



50 years of serving
the local community

1974-2024



We respectfully acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land, the Bedigal people of the Dharug Nation, on whose land we gather, walk, work, and live. We honour their enduring connection to Country and recognize the significant contributions of Elders past, present, and emerging. We pay our deep respects to them for their ongoing care and stewardship of this land.



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**Proudly delivering accessible,
high quality services in our
community since 1974.**

Riverwood Community Centre is an essential supporter of our local community and has been for 50 years. We empower all community members, from children through to the elderly, to families and those living with disability.

Our passionate staff and committed volunteers have created an inclusive and enriching environment and accessible support services for those in need.

We celebrate the cultural diversity of our local area and provide support for multiple voluntary and community groups. We believe in the power of community, and of banding together through change.



Our Mission Statement

Our Mission is a broad-based one aligned on:

Pursuing a future for everyone that embraces diversity and encourages sustainable strategies that support the most disadvantaged members of our community;

Supporting people in a way that is professional, respectful, and effective, and most suitable to them.

We recognise that our approaches will differ in response to the people of situations involved, including centre-based or outreach responses.

Our Mission is supported by values that include:

• Integrity • Community • Teamwork • Respect • Inclusivity • Compassion

Tony Burke MP

Member for Watson

Minister for Home Affairs, Immigration and Multicultural Affairs,
Cyber Security, the Arts



Congratulations on the 50th Anniversary of Riverwood Community Centre.

This milestone is a testament to the enduring dedication and commitment of the team and volunteers in serving and supporting our local community.

Over the past five decades, Riverwood Community Centre has made a substantial impact in providing the necessary and much needed services to the most vulnerable in our local community.

Your tireless efforts in providing invaluable services and creating a welcoming space for everyone have touched countless lives.

Congratulations once again on reaching this important milestone. Wishing Riverwood Community Centre continued success, excellence, and ongoing empowerment of the community.

David Coleman MP

Member for Banks



I am writing to congratulate Riverwood Community Centre on reaching the milestone of 50 years of service to our community.

The Riverwood Community Centre has been an important part of the Riverwood community for five decades.

The Riverwood Community Centre has continued to provide members of our community with essential services in aged care, disability, family and youth support and many other areas. It is now one of the largest community centres in the Canterbury Bankstown and Georges River area.

The Centre is well known for its work with individuals and families from diverse cultural backgrounds. The Centre has always strived towards bringing together members of the community in a safe and connected environment.

I look forward to the continued success of the Riverwood Community Centre and pass on my best wishes for the Centre's 50th anniversary.

Chris Minns MP

Premier of New South Wales



I congratulate everyone involved with the Riverwood Community Centre as you celebrate its 50th anniversary. What a fantastic milestone!

For half a century, your centre has been at the heart of Riverwood's local community.

I commend your work connecting people of all ages and cultural backgrounds and providing community services.

This includes programs for children, young people and families, as well as aged and disability services.

This milestone is a testament to the dedication of the centre's passionate staff and volunteers. I also acknowledge the centre's board, whose dedication has built the centre into what it is today.

On behalf of the NSW Government, congratulations again on reaching this special milestone. I wish you all the best for the years ahead.

Mark Speakman MP

Leader of the NSW Opposition



On behalf of the NSW Opposition, I extend my congratulations to the Riverwood Community Centre on the occasion of your 50th anniversary.

From humble beginnings in Belmore Road, the Community Centre has continuously adapted and grown over the years to become a cornerstone of your community, providing invaluable services and support to residents of all ages and backgrounds.

From family support services to youth programs, aged and disability care, and a wide range of community development initiatives, the Centre has worked collaboratively to meet the evolving needs of local residents, now assisting up to 2,000 people a week.

The success of the Riverwood Community Centre is testament to the selflessness and dedication of your staff, volunteers, and supporters over the

years and I extend my heartfelt thanks to all who have worked for the Centre over the years.

I extend my congratulations on this milestone of 50 years, my appreciation for the work of decades past and my best wishes for the decades ahead.



Mark Coure MP

Member for Oatley

I wish to extend my warmest congratulations to Riverwood Community Centre on the momentous occasion of their 50th anniversary.

For half a century now, Riverwood Community Centre has served the community with dedication, passion and the utmost excellence.

As a lifelong resident of our local area, and as the local Member of Parliament, I have been privileged to watch Riverwood Community Centre grow into the professional, well-organised and mature community organisation that we all know and love.

From youths to seniors, Riverwood Community Centre provides a home to all, through their social groups, charitable endeavours and community outreach programs, the centre has developed strong relationships with residents of the local area.

I want to again extend my sincere congratulations to Riverwood Community Centre on their 50th anniversary and I look forward to celebrating their successes into the future.



Jihad Dib MP

Member for Bankstown

Congratulations to Riverwood Community Centre on its 50th anniversary.

For five decades, Riverwood Community Centre has been at the forefront of support for the local community with their staff and volunteers providing a range of services from childcare to aged care.

No task has been too big or small for them, and as a local Member of Parliament, I have seen firsthand the enormous difference they make. Everyone has been made to feel part of this inspiring organisation.

The Riverwood Community Centre has been there for our community during the best of times and the worst of times, always motivated by one thing, to make life better for those who need it.

Once again, congratulations to Riverwood Community Centre for reaching its Golden Jubilee and I wish the Centre's administration, staff and volunteers more success in the coming years.



Sophie Cotsis MP

Member for Canterbury

I warmly congratulate the Riverwood Community Centre on your 50-year anniversary. The Riverwood Community Centre is an integral part of the local community since its establishment in 1974.

The Centre provides essential and dedicated services to youth and families, the elderly, people experiencing disability and various groups across the community, especially those who may be multilingual and experiencing disadvantage.

Through your quality and compassionate services, the Centre has empowered so many of our residents and fostered a strong sense of community spirit.

A big thank you to all the board members, management team, staff and volunteers. I commend you on your leadership in making our community a better place to live. This anniversary is a true reflection of the incredible and enduring work that the Riverwood Community Centre has done over several decades, and together we celebrate this positive and lasting legacy.

Thank you very much for serving the community all these years and for many decades to come.

Cr Bilal El-Hayek

Mayor, City of Canterbury Bankstown



On behalf of the residents of the City of Canterbury Bankstown, I would like to congratulate and thank the board of the Riverwood Community Centre for 50 years of service to our community.

Your leadership and contributions in delivering programs across several areas, in particular aged and disability services, youth and families, and the support you have provided to those vulnerable and in most need over many years, is greatly appreciated.

It's no secret your vision and values are tailored around enriching the community and the many lives you touch. It is unequivocal you celebrate diversity, delivering the best possible services while at the same time being respectful of peoples' choices.

The work your organisation undertakes wouldn't be possible without the support of dedicated staff and the many hard-working volunteers. Your milestone celebration is most deserving and a testament to your growth and success over many years. All the best for the future.

Cr Elise Borg

Mayor, Georges River Council



I would like to extend my congratulations to Riverwood Community Centre on their 50th anniversary.

