



Thank you to all who celebrated Easter with us

This Easter, we gathered to reflect and celebrate the limitless love of Jesus, shown so powerfully when He gave His life for us on the cross and rose again. His sacrifice reminds us that no hardship or sorrow is beyond the reach of His love. Because He lives, we have the assurance that love overcomes.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who joined us on Good Friday at the Martin Place Amphitheatre for a compelling street performance, retelling the greatest love story ever told – the story of Easter – and on Easter Sunday at the Wesley Centre for our church services.

How can we help you or someone you know?

Did you know Wesley Mission offers over 100 support services across New South Wales? If you or someone you know needs support, reach out. We're here to help.

Have you had a gutful of gambling? If you're struggling with gambling, take the first step out of it with Wesley Mission. Call 1300 827 638 to speak to one of our gambling counsellors.

Wesley Financial Counselling: Free, independent and confidential face-to-face counselling to help you navigate financial stress and manage your money more effectively. Call **1300 827 638**.



Helpful contacts

Lifeline (24/7 crisis support)	13 11 14
Emergency services (Police, Ambulance and Fire)	000
Police (non-emergency)	131 444
1800 RESPECT For people impacted by sexual assault, domestic violence or abuse	1800 737 732
Beyond Blue (for depression and anxiety)	1300 224 636
GambleAware Helpline	800 858 858
MensLine Australia (24/7 telephone counselling support for men)	1300 78 99 78
Butterfly Foundation (free, confidential counselling and referral for people with eating disorders and body image issues)	1800 334 673
General enquiries, maintenance and repairs	1800 770 602



May 2025

Knock knock

Chaplain's message

Every year, I've noticed that hot cross buns appear on supermarket shelves the day after Christmas. Step into Woolworths or Coles after Christmas day, and you'll likely find them already on sale!

What is Easter to you? Hot cross buns? Chocolate eggs? Time off from work? A long weekend? Or maybe just an abundance of chocolate? Every year, wherever I am, there always seems to be chocolate!

While I'm not a big chocolate person, I must admit that the taste of something sweet – chocolate – is exactly what

shops seem to be promoting at Easter. It's a strange thing – when we reflect on the Easter message, Jesus' crucifixion, there is a sense of bitterness not just sweetness. Good Friday is the day when believers remember Jesus' crucifixion. Yet, it carries a suggestion of sweetness – something pleasant.

But this is the day where we remember Jesus' pain and suffering through His death on the cross. How unusual it is that we associate the word "good" with death, pain and suffering. Remembering someone's death often brings sadness.

For instance, Queen Elizabeth's death saddened many, and thousands gathered to attend her funeral and pay their respects.

Maybe the day we remember Jesus' crucifixion, should have been called Black Friday or Sad Friday. But this day is called Good Friday because something good, even sweet came from the bitter taste of Jesus' death. Jesus' death, though sad, brings us good news – great news – joyous news.

Through Jesus' death, anyone who seeks Him can find forgiveness and eternal life in His kingdom forever. A life that will last past this world. A life following Jesus offers what this world cannot offer – victory over what man cannot conquer, a victory over death.

While many may not believe or accept this, the truth remains, people still have the opportunity

Chaplain's message

for a change of mind, a change of heart. This grace was extended even to those who even placed Jesus on the cross.

Indeed, even one of the criminals who was crucified alongside Jesus, came to accept Jesus before he final breath. And, in that moment, tasted the sweet, flavour of eternity with Jesus.

At Easter, we taste the good, the bitter and the sweet. The bitterness lies in the sacrifice Jesus made, enduring a horrific death. But then comes the sweetness – the good – that because of His sacrifice, we can have eternal life – a life that exists past this world, a life with Jesus himself. And what taste could be sweeter than that? Far beyond chocolate!

Wishing you a joyous, sweet Easter.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life,”

(John 3:16).



Rent review

Twice a year, Wesley Community Housing must review our tenants' eligibility for a rental subsidy.

Some of you may have received a letter about this. If you received this letter, this means we must find out your income and calculate your new rent. In this process, there are lots of words used that can be confusing. Here are the meanings of some words we often get questions about:

Market rent:

This is the amount of rent that may be expected for a property, if it was on the private market. We receive these figures from the Department of Communities and Justice.

Commonwealth Rent Assistance (CRA):

This is an income supplement (a bit extra) given to eligible people on Centrelink who live in community housing or in a private rental.

