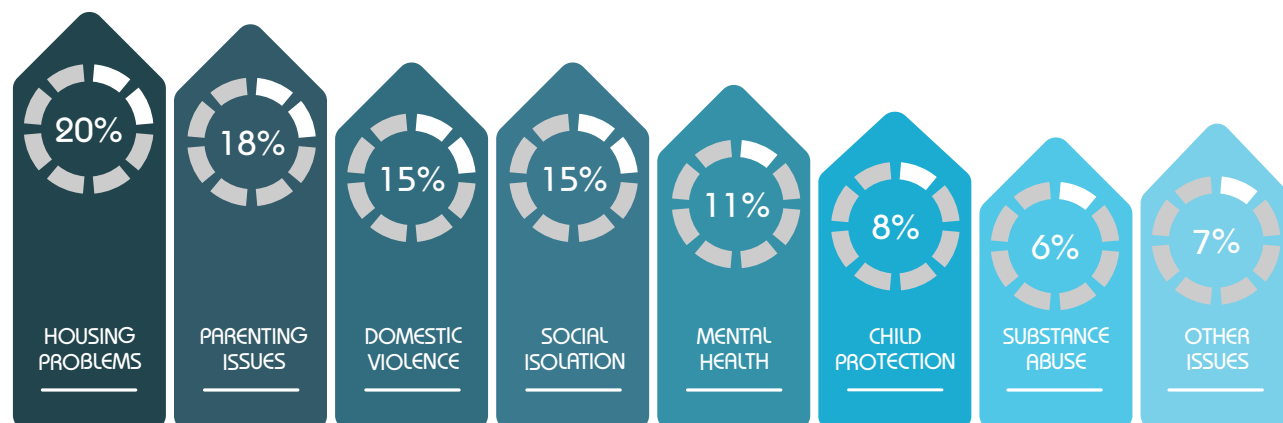
**We maintain close links with other community-based services in the area to ensure that our clients can access the best support available.**

Our Family Support Service provides families with children from birth to 12 years of age assistance and support through advocacy, housing assistance, home visiting, court support, referrals to appropriate services, and parenting educational workshops.

Over the year, we provided support on around 500 occasions. We conduct Playtime, a supported playgroup for parents/ carers with children from 0-5 years, every Monday and Friday morning during school terms. Activities encourage children's social interaction, and a children's morning tea is provided.

Our Parent Support Group meets every Wednesday morning to promote safe and healthy parenting practices. The Group's activities include community gardening, preparing nutritional meals, English classes, first aid information sessions and 'Using visual photography as self-care'.

### OUR CLIENTS NEEDED SUPPORT FOR:



## THIS YEAR'S HIGHLIGHTS

### PARENTING SKILLS CLASSES

We delivered two parenting skills programs over the year, Tuning in to Kids which focusses on building emotional connections with children, and Circle of Security that develops confidence in parenting.

### HEALTHY HOMES & NEIGHBOURHOODS

As part of a pilot program, two NSW Health staff have been co-located at the Centre with our Family Support team. This program focusses on families that experience multiple barriers to accessing health and social care and ways that services can work together for these families.



**Our Aged Services are largely funded through the Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP) to provide support for older people to keep living independently at home and in the community.**

We provide support groups, a program of support services and activities and shopping and medical transport services. We currently provide support to more than 550 clients.

Volunteers are critical to the success of our programs. They are the backbone of many of the services we provide and, as many are bi-lingual, they help us extend our services within our multicultural community.

The Centre is also a registered provider for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) which is currently being introduced.

The Government announced major reforms to the CHSP in early 2017 and these are progressively being implemented to introduce a more consumer-driven, market-based, and nationally consistent system. The new system is intended to give older people greater choice in selecting a service provider. As a first step, new clients are now assessed through the My Aged Care gateway before referral to our services, although our existing clients have been 'grandfathered' to continue to receive support.