Riverwood Community Centre has provided numerous services for all members of the community over the last half-century, and Georges River Council is incredibly grateful for their wonderful support of our local community.

The facility is of utmost importance to the Riverwood area, and their passion for providing support truly reflects their dedication to making a meaningful contribution to the wider community.



How Riverwood Community Centre rose to the challenges

Selfless personalities like Pauline Gallagher epitomise the vibrant volunteering community in Riverwood.

For more than 40 years, Pauline has been a big part of the Riverwood Community Centre, working as a staffer and later as a volunteer, and for many years serving as the chairperson.

Pauline's amazing organising abilities and her advocacy for community causes have seen her honoured by the country and the state. She was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in 1999, and the NSW Premier's

Woman of the Year Award in 2016.

"One of my fondest memories is the saving of the Riverwood Rent Office, and the people involved in that campaign were magnificent," Pauline recalled.

"The community was involved in that campaign at all levels. They wanted to write their own letters, so we held letter

writing classes, and these were sent to the newspapers.

“We held a sit-in in the local office, sitting on the floor, holding hands and singing. Of course, the rent office was saved.”

Pauline said the closure of the Riverwood Rent office would have made life difficult for many aged people because travelling to the Bankstown Rent office required boarding a bus and a train.

“So we held a public meeting to protest against this decision and the hall was packed,” she said.

Community action

“The whole community participated in marching, ringing radio stations, protesting at the local office, and sending letters to politicians. Some of the participants could not write but they wanted to get their message across.”

Padstow TAFE came to the rescue and provided literacy classes and many letters were written.

“Shopkeepers weren’t interested in putting up signs,” Pauline recalled.

“But when I explained that their business would suffer if people had to go to Bankstown to pay their rent, they would shop there and their business will suffer, they came on board, cheering us on, as we marched through Riverwood.

“That is how this community operates for the betterment of others.”



Campaign for a sports hall

Another wonderful memory of Pauline is a public meeting on a Saturday when young people packed the centre and identified the need for a large hall to hold sports.

“The council responded by building a large basketball court,” she said.

“Unfortunately, the young people involved had moved on by the time it was completed. However, still today, they are proud because they played a part in this achievement.”

M5 changes benefited all

Residents Action Groups were formed after a public meeting at Riverwood Community Centre regarding the building the M5.

Pauline said this group of community members from the west side of Riverwood and the CEO representing the

centre were not against the building of M5 but worked tirelessly consulting with the community and learning about the complex issues such as drainage, light, and noise.

“They put together many submissions regarding these issues and achieved an improved drainage system, higher barriers to modify traffic noise, and better siting of lights with covers to protect homes from glare,” she explained.

“We also got access across the highway with a walk-over bridge for pedestrians.

“They left a long-standing legacy for the community and their achievements have been adopted in the building of future highways in our state.”



The original building in Belmore Road, Riverwood

Residents who dared to dream big

History of Riverwood Community Centre

When a few Riverwood residents first thought of a local community centre to meet and provide voluntary services back in 1974, they would have never imagined that their gem of an idea would become one of the best community centres in NSW.



Riverwood Community Centre today



Canterbury City Council Mayor Kevin Moss officially opens the new centre in June 1983 with chairperson Dick Jordan

Having grown from a simple house to a sprawling complex with satellite venues in Riverwood and Punchbowl, the centre provides invaluable services and support to thousands of people.

Starting small

The centre started with just three members, Dick Jordan and Vic and Ivy Quartly and a few activities. It is now a thriving hub with three premises to cater for increasing activities and outreach services.

Members of the founding committee included Dick Jordan, Allan Doolan, Vic Quartly, Ivy Quartly, George Weir, Mary Weir and Coral Swales.

Fifty years after its establishment, the centre is now the beating heart of a vibrant and truly multicultural suburb with positive vibes echoing far and wide. The centre, located on Belmore Road North, runs a range of activities catering to the very young and the old, and brings together diverse cultures.

With strong roots in the local Aboriginal culture and traditions, Riverwood Community Centre is built on the strong foundation of service, faith and traditional values.

On any given day, the centre bustles with energy, catering to more than 2000 people each week, with a range of activities from social gatherings, sports to feeding vulnerable members of the community. No one is turned

away at this popular centre which has been doing yeoman service for the past 50 years.

Sum of many parts

Riverwood Community Centre is a sum of many parts, pulling together a vast network of staff, volunteers and organisations, all united in their passion to support, encourage and help residents in many ways. The centre caters for a vast swathe of area covered by the Canterbury Bankstown and Georges River Councils and is supported by funding from the state and federal governments.

Turning back the pages of time, the story starts in 1973 when a passionate group of residents held a meeting at the Riverwood Public School



Dick Jordan and his wife



Margaret Horder (Chair 1985-2005) and Roy Horder



The first community festival, 1980



Volunteers outing in Darling Harbour 1985

to nut out a plan to establish a building in the area so the community could hold events. This special group fittingly called themselves the Voices of Riverwood, under the able chairmanship of Richard Jordan.

Their first decision was to write to the Federal Labor Government requesting funds

to establish a centre for activities.

Backed by support from Canterbury City Council and Riverwood Rotary Club, the group approached the Department of Housing and the Planning and Environment Commission to obtain land to build their centre.

Their persistence and hard

work was rewarded two years later when they received a grant of \$67,000 from the Australian Assistance Plan (AAP), which had been established by the Whitlam Government in 1973 to fund social welfare services at the grassroots level.

Incidentally, the funding, accorded to the RCC, was the



The centre in 1986 before the extensions



Kathryn Greiner at the centre in 1989



Canterbury City Council Mayor John Gorrie, Member for Banks Daryl Melham, and Chairperson Margaret Horder opened the RCC extension on December 21, 1994



Board members in 1994 during the hall extension opening ceremony



Deputy Premier Andrew Refshauge visits the centre in 1995

last one granted by AAP. As usual with any new project, there were difficulties but the Voices of Riverwood were on an unstoppable mission.

By 1976, they were able to purchase a house at 198 Belmore Road North, Riverwood – a stone's throw away from the present site –

to get the community centre up and running.

New centre opens

The centre was officially opened by Minister of Youth and Community Services Rex Jackson in September 1977.

The Voices of Riverwood began their centre with a handful of volunteers who

provided community aid programs, filling a big void in the area. It attracted growing numbers which led to the starting of the Riverwood Child Care Group, the Youth Group and more.

