

Social Outings Program and Newsletter

JANUARY - MARCH 2026



MESSAGE from the CFO

As we begin a new year, I want to thank everyone for the warm welcome I've received since joining BCCT. It's been wonderful getting to know our team, clients, and the extended community, and seeing firsthand the difference that accessible, reliable transport makes in people's lives.

The start of 2026 brings a fantastic range of opportunities and experiences. Our team has planned an exciting calendar of activities and outings, from local favourites to special trips, including visits to the upgraded Sydney Fish Markets, Mount Annan Botanic Gardens, and our first-ever matinee

theatre event. These experiences help create friendships, spark conversations, and remind us of the joy that comes from staying connected.

We're also focused on implementing the new Aged Care reforms, ensuring everything we do reflects the rights, respect, and quality standards our clients expect and deserve. Behind the scenes, we're updating systems, training staff, and listening to your feedback so we can continue delivering the safest and most responsive service possible.

Here's to a wonderful year ahead, filled with fun times, good health, happiness, and connection.

John Ireland

Social Outings

CANBERRA OVERNIGHT TRIP

In September, we had our very first trip to the nation's capital!

We stopped off in Goulburn for lunch and spotted the hard-to-miss Big Merino. Following lunch, we continued on the highway until we reached the wonderful sights of Floriade. So much work had gone into creating some impressive displays of brilliantly coloured tulips.

Day 2 of our trip took us on a tour of Parliament House. Very informative with a wonderfully enthusiastic guide who encouraged us to make our way to the roof for some spectacular views!

As always, everyone made the trip a success, and we look forward to seeing you on future overnight trips!



Your suggestions are always welcome and help us put together a calendar of events for everyone to enjoy.









John Ireland CEO, Bankstown Canterbury Community Transport



BCCT is pleased to welcome John Ireland as our new Chief Executive Officer. John brings over two decades of executive leadership experience across local government, disability services, and commercial sectors. Most recently, he served as CEO of Interchange Shoalhaven Ltd., where he led a major financial and cultural turnaround.

John's career reflects a deep commitment to community impact, strategic governance, and operational excellence. His leadership has seen improvements across diverse community-facing services, and his commercial background includes national roles in sales and business development.

With a strong belief in the power of accessible transport to reduce social isolation and foster independence, John is excited to lead BCCT into its next chapter of growth and innovation.



HOW BOOKINGS WORK

We love that so many of our outings are popular; it means we're doing something right, hey?

Unfortunately, it can also mean some clients miss out on trips they'd like to take, finding themselves on a Standby List.

Let's go through how our booking system works and how you can improve your chances of getting on the outings you want to go to.

As you're aware, bookings for the following month open at 8am sharp, on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

THE ONLY EXCEPTION TO THIS IS OUR OVERNIGHT TRIPS and MATINEE SHOWS.

As soon as you receive your newsletter, you can submit an expression of interest in the trip. The reason we do this is to get a clearer indication of whether we can fill the spots we have.

Bookings are confirmed on a first-come, first-served basis, based on the time your call is received.

We're working on better communication so that you know if you're confirmed on a trip.

If you are placed on standby, don't lose hope, anything can and does happen, and you may well find yourself with a spot!



Connect FM 100.9 is your local community radio station, operating 24/7 by unpaid volunteers from their state-of-the-art Padstow studios.

2023 was an exciting year for the station, celebrating 40 years of community radio in Bankstown area.

The station is non-for-profit and promotes harmony, diversity, contributes to an inclusive, cohesive and culturally diverse Australian community.

Connect FM 100.9 is the voice of OUR local community, with programs produced by locals for our locals. To view our latest program guide visit www.connectfm.au

Connect FM 100.9 – "Connecting the Community"

In March, we have the opportunity to visit the studio and see the team live at work!



After our recent Client Feedback Survey, it's clear that many of you are keen to see some shows at the theatre.

Matinees are the perfect opportunity to experience some of the exciting productions Sydney has to offer and we're very excited to announce our first one in March.

Shen Yun has been extremely popular and will have a very short run. We have a limited number of tickets available, and the seats we get are general admission, meaning those using mobility aids may not be able to access them.

Please speak to our friendly bookings team for more information, and we'll do our best to help!



A NEW AGED CARE ACT NOVEMBER 1ST 2025

The long -awaited new Australian Aged Care Act (the Aged Care Act 2024) started on 1st November 2025, replacing existing legislation to create a stronger, rights-based system that prioritises older Australians.

What's Changing?

