WRF

Your Warrawong Community Centre

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

Warrawong Residents Forum Inc (WRF)

Operates from Warrawong Community Centre in the NSW Illawarra Region. With 1.5 staff and a few volunteers, we support one of Illawarra's most under-resourced communities (SEIFA Index of 2%). Intervention to Emergency Relief, offering information, referral, links, assessment, and advocacy.

We facilitate various initiatives, such as community lunch, food hub, food parcels, take-away meals, and occasional vouchers, addressing basic needs and creating opportunities for vulnerable individuals to seek assistance. These initiatives serve as entry points, fostering trust, and enabling deeper engagement with our team. Through these interactions, we assess needs and connect community members with additional resources, leveraging the trust built during these encounters.

IN FEBRUARY WE RESCUED APPROX. **850KG'S OF FOOD**

AND SERVED / ENGAGED **1,049 PEOPLE**

745 ADULTS AND 304 CHILDREN

OUR FOOD INITIATIVES

Our food initiatives rely on donations, grants, and gifts. We extend gratitude to Oz Harvest for their weekly efforts in partnership with Woolworths and Aldi. Thanks to Green Connect, local community members, businesses, sponsors, and champions for their contributions that sustain our essential food services. For more information and/or if you would like to get involved please feel free to get in touch via our website or direct to us via contact details below.

WHERE IS WRF MOVING TO?

In the coming weeks we will announce details of our relocation. We have stayed true to community feedback in staying close and accessible whilst maintaining current essential services. We hope to have funding and premises secure in the coming weeks...

Until then, we are making move preparations, continuing service delivery and ensuring that the community is supported during the changes and displacement. We will be hosting a farewell ceremony 27/03/2024 at the center as an opportunity for the community to connect and say farewell to the center.

MEET KATELYN

Katelyn and her three children relocated to the area towards the end of 2023. The decision was driven by Katelyn's concern for the safety and well-being of her children. We first met Katelyn when she, along with her family, was temporarily staying with a relative in the area. We assisted her in accessing temporary accommodation. This allowed them to have a quieter and more spacious environment, providing room for her family to process the challenges they had faced and step away from a loving but overcrowded living situation.

Throughout the transition, we worked alongside Katelyn, developing a housing plan and addressing the specific needs of her children. Additionally, we provided Christmas hampers and gifts for the entire family through our Christmas appeal.

Recently, Katelyn visited the center to share the positive news that she has secured a permanent residence. She expressed genuine happiness about living in the area, and all her school-aged children are now enrolled and enjoying their school experience. This has given Katelyn the time to focus on supporting her older child with additional needs.
Katelyn has engaged in ongoing support, reflecting that she feels safe in the community. She mentioned facing challenges in accessing other services due to specific criteria that she's unable to meet, such as the age of her child needing support. Our collaboration with Katelyn and her family continues, and we are immensely proud of her achievements so far.

UPDATES

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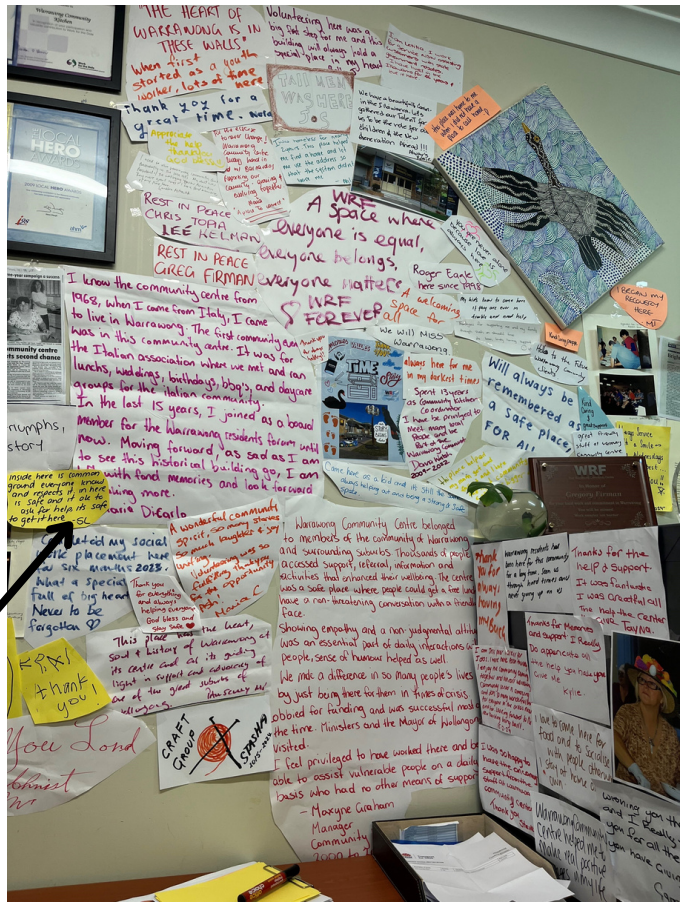
FAREWELL WARRAWONG COMMUNTY CENTRE - 27/03/2024

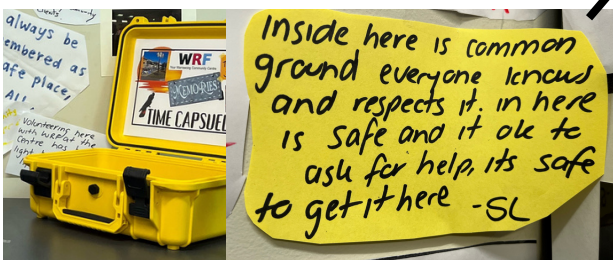
In the coming months, we will relocate to our temporary home as we prepare to rebuild the new Warrawong Community Centre. Our community has endured losses in resources, people, and hope, impacting engagement with support services.

The grief is palpable, contributing to complex vulnerabilities among families and individuals.

Despite these challenges, our community's resilience and unity, evident in the community center, remain our greatest strengths.

To honor this space and its history, we are organizing a farewell ceremony on the 27/03/2024 and have gathered reflections, memories, and notes written by members of the community which will be placed in a time capsule that we plan to imbed into the new Community center, bridging the past with the future.





WANT TO KNOW MORE? OR TO GET INVOLVED.

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Donate
Help us to bring our vision to life.

Join Our Board
Be a part of our meaningful cause.

Volunteer
Help us to provide supportive services.

Sign our VOW
Voice of Warrawong Statement.

Community Champ
Give back to your local community.