The first paid employee began working at RCC in December 1977, which heralded the start of more community-based

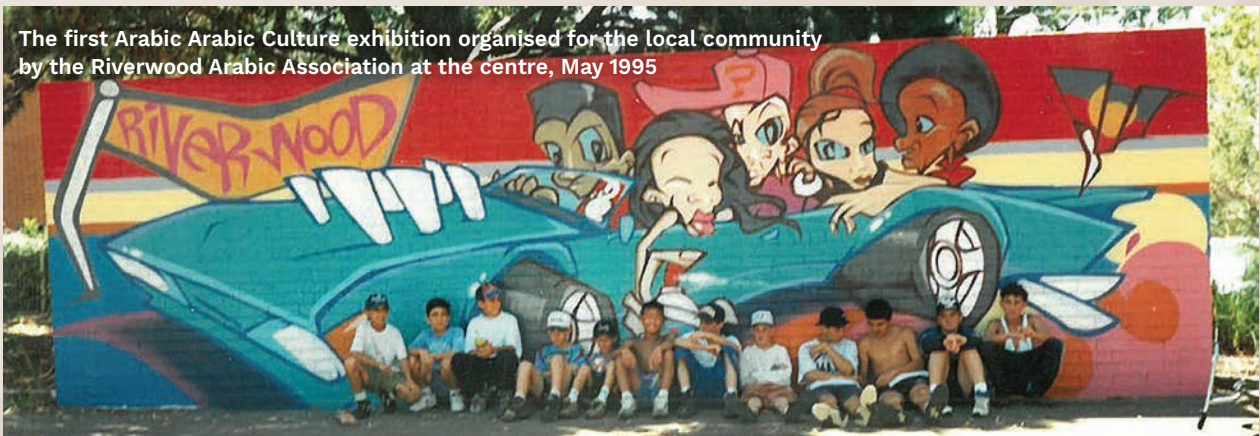


Community rally for funding



Prime Minister Julia Gillard with staff and volunteers

The first Arabic Arabic Culture exhibition organised for the local community by the Riverwood Arabic Association at the centre, May 1995





Open day 1997



Staff and managers dinner in 1998

activities to cater to the growing needs and wishes of the neighbourhood. It was, however, evident that a larger, more purposeful building was needed to house the extra numbers.

By 1981, Canterbury City Council started construction on a new building, which was opened two years later by

Mayor Kevin Moss, who went on to become a long-time state MP for Canterbury.

In 1983, two years after RCC was opened, Canterbury Council added much-needed sports hall and other amenities with funding from the Federal Government under the Local Capital Works Program. The extension was

officially opened on December 21, 1994 by the MP for Banks Daryl Mehlam and the Canterbury Mayor.

The Riverwood Community Centre is a rich tapestry of culture, talent, passion and dedication providing a range of services. The commitment to the community never fades as can be seen from the



Community festival, 1990s



Morris Iemma at the opening of the mural



Centre staff



Philip Ruddock at the Child Care Centre in 2000



Opening of the Community Garden



Ministers visiting the centre in 2005

decades of service by scores of volunteers who are the heart and soul of one of the best stories in Riverwood for the past 50 years.

Unforgettable pioneers

While many see the RCC complex on a regular basis

and take it for granted, spare a thought for the community-spirited group who first dared to dream of a centre, putting in hours of unpaid labour to get things up and running.

As we celebrate half a century of towering achievements and milestones, we know we owe an immense debt to the

initial volunteers and their families and also to the hundreds of others over the past five decades who do such an excellent job across so many different levels to bring joy and uplifting moments to so many.



Pauline Gallagher and Morris Iemma in 2013



Chinese New Year



Links to Learning excursion in 2013



Sudanese Women at 2024 Multicultural Festival



History timeline

Our journey

1973 Riverwood community residents come together at Riverwood Public School Union Street to discuss the needs of their community. They formed a group called “Voices of Riverwood” and appointed Riverwood resident Dick Jordan as the Chair. Their aim was to have a building in Riverwood where the community could hold a range of activities. They wrote a constitution before approaching the Federal Labor Government for funds to build a centre. This was the group’s first objective for the area.

1974 The name “Voices of Riverwood” was changed by public vote to the Riverwood Community Centre. The group had gained the support of the Riverwood Rotary Club and the Canterbury City Council. The group contacted the Planning and Environment Commission and the Department of Housing about obtaining a suitable site

for erecting the complex.

1976 A grant of \$67,000 was received under Gough Whitlam Australian Assistance Plan (in fact, it was the last-ever grant through AAP) to help the fledgling organisation establish a neighbourhood centre. The centre started negotiations with the Canterbury City Council for use of land at the corner of Belmore Road and Washington Avenue to build the centre.

1977 The Riverwood Community Centre purchased a house at 198, Belmore Road North, Riverwood, in September, and quickly started providing services from there. The house was officially opened by the Minister for Youth and Community Services Rex Jackson. The office, run by volunteers, offered services to the local residents. Kim Anson had the honour of being the first paid employee, being appointed as a part-time

coordinator, and was followed by Margaret Christian, Lyn Lomer, and Lynne Cribbin, who worked as a part-time Information Officer.

1980 Pauline Gallagher starts volunteering in February twice a week, making the most of her experience as an insurance officer. (Pauline later became the coordinator in 1983 after the departure of Lyn Lormer.)

1981 The Canterbury City Council begins construction on a purpose-built Riverwood Community Centre.

1983 Canterbury Mayor Kevin Moss officially opens the new centre in June.

1990 The centre purchases its first bus, a 14-seater. The breakfast program is introduced and run by volunteers at the Riverwood Public School.



Thurlow Community Hub



Punchbowl Community Centre

1993 Major extensions to the centre, including a sports hall and amenities, were completed by the Canterbury City Council with funds received from the Commonwealth Government under the Local Capital Works Program.

1994 Canterbury Mayor John Gorrie, and Daryl Melham, Member for Banks, officially opened this extension of the RCC on December 21.

1996 Khodr (Karl) Saleh founded the Riverwood Australian Arabic Association to partner with the Riverwood Community Centre and Canterbury City Council, addressing the needs of the Arabic-speaking community in Riverwood and surrounding areas.

2003 Mayor of Canterbury Kayee Griffin unveiled a Unity, Peace & Respect mosaic at the front of the centre to promote cultural diversity and community harmony. The captivating mosaic was created by Riverwood residents and artist Steven Vella.

2007 The Riverwood Community Centre was awarded the tender from Hurstville City Council for

the management of the Thurlow Community Hub, at 31 Thurlow Street in Riverwood. This facility is frequently used by voluntary community groups for meetings and community programs.

2009 Canterbury Mayor Robert Furolo and Deputy Mayor Karl Saleh officially open the new extension upgrade of the new two-storey space extension of the centre on February 24. The extension includes refurbished meeting rooms on the ground floor, wet areas, after school care and foyer space. The upper floor has new open plan office space with workstations, new meeting rooms and storage spaces.

2009 The Punchbowl Community Centre was officially opened on Saturday, June 27 by the Mayor of Canterbury Robert Furolo and Deputy Mayor Karl Saleh. In September 2009, the Riverwood Community Centre was awarded the tender from Canterbury City Council to manage the new multi-purpose Punchbowl Community Centre.

2013 The Riverwood Community Centre becomes a company limited by guarantee, bringing more duties and responsibilities for all Directors and the CEO. These new regulations are from

general law and from legislation, in particular the Corporations Act 2001. The legislations are administered by ASIC and is a requirement for the centre because of its stronger financial position.