- Your Rights Come First Older Australians are placed at the centre of care.
- Statement of Rights a clear, legally binding list of your rights, including independence, privacy and access to safe, high-quality care.
- Better Care Standards Stronger rules to ensure care meets your individual needs.
- More Oversight Providers will be monitored more closely to make sure they meet their responsibilities.
- Help with Decisions You can choose someone you trust to support you in making care decisions.

What This Means for you

- For Older People More dignity, respect, privacy, and choice in your care.
- For Families & Carers Peace of mind knowing your loved one's rights are protected.
- For the Community A clearer and fairer aged care system that works for everyone.

What Are We Doing?

The team at Bankstown Canterbury Community Transport has worked hard to ensure we are ready for the new Act, and we continue to do so.

This includes updating our policies and procedures to reflect the new requirements, staff training and briefings so our team understands your rights and the new care standards.

We are committed to providing safe, respectful, and high-quality services under the new Aged Care Act.

THE STATEMENT OF RIGHTS

The Statement of Rights clearly identifies your rights when seeking or receiving aged care services. Under the Aged Care Act 2024, your provider and aged care workers are legally obliged to deliver services in line with these rights.

- **Autonomy & Freedom of Choice**
- **Equitable Access**
- Safe, Quality Care
- Privacy & Confidentiality
- **Communication & Complaints**
- **Support & Social Connections**

Thank you

and happy retirement, **Gary Williams**

A big thank you to Gary Williams for his years of service and contribution to our organisation, as both Operations Manager and CEO of BCCT. We wish him all the very best as he begins this wellearned next chapter!



Volunteers **Wanted**

When you volunteer with BCCT, you're helping people maintain their independence, meet friends, and stay part of the community.

From short trips to social outings, every kilometre and conversation makes a difference.

If you'd like to help keep our community moving, we'd love to hear from you.

Contact us today on 9772 4928 to find out more.

ABN: 14803316448

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Valentine Saint February summer picnic

friend family kind love like

give happy Australia



January 2026 EVENTS & ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS



Gale History Museum

Friday 9th January

The Gale History Museum at Macquarie University brings together the collections formerly housed in the University's Australian History Museum and Museum of Ancient Cultures.

The collection focuses on six key themes: Indigenous Australia, immigration, war and society, women's studies, social history & cultural heritage.

Outing cost \$39 + \$10 entry



The Mill Hotel Lunch

FREE EVENT

Monday 12th January

At The Local Bistro, the Mill combines delicious food, warm hospitality, and a relaxed setting to create the perfect spot for your next meal. Their talented chefs use only the finest ingredients to serve a diverse, mouth-watering menu. Think juicy burgers, perfectly grilled steaks, fresh salads, classic pub favourites, and indulgent desserts.

Travel is free - just pay for your meal!



Woonona Bulli RSL

Friday 16th January

The club is in the centre of the northern suburbs of the Illawarra. Only 15 mins north of Wollongong, it sits between the escarpment and the ocean. From delicious meals at the brasserie to freshly brewed coffee and sweet treats at the café, plus a fully stocked bar for your favourite drinks, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

Outing cost \$39



The Harvest Ground

Thursday 22 January

Bringing city dining to the suburbs!

A menu serving flavoursome Modern Australian Cuisine. The menu is filled with fresh, local produce and a range of thoughtfully prepared meals suitable for all.

Outing cost \$13



Strawberry Picking at Berryliscious

Friday 30 January

ABN: 14803316448

Berryliscious grow strawberries in a different system; the plants are in tunnels elevated two meters from the ground. This way they eliminate most pests and bacteria, so they do not need to spray as much as normal strawberry growers do. The strawberries are under cover, and grow all around the year- hail, rain or shine.

Outing cost \$39 + \$25 entry (includes all the fruit you can eat!) Any picked fruit you do not eat is charged for.

