WRF

Your Warrawong Community Centre

APRIL 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 MARCH WE RESCUED APPROX. **1,145KG'S OF FOOD**

AND SERVED / ENGAGED **1,009 PEOPLE**

731 ADULTS AND 278CHILDREN

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.

OZ HARVEST RIDEALONG

We joined our Oz harvest Champion Saxon for a ride along meeting many stores and champions that have partnered with Oz Harvest to see that we receive produce that feeds our food initiatives. The experience was heartwarming and educational. We are look forward to future ridealongs and ensuring that the stores and champions stay informed about the impact they are making in the community.

MEET AARON

Aaron was referred to WRF via some Neighbours in the estate that were worried about him. Aaron had experienced some loss in his family unit and was struggling in managing his grief on top of his own complexities and trauma.
We slowly build a conversation with Aaron that evolved into a relationship, this relation became safe enough for Aaron to talk us about his difficulties with his Mental Health.

We learnt that growing up Aaron had fallen through many ‘cracks’ in the system which he reflects has been a contributing factor to his life today. Aaron reflects that part of the reason he fell through the ‘cracks’ might be that he has never hurt anyone, caused any trouble or done anything illegal. Aaron expresses thoughts such ‘I don’t think I was ever put on this earth do anything,

This month we see Aaron engaging more and more in our programs and supports, we see more smiles and pride in his appearance. The volunteers and community members have embraced and continued to support Aaron in and outside this space which is a great example of how the Warrawong community - with support - can lift up and support each other.

UPDATES

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SALTWATER FESTIVEL 2024

Alongside our partners we hosted the 5th Annual SALTWATER Festival on the 17th April. This free event brings together families, children, and local organisations to celebrate all people.
For the first time in many years we were blessed with no rain which meant we were able to host more rides activities, and stalls than ever before. The response from the community was overwhelmingly positive with at least 1000 in attendance.
We were fortunate to receive the Yidaki crafted by Brendan Newton, a symbolic token of our connection with the SALTWATER Festival.
Despite our preparation of food available on the day (based on last year's number +) all our food vendors ran out of stock - Which tells us that the number in attendance each year will only keep growing and that we need to source additional sponsorship to ensure that we can ensure that food is free and available for the whole of the day.

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 during the changes and displacement

Update: Since the of March 2024, We are awaiting an outcome on a grant that will fund the fit out of the temporary home. Once the fit out commences, we have approximately 5 weeks to countdown for our transition. We will be able to announce location and move dates once we have funding secured.

WANT TO KNOW MORE? OR TO GET INVOLVED.

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02 4275 1875

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.