2022 The Riverwood Community Centre applies for a funding proposal under the NSW Government's WestInvest Program to upgrade its capacity to meet the growing needs of the local diverse community. Despite the proposal described as one of the best, it was unsuccessful. Since then, the Board's chairperson, Cllr Karl Saleh OAM, wrote to the NSW Premier Dominic Perrottet, and the Labor Opposition Leader, Chris Minns, urging them to restore the funding to upgrade the centre and deliver the much-needed infrastructure to help the local community.

2023 The NSW Labor leader Chris Minns and Labor candidate for Oatley Ash Ambhaipahar, announced a \$6 million election commitment to upgrade the Riverwood Community Centre under an elected NSW Labor Government on March 25th, 2023.



Karl Saleh's story

My kids' backyard

Almost four decades ago, Karl (Khodr) Saleh moved into the Riverwood Housing Estate on Kentucky Rd after migrating from war-torn Lebanon to Australia, with no money, no extended family and no good knowledge of English.

He was seeking adventure and a new life in Australia, and he found it his special place right here in Riverwood. Karl moved to the housing estate in 1988 with his wife Nadia, and began raising their four kids in a two-bedroom house, which had no outdoor space, just a small balcony. During this time, the Riverwood public housing estate was regarded as one of the more unforgiving suburbs in South West Sydney while Kentucky Road was referred to as the worst street in NSW. Troubled youths, often armed with blood-filled syringes, roamed the areas, causing

fear and terror in this forgotten part of Riverwood. The crime rate was high, while abandoned homes sat on every street corner. Making it worse, the area was riddled with other debilitating social issues like drug addiction, unemployment and low incomes.

However, instead of accepting the situation, and doing nothing or moving to another area, Karl took the bull by the horns in a bold bid to turn things around in his community. He ventured into the streets to expose and challenge some of the issues gripping the area.

He approached the Riverwood Community Centre, where he met the centre director, Pauline Gallagher.

“As soon as I walked through the doors of the Riverwood Community Centre, I liked it and felt welcome. I said this is my kids backyard,” Karl recalled.

The amazing thing is that every time you mention Karl’s name, a new story is revealed about his life, challenges, struggles, achievements, success and proven leadership in the Riverwood Community Centre and in the City of Canterbury Bankstown for decades. Karl is well known for his passionate local community advocacy.

In 1989, Karl started as a volunteer at the centre. “My kids started attending the long day care at the centre while my wife attended parenting and English conversation classes. I also got help to find a new job.

“I began using my skills as interpreter to develop a voice for the community, becoming a local advocate for the interests of the housing estate tenants.”

Karl later moved into local government with his election to the City of Canterbury Bankstown Council in 2004. He says it was one of his ways of making a positive difference in the local community.

Since then, Councillor Karl has always been a strong advocate for Riverwood and worked hard with Pauline Gallagher, former Premier (and ex-chairperson) Morrice Iemma, ex-Mayor Robert Furolo and others to bring about vast changes over the years.

Under their watch, there were many positive initiatives like



Karl with his children

upgrading and expanding the centre, car park, skate park, child care facilities, community garden and green spaces. In addition to programs for the aged and people with disabilities.

They were able to transform the Riverwood Wetlands from a once under-used paddock into a vibrant, interactive parkland for the community to enjoy. The public area has a range of fauna and flora providing a great place to relax or walk through.

“You see, the Riverwood Community Centre has been a special place for me,” Karl said. “I knew straight away I wanted to make Riverwood our home. That’s because during my time as a housing tenant and local councillor, I watched it grow from a small centre to what it is today. That’s why I felt such a warm feeling when I first met Pauline,” Karl explained.

“As we celebrate 50 years, we can look back with so much pride on the centre’s great mission to support and help thousands of people in our local community who are less fortunate.

“We have been able to give them the confidence to believe in themselves, with various programs and support services specially during Covid-19, where our dedicated

volunteers handed out food and other essentials to the most vulnerable.

“The work of the staff and volunteers of the centre have brought our community closer together. We provide essential services to keep our community spirit high and to help our local residents during the challenging times.”

“I am confident that the RCC will continue the journey for another 50 years, delivering community services, providing a fair share of opportunities and resources for everyone, making sure that no one gets left behind, and being a passionate voice for the community.

“We want to make the RCC a very accessible and welcoming space centre that everyone can definitely rely on. We can look back very proudly on the centre’s 50 years because the past is filled with some of the greatest stories that have ever been told.

“Challenges, struggles and changing lives of people are never easy or straightforward to solve. But they’re at the heart of Riverwood Community Centre history. This 50th anniversary gives us the opportunity to celebrate the unquenchable community spirit in Riverwood. Long may it continue.”

Real stories of hope

For over 50 years, Riverwood Community Centre has been a lifeline for vulnerable members of the Canterbury-Bankstown and Georges River LGAs, providing services that nurture growth, integration, and empowerment.

Here are real stories from individuals whose lives have been transformed by the centre's compassionate support.

Finding a safe haven for an abused girl

A young girl who was sexually abused (and now living interstate) rang and needed assistance. We were able to refer her to the services to meet her needs. She said gratefully: "I will always come back to you guys because you always provide the best advice."

From depression to a new life

A husband called, deeply concerned about his wife's depression. They had recently arrived in Australia, and she was struggling with homesickness, missing her family and friends in Lebanon. He worried that if her mental health didn't improve, he would need to take her back to Lebanon for her well-being. We invited them to the centre, where she, despite speaking little English, enrolled in an introductory



English course funded by TAFE. Over time, she progressed to more advanced classes, including computer literacy. She also joined a mothers' group, where she made new friends. Eventually, they purchased a home and moved to a new address. They later sent us a heartfelt letter, expressing gratitude for the support and opportunities we provided.

Helping a woman find accommodation

A high school rang us, saying there was a woman living in a car. Could we help? YES, we replied. After several visits, we were able to arrange 12 weeks of emergency accommodation. We were the fourth service they rang; none of the other services would attend.

Saving the local Housing Office

The tenants and shopkeepers joined together to fight to save the local Housing Office, the only one out of 11 that didn't close in the state. This was a big victory for us.

Saving the Local Police Station

The local community was supported by Terry Griffiths in saving our local Police Station.

Residents featured in *Over The Fence*

In 2003, the Riverwood estate and the tenants of the Lincoln and Jefferson high-rise apartments featured in an episode of the SBS documentary series called "Over the Fence".



The Community Garden was the particular focus and the impact it has had on the lives of tenants on the estate.

There are over 2000 apartments on the estate and approximately one-third of the residents are from a non-English speaking background.

At the time there were 34 community gardeners with an allocated allotment on the garden. Many are from Lebanese backgrounds as well as Vietnamese and Anglo-Australian.

From high rise dwellers to garden champs

Two of the residents from the high rises, Vivian Clifton and Carol Bar, shared their experiences of living in the high rises and the importance of the garden.

They explained that as they had always been “flat dwellers”, they had never had their own gardens, so the community garden was like “an outlet” for them.

They worked on the garden often and feel that every gardening “success is like winning the lotto because we love it.”

Refugee finds solace in gardening

Another resident Mr. Fam was featured in the documentary. Prior to coming to Australia, he had been a general in the South Vietnamese army and was held prisoner for 12 years in a re-education camp.