Electronic Verification of Rent (EVOR):

This service allows Wesley Community Housing to tell Centrelink when your rent changes. If you're a tenant of Wesley Community Housing and you've given your consent, you may not need to complete a rent certificate each time your rent changes.

This ensures you receive the full amount of Commonwealth Rent Assistance you're eligible for.

Doing all the good we can:

Celebrating good neighbours

We love seeing our communities “doing all the good we can”. In this section, we're celebrating our neighbours who've been shouted out by their communities for their good deeds. If you'd like to shout out someone in our next newsletter, reach out to the team on **1800 770 602** or email communityhousing@wesleymission.org.au

We're blessed by David's generosity and thoughtfulness in sharing vegetables and bread with his neighbours.

We appreciate Ryan and Sally-Anne for being awesome and sharing her barista skills for her community!

Let's celebrate Matthew, Gary and Richard for all being kind and caring neighbours.

Shout out to Phuong for looking after the community gardens and papaya trees.

A special shoutout goes out to Darren and Brenden from the Royal Botanic Gardens. We've proudly partnered with our green-thumbed friends as part of the Sydney Community Greening Program.

We're appreciative of their ongoing support and commitment to enlivening our tenants' homes, educating us and being an integral part of our Wesley Mission community.



From left: David and Darren, from Royal Botanic Garden's Sydney Community Greening Program.



Brenden, from Royal Botanic Garden's Sydney Community Greening Program.

New look, same team

You may have noticed our newsletter looks a little bit different – that's because Wesley Mission has launched a refreshed brand. We remain the same organisation – a community services provider that support all people across all stages of life.

Our new look celebrates our enduring commitment to do all the good we can because every life matters.

So, if you receive any letters from us, these will most likely feature our new branding. We will be rolling out this exciting change over the next several months and if you have any questions, or would like to pass on feedback, send us an email to communityhousing@wesleymission.org.au



Meet our new Wesley Community Housing team members.



David

Position: Engagement Support Officer
Team: Community Engagement
Area you work mostly: Sydney
What do you love to do in your spare time?
I love to play touch footy.



Sue

Position: Tenancy Officer
Team: Tenancy
Area you work mostly: Sydney
Your favourite person growing up?
Tom Savini, a make-up artist for classic 70/80s' horror.



Paul

Position: Engagement Support Officer
Team: Community Engagement
Area you work mostly: Sydney
What dog breed would you be?
A golden retriever because I'm full of energy!

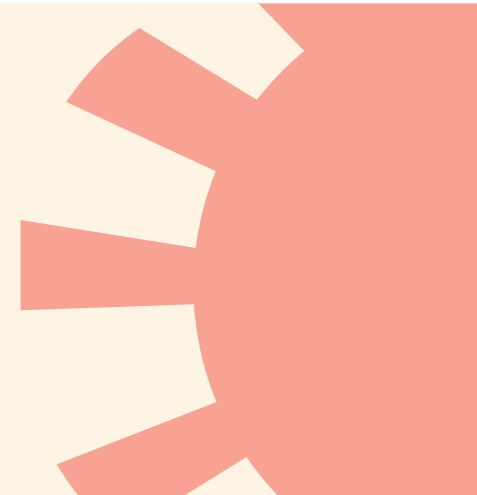


Christina

Position: Engagement Support Officer
Team: Community Engagement
Area you work mostly: Sydney
Which artist do you love to listen to?
I like to listen to the Weeknd when I'm in the car.

In your community:

Community engagement





April is the best month in the year to indulge in baked goods. If you've had enough of hot cross buns, try baking some easy scones at home using this recipe from our tenant, Heidi!



From the garden:

Fresh strawberries and easy scones

Ingredients:

- 3 cups self-raising flour
- 2 cups thick cream
- Store bought jam of your choice.

Method:

- Preheat oven to 200 degrees
- Gently mix the cream and flour together until mixture just comes together
- Turn out onto a floured surface
- Gently knead until mixture is smooth, shape into a 2cm high rectangle
- Use scone cutters or knife to cut into desired shapes
- Use leftover cream to brush top of scones
- Bake for 13-15 minutes, until golden on top
- Cool, and top with jam and cream
- Optional: enjoy with freshly grown strawberries from your community garden.

Check if your strawberries are growing already or reach out to our Community Engagement team on 1800 770 602 to see how we can help your garden flourish. We wouldn't be able to maintain these without the support of our friends from the Botanic Garden's Sydney Community Greening Program.

In your community:

Community engagement

Christmas celebrations! Thank you to everyone who celebrated with us

