



BUCKETTS WAY Neighbourhood Group Inc.

January 2023 Newsletter



WELCOME TO 2023

Wishing you a prosperous 2023 from the BWNG team. We hope you enjoyed the holiday period.

Our office reopened Tuesday 3 January 2023 after the holiday season. We look forward to another year of providing the services and supports that help our local people remain living independently in their home and active in the community.

If any questions about your services have arisen over the holidays please feel free to contact our team by telephoning 6558 2454.



BWNG CEO Anna, with Team Members Miranda, Jenny and Amber.

IPTAAS JUST GOT EASIER

The Isolated Patients Travel and Accommodation Assistance Scheme (IPTAAS) is a NSW Government scheme providing financial assistance towards travel and accommodation costs when a doctor refers a patient for treatment that is not available locally. Assistance can take the form of reimbursement for travel (i.e. \$0.40 per kilometre for private car travel) or accommodation subsidies from \$75 per night if you need to book accommodation.

If your application is successful, the reimbursement or subsidy is deposited directly into your nominated bank account.

You can now easily lodge an IPTAAS application on line, or you can apply to claim your expenses using a paper form.

Check your eligibility by calling 1800 478 227, apply online at <https://www.iptaas.health.nsw.gov.au/For-patients>

or scan this QR code with your smart phone:



FROZEN MEALS

As well as the freshly-cooked hot meals prepared by our Meals on Wheels team, we also have a diverse range of nutritious and convenient frozen meals available.

Our range of frozen meals includes options for various special dietary requirements, can be ordered in bulk for delivery to your home or collection from our office, and is billed monthly. It is much more convenient than buying frozen meals at the supermarket.

For a copy of our frozen meals menu, or to talk about receiving Meals on Wheels please call our team Ph: 6558 2454.

HELP WITH ENERGY OR TELSTRA BILLS

If you are having difficulty paying your gas or electricity bill due to a short term crisis BWNG can provide assistance through the [Energy Accounts Payment Assistance \(EAPA\) scheme](#).

This NSW Government scheme provides vouchers to be used to pay a portion of your home electricity or gas bills if you are experiencing a crisis or temporary hardship due to an emergency situation such as a medical bill or unusually high energy bill.

We can also help with Telstra bills through the [Telstra Bill Assistance Program](#).

To access this help you will need to meet certain criteria and will need to have your circumstances assessed in an appointment with BWNG's Safety Net Officer.

Assessments are available 10am - 2pm Tuesdays and Thursdays by appointment. Please call our team to make an appointment.
Ph: 6558 2454.



A SUMMER TIP...

Make a 'Summer Kit' to keep by the door so that you have these things handy when you need to step out:

- ☑ Water bottle
- ☑ Hat or cap
- ☑ Folding umbrella
- ☑ Hand towel
- ☑ Hand fan
- ☑ Sunglasses



VALE JANICE ELLIS

Our BWNG family has been deeply saddened by the recent loss of team member Janice Ellis.

Janice's connection with BWNG is long and storied; she first joined the team as a volunteer in BWNG's Disability Services program in the early 90's, and served on the BWNG Board of Management from 1991 to 1998.

Most recently, Janice provided home care services to local seniors as a Support Worker for BWNG – a role that fitted with her caring nature.

Our thoughts and sympathies are with Janice's friends and family, and the many members of our community whose lives she touched.



Pat demonstrates the Tipping Kettle.

A LITTLE BIT OF HELP GOES A LONG WAY

Quite often, the little things we take for granted in life are those which truly make a world of difference.

Thanks to a new Tipping Kettle, Pat Mills is now able to make tea for herself and husband Bruno, safely and easily.

A practical assistive technology, the Tipping Kettle provides greater independence and confidence for people with restricted strength or limited mobility. It is a great kitchen aid for anyone who wishes to handle boiling water safely.

If you or a loved one have been approved for a Home Care Package, quality-of-life items such as the Tipping Kettle may be able to be purchased as part of your package.

Please talk to your case manager for information specific to your situation.

The Tipping Kettle is also available at all independent living product stores



AUSTRALIA DAY IN GLOUCESTER: THURSDAY 26TH JANUARY 2023

The local program starts at 8.00 am at Gloucester Showground with a Welcome to Country ceremony by Worimi Elder Ken Eveleigh, followed by singing of the Australian National Anthem and raising of the flag.

Guests are cordially invited to enjoy a barbecue breakfast provided by the combined efforts of our local CWA, Quota, Lions and Rotary clubs.

At 9.00am, the formal part of the program will commence with the official welcome from Luke Hester, President of Gloucester's Australia Day Committee, and a poetry recital by Claire Reynolds. 2023 Australia Day Ambassador Trevor Middlebrook and Gloucester High School Captains Jorja Beard and Nicholas Maslen will also address the gathering.

Following on from the addresses, awards will be presented to the winners of the Colouring-In Competition, Best Business Display, Local Community Business of the Year, Local Project of the Year, Local Citizen and Local Young Citizen of the Year.

There will also be a 'Best Dressed' competition in the Australia Day theme, a raffle and cutting of the Australia Day cake before the official ceremony concludes at 10.30 am.

Gloucester's Australia Day Committee encourages everyone to attend this unique breakfast and official program of events to enjoy coming together in a spirit of friendship and community on this special day in our National and local calendar.*

*This information is from <https://www.gloucesteraustraliaday.com/about>