He became involved in the community garden when he came to Australia, first working in the garden with some of his Vietnamese friends. “We hoed the soil, picked up the small stones to make it what it is today”, Mr. Fam says.

He enjoys gardening because he loves the colour green and seeing the plants and vegetables growing. Some of the crops he has planted included peas and beans, corn, and peanuts.

“I like gardening as it keeps me healthy. Instead of sport, I do gardening. It’s manual work... it’s enjoyable.”

Garden takes away depression

Jacob Kanaan is one of the many Arabic residents who with his wife came to Australia after losing

everything in the Lebanese civil war. Jacob used to suffer greatly from depression.

The community garden has had a huge impact on his quality of life. “When I started to get involved in the garden, life changed for me and I began to have hope. It relieved my stress,” he said.

James grows into a confident youth

James, a 17-year-old male, first came to Riverwood Community Centre in May 2019, struggling with suicidal thoughts, social isolation, and hopelessness.

With a history of mental health challenges and trauma, our youth team promptly arranged an acute mental health assessment to ensure he received the necessary support. This was the first time James felt safe enough to openly discuss his feelings.

With ongoing case management and encouragement, James has made significant progress. He has formed new friendships, improved his communication skills, developed new abilities through a course, and participated in the Centre’s weekly Fitness for Wellbeing

How the Community helped Jasmine through her troubles

As a full-time carer for her daughter, who has multiple sclerosis, Jasmine was isolated. In 2011, Jasmine joined the Riverwood Community Centre's aged services program and began attending the weekly Arabic-speaking social support group.

After her daughter passed away, Jasmine fell into a deep depression. With this change in circumstances, Jasmine commenced our individual social support program and received one-on-one support.

Through this flexible program, Jasmine could choose different activities that suited her, such as enjoying a home visit, taking a trip to the local shops, or seeing friends in the community.

Jasmine has overcome many challenges since that time. She currently attends the weekly assisted shopping program where she gets her shopping done and enjoys a chat and some lunch accompanied by her support worker.

By building on Jasmine's strength and meeting her individual needs, our aged services program has helped Jasmine boost social connections, improve her health, and remain actively involved in her local community.

program. He has also become a motivating presence for other young people and is now exploring employment opportunities, including with the Australian Army Reserves.

It has been an honour to witness James's growth, and our youth team remains committed to helping young people like him reach their full potential.

Butterfly Scenario

In the 1990s we won a contract to look after the lawns and gardens on the Riverwood estate from the Department of Housing. We were so excited about this because it gave us an opportunity to employ men who lived on the estate.

One particular story from one of the men outlines the benefit that this program made to that individual.

To start with he was a difficult worker, tiring easily, breaking tools, etc. We persisted and gradually he came around, enjoying the extra money, fitting in, liking the respect his position gave him, and the praise he received when he did a good job.

During Christmas time, he was going to visit his wife who lived in the outer west and had custody of his grandchildren. He came to the centre asking if we could help as he had no gifts for the grandchildren. Target at Roselands and Campsie Police and some other community organisations, generously donated presents to RCC, which we gave him to take to his grandchildren.

When he returned, he said his wife was happy and the grandchildren enjoyed their gifts. He said, "I am going to stop drinking". We made some suggestions. He

stopped drinking completely and he started to see his wife more often and helped with the grandchildren. Every Christmas we helped him, and gave him many gifts.

After some years, he came and told me he was moving back, he had given up alcohol completely and he was moving back with his wife to help more with his grandchildren.

I congratulate everyone who contributed to this:

- Target Roselands and Campsie Police who collected gifts and donated that to us.
- All the people who donated gifts.
- Department of Housing for their insight into the need for work and giving us the tender so we could meet this need.

Riverwood Residents Action Group

A public meeting was held at the centre by Morris Iemma (who later became the NSW Premier), which led to the formation of a local residents' action group. They requested a space for meetings, and we gladly provided it.

This group, comprised of dedicated residents from the west side of Riverwood, worked tirelessly to advocate for community improvements.

Their efforts resulted in significant changes, including the installation of covered lighting, improved drainage, a walkway across the M5 to Belgium Street, and a higher noise barrier.

These achievements were so successful that the standards were adopted in future highway projects, marking a major victory for the group.



Peter Meadows

Peter Meadows: a tale of commitment and dedication

When new Riverwood resident Peter Meadows saw a notice calling for volunteers at the Riverstone Community Centre in May 2001, he gladly put his hand up.

From there, his journey unfolded in ways he never imagined and two decades later, Peter continues to make a difference at the Centre.

Peter began volunteering each day after finishing his job in Sydney CBD, being happy to support the Centre's shopping service for local residents.

Though he did not do it for recognition, his dedication and passion for helping others caught the eye of Diane Astley, RCC's then transport manager, who offered him a full-time role in 2010—an opportunity Peter had no hesitation in accepting.

"I've enjoyed every minute of my time here," said Peter. "We need this type of service. This is often the only chance many of our elderly get to go out, socialise, and do a bit of shopping. Where would our elderly be without this type of service?"

Like the countless Centre volunteers who give of their time, talents and other resources without a second thought, his dedication is a testament to the power of community involvement and the significant impact that these folk can have on the lives of others.

Peter's amazing commitment to supporting the elderly through RCC's services continues to make a positive impact in the lives of many and is an inspiration to all.



Van and Jacob

A green refugee for Van and Jacob

In the heart of Riverwood, a small patch of green has transformed into a bridge between worlds.

Van, from Vietnam, and Jacob, from Lebanon, both came to Australia seeking refuge from war and hardship in their homelands. Though limited by their English, they share a deep and unspoken connection through the Riverwood Community Garden, a place that speaks to them in a language beyond words.

The two men chose Riverwood as their new home, finding solace and community in this diverse neighborhood.

Soon after settling in, they began volunteering at the Riverwood Community Centre, embracing opportunities to give back to the community that welcomed them.

When the Riverwood Community Garden was established in 1994, Van and Jacob were among the first to be offered a plot by the centre, marking the beginning of a partnership rooted in soil, seeds, and shared purpose.

Bringing with him the rich agricultural traditions of Lebanon, Jacob planted staples of Lebanese cuisine, such as cucumbers, tomatoes, and parsley.

Van, meanwhile, introduced Vietnamese herbs and plants like lemongrass, basil, and bitter melon, which flourished under his care.

Together, their garden plot became a vibrant tapestry of crops, each row reflecting the heritage and tastes of its caretakers.



Our amazing volunteers

Without our dedicated group of volunteers, Riverwood Community Centre won't be the success it is today.

Since the day it was established, RCC has flourished because of the tireless work by its army of volunteers across all ages and cultures.

Currently we have more than 160 volunteers who selflessly devote their time and energy into making Riverwood a better place.

Nothing is too small or too big for them to undertake and we thank them from the bottom of our hearts for going far and beyond their responsibilities and asking nothing in return.

RCC's towering achievements against the odds for the past half a century is mainly due

to the work of our volunteers whose work behind the scenes in all our services and events are worth millions if they were paid for their time.