The reforms to Aged Care services, and the implementation of the NDIS will be the major focus for the Centre in the coming year. This will include reporting, for the first time, on our approach to developing 'wellness' among our Aged services clients, and attaining Approved Provider status for the Home Care Packages Program, so that we are well prepared to operate effectively within the new program arrangements.





## SOCIAL SUPPORT GROUPS

**We support 12 Social Support Groups to meet weekly at a number of locations across the Canterbury Bankstown and Georges River areas.**

Our groups give older people the opportunity to meet others who speak the same language, share their cultural background or share a common interest.

They celebrate cultural events, share their culture with others, learn more about Australia, and participate in outings. Our groups support more than 300 active clients.

Our groups, and our shopping service, are supported by our transport team of 7 considerate bus drivers who ensure that members travel safely from their homes to participate in group activities.



## THIS YEAR'S HIGHLIGHTS

### OUR CULTURES

Our groups celebrated a range of cultural events during the year: Christmas; New Year; Moon Festival; the Seniors Expo; International Women's Day; Harmony Day; Melbourne Cup; and our clients 90th birthdays.

### KEEPING INFORMED

We conducted 56 information sessions with guest speakers to keep our groups informed about services for older people. Some of our partners included Centrelink, Canterbury/Bankstown Council, Anglicare, My Aged Care, and NDIS.

### CUTTING A DISK

Our groups recorded a DVD with 2 songs, 'Jingle Bells' recorded in Chinese, Vietnamese, and English, and 'We are Australian' recorded in Chinese, Vietnamese, Arabic, Greek, and Italian. Members also wrote stories that were published as a Memory Book.

### KEEPING ACTIVE

Programs like Active Living Exercise and Stepping On encourage clients to keep active. We also supported a Tennis Competition, line dancing and held a fashion parade. We took excursions to the Royal Botanic Gardens, the Japanese Garden at Auburn and the city.

## SOCIAL SUPPORT GROUPS:

### Monday:

Men's social group at **Riverwood**  
Mandarin social group at **Riverwood**  
Vietnamese social group at **Panania**

### Tuesday:

Vietnamese social group at **Riverwood**  
Vietnamese social group at **Bankstown**

### Wednesday:

Vietnamese social group at **Riverwood**  
Greek social group at **Riverwood**

### Thursday:

Friendly social group at **Riverwood**  
Italian social group at **Punchbowl**  
Mandarin social group at **Punchbowl**

### Friday:

Arabic social group at **Riverwood**  
Cantonese social group at **Thurlow Community Hub**







## SUPPORT SERVICES

We deliver support services that extend assistance to older people in our area.

### HOME MAINTENANCE

Our Home Maintenance service provides assistance with minor repairs like changing light globes or washers through to gardening. The program relies on our friendly and professional volunteer handypersons and gardeners who are fully insured and have satisfied police checks. The service responds to the needs of clients who are no longer able to fully maintain their homes and gardens, and is especially welcomed by those who enjoyed gardening but are no longer able to undertake it.

### COMMUNITY OUTINGS PROGRAM

Our Community Outings program helps clients to stay connected and independent by providing affordable and accessible outings in and around Sydney.

We explore new places, learn new things and have fun. We produce a quarterly calendar with input from clients and carers that gives clients a choice of theatre outings, picnics, exhibitions and museums, floral festivals and even equine workshops! The program is popular among our clients and places are often filled early.

### VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Our Volunteer Program recruits, trains and supports volunteers for the full range of services we offer. Volunteers are a critical element of our service and provide key support to clients.

They bring their own knowledge, experience, language skills and talents to our services. We recognise that finding the right people to volunteer and placing them according to their strengths is crucial to the success of our services. To support and develop volunteer's skills and confidence we conduct a volunteer training program that includes manual handling, client relationships, duty of care, safe food handling and First Aid.



## VOLUNTEERS RECOGNISED

During the year Michael Chan and Albert Elgawly, two of our volunteers, were recognised for their contribution to the Centre's Aged Services and clients.

At a morning tea held in November 2017 Hon Tony Burke MP, Member for Watson presented the awards to Michael and Albert.

We congratulate them on their awards and thank them for their long term support.



