## MONTHLY

# NEWSLETTER

st george communit

**o f** 

e: AskUs@stgct.org.au p: 9585 3000

August 2025

### Better Support. Stronger Connections.

#### From the CEO's Desk The Joy in the Journey

Dear Community,

One of the greatest privileges of my role is seeing firsthand the power of connection – how shared laughter, mutual support, and a sense of belonging can turn ordinary moments into extraordinary memories.

Last week, Michelle Newman from our office had

couldn't help but be reminded of what community truly means – not a service we provide, but a feeling we cultivate. A special three-page spotlight in this issue is dedicated to the Sunshine Group, and I hope it brings a smile to your face as it did to mine, in hearing her story.

Speaking of adventures, our recent overnight trip to Nelson Bay was the biggest yet – and what a trip it was! Glorious winter sunshine, breathtaking views, and lots of laughter (and perhaps a little bit of seafood indulgence). A huge thank you to everyone who



the pleasure of joining the Sunshine Group on their monthly outing. For those who haven't yet heard about this vibrant bunch, picture this: a group of intrepid adventurers, brought together not by circumstance but by spirit, who meet every third Thursday of the month to share good food, swap stories, and enjoy life's simple pleasures. Their energy is infectious, and their humour is unbeatable. As they sat together, she said she

came along and made it memorable. We're excited to share our updated 2025 overnight trip schedule in this edition. Just a gentle reminder: we finalise trips based on the number of expressions of interest we receive – so if something catches your eye, please let us know early so we can make it happen!

In other news, a heartfelt thank you to all the clients who've returned their signed Aged Care Statement of Rights forms – over 700 and counting! Your support is helping us lead the way in trialling e-signature technology, a small but significant step in improving how we deliver services. While the government has kindly extended the deadline to November, your early responses speak volumes about our community's commitment to quality and progress.

While we're on the topic of safety and care, a quick reminder to always stay seated with your seatbelt fastened until the vehicle has come to a complete stop. It may seem minor, but it makes a major difference to everyone's wellbeing on board.

And finally, our Customer Satisfaction Survey is now live and included below in this newsletter.

Simply scan the QR code to complete it online via SurveyMonkey.

Your feedback drives everything we do — this is your opportunity to help shape the future of our services. The more we hear from you, the better we can serve you!

Thank you for making our community what it is – generous, joyful, and deeply connected. Whether you're joining a trip, filling out a form, or simply waving hello from the footpath, you're part of something special. And that's something worth celebrating.

Warmly, Natasha Stokes Chief Executive Officer St George Community



## We Value Your FEEDBACK!

Every year, St George Community invites our valued clients to complete a **short satisfaction survey**. It only takes a few minutes, and your feedback helps us **improve and evolve** our services to better meet your needs.

Your responses are **confidential**, and your voice **truly matters**.

Please scan the QR code to get started\* - thank you!



\*Paper copies of the survey are available on request, though we encourage you to complete it digitally where possible.



## Meet The Sunshine Group GOOD TIMES, GREAT COMPANY & A BUS FULL OF LAUGHS



Every third Thursday of the month, a group of twelve adventurers sets out for a day of good food, great company, and a whole lot of laughs. This is the Sunshine Group – a social group for individuals with disability who've been coming together for years, and who always have room for new friends.

Whether it's lunch at a cosy restaurant, a ferry ride on the harbour, a visit to a wildlife park, or a day out at a local club, each month brings a new destination, and a fresh opportunity to connect. Sunshine Group outings are all about getting out in the community and having a great time while you're at it.

And while the venues may change, one thing stays the same: the laughter on the bus, the comfort of old friends, and the warmth of being part of something special.

#### Darren & Julie - "It's Like a Family on the Bus!"

Hurstville couple Darren and Julie have been coming along to Sunshine outings for more than two years. Julie first heard about the group through a friend at her supported employment service, and the rest is history.

They've been together since 1993 and say going on the outings as a couple is one of the highlights of their month. "When Julie gets the newsletter and sees where we're going, it's something to get excited about," Darren said.