All our volunteers, some whom have been with us for many years, are much valued and respected and recognised for their amazing service.

"Being a part of this community and making a difference is the greatest reward of all," said a committed volunteer. That perfectly sums up the spirit of our volunteers through the past five decades and for the future.

The Centre brings everyone together

Colleen Du Rocher is one of the many volunteers who have made Riverwood Community Centre what it is today. No role was too small for her and she says she willingly did whatever jobs were assigned to her without complaining. She would have kept on volunteering but unfortunately she was diagnosed with cancer and had to stop all her work.

“Riverwood Community Centre welcomed everyone and so much of effort was put into the community,” Colleen said. “I think the best thing were the opportunities for the children, with my four children also going to the childcare.

“When Pauline (Gallagher) was chairperson, she did a beautiful job bringing everyone from different cultures together. We did a lot of things together like holding fetes, Clean-Up Days and advocating for different things.

“It was wonderful to see people happy because of the many things that the Riverwood Community Centre was doing.

One of Colleen’s great talents were knitting and she loving knitted teddy bears to be given the sick in hospitals or to families who have suffered bereavements. “I used to do a lot of knitting for our church group at that time,” she said.

The charming Colleen is also a famous local personality having been interviewed on TV, the newspapers and the radio a few times, including after a neighbourhood fire and for being involved with the Riverwood community garden.



Noelene Sherlock and Colleen Du Rocher

“I was so embarrassed to be interviewed and seen on TV and the newspapers as I am usually a shy person and don’t like being photographed,” Colleen laughed when asked about her media publicity.

“Though I have left Riverwood, I still go down there for any events, like the fete or monthly markets when I am able to.”

We got involved in lots of campaigns

The Riverwood Community Centre has been a big part of **Noelene Sherlock’s** life. She moved into the housing estate in the early Seventies and lived in Riverwood for more than half a century. Noelene gets her name after being born on Christmas Day and does have the ability to bring cheer wherever she goes.

“Back then, we had many caring and loving people at the Riverwood Community Centre. When I began volunteering there, Pauline Gallagher was in charge and she was very loving and helpful,” Noelene said.

Now 84, Noelene lives in St George and continues to attend events at RCC when possible. “I did many roles at the centre for more than 10 years. I was on the Estate Advisory Board where we helped people with dealing with the Housing Commission. I also helped with the cleaning and took part in the Clean Up Days.”

“Pauline fought for so many things for the community like fighting to save the Post Office from closing down. We all got involved (in these campaigns). Everyone loves Pauline! Both Pauline and Karl Saleh (the former chairperson of RCC) are wonderful people who are helping others.

She said she did not know many people when she joined RCC and fondly recalls attending the Saturday morning meetings in the Lincoln Room.

“I am very happy to give back to the community and only have lovely memories of my time at Riverwood Community Centre. We looked after everyone who came to the centre.”

Greta Vallance's story

Challenges and community commitment



Greta Vallance's career at Riverwood Community Centre spans a rich history of community engagement, resilience, and growth.

Starting in 1986 with a modest team of just four full-time and three part-time staff, she helped transform the centre into a vibrant organisation with 94 employees by the time she retired in 2011.

The centre's foundation, she notes, was always rooted in community needs, creating a welcoming environment for everyone.

One of her earliest challenges came in the early 1990s when the Department of Housing pulled funding, resulting in the loss of four full-time positions.

Undeterred, Greta and her team organised rallies and engaged the community to advocate for the centre's sustainability. Their efforts succeeded, securing funding from a different department, which reinforced the centre's growth and brought people closer in solidarity.

Greta was instrumental in creating Riverwood's first community garden in 1995. With support from Canterbury City Council, the garden was divided into 22 plots, allowing local residents, many of whom were from Arab, Vietnamese, and Chinese backgrounds, to cultivate vegetables that reflected their cultural roots.

This space became a focal point for multicultural exchange and cooperation, strengthening bonds within the community — a legacy that continues today.

In her role as Manager of Neighbourhood and Housing Services, Greta addressed tenant issues on the large 2,000-resident housing estate, fostering a sense of ownership and empowerment among residents.

She organised cultural associations and launched a social enterprise initiative, securing a lawn and cleaning contract for the housing estate that employed 47 part-time staff from the community.

For many residents, this job opportunity was transformative, often providing the only employment they could access and significantly improving their quality of life.

The centre added community clean-up initiatives including the annual Australia Clean Up Day, which encouraged estate tenants to organise monthly clean-ups, effectively reducing the local waste problem.

Now retired and living in the Victorian countryside with her husband Peter, Greta treasures the impact of her work. She looks back on her time at Riverwood Community Centre with pride, grateful for the friendships, achievements, and lasting positive changes she contributed to the community.

"I am incredibly proud of how much the centre has done and was very sad when I retired in 2011."

Greta and her husband Peter now live in the tranquil atmosphere of the Victorian countryside. They have four sons and seven grandchildren.

Zorka Petrovska's story

A place to find identity and belonging



Penny Wong and Zorka Petrovska

For Zorka Petrovska, the Riverwood Community Centre is more than just a neighbourhood hub—it's a part of who she is.

“Riverwood Community Centre is not just a neighbourhood centre where I live — it's my identity, where I belong,” she says, capturing the deep sense of connection and purpose she has found there.

Zorka's journey at the Riverwood Community Centre highlights her deep connection and commitment to her community.

Since migrating from Macedonia in 1997, Zorka has dedicated over two decades to the centre, beginning as a volunteer in 1998.

Starting with small acts of support for vulnerable residents and the elderly, she quickly formed a strong bond with the people around her.

Now, as a member of the Board of Directors, Zorka has helped shape the centre's future, ensuring its positive impact continues.

To Zorka, Riverwood is more than a place to live; it's where she truly feels she belongs. Her volunteer work, from helping with shopping for the elderly to setting up events, has not only fostered community connections but has also provided her with a sense of purpose.

She describes the centre as a space that amplifies the spirit of giving back, fostering unity and friendship among residents.

Her insights into the local needs inspired her to join the board, driven by a desire to ensure the centre continues to support those in need.

Reflecting on her years of service, Zorka believes that the real wealth in life comes from the relationships and lessons learned. She values the friendships and life experiences gained from her involvement with the centre, which has been a cornerstone of her life in Australia.

She envisions the centre reaching even more people in need, confident that her fellow board members and the dedicated team will further the mission she is proud to uphold.

Through the Riverwood Community Centre, Zorka has found a profound sense of identity and purpose. Her commitment not only enhances the centre's services but also leaves a legacy of compassion and community spirit that continues to grow and thrive.

The lure of Riverwood Markets



The hugely-popular Riverwood Saturday Markets was originally launched as the Traditional Riverwood Carboot Community Markets, in the Nineties in partnership with the local Rotary Club.

The aim of the markets was to create a space where the community could gather to share, sell, and socialise. This collaboration laid the foundation for what has now become a cherished monthly event, managed entirely by the Riverwood Community Centre.

