

Social connections flourish at Fairwater

Vibrant calendar of events helps cement neighbourhood ties

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One of the key measures of success of any new community is the social connections formed, which give residents a sense of belonging.

That is why Frasers Property Australia invests in its new communities with the help of a Community Development Manager to connect existing and new residents, help build stronger neighbourhood ties and cement those already burgeoning connections.

At Frasers Property's masterplanned community Fairwater, near Blacktown CBD, a Community Development Manager has been on board from the start to welcome the first residents, and **Billy Cotsis** has recently joined the team to continue to help residents foster and promote their own programs and events, which revolve around fun, health and, quite often, food.

He is impressed with how Fairwater residents have set their own community agenda, whether it is through family-based activities, community workshops, weekly walking groups or Zumba classes.

"Creating social bonds, improving cross-generation connections, reducing isolation and breaking down language barriers are best achieved when the members of a community take part in activities together and share experiences," Mr Cotsis says.

"Watching exercise classes, cook-ups and get togethers taking place more regularly here, you can see people are happy to be a part of life at Fairwater.

"By taking the lead and taking part, residents can shape the way they live."

Mr Cotsis points to the success of the recent **Foodies in July** event held at Fairwater Sales Centre, which saw about 70 residents, guests and Fairwater staff get together for a home cooked meal with a difference.

"Residents were invited to bring along a home-cooked dish to share and we sampled curry dishes, Afghani, vegetarian options, Zimbabwean sausages, salads, puddings and galaktoboureko," says Billy.

"Residents were able to enter a dish into the "Most Awesome Tasting Dish in Fairwater" category and "Best Kids Meal."

A panel of judges including representatives from the residents' committee, the local café and a visiting guest taste-tested their way through the menu before awarding the top prizes.

The recipes will be included in a Fairwater cook book that will be gifted to residents at the annual Fairwater Christmas party on December 2.

Mr Cotsis says he is more than happy to lend support and advice to residents who are planning an event, whether it is spreading the word through social media or helping with refreshments.

"I've got some useful contacts for catering and coffee that Fairwater residents can always get on board to fuel their events," he says.

As well as helping run communications and meetings for residents' social groups, Mr Cotsis enjoys getting to know new residents and helping them settle into their new community.

He says Fairwater residents exhibit a great deal of pride not only in their own homes but the community at large, which is why they will be hard at work getting their gardens in tip-top condition ahead of the inaugural **Fairwater Garden Competition**, which runs September 7 to November 12. There will be several categories and the winners will be announced at the Christmas party.

Billy is also helping plan a new children's playgroup and school holiday events, welcome barbecues and residents' picnics, as well as a Halloween event on October 31.

Eleni Aslanidis moved to Fairwater in 2017 and loves everything about the new community.

Eleni, who lives in a townhome with her young son Leon, brother and parents, says they have been made to feel very welcome. She loves the many free events on offer.

"Every month there is something fun and interesting to do," she says.

"They did a big event for Halloween last year with trick or treating to every street, so no one missed out and all the children were included.

"They had a big Health Festival with all sorts of healthy food. They had an indigenous smoking ceremony and talk, and they have free exercise classes every weekday."

Fairwater is set on a 38.5 hectare former golf course and features more than nine hectares of open space offering picturesque landscaped surroundings, lakes and ponds, boardwalks, walkways and pram ways, a playground, water play area and learn-to-ride bike track, all located just 1km from Blacktown CBD and railway station.

The Fairwater Display Village and Sales Centre is open 11am to 4pm, seven days a week. Visit www.fairwaterliving.com.au or call 13 38 38 for more information. Contact Billy Cotsis on 0437 820 558 or Billy.Cotsis@frasersproperty.com.au for more information about Fairwater events.

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