

Hello there,

Welcome to our December 2020 – January 2021 social newsletter. Brad has organised some great outings and I hope to see many of you at our Christmas Party on Wednesday the 16th December at St George Motor Boat Club. I have enjoyed the Christmas Lights with our clients for the last 2 years and am very pleased to see that they are a little earlier in the month when it won't be so busy. Make sure you book in early.

It was great to see our members and clients at our AGM on the 28th October at Mortdale RSL. One of our members remarked on how they are enjoying travelling in smaller numbers on the social outings' buses. I thought I would take this opportunity to explain a bit more about our funding commitments to Transport for NSW. We endeavour to grow our services so that we can provide more services to our community. We are dependent on the funding we receive from Transport for NSW to deliver trips to our clients who are 65 years and over or travelling for a short-term period. We need to deliver approximately 60,000 funded trips every year and if we fall short, we are asked to return the funding. Transport for NSW has made exceptions during the COVID-19 pandemic, but it is for this reason that it would be almost impossible for us to guarantee the small numbers on the buses you have been enjoying since June. We will, however, review how we allocate our clients to buses to minimise the pickup and drop off times.

I am pleased to advise that our registrations to deliver services to NDIS participants have expanded to include household tasks and assistance with day to day activities. I have also applied to be able to run groups activities for people with an NDIS Plan.

Deirdre has included some great before and after photographs of our new office. We have settled in very quickly at Pitt Street Mortdale and are enjoying our new location. We still have a few jobs to do but we are mostly unpacked. The team were amazing as usual in helping with the move and managing day to day operations.

We have a new service that may interest you. One of our Volunteers, Vera, is leading a program in providing home visits to people who may live on their own or feel isolated during the week. The home visit would be conducted by a volunteer to provide our clients with company, to make a cuppa and enjoy some conversation. If you are interested in being part of this program, please let me know and please share this information with your friends. There is no cost for this service.

I hope you all enjoy the beautiful poem written by Bruce Sharp who enjoyed so many of our outings - he really was part of the fabric of our organisation. It was also lovely that our team could share a very special moment with Dorothy Lewis who discovered the gravestone of her ancestor when visiting St Matthews Historic Church Graveyard in Windsor.

I would like to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all of the team at St George Community Transport.

Thank you for all your support throughout the year.

Carol

# We're in!

It took a lot of planning and hard work but we are now finally in and settled (almost) in our new office - 1/29-33 Pitt Street, Mortdale - feel free to drop by and say hello! Check out the photos.

**BEFORE**

**AFTER**



**Entrance and Reception**



**Open plan workspace**

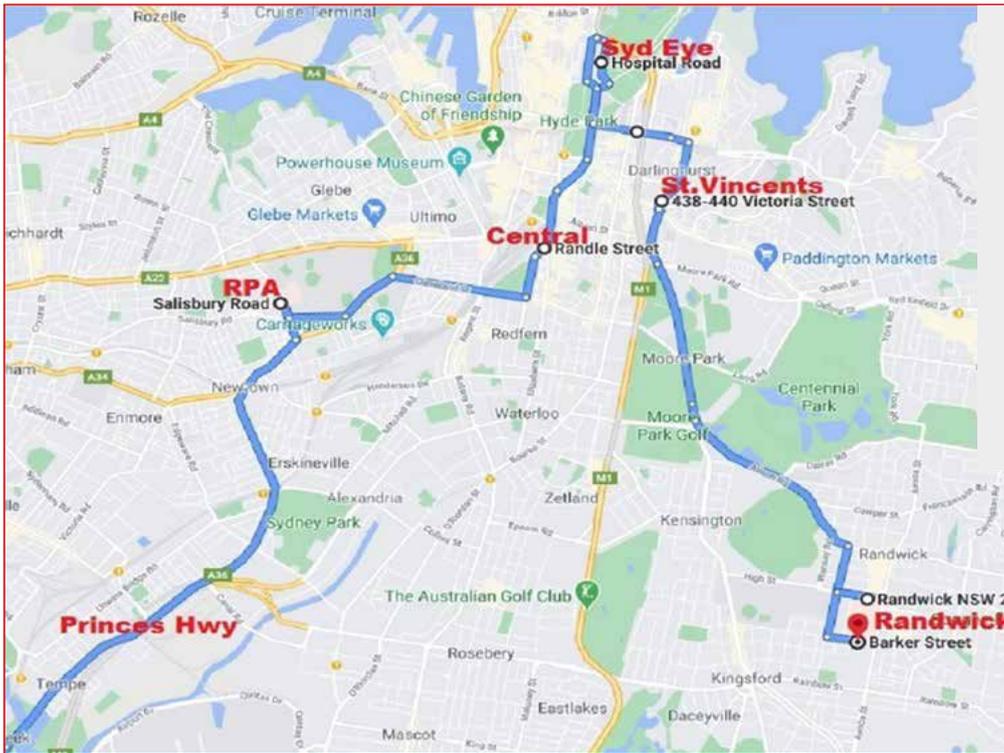


**Back offices**

# New Look City Service

From January 2021 the city service run will operate with a new timetable.