January 2026

FOR BOOKINGS CALL (02) 9772 4928, PRESS 1

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Notes: Bookings for February open Tuesday 13th January.				NO OUTINGS	2 NO OUTINGS	NO OUTINGS
4 NO OUTINGS	Kemps Creek Bowling Club Lunch Cost: \$27 Buy Lunch	Club Mount Lewis Lunch Cost: \$13 Buy Lunch	Chester Hill RSL Dinner Cost: \$15 Buy Dinner	8 Bunnings DIY Club Cost: \$13 Buy Lunch Rookwood Cemetery Shuttle	Gale History Museum Macquarie Park Cost: \$49 Buy Lunch	Fairfield Markets Cost: \$27 Buy Lunch
11	The Mill Hotel Lunch; Milperra Cost: FREE Buy Lunch	Secret Men's Business @ Twin Willows Cost: \$15 Buy Lunch	Moorebank Sports Club Dinner Cost: \$15 Buy Dinner	Upright Fitness Cost: \$15 Buy Lunch Lidcombe Shopping Trip Cost: \$27 Buy Lunch Chester Hill RSL Variety Show Cost: \$13 Buy Lunch	Woonona Bulli RSL Lunch Cost: \$39 Buy Lunch	Como Hotel Lunch Cost: \$27 Buy Lunch
18	Wenty Leagues Lunch Cost: \$27 Buy Lunch	Social Club & Knitting Nannas Cost: \$15 Light Snacks Provided	Hurlstone Park Hotel Dinner Cost: \$15 Buy Dinner	The Harvest Ground Lunch; Penshurst Cost: \$27 Buy Lunch	Club Grandviews Lunch Cost: \$13 Buy Lunch	Twin Willows Hotel Lunch Cost: \$13 Buy Lunch
25	26 AUSTRALIA DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY	Spotlight Wetherill Park Cost: \$27 Buy Lunch	Olds Park Sports Club Dinner Cost: \$15 Buy Dinner	Bunnings Gardening Club Cost: \$13 Buy Lunch Woronora Cemetery Shuttle	Strawberry Picking Cost: \$64 Buy Lunch	31 Brighton-Le-Sands Beach Cost: \$27 Buy Lunch

Indicates outings requiring pre-payment.

Please Note: Full Cost of outing MAY include bus fare, lunch and entry fee, unless otherwise specified.

ndicates outings involving walking.



RED WEEK SHOPPING

Tuesday: Bass Hill Wednesday: Menai Thursday: Chullora



BLUE WEEK SHOPPING

Tuesday: Bass Hill Wednesday: Menai



February 2026 EVENTS & ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS



Lucy Osburn Nightingale Museum

Monday 2nd February

Originally called the Rum Hospital because convicts were paid to import rum for resale, Sydney Hospital was founded as a convict hospital in 1788 and was the first building on Macquarie Street. In 1868, what is now called the Nightingale Wing was completed, and the Lucy Osburn-Nightingale Museum is located on the first floor. The museum is home to a collection of medical equipment, records, implements, and pathology that portrays the history of nursing and medicine in Australia from the arrival of the First Fleet in 1788. Visitors can step back in time into original, furnished rooms, view photos, artefacts, surgical instruments, costumes, and the oldest morbid anatomy specimens in Australia.

Outing cost is \$27 + \$10 entry fee



Ingleburn RSL Variety Show

Thursday 5th February

A new addition to our social calendar – a free variety show at Ingelburn RSL! You can enjoy the show, dance and join in or get involved in the variety show and spin the wheel for a chance to win some amazing prizes!

Outing cost is \$39



Pine Ridge Mini Donkey Farm

Friday 6th February

The Miniature Mediterranean Donkey originates from Sicily and Sardinia and is almost extinct in the wild in their native land. In the 18th Century, they were primarily used indoors for turning grindstones for grain and as pack animals for mountain shepherds.

Outing cost is \$39 + \$35 tour



The Australian Museum

Friday 13th February

You can discover the natural history and culture of Australia and the Pacific, right here in Sydney. The Australian Museum is about more than the past. It's a working museum where scientists, researchers and curators explore the wonders of our world- and you can too. Enjoy expanded galleries, more collections on display, transformed gathering spaces, a new shop, and a second café. Australia's first museum in the heart of Sydney, featuring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, the collection of Australian dinosaurs, and the deadliest of down under animals.

Outing cost is \$27 + possible entry fee to be confirmed.

PLEASE NOTE THIS TRIP IS LONGER THAN OUR USUAL OUTINGS TO ALLOW TIME TO SEE THE EXHIBITS.



Western Sydney Airport

Monday 23rd February

Experience a world of knowledge at the WSI Experience Centre, where immersive and interactive displays take you on a journey to learn about Western Sydney International Airport. Visitors have access to project information, digital engagement and learning opportunities. Located at Luddenham, with the stunning backdrop of the airport site, you'll have a clear view of the future airfield and be able to watch the airport come to life. Lunch at the Wallacia Hotel will follow!

Outing cost is \$39 + entry fee



Centennial Park Summer Picnic

FREE EVENT

Friday 27th February

With summer in the air, let's get together in one of the city's most beautiful parks for a picnic! Travel is free, and just \$15 for a delicious lunch. It'll be popular, don't miss out!