Darren & Julie: "It doesn't really matter where we go. It's about who we're with."

#### Pam & Chris: Along for the Ride Since the Very Beginning

Pam and her husband Chris have been with the Sunshine Group since the very first St George Community-led outing in 2021 – a day trip to Symbio Wildlife Park.

Originally introduced to the group through 3Bridges, Pam says she and Chris haven't missed many since. *"I love all the outings,"* she said. *"I look forward to them every month."* 

The couple lives in Rockdale and say the bus ride is one of their favourite parts of the day. They've made friends like Darren, Julie, and Cameron through the group, and are always happy to go wherever the next outing takes them. *"We just go with the flow,"* Pam said.



Pam & Chris: "We just go with the flow."

#### Cameron: A Hat, A Laugh and a Whole Lot of Heart

You'll usually spot Cameron by his signature Crocodile Dundee-style hat – he's on his third one, and he only replaces it when the top wears through. He's got a sharp sense of humour and has been part of the Sunshine Group longer than he can remember. *"It must be more than ten years,"* he said. *"I've probably been on over 100 outings!"* 

Now 58 and living in Peakhurst, Cameron said the group is less about the destination and more about the people.

Still, he has his favourites. "That Bundeena trip



Cameron (centre): "I just like being part of it. Being on the bus, seeing everyone. That's the best bit."

- the ferry, the drive through the park, a lunch and a schooner in the RSL – that was a good day," he grinned.

Cameron also receives weekly 1:1 support from St George Community Support Worker, Vera, which gives him another chance to get out to appointments, parks and cafés. But it's the Sunshine Group where he really lights up – especially with his good mate Sam.

"We are always stirring each other up," said Cameron.

Both Sam and Cameron really love support worker Bronwyn, who is a constant on the Sunshine Group outings. Cameron said that she is kind, and makes everyone laugh on the bus, and she is also fierce and works hard to keep everyone safe. "We all just love her," said Cameron, "but don't tell her I said so or she'll get a big head!"

#### Bronwyn, The Heart Behind the Outings

Support worker Bronwyn Fallon has been a constant presence on Sunshine Group outings since St George Community took the reins in 2021. But the program itself goes back more than 25 years.

Originally run by another community organisation, the outings were at risk of ending due to funding challenges. St George Community stepped in to keep them going and Bronwyn helped ensure the transition was seamless.



Bronwyn: "What's my favourite part? The people. They turn up every month, rain or shine, excited to see each other again. That's what it's all about."

Since then, she's made it her mission to keep the outings fresh, inclusive and far from predictable.

"We always try to avoid the usual clichés," she said. "There's only so much ten pin bowling people can take."

Instead, she works with participants to choose outings that are scenic, social and a little bit different. "It's a group effort. Everyone has a say in where we go, and we mix it up to suit different interests and abilities."

Ready To Join The Fun?



Sunshine Group outings are open to people of all ages with an NDIS plan. Whether you're booking for yourself or on behalf of a loved one, you can feel confident knowing that participants will be supported by our friendly, attentive team every step of the way.

Everything's organised for you - just bring a smile and get ready for some fun!

To find out more or book the next outing, call Bronwyn or Sandeep on (02) 9585 3000.

#### 🛲 Safety First – Stay Seated, Stay Safe

We know everyone's eager to get moving, especially at the end of a long day out. But please remember seatbelts stay on until your vehicle is fully parked.

Our drivers and carers aren't being bossy – they're just following safety instructions designed to protect you. Standing up before the vehicle has stopped can put you and *others* at risk.

Let's all help each other stay safe by waiting for the allclear before unbuckling.