## SHOPPING & TRANSPORT SERVICES

Our Shopping Service supports older people who find it difficult to independently do their shopping.

We provide a Bus Shopping service through mini bus group shopping trips, an Assisted Shopping service utilising volunteers with cars who take one or two older people shopping, and an Unaccompanied Shopping service that supports people who cannot undertake shopping trips. Each month we support more than 200 older people.

Our Medical and Community transport program provided clients with transport to their medical and other appointments. The service is based on Volunteers using their own cars and the Centre reimbursing their costs. During the year we supported 251 clients, with up to 8 clients receiving a regular service for recurring appointments.

## BI-LINGUAL Volunteers

Bi-lingual volunteers are often essential to successfully providing our shopping service as our clients include high numbers of older people who speak:

- Arabic
- Chinese languages
- Greek
- Italian
- Indian languages



## BECOME A Volunteer!

Are you *passionate* about your *community*? Why not *volunteer* with us?

Volunteering with Riverwood Community Centre is a great way to connect with your community, stay active and have fun. We are looking for friendly volunteers to help our clients get the most out of the Aged and Community programs we offer. We provide training, ongoing support, and regular get-togethers to swap experiences. Share your skills, and develop new ones.

*Interested?* Call Matina now on **9533 0100**





**Our community programs support social housing tenants in the Central and South Sydney area and in the Riverwood area in particular.**

In addition, we deliver community hub services with a focus on information, advice and referral within the wider local community. The programs are funded by the NSW Government.

An important part of our Community Programs is to support volunteer tenant and community groups to develop their own initiatives in their communities. We achieve this by

developing the skills of members of the groups and assisting them to bid for funds for community improvement projects and then auspicing the groups, by managing the funds, to deliver the projects.

The next phase of the redevelopment of the Riverwood housing estate will be a major issue for the Centre to respond to in the coming year. Already, uncertainty around the scale of and timetable for the redevelopment is causing concern to the social housing residents.

At the same time, the NSW Government has merged the existing tenant support programs into a single Tenant Participation and Community Engagement program and issued a tender that is geared to services being delivered by a single provider. In this environment, the nature of services that the Centre will deliver in the coming year is unclear.



## TENANT PARTICIPATION & RESOURCE SERVICE

**We have been delivering the Tenant Participation Resource Service for 40 years, covering more than 16,000 social housing tenancies across the Eastern Suburbs, Inner West, St George and Sutherland areas.**

This NSW Government initiative provides social housing tenants with access to information, advice and opportunities to more actively participate in dealing with housing issues, and engage with their communities.

**This year we supported 57 tenant groups across the region, and 720 Social Housing residents actively engaged in monthly tenant meetings and programs.**

## RHONDA TALBOT OAM - A TIRELESS VOLUNTEER

Rhonda Talbot, the Chairperson of the Sutherland Area Tenants Council for over 17 Years, was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in this year's Queens Birthday Honours.

Rhonda was recognised for her outstanding commitment to the community by providing help, supporting and advocating for public housing tenants in the Sutherland Shire. Rhonda's dedication to her role is tireless, both at the grass roots level and as a representative of FACS housing tenants.

Riverwood Community Centre congratulates Rhonda on the award and thanks her for her hard work and commitment to Sutherland tenants and the Sutherland Community.



## THIS YEAR'S HIGHLIGHTS

### 350 TENANTS COMPLETE SKILLS WORKSHOPS

This year 355 tenants participated in 25 skills development workshops. These included: community governance, computer skills, English language skills, money care, cooking, mental health, neighbourhood watch, and community arts programs.

### \$160,000 OF IMPROVEMENT FUNDS

Tenant groups, with our support, obtained funding for 8 projects to improve the quality of common areas in their complexes. We worked with the groups to implement the projects which included landscaping and gazebos, community gardens, and the refurbishment of a community room.

### COMMUNITY EVENTS

Maintenance Pop up days; Coffee with a Cop; Local Estate Christmas Parties; NAIDOC Week events; Chinese Newyear Celebrations; and End of Year Tenant Recognition events, local BBQ's, community morning and afternoon tea's, social outings and public education forums.