Held on the first Saturday of each month, the markets bring people together in the spirit of community, offering an array of stalls featuring handcrafted goods, fresh produce, unique treasures, and delicious food.

RCC's recent addition of night markets has added a new dimension, creating an inviting evening atmosphere where families, friends, and neighbours can connect under the lights, enjoy live music, and experience the festive ambiance.

Although RCC has since taken on full responsibility for organising the markets, the event continues to embody the original vision of community connection and support. The markets remain a place for locals to declutter, recycle, and share their talents, all while supporting each other's small businesses.

Through RCC's leadership, the Riverwood Markets have become more than a shopping destination — they're a symbol of community pride, resilience, and togetherness.



A beacon of hope

Riverwood Australian Arabic Association



The Riverwood Australian Arabic Association was founded in 1990 to partner with the Riverwood Community Centre and Canterbury City Council, addressing the needs of the Arabic-speaking community in Riverwood and surrounding areas.

The Riverwood Australian Arabic Association is one of the many success stories of Riverwood Community Centre.

Born of an idea to highlight the sheer diversity of the local community and bring together the differences which make Riverwood a great place, the association quickly became a vibrant part of the community.

The Riverwood Australian Arabic Association (RAAA) was co-founded by local leaders Pauline Gallagher and Karl Saleh in 1990 to meet the urgent needs of the Arabic-speaking immigrants and help them settle well in the area.

It had the strong backing of the local MP Morris Iemma,

who later became the Premier of NSW, and Canterbury Mayor Robert Furtolo, and other local dignitaries and organisations.

One of its aims was to foster goodwill and interaction between the broader Australian society and the Australian-Arabic speaking community, which enhanced the values of multiculturalism.

For many years, the association provided hope, support and encouragement for hundreds of new immigrants fleeing the civil war in Lebanon. It became a bastion for the local Arabic speaking community who finally had a voice of their own to advocate for them.

Many of them lived in the Riverwood housing estate, which unfortunately was not

maintained properly and was also a hot bed for youth unrest and street crime. The association, working closely with Canterbury City Council and Riverwood Community Centre, provided a ray of sunshine amidst this gloom, helping to improve the state of the neighbourhood while improving the conditions of the immigrants.

One of the main achievements of the RAAA was hosting the first Arab Youth Conference, which provided a rare platform for young Arab Australians to speak openly about their identity, their hopes, and their challenges.

While times have changed, the values of the RAAA remain valid to this day: promoting multiculturalism and the integration of all residents.

Breaking the isolation cycle



The centre takes a lot of pride in the continued success of its Aged Care Services.

The centre offers essential entry level support to help the older residents maintain their independence while living in their own homes.





Our Aged Care Services is a part of the Commonwealth Home Support Program and provides many layers of support, including domestic assistance services, personalised care, social support groups, community transport, home maintenance and gardening.

We understand that the demand for culturally-sensitive services remains higher than ever in our culturally and linguistically-diverse community, which is why our services are tailored to serve their needs in the best way possible.

Thanks to our innovative and evolving services, we have been successful in breaking the isolation cycle which afflicts a section of our older residents.

Numbers have increased by a massive 134 per cent since the end of COVID-19. We are staunch believers that social participation and inclusiveness are extremely important for the well being of our seniors, who deserve dignity and respect when they need it the most.



Providing valuable support for those on NDIS

It can be challenging to access everything you need through the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and that's why Riverwood Community Centre has a special section to provide the necessary support and guidance.

Under our NDIS Support Coordination services, our experienced team ensures that our residents who have disabilities get the right support and services to help them achieve their goals.

We are able to help them obtain the best possible services available to them under NDIS, and this also includes advocating for the rights of our valued clients.





Pride of place for children

One of the most popular services which Riverwood Community Centre runs is the Out Of School Hours (OOSH) Centre.

OOSH offers secure before school care from 7am and after school care until 6pm, Monday to Friday.

The centre is operated by trained and experienced staff who drop off and pick up children from six local schools with their own well-maintained buses.

The free Kinderloop app gives the parents and other members of the families' access to their child's profile, daily routine and activities, giving another level of safety.

There are several programs ensuring a safe and stimulating environment for the children

The centre offers quality care and a fun, interactive environment for children attending schools in Riverwood and nearby suburbs. Children can learn crafts, play games and meet new friends.

Children can visit the local library and receive help with

homework. The centre is also close to the Salt Pan Creek Parklands, providing an ideal relaxation venue for the kids.

In addition to these activities, children are provided a healthy breakfast and afternoon tea for children. What's cool is that the children are invited to plan menus to reinforce healthy food choices.

Out Of School Hours (OOSH) Centre run different sport programs helping the children to build strength, self-discipline, self-confidence, while respecting others.





Equipping for the future

The Riverwood Community Centre has been running a very successful Youth Service for many years.

The inclusion of special activities to engage the youth of our community has always been an important part of our goals. Throughout the decades, many of the youth have developed social and other skills through our supervised activities and events, with many of them returning as adults to volunteer in our programs.

Holiday activities have always been among our mainstays while the Youth Drop-In Service, usually held on Wednesdays and Thursdays, continues to grow in popularity. This helps the youth, coming from a variety of cultural backgrounds, forge lasting friendships, grow in confidence while enjoying a sense of belonging, which is an essential aim of the centre. Importantly, all newcomers

are warmly welcomed at the Youth Drop-In Service, with the right peer support and encouragement to nurture companionship and fellowship at all levels. At the centre, we make sure that none of our youth are left behind with the right support and care available.

The centre takes pride in organising Youth Holiday Programs providing them plenty of opportunities to not only meet during the school breaks, but also contribute to a stronger and more resilient community. Our mentors encourage creativity and while there are sports and arts classes, the youth are also encouraged to explore new interests and skills in a safe, fun and supporting environment.

Our youth make the most of the sporting activities, at our purpose-built hall. The feedback on our youth holiday activities has been very positive because it also provides families with a safe neighbourhood for their children to keep active

during the school breaks.

In addition to these services, the Riverwood Community Centre has been quietly and successfully gearing our youth for life after school. Our Youth Employment Program provides essential work-ready skills while building up their confidence when they start their careers. Numbers are growing each year in this program because of the positive impact it is having on our young generation.

The underlining theme of our youth support services is the strong community spirit, which harkens back to the early days when the Riverwood Community Centre was first mooted by a forward-thinking bunch of individuals. By providing quality, inclusive activities for our youth, we are confident that not only will it make them better equipped to face the challenges of the world, but also inculcate a sense of community and belonging, allowing them to succeed wherever they may go.



A door to a new life

The Riverwood Community Centre has been a major lifeline for many new refugees.

It is a great advocate for many facing homelessness and utter despair, with no better example than that of supporting a refugee family to find urgent accommodation.

When RCC officials heard about the plight of newly-arrived Sudanese mother of six in 2023, Manal Arbab, who were fleeing terrible atrocities being committed in their homeland, they swung into quick action.

Led by a dedicated team, including then Chairperson Karl Saleh and Family Support Worker Ina Shouly, the RCC used their wide network to quickly find temporary accommodation for Mrs Arbab plus food, clothing and informal counselling to help the family get back on their feet.