Travel is free - just pay \$15 for a delicious lunch

10 02 9772 4928

28 Queen Street Revesby NSW 2212

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info@bcct.org.au

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February 2026

FOR BOOKINGS CALL (02) 9772 4928, PRESS 1

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 🗔	4	5	6	7
Bookings for March open Tuesday 10th February.	Lucy Osburn Nightingale Museum Cost: \$37 Buy Lunch	Silly Solly'S Shopping Campbelltown Cost: \$27 Buy Lunch	Padstow RSL Dinner Cost: \$15 Buy Dinner	Ingleburn RSL Variety Show Cost: \$39 Buy Lunch Rookwood Cemetery Shuttle	Pine Ridge Mini Donkey Farm Cost: \$74 Morning Tea	Mother Hubbard's Cupboard Camden Cost: \$39 Buy Lunch
8	9	10 🗔	11 💭	12 🗔	13	14
	Auburn Savers Shopping Cost: \$27 Buy Lunch	Secret Men's Business @The Mill Cost: \$15 Buy Lunch	Panania Diggers Dinner Cost: \$15 Buy Lunch	Bunnings DIY Club Cost: \$13 Buy Lunch	Australian Museum Visit Cost: \$27 Buy Lunch	Boatshed @ Woronora Cost: \$27 Buy Lunch
		It's Showtime! The Piano Man & Powerhouse Diva Cost: \$33 Morning Tea Provided		Chester Hill RSL Variety Show Cost: \$13 Buy Lunch	(\hat{\tau})	
		Social Community Restaurant Cost: \$27 Lunch Provided				
15	16	17 🖫	18 🖫	19	20	21
	Scarborough Hotel Lunch Cost: \$39	Social Club & Knitting Nannas Cost: \$15 Light Snacks Provided	Riverwood Hotel Dinner Cost: \$15	Upright Fitness Class Cost: \$15 Buy Lunch	Fish & Chips @ Watsons Bay Cost: \$27	Ramsgate RSL Lunch Cost: \$27
	Buy Lunch	Podiatry Clinic Cost: \$27 Buy Lunch	Buy Dinner	Sutherland Shire Historical Society Cost: \$37 Morning Tea Provided	Buy Lunch	Buy Lunch
22	23	24	25 🕠	26 🕠	27	28
	Western Sydney Airport Tour Cost: \$39 +	High Flyer Hotel Lunch Cost: \$13 Buy Lunch	Carnarvon Golf Club Dinner Cost: \$15 Buy Dinner	Bunnings Gardening Club Cost: \$13 Buy Lunch	Centennial Park Summer Picnic Cost: \$15 Buy Lunch	Revesby Craft Fair Cost: \$13 Buy Lunch
	entry fee (TBC) Buy Lunch			Woronora Cemetery Shuttle		

Indicates outings requiring pre-payment.

Please Note: Full Cost of outing MAY include bus fare, lunch and entry fee, unless otherwise specified.



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RED WEEK SHOPPING

Tuesday: Bass Hill Wednesday: Menai Thursday: Chullora



BLUE WEEK SHOPPING

Tuesday: Bass Hill Wednesday: Menai



March 2026 EVENTS & ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS



Mittagong Mushroom Tour

Monday 2nd March

Embark on a guided tour through the fascinating working Mushroom Farm at the historic Mittagong Mushroom Tunnel and see how a range of exotic mushrooms are grown. You'll even get your very own punnet of fancy fungi to take home! After the tour, we'll enjoy lunch at a local venue.

Outing cost is \$104 - includes tour and lunch



Mount Annan Botanical Gardens

Friday 6th March

Located in South Western Sydney, the Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan is a scientific hub and showcases Australian flora amongst 416 hectares of rolling hills, lakes, lawns and gardens. See tropical rainforest, Australian annual and perennial displays, including the annual wildflower display. Enjoy spectacular 360-degree views of the countryside, Sydney and the Blue Mountains from Sundial Hill. In the Fruit Loop Garden, you can see the abundance of native Australian plants that have been used for food, tools and medicine. Walking is a necessary part of this outing, and the venue is accessible for those with mobility aids.

Outing cost is \$39

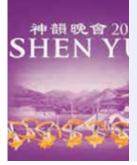


Hillbilly Cider Shed

Friday 13th March

A local gem in the Blue Mountains, Hillbilly Cider is a must-see! Chill out in the sunshine overlooking the orchard, with delicious woodfired pizzas available. The makers will talk you through their ciders and how they are made.

Outing cost is \$49, including tasting.