# HOUSING COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

**We deliver the NSW Government funded Housing Communities Program (HCP) in the Riverwood and surrounding area.**

The program aims to build cohesion and improve community wellbeing by supporting tenants who have significant social, economic, environmental and/or housing needs.

This year, we partnered with a number of agencies including NSW Health, NSW Police, St George Community Housing and Club Rivers and a number of resident groups to deliver 7 community events attended by 1,800 people. The success of these events relied on the contribution of volunteers and community groups from across our social housing community.

In addition, we supported tenant groups to obtain grants from Canterbury Bankstown City Council, FACS Housing and other sources for a further 7 projects.

# THIS YEAR'S HIGHLIGHTS

## LEADERSHIP SKILLS

56 tenants participated in training programs to build their leadership, management, food safety, work health and safety and mental health skills. Of those participating, 85% reported they were helpful and 90% felt supported as a leader.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

Monthly Multicultural Morning Teas, Community Games Days, Biggest Morning Tea; Melbourne Cup Day; and Chinese New Year, Estate Christmas Carols & Family Fun Days -This year we partnered with tenant groups for a Christmas event held at the Riverwood Wetlands, which attracted more than 500 people.

# COMMUNITY HUB SERVICES

## TENANTS HAVE THEIR SAY

This year we conducted a survey to evaluate the success of the support we provide to the Riverwood volunteer group:

All volunteers reported increased confidence to lead projects and to participate in the development of their community;

- 90% felt more connected to the local and wider community.
- 90% felt able to contribute to the planning, implementation and evaluation of the projects.
- 80% reported that they felt more comfortable to be advocates for tenants.

*"Volunteering keeps me healthy, I enjoy the opportunities to work with people who are from different cultures."*

**Dennise**

*"The volunteers group is like a family, I lost my parents many years ago now I have something to do to keep me busy with my new family."*

**Zorka**

*"Volunteering to me is not only about the contribution of skills and time but it is about sharing my love for community."*

**Lucy**

**We provide an information and referral service for the Riverwood and surrounding communities with NSW Community Builders Funding.**

This year, our staff assisted 1,104 people by providing information, initial advice and making referrals. Commonly, information was sought to address mental health, housing, domestic and family violence, drug and alcohol dependence, youth and aged care issues.

## RIVERWOOD COMMUNITY HUB

We conduct weekly programs in arts, cooking, gardening and leisure learning to reduce social isolation, and encourage independence and positive community engagement. This year we facilitated over 160 social inclusion sessions with 2,290 participants.

## PUNCHBOWL COMMUNITY HUB

500 people participated in weekly community development programs offered from the Punchbowl Community Centre, including arts and crafts, health and wellbeing programs, a mothers group, yoga, seniors groups, food sharing and cooking.

## THURLOW COMMUNITY HUB

Tenant and other community groups use this Hub on a regular basis for meetings, social and development activities. This year our Vietnamese social support group also utilised the Hub each week.

## SUPPORTING COMMUNITY GROUPS

This year we auspiced a number of voluntary community groups to help them take on activities and events that bring our community together. These groups were successful in attracting generous donations from Councils, service groups and businesses in our community.

The groups conduct activities ranging from regular badminton, seniors clubs and dancing to drug support programs. Celebrations of Chinese New Year, Moon Festival, Harmony Day, and the Interfaith Dinner were also organised. These important events were attended by hundreds of members of our community.

## 38TH RIVERWOOD COMMUNITY CENTRE SPRING FAIR

The annual Riverwood Community Centre Fair, held on Saturday 2 September 2017, attracted over 5,000 visitors to Riverwood. The fair was made possible by generous donations from our partners including Canterbury Bankstown City Council, St George Community Housing, Club Rivers, PAYCE, Canterbury Leagues Club, Georges River Council and ROAR.