Their gestures have given Mrs Arbab and her family a new life and more hope for the future, with the feedback being overwhelmingly positive.

The RCC also provided invaluable support to Walia Omer and her children soon after they were evacuated to Sydney from Sudan also in May 2023.

Mrs Omar was very grateful to RCC, saying: "It is a big relief for me and my family to be in safety," she told Canterbury Bankstown Torch in an interview.

"I feel safe, I am very grateful for the opportunity to be here in Australia with my children," she said.

"Thank you very much to the Riverwood Community Centre staff for their support and assistance.

These are just two of the many life changing stories made possible by the quick intervention of the dedicated team at Riverwood Community Centre.

Making a difference

Supporting families

Riverwood Community Centre has a proud record of Targeted Early Intervention (TEI) support for a wide range of essential services including mental health through counselling and therapy, family capacity building, Supported Playgroup, parenting programs, information and referral.

The goal is to provide the right information, advice and referrals to locals needing guidance on a wide range of issues.

The centre's resources and support networks help residents with housing, employment, education and other matters.

All these entail specialised support programs which is proving to be big boon to the individuals and families.

The Riverwood Community Centre TEI team had a record year in 2022/23 supporting a remarkably high number of 6,382 people, a staggering 223 per cent increase from the estimated number of 2865 they had been tasked with supporting initially.

Their achievements stuck a chord with the people they were supporting.

"The support we receive from the centre under TEI is a lifeline," a grateful member said. "It's not just about assistance, it's about empowerment. They equip us with the tools we need to overcome challenges, strengthen our families and build a brighter future."



The Men's Shed has been a big success

In addition, the centre's receptionists handled more than 4000 calls and email enquiries and were able to provide timely responses for the year 2022/23.

Riverwood Men's Shed

The Riverwood Community Men's Shed is a big success story and attracts members from all walks of life. Many give their time freely teaching valuable skills to other members and also give back to the community by undertaking different tasks like fashioning out furniture and tools by recycling equipment and wood.

RCC is proud to be a part of the Men's Shed and shares a common commitment to serve the community in a wide range of ways.

Student placements

Hundreds of youth in Riverwood have benefited from the annual intake of student placement spots. Riverwood Community Centre supports student placements, because we believe that by investing in their growth and development, we are not only shaping a brighter future for them, but also for the wider community.

As TEI manager Salma Tayeb says: "Offering student placement opportunities is not just about giving them a taste of the real world; it's about providing them with a platform to learn, develop essential skills and gain hands-on experience that will serve as a foundation for their future careers."

In the year 2022-23 alone, nearly 60 students gained invaluable experience through their placements.

Our partners

Partners

All Saints Greek Orthodox Church
Canterbury Bankstown Lions Club
Lugarno Lions Club
St George Rotary Club
Club Rivers Riverwood
Lantern Club Roselands
Barnardos Australia
Commonwealth Bank
Hannans Road Public School
Humanity Matters
Lebanese Muslim Association
Nangahmi Ngallia Aboriginal Corporation
NSW Police
NSW SES Canterbury Unit
One Meal Australia
Oz Harvest
Riverwood Public School
Punchbowl Public School
Punchbowl High School
Kingsgrove North High School
STARTTS
St George Community Housing
Street Industries
Sydney Local Health District
TAFE NSW (Bankstown)
St George and Sutherland Shire Leader
Harmony Care Australia
Aboriginal Culture Incursions
Uncle John Dickson
Koomurri Entertainment Pty Ltd
KU Inclusion Support
EducAID
CDAT

Hearing Australia
Beverly Hills Girls High School
Peakhurst Early Learning Centre
Riverwood Squadron Air League
St John's Ambulance
Cancer Council

Funding Bodies

Australian Government
Department of Health
Australian Government
Department of Social Services
Canterbury Bankstown City Council
Georges River Council
Multicultural NSW
National Disability Insurance Agency
NSW Department of Communities and
Justice NSW Department of Education
NSW Government Community Building
Partnership

Auspicing Community Groups

Australian Chinese Seniors Club
Canterbury Bankstown Harmony Group
Basketball Opportunities for People with
Disabilities Group
Canterbury Riverwood Senior Badminton
and Lifestyle Group
Narcotics Anonymous
Riverwood Chinese Dancing Group
Riverwood Italian Group
Sundanese Girls Club
The Riverwood Australian Arabic Association
The Riverwood Community Choir
Twilight Rouge Dance Group
ROAR



The Riverwood Community Centre is a company limited by a guarantee and is governed by a voluntary and community-based Board of Directors who are fully committed to the local community.

Riverwood Community Centre Includes:

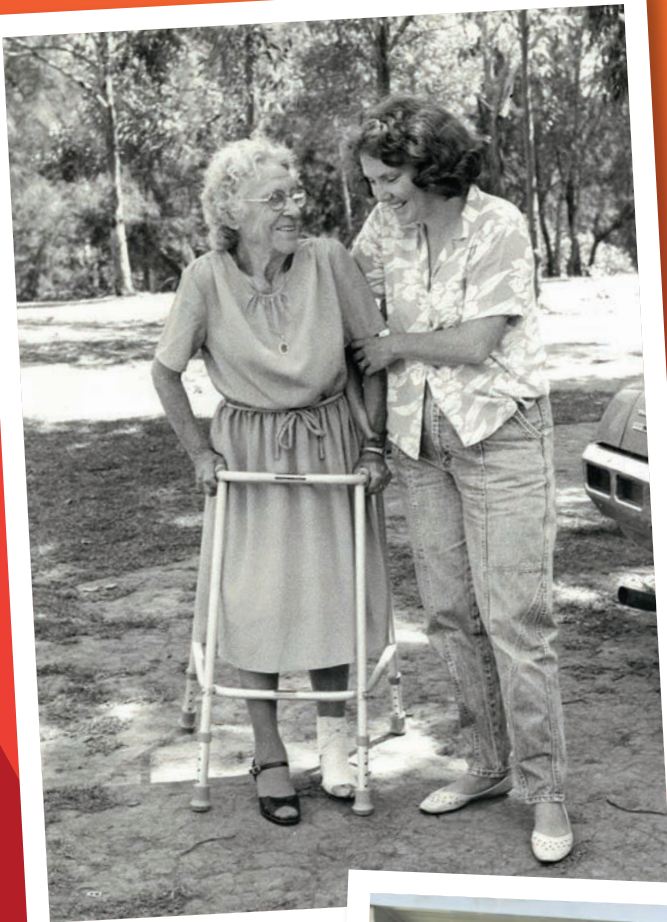
- **Youth Service**
- **Shopping Service**
- **Out Of School Hours Service**
 - **Riverwood Neighbour Aid – Friendly clubs, Vietnamese group, Arabic group, Chinese group**
- **Housing Communities Assistance Program**
- **Central Sydney South Regional Tenants Resource Service**
- **Future Focus**
 - **Time Out**
 - **Helping Early Leavers Program**
 - **Family Support**

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50 years
of serving
the local
community