Shen Yun Matinee

Wednesday 25th March

Shen Yun is a brilliant artistic revival and celebration of China's rich cultural heritage. Through breathtaking dance and music, Shen Yun's artists tell of a time when divine beings walked upon the earth, leaving behind a culture that inspired generations. Ancient Chinese wisdom, infused with Buddhist and Taoist spirituality and values, gave birth to everything from medical innovations to opera, dance, architecture, and even martial arts. YOU MUST HAVE A SMARTPHONE TO ATTEND THIS OUTING AS YOUR TICKET WILL BE ON IT. Outing cost is \$132



Australian Maritime Museum

Friday 27th March

Stroll along the waterfront and jump on board the vessels, walk in the footsteps of our early explorers on the HMB Endeavour or descend below the depths of the sea in the submarine HMAS Onslow. If ships aren't your thing, visit the galleries and experience the historical artefacts that bring Australia's deep connection to the sea to life, past and present.

Outing cost is \$57, including entry.



Sydney Fish Markets

Monday 30th March

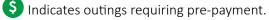
It's been a long time coming, but we finally get to visit the newly rebuilt Sydney Fish Markets! Experience the auction stands and learn how the Dutch auction operates. Discover commercial wharves and different types of fishing vessels. Hear stories from the market's rich history and learn about its future. Learn how to pick the best seasonal and sustainable seafood. See oysters shucked by experts, up close in real time.

Outing cost is \$72, including tour.

March 2026

FOR BOOKINGS CALL (02) 9772 4928, PRESS 1

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
1	Mittagong Mushroom Tour Cost: \$104 Lunch Included	Lidcombe Shopping Cost: \$27 Buy Lunch	Revesby Workers Club Dinner Cost: \$13 Buy Dinner	Ingelburn RSL Variety Show Cost: \$39 Buy Lunch Rookwood Cemetery Shuttle	Mount Annan Botanical Gardens Cost: \$39 Buy Lunch	Riverwood Community Market Cost: \$13 Buy Lunch	
8	St Patrick's Day Lunch Cost: \$92 Lunch Included \$	Secret Mens Business Cost: \$15 Light Snacks included It'S Showtime! To Rome With Love Cost: \$33 Morning Tea included Music Man Community Restaurant Cost: \$27 Lunch included	Premier's Gala Concert Cost: \$27	Bunnings DIY Club Cost: \$13 Buy Lunch Chester Hill RSL Variety Show Cost: \$13 Buy Lunch	Hillbilly Cider Shed; Bilpin Cost: \$49 Buy Lunch	Dollarworld; Bankstown Cost: \$13 Buy Lunch	
15	Altitude 1148 Lunch; Bulli Cost: \$39 Buy Lunch	Social Club & Knitting Nannas Cost: \$15 Light Snacks Included	Dooley's Lidcombe Dinner Cost: \$15 Buy Dinner	Cronulla Golf Club Lunch Cost: \$27 Buy Lunch	Concordia Club Lunch; Tempe Cost: \$27 Buy Lunch	Salvos Shopping; Moorebank Cost: \$13 Buy Lunch	
22	Bonnyrigg Garden Centre Cost: \$39 Buy Lunch	Easter Community Restaurant Cost: \$29 Lunch included	Shen Yun Matinee Show Cost: \$132 Buy Lunch	26 Bunnings Gardening Club Cost: \$13 Buy Lunch Woronora Cemetery Shuttle	Maritime Museum Visit Cost: Travel is free, \$30 entry Buy Lunch	Club Condell Park Lunch Cost: \$13 Buy Lunch	
29	Sydney Fish Markets Visit Cost: \$72 Buy Lunch	Connect FM Studio Visit; Padstow Cost: \$13 Buy Lunch	Notes: Bookings for April open Tuesday 10th March.				



Please Note: Full Cost of outing MAY include bus fare, lunch and entry fee, unless otherwise specified.



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RED WEEK SHOPPING

Tuesday: Bass Hill Wednesday: Menai Thursday: Chullora



BLUE WEEK SHOPPING

Tuesday: Bass Hill Wednesday: Menai





Get to know JONATHAN

Name: Jonathan

Position: Business Development Manager

Time at BCCT: 6 months

Q: Tell us, if you could name a street, what would it be called?

A: "Something"! Telling people I live at 123 Something Street seems hilarious to me.

Q: If you could have coffee with anyone, who would it be?

A: My future self! Although, would there be a time paradox where, if I were successful and knew it would happen, I would become complacent and then ruin what I would have had?

Q: Memories of your schoolteacher?

A: My maths teacher was also my youth leader for a bit. Hilarious when I'd get a demerit in class and see him after for youth group.

Q: If you came with a warning label, what would yours say?

A: Warning: will attach to you if you feed him!

Q: What song would you sing at Karaoke night?

A: Golden- K-pop Demon Hunters!