\$10 per person \$15 per couple and Home Care Package and Home Care Package tees.						
2 HOURS SHOPPING TIME ALLOCATED Max 4 bags per person. Max 16kg						
st george community. SHOPPING BUS	Green Area	Yellow Area	Blue Area	Pink Area		
Which area are you in?	<ul> <li>Beverly Hills</li> <li>Kingsgrove</li> <li>Lugarno</li> <li>Mortdale</li> <li>Narwee</li> <li>Padstow Heights</li> <li>Peakhurst</li> <li>Riverwood</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Blakehurst</li> <li>Connells Point</li> <li>Hurstville Grove</li> <li>Kyle Bay</li> <li>Oatley</li> <li>Penshurst</li> <li>South Hurstville</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Allawah</li> <li>Arncliffe</li> <li>Banksia</li> <li>Bardwell Park</li> <li>Bardwell Valley</li> <li>Bexley</li> <li>Bexley North</li> <li>Carlton</li> <li>Hurstville</li> <li>Turrella</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Brighton-Le- Sands</li> <li>Carss Park</li> <li>Kogarah</li> <li>Monterey</li> <li>Ramsgate</li> <li>Rockdale</li> <li>Sandringham</li> <li>Sans Souci</li> </ul>		
Roselands Shopping Centre	FRI 1, 15, 29 MON 4, 18 Pickups from 10:00 am	FRI 1, 15, 29 MON 4, 18 Pickups from 8:30 am	MON 4, 18 Pickups from 10:00 am	MON 4, 18 Pickups from 10:00 am		
Rockdale Plaza	MON 11, 25 Pickups from 10:00 am	MON 11, 25 Pickups from 10:00 am	MON 11, 25 FRI 8, 22 Pickups from 8:30 am	MON 11, 25 FRI 8, 22 Pickups from 10:00 am		
Southgate Sylvania	TUE 12, 26 WED 6, 20 Pickups from 10:00 am	TUE 12, 26 WED 6, 20 Pickups from 10:00 am	TUE 5, 19 WED 13, 27 Pickups from 10:00 am	TUE 5, 19 WED 13, 27 Pickups from 10:00 am		
Westfield Miranda	THUR 7, 14, 21, 28 Pickups from 10:00 am	THUR 7, 14, 24, 28 Pickups from 10:00 am	THUR 7, 14, 24, 28 Pickups from 10:00 am	THUR 7, 14, 24, 28 Pickups from 10:00 am		

## **BActive**

*Live Longer. Live Stronger* Remember to keep hydrated, eat well and exercise regularly.



Contact instructors directly to book in your class, then call Shannon or Tracey on 9585 3000 to book your \$10 transport with us

Please note for non-funded clients, transport costs will be calculated individually.

#### **STEADY STABLE & ABLE**



Oatley Uniting Church Hall Wednesday 11.30am to 12.30pm

Bexley Congregational Church Tuesday 9.30am to 10.30am

3Bridges Youth Centre, Penshurst Park Friday 10.30am - 11.30am & 11.45am - 12.45pm



Oatley Uniting Church Hall Tuesday 12.00pm to 1.00pm Wednesday 10.15am to 11.15am

School terms; call Kate to check dates. \$10 per Class





Bexley Congregational Church Tuesday 10.30am to 11.30am

School terms; call Kate to check dates. \$10 per class

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Kate - 0421 902 520 / katedemayo@gmail.com

#### AQUA AEROBICS



IRT Peakhurst Tuesday 10.30am (limited places) \$15 per class or 10-class pass for \$130



Cassie 0435 079 680 / cmaquafit@gmail.com





Oatley Community Hall Monday 9.30am to 10.15am

PJ Ferry Reserve Community Hall, Allawah Tuesday 10.00am to 10.45am \$10 per class. 10-week term

#### **TAI CHI QIGONG GROUP**



Oatley Community Hall Monday 10.20am to 11.00am

PJ Ferry Reserve Community Hall, Allawah Tuesday 10.50am to 11.30am \$15 per class or join 10-week term classes for \$100



**St George Maso's Club Tuesday 12.00pm to 1.00pm** Classes run school terms \$7 per class \*1st class is free

Tracie 0419 999 650 / tracie@dancefitsydney.com.au

Coralie - 0415 065 800 / coralie@fitnessnow.com.au

## **SGC Social Outings**



#### **Booking Options**

- Online: Visit stgct.org.au, click 'BOOK A SERVICE', select 'Social Outings', and submit your details.
- **Phone**: Call 9585 3000 and press '2' for Social Outings.
- **Email**: Send your booking to harvey@stgct. org.au and await a response.