The bus will cover the major hospital and specialist venues and will run in the following loop:



- There are 4 city runs each day
- Exact times are somewhat flexible depending on the schedule for the day.
- You will receive a courtesy call the day before to advise of your exact pick up time
- Generally, allow up to 2 hrs
- To book for the City Service call 9585 3000

Schedule	Exact drop off / pick up address
Stop 1 RPA - Royal Prince Alfred Hospital	Salisbury Road (near Chris O'Brien Lifehouse)
Stop 2 Dental Hospital	Randle Street (near Central Station)
Stop 3 Sydney Eye Hospital for Macquarie Street appointments	Hospital Road
Stop 4 St Vincent's Hospital	Victoria Street
Stop 5 Prince of Wales Hospital - Main entrance	High Street - Main entrance
Stop 6 Prince of Wales Hospital - Private	Barker Street

## TIMETABLE

	Approximate times
Earliest Drop off	08.00 am
Approximate Drop off / pick up from	11.00 to midday
Approximate Drop off / pick up from	02.30 pm to 03.00 pm
Last return pick up	04.00 pm to 05.00 pm

## Our 1 on 1 Shopping Service will finish at the end of 2020

The addition of a temporary 1 on 1 shopping service was warmly received by many clients during the COVID-19 lock down and ensuing months. Whilst the STGCT trip numbers were low during this time we were able to provide this responsive service to assist during a challenging period.

Now that bookings and business have increased, we are no longer able to provide the personal shopping service. The temporary 1:1 shopping service will cease as of the end of December 2020.

### A SALUTE TO SAINT GEORGE

**By Bruce Sharp** (one of our former clients)

"It's more than just transport" that's what we all say  
As we're driven home safely at the end of our day  
Back home from our journey with carers and friends  
With whom we've grown closer as our day's journey ends.

We've been driven to great places, some are well-known  
And other attractions we'd not visit alone  
But all are well chosen, researched and reviewed  
Oft we may dine on the finest of food.

Out on the roadways the highways and by-ways  
To places we've been and some we've never seen  
Some make us think and some make us smile  
Yet all lead to enjoyment as we drive mile upon mile.

But it's not just the landscape, the well-chosen views  
It's the people the places that we've seen on the news  
They all make us reflect and all of us aware  
That danger on our roads can occur anywhere.

It's the feeling of safety, the care and the trust  
That we have for these saints in charge of our bus  
Should there be a small problem or one that's quite large  
We know we're in safe hands, for we trust them – by George.

They're mostly on time, they smile, they're attentive  
Should the parking be difficult, they're quite often inventive  
They seat us securely safety belts in their place  
They ask if we are happy-our hearts start to race.

And at the end of our day, as we're driven back home  
We reflect on the outing and our thoughts start to roam  
We've been driven to places of which we've often been told  
And we've been treated like Royalty, because we are old.



Our client Dorothy Lewis was very keen to go on our recent outing to St Matthews Historic Church Graveyard at Windsor as she was hoping to find the grave of Thomas Dargin her ancestor from seven generations ago. When we arrived, she spoke to the tour guides and they were able to show Dorothy where his grave was situated.

At the age of 20, Thomas was a seaman on a The Royal Admiral ship, which is where he met his future wife who was a convict on board. They arrived in Australia in 1792 where they settled and raised 10 children. Thomas Dargin then went on to be the licensee of The Red Dragon Hotel at Windsor.

This was a very informative tour that everyone enjoyed - and there was no hiding the happiness on Dorothy's face as she sat on the grave of her ancestor Thomas Dargin.

Thanks to our carer Glenda Green for taking this lovely photo.

### **Christmas & New Year Closure Dates**

Please note that we will be closed from  
Friday 25 December 2020 until Friday 1 January 2021 inclusive.  
You can call the office between 8.30am and 4.30pm from Monday 4 to Friday 8 January  
to make or confirm bookings.  
Normal transport services commence Monday 11 January.

***Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year***



# Social Outings

Call 9585 3000 or email [brad.mcgrath@stgct.org.au](mailto:brad.mcgrath@stgct.org.au) with your selected outings and we will do our best to get everyone on as many outings as possible. You will receive a courtesy call to confirm your outings and those for which you are wait listed. Please hold pre-payments until you receive your confirmation.

**Got an email address?** Then why not email your choices to us - and we can confirm by email so you have a written confirmation of the your outings.

## Cancellations

If something changes and you need to cancel your booking call the office as soon as you can. If it is out of hours, leave a message telling us the day of the booking you are cancelling, your name & phone number.

Please avoid cancelling at the door when the drivers arrive. A fee may apply if this occurs.

## Don't forget our new EFT payment system for social outings

We have started taking EFT payments for social outings only.

This means that when we call you to confirm your pick up time, you can pay for your outing over the phone with your VISA or Mastercard.



No more worries about having the exact money on the day.

If you prefer to make a regular bank transfer from your account, our bank details are:

St George Community Transport  
BSB 062 206  
Acc 1038 4093

Please make sure you add your name and the outing to the transfer record.

### Outing Key

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
|  stairs involved               |  wheelchair friendly  |  bring money for a meal |
|  uneven ground or gravel paths |  no wheelchair access |  long day               |
|  Some walking                  |  no walker access     |  evening outing         |

### Wednesday 2 December

#### Christmas Shopping 1 Lindt Chocolates Marsden Park

Back by special request, this is the only way to buy chocolate ... stock up for Christmas - there are some great bargains to be had to ... mmm, chocolate!

**\$15.00 Bus**



**Wednesday 2 December**

**Christmas Shopping 2  
Bunnings Taren Point**

Another Christmas shopping opportunity - perfect for those handymen and women in the family. Plenty of time to wander around - are you looking for a new hose, or something else? Maybe you just want to check out all the plants and trees in the nursery - there is always plenty to do and see at Bunnings.

**\$15.00 Bus**



**Friday 4 December**

**Southern Highlands Mystery Wine Tour**

This has proved very popular and let's face it who can resist Australia's lovely wineries and a lunch in the country. Tasting is pre-booked and cost \$10. Please let us know when you book if you will be tasting.

*Note: we take no responsibility for any bottles of wine lost on the bus!*

**\$20.00 Bus \$10.00 Tasting**



**Monday 7 December**

**Christmas Shopping 3  
Lindt Chocolates, Marsden Park**

Who doesn't like chocolate? Liar. There's just too much to choose from, I guess you'll just have to buy that other block as well. And then of course after all that chocolate, you'll be wanting some lunch.

**\$15.00 Bus**



**OR**

**Monday 7 December**

**Van Gogh Alive at The Royal Hall of Industries  
Sydney**

Van Gogh's works have never been displayed like this. From the moment you enter, a powerful and vibrant symphony of light, colour and sound compels you to leave your world behind and immerse yourself in his paintings – an experience that is simultaneously enchanting, entertaining and educational.

**\$15.00 Bus \$40.00 Entry PRE-PAY by 25 Nov**



**Tuesday 8 December**

**Christmas Shopping 4**  
**Sunrise Nursery, Helensburgh**

Sunrise Nursery is one of the largest retail nurseries in the Northern Illawarra. They pride themselves on their excellent range of indoor and outdoor plants. Spread across four acres there's is plenty to see and do. Another great opportunity to get some special gardening gifts.

**\$15.00 Bus**



**Thursday 10 December**

**Palm Beach Drive and lunch**

Come for the beautiful drive along Sydney's northern beaches to the opulent Palm Beach. This is a long drive with a coffee break on the way.

Lunch will be lovely and the view even better.

**\$20.00 Bus**



**Monday 14 December**

**Spice Alley Chippendale**

Located in the heart of Sydney's Chippendale, Kensington Street is a must-visit lifestyle precinct that combines heritage, hospitality, retail and art. Opened in 2015, visitors can explore tiny historic, fine-grained workers cottages & lofty industrial warehouses, combined with sparkling new structures, rooftop areas and a series of communal dining courtyards.

**\$15.00 Bus**

**OR**

**Monday 14 December**

**Marrickville & surrounds Historic Sites Drive**

After some great feedback from the August trip we're off on this historic drive again. Enjoy a drive to some known and unknown historic sites of the Tempe and Marrickville area.

Try a new local cafe and then lunch - your bus can choose from a selection of lunch locations!

**\$15.00 Bus**





**Monday 21 December**

**Christmas Lights 3**

This is our last 'tour' of the fantastic Christmas Lights on display for 2020.

We'll have an early dinner before heading out to explore all those beautifully lit up houses and gardens.