# COMMUNITY BUILDERS



## MOTHERS CONNECTED TO OPPORTUNITIES

**This new initiative was funded by Canterbury Bankstown City Council from December 2017 to build confidence amongst and connect mothers from different cultures.**

Over 20 mothers participated in the weekly program that focussed on parenting skills, healthy lifestyles, managing stress and taking part in cooking classes. At the end of the program the mothers produced a recipe book highlighting different cultures within the group.



## MEN'S SHED

**The Riverwood Men's Shed offers activities and opportunities to work on projects which promote community engagement in a safe environment.**

This year participants have been working together on projects such as:

- ✓ Repairing broken furniture
- ✓ Making improvements to community facilities by restoring park benches and seating around the housing estate
- ✓ Helping in the community garden and working with gardeners to help with working bee's and clean up days

We are working with participants to help them better promote their services, build local community partnerships, and develop a code of conduct document that will be helpful for participants.



## RIVERWOOD COMMUNITY GARDEN

**The Riverwood community garden is one of the largest in New South Wales, with over 82 garden plots.**

During the year \$12,000 was granted to the Centre to upgrade the garden, including for the erection of lattice fencing.

Membership of the Community Garden is open to residents who live in the Riverwood area who grow fruit, vegetables and herbs with other residents. Gardeners participated in education workshops hosted by Royal Botanical Gardens Trust Community Greening Team and Canterbury Bankstown City Council.



## FOODIES

**This year we, again, conducted FOODIES which is funded by the 'Love Food, Hate Waste' program of the NSW Environment Protection Authority, to promote and support healthy eating.**

During the year 187 residents from the Riverwood area participated in workshops including:

- ✓ Hands-on cooking classes
- ✓ Supermarket tours
- ✓ Menu planning
- ✓ Label reading
- ✓ Edible gardens







# CORPORATE SERVICES

Some of our staff

Our staff are supported by a small Corporate Services team who are responsible for managing our human relations, finance and assets. Our work in these areas included:

## HUMAN RELATIONS

During the year staff participated in a number of training initiatives. These included workplace communication training for staff as well as Community conversation training, and Community engagement training to support staff involved in community development activities.

## FINANCE & ASSETS

We meet our finance and audit obligations and provide financial management support to community groups. We also manage buildings and facilities at Riverwood, Punchbowl and Thurlow Street, and a small fleet of buses and cars.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF FUNDING

The Riverwood Community Centre gratefully acknowledges funding provided by the following agencies:

- ✓ NSW Department of Family and Community Services
- ✓ NSW Environment Protection Authority
- ✓ Australian Department of Health
- ✓ Australian Department of Social Services'

# Our Auspice Organisations

We are proud to have auspiced the following voluntary community groups during 2017/18 to help them conduct activities, projects and events that benefit our community:

- ✓ Canterbury Bankstown Harmony Group
- ✓ Australian Arabic Family Cohesiveness Association
- ✓ Australian Chinese Association
- ✓ Australian Chinese Seniors Club
- ✓ Canterbury Riverwood Seniors Badminton & Lifestyle Group
- ✓ Punchbowl Friendship Club
- ✓ Riverwood Chinese Family Group
- ✓ Twilight Rouge Dancing Group
- ✓ Canterbury Community Drug Action Team
- ✓ Riverwood Arabic Association



Riverwood Community Centre Board members left to right; Kadije Arja, Vicky Wang, Manal Arbab, Mohammad Huda, Karl Saleh, Helen Gialouris, Pauline Gallagher, Morris Iemma (absent)

# OUR TEAM



Long day care centre staff

Some of our bus drivers

Volunteers and staff



Some aged care staff

Michelle Newman with volunteers

Aged care and community program staff

Outside school hours care team





## 2017-2018 Auditor's Report and Financial Statements

To obtain the full **2017-2018 Riverwood Community Centre Auditor's Report** and the **2017-2018 Riverwood Community Centre Financial Statements** or to view past reports and statements.

Please visit our website at:

[www.riverwoodcommunity.org.au](http://www.riverwoodcommunity.org.au)

These reports will be available to view online or to download.



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Unity Diversity & Strength