#### **Payments**

BINGO

- **Bus fares:** Pay on the day via cash, EFTPOS, or monthly invoice.
- Event fees: Pay on the day unless prepayment is requested (via phone with VISA/Mastercard or EFT: St George Community Transport BSB 062 206 and A/C 1038 4093.
- Food & Drink: Bring money for meals.



#### Cancellations

- Call 9585 3000 by 10am the day before to cancel your booking. You can leave a message outside office hours.
- If an outing is cancelled, we'll organise an alternative.

#### **Social Outings Reminder Calls**

You'll get two automated calls:

- 1<sup>st</sup> call: Courtesy reminder 2 days before, around 10:30am.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> call: Your pickup time the day before, around 4:00pm.

You can follow the prompts at the end of the message to confirm or cancel. For questions, call 9585 3000.

17 55 25 41 43 25 25			
Play Bingo a	Pickup may start from		
WEDNESDAY	South Hurstville RSL	Drop-off 9.45 am	1 to 1.5 hour before drop-off time.
THURSDAY	St George Leagues Club	Drop-off 10.15 am	Transport: \$10 or
FRIDAY	Bexley RSL	Drop-off 10.45 am	\$15(couple) Return. Call the office on
FRIDAY	Oatley RSL	Drop-off 10.45 am	9585 3000 to book.

#### Return Pickup time is 1pm for ALL of the above

## **August Social Outings Calendar**

Friday 1 August

Westfield Eastgardens

Morning tea, shopping and lunch. Enjoy!



#### \$20 Bus Shopping time approx 2hrs

#### **Monday 4 August**

#### Simply Lunch: Scots Club Arncliffe

Enjoy a relaxed lunch at Scots Club Arncliffe's bistro, offering classic favourites like schnitzels, steaks, and burgers, alongside fresh new dishes. With daily lunch specials and a welcoming atmosphere, it's the perfect spot to unwind and catch up with friends over a delicious meal.



#### **Tuesday 5 August**

#### Illawarra Light Rail Museum, Albion Park

Enjoy a lovely drive and step back in time and explore Australia's rail history. Wander through historic carriages, enjoy a ride on a vintage train, and learn about the charm of light rail travel. A fun, relaxed outing for history buffs and curious minds alike! All run by local volunteers.

#### \$25 Bus

#### \$15 Entry

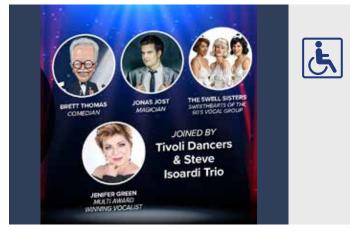
#### Wednesday 6 August

**Back to the Tivoli: Bankstown Sports Club** Enjoy a fabulous variety show hosted by Jenifer Green and the Tivoli Showgirls, with music by the Steve Isoadi Trio, comedy, magic, and The Swell Sisters – sweethearts of 60s harmony. A fun-filled morning of entertainment, followed by lunch with the group. Always a favourite!

#### \$20 Bus \$15 Show Prepay by Fri 1/8/25









#### Thursday 7 August

#### Brookfield House: High Tea, Camden

Step into elegance at the beautifully restored Brookfield House. Enjoy a delicious high tea surrounded by charm and history. **Options include \*\$22 Devonshire, \$43 Light & \$58 Palm Royale.** Call to select and pay for your option. Tables will be grouped by high tea package chosen.