**\$15.00 Bus**



**2021**

**Thursday 14 January**

**Wollstonecraft and Waverton Historic Drive**

Come and explore two of the beautiful harbourside suburbs of the lower north shore. Only 4 kms north of the Sydney CBD you will discover the iconic sites that defined these areas.

**\$15.00 Bus**



**Monday 18 January**

**South Coast adventure to Wollongong**

Experience Wollongong's spectacular coastal drive - the Grand Pacific Drive, between Sydney to Wollongong and beyond. Grand Pacific Drive is an award winning coastal drive that begins in the Royal National Park and continues down the south coast.

**\$15.00 Bus**



**Wednesday 20 January**

**Prince Henry Hospital Nursing and Medical Museum, Little Bay**

This museum aims to preserve and maintain the hospital's historical heritage that began on the headlands of Little Bay in 1881. A beautiful setting, the Museum collection consists of past hospital equipment, a research library and fascinating picture galleries which are accessible to all.

**\$15.00 Bus \$10.00 Entry**



**Thursday 21 January**

**Camellia Gardens & Kareela Sharks**

*Caringbah*

Did you know the Gardens turned 50 in July 2020? This is one of the largest collections of camellias in Australia, with more than 400 cultivars and species along with many other ornamental and native plants.

**\$15.00 Bus**

**OR**



**Thursday 21 January**

**Grays Point High Tea & Kareela Sharks**

Everyone loves a High Tea and we have found a lovely place to enjoy this special treat.

And if that isn't enough, we'll be popping into Kareela Sharks for another snack. Wow!

**\$15.00 Bus**



**Thursday 28 January**

**Norman Lindsay Gallery**

*Faulconbridge*

The house showcases Norman Lindsay's many paintings depicting Bohemianism & Arcadian pantheism, his sculptures can be found in the sprawling gardens that wrap around his former home. You can also see the cheeky characters of the children's classic, The Magic Pudding.

**\$20.00 Bus \$15.00 Entry**



**Friday 29 January**

**Sydney University Museum Tour  
Part 2 - the new museum**

*Sydney*

Explore the history of Australia's oldest university campus with the University Museum Tour. Enjoy a journey through the history of the university with the development of the Quadrangle and it's surrounding buildings.

**\$15.00 Bus \$10.00 Tour**



# Let's go Shopping

The Shopping Bus is still running and the cost is still \$10 per person or \$15 per couple.

**December and January shopping dates are:**

**Area 1 Group** will be shopping at Roselands on **FRIDAY 11<sup>th</sup> & MONDAY 21<sup>st</sup> of December** and **FRIDAY 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> of January.**

**Area 2 Group** will be shopping at Rockdale Plaza on **FRIDAY 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> of December** and **15<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of January.**



There is a maximum of 4 shopping bags each allowed on the bus (combined weight of 16kg).

## Area 1 Suburbs

Beverly Hills, Blakehurst, Connells Point, Kyle Bay, Lugarno, Mortdale, Oatley, Peakhurst, Penshurst, Riverwood, South Hurstville, Hurstville Grove.

## Area 2 Suburbs

Allawah, Arncliffe, Banksia, Bardwell Park, Beverly Park, Bexley, Bexley North, Brighton-le-Sands, Carlton, Carss Park, Dolls Point, Hurstville, Kingsgrove, Kogarah, Kogarah Bay, Kyeemagh, Monterey, Ramsgate, Ramsgate Beach, Rockdale, Sandringham, Sans Souci, Turrella.

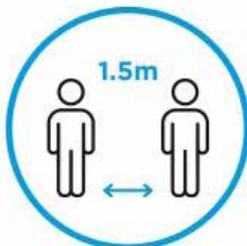
# Bingo is running again at limited venues

WEDNESDAY  
FRIDAY  
FRIDAY

South Hurstville RSL  
Bexley RSL  
Masos Club Mortdale



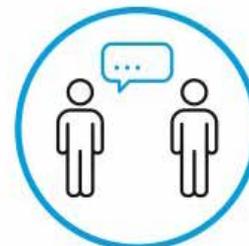
**\$7.00 Return**  
Call the office  
**9585 3000 to book**



Physical distancing



Hygiene and cleaning



Wellbeing of staff and customers

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1. You can provide us with a large stamped self addressed envelope & have a copy posted to you
2. To get onto our email list **call 9585 3000** or **email [deirdre@stgct.org.au](mailto:deirdre@stgct.org.au)**
3. Copies are available in our vehicles - ask your driver.

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call: **9585 3000**

email: [AskUs@stgct.org.au](mailto:AskUs@stgct.org.au) or [buses@stgct.org.au](mailto:buses@stgct.org.au)

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