## 3 High Tea Options \*Price updated on 10/7/25\$20 BusPrepay by 1/8/25

Friday 8 August (Also on Thur 14/8/25)

#### **Auburn Botanical Gardens 1**

Wander through the peaceful beauty of Auburn Botanical Gardens. From the stunning Japanese Garden to native bushland and bird aviaries, there's plenty to explore. Easy paths, tranquil surrounds, and colourful blooms make this a lovely outing. Morning tea first then finish with lunch.





#### \$20 Bus

Monday 11 August (Also on Thur 21/8/25)

## Altitude 1148, Southern Gateway: Lunch with a View 1, Bulli

The lovely scenic drive leads to the breathtaking views over the Illawarra coast as you enjoy a \$25 or \$30 seniors lunch special.



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#### \$20 Bus

Tuesday 12 August

#### Tom Jones & Roy Orbison: Bryan Brown Theatre Bankstown

Get ready for a musical journey through the greatest hits of two iconic voices! From It's Not Unusual to Pretty Woman, this tribute show brings the magic of Tom Jones and Roy Orbison to life. Sing along, tap your toes, and enjoy a great day out!

#### \$20 Bus

#### \$20 Ticket

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#### Wednesday 13 August

## Band Call: Army Band St Andrew's Cathedral

Now is your chance to see the Army Band. We'll stop for brunch on the way before settling in to enjoy this talented ensemble in the stunning surrounds of St Andrew's Cathedral. A delightful mix of music, history, and a lovely morning out in the heart of Sydney.

#### \$20 Bus

#### — OR —

Wednesday 13 August (Also on Fri 15/8/25)

#### **Innovations Showroom 1, Frenchs Forest**

Due to popular demand, we're heading back to the Innovations Showroom! Browse a treasure trove of clever gadgets, gifts, and homewares – there's always something new to discover. Don't forget to check the discount bins! We'll finish the day with a relaxing lunch nearby. *Limited to 20 spots*.

#### \$20 Bus

#### Thursday 14 August (Also on Fri 8/8/25)

#### **Auburn Botanical Gardens 2**

Explore the natural beauty of Auburn Botanical Gardens, with its peaceful paths, colourful blooms, and stunning Japanese Garden. Spot peacocks, stroll through the native bushland, and enjoy a calm and refreshing day outdoors. We'll finish the outing with a relaxed lunch nearby.

#### \$20 Bus

#### Friday 15 August (Also on Wed 13/8/25)

#### **Innovations Showroom 2, Frenchs Forest**

Due to popular demand, we're heading back to the Innovations Showroom! Browse a treasure trove of clever gadgets, gifts, and homewares – there's always something new to discover. Don't forget to check the discount bins! We'll finish the day with a relaxing lunch nearby. *Limited to 20 spots*.









#### Monday 18 August

#### Australian National Maritime Museum, Sydney

Explore Australia's rich maritime history at this world-class museum, home to over 160,000 fascinating artefacts. General admission is free, but for those keen to see more, a \$30 ticket gives access to all paid exhibits - including the stunning Wildlife Photographer of the Year showcase.

#### \$20 Bus Free or \$30 Exhibits

#### **Tuesday 19 August**

#### **Prince Henry Hospital Nursing and Medical** Museum

Prince Henry Hospital was established in 1881 as NSW's first hospital for infectious diseases. It closed in 2003. The Prince Henry Hospital Nursing and Medical Museum maintain an extensive collection of documents, artefacts and memorabilia and the general history of medicine in NSW.

#### \$20 Bus \$13 Entry

#### Wednesday 20 August

#### MJ The Musical: Sydney Lyric Theatre

Experience the magic of Michael Jackson as this award-winning production delves into Michael Jackson's creative genius during his 1992 Dangerous World Tour. Featuring over 25 iconic hits like "Beat It" and "Thriller".

#### \$20 Bus

\$110 Ticket **Prepay immediately** 

#### **Thursday 21 August**

#### **Calmsley Hill City Farm**

Get a taste of farm life just outside the city! Meet friendly animals, watch farm demonstrations, and enjoy the peaceful rural setting of Calmsley Hill. A gentle, easy-to-walk outing with plenty to see and do. We'll finish the day with a relaxed picnic lunch.

OR

#### **\$25 Entry + Picnic \$15** \$20 Bus

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All clients are welcome to join

#### Thursday 21 August (Also on Mon 11/8/25)

## Altitude 1148, Southern Gateway: Lunch with a View 2, Bulli

The lovely scenic drive leads to the breathtaking views over the Illawarra coast as you enjoy a \$25 or \$30 seniors lunch special.



#### \$20 Bus

#### Friday 22 August

#### Simply Lunch: Sylvania Bowling Club

Enjoy a laid-back lunch at JD's Bar & Grill, located inside the friendly Sylvania Bowling Club. With classic favourites on the menu and a welcoming atmosphere, it's the perfect spot to relax, catch up with friends, and enjoy a delicious meal close to home.



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#### \$20 Bus

#### Monday 25 August (Also on Thur 28/8/25)

## Bilpin Drive: Hillbilly Cider Shed and Archibald Hotel 1

Join us for another scenic drive along the beautiful Bells Line of Road. We'll visit Bilpin – known for apples, character, and creativity – and stop at Cider Shed before heading to the Archibald Hotel for a relaxing country-style lunch.



#### \$25 Bus

#### Tuesday 26 August

## Entertainment Quarter, Shopping/Movie & Eating, Moore Park

Most of you know this little haven at the edge of the Eastern subburbs. Green space restaurants and cinemas. The focus is lunch and the cinema, but you can just enjoy being out eating and shopping while others are at the movies. Have fun.

#### \$20 Bus \$21 Palace Cinemas Ticket





#### Wednesday 27 August

#### Lunchbreak Concert: Vocal Division Sydney Conservatorium of Music

Enjoy a beautiful lunchtime performance by the talented vocal students of the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. This inspiring showcase is the culmination of their hard work – the perfect way to add a little music and calm to your midday break. Relax, listen, and be uplifted.

#### \$20 Bus

#### Thursday 28 August (Also on Mon 25/8/25)

## Bilpin Drive: Hillbilly Cider Shed and Archibald Hotel 2

Join us for another scenic drive along the beautiful Bells Line of Road. We'll visit Bilpin – known for apples, character, and creativity – and stop at Cider Shed before heading to the Archibald Hotel for a relaxing country-style lunch.

#### \$25 Bus

#### Friday 29 August

#### Parramatta Drive & Lunch

When was the last time you took a good look around Parramatta? From the new Metro site to the light rail and everything in between – there's plenty to see! Enjoy a scenic drive, morning tea, and a relaxing lunch as we explore what's new in this ever-changing city.

#### \$20 Bus

#### Tuesday 2 September (Pre-booking)

## Sydney Harbour Deluxe Buffet Lunch Cruise (1.5hrs)

Set sail on a 1.5-hour deluxe <u>buffet lunch</u> cruise aboard a stylish catamaran. Enjoy waiter service, and breathtaking views of the Opera House and Harbour Bridge. A relaxing way to dine and see the sights.

\$79 Cruise \$20 Bus Prepay by Fri 15/8/25







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## TUESDAY 26 - THURSDAY 28 AUGUST 2025 Southern Highlands

BOOK

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### **3 DAYS 2 NIGHTS TRIP**

- Historic villages, crackling fires and country comforts await
- Cosy up this winter! Enjoy delicious food in Berrima, browse Bowral's boutiques, sip coffee in Mittagong and explore gardens in Robertson. With tastings, tours and scenic stops – it's a getaway full of warmth and charm.



SEPTEMBER 2025 DATES TBC

Call 9585 3000



OCTOBER 2025 DATES TBC

hristmas lights Hunter Valley 3 DAYS 2 NIGHTS TRIP

TUESDAY 11 - THURSDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2025







Social Outings RECAP JUNE 2025





## Phone 02 9585 3000

AddressWebsite1/29-33 Pitt Streetwww.stgct.org.auMortdale NSW 2223Connect with us



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