If multiculturalism is like having a well-stocked pantry, offering great variety, a depth of flavour and a richer result for the community, then Bentley is a smorgasbord of international flavours!

Turn to page 3 for all the highlights of Bentley Harmony Day 2017!
Welcome to the Autumn edition of the Bentley Buzz.
It’s shaping up to be a busy year for the Bentley Regeneration Project as we move into 2017.

The future of Brownlie Towers remains a priority for the Housing Authority this year. Stay tuned for more updates throughout the year.

Last edition, we told you that Housing would be recovering important artefacts from the old Canning Aquatic Centre, to store them for future use within the regeneration area. This work is now complete, with signs, turnstiles, pool entry rails and concrete seats collected and placed in storage. Keep an eye out for these items in future parklands and other areas of public space inside the regeneration area. These artefacts will help create an important memory link between the old Bentley and the new.

It was great to see so many of you at the Bentley Harmony Day celebrations in March. The World Traveller Passport Activity proved to be a hit with the kids as they learnt fun and interesting facts about different countries including New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Singapore, Africa and China. Also, thank you to all of you who shared your story with us in the “Our Community Guest Book”. We look forward to sharing your stories with the wider community in the coming months.

I hope you enjoyed this edition of the Bentley Buzz. As always, we encourage you to get in touch with us if you have any questions, feedback or stories you’d like to share about your community. You can email us at bentley.regeneration@housing.wa.gov.au.

Garrick Smith
Development Manager – Housing Authority

Housing’s Bentley Regeneration team is investigating new enhancements in sustainability that will ultimately deliver long-term benefits to the environment – and savings for the area’s future residents.

Innovations in water recycling, water saving initiatives, on-site energy production and car usage reduction are areas being explored, which will allow residents to reduce the need to draw on existing water and electricity serves and reduce the cost of private car usage.

We hope that by incorporating some or all of these initiatives within the Bentley Regeneration Project, Bentley’s future residents will be able to realise long-term savings.
**Bentley bursting with multicultural flavour**

Grey skies and a sprinkle of rain couldn’t keep a 2500-strong multicultural crowd from Hedley Park as they gathered to celebrate Bentley Harmony Day on Saturday 18 March.

Hosted by local community group, Bentley Community Focus (BCF), this annual event celebrates and appreciates the unique tastes, sounds and diversity that Bentley’s residents have to offer. It provides an opportunity for people of all backgrounds to come together through live music, international food and cultural performances, and share what we have in common.

Saudi Arabia expatriate and Bentley resident Abdul Alobaid came to Australia with his wife Amanah and son Jack in 2010. Abdul said Harmony Day offered the chance for him and his family to experience different elements of the many cultures that make up the local community.

“The day was very interesting. There were many cultures there, and lots of activities I could do with my son,” said Abdul. “We made cookies. My son ate the cookies and cakes. He liked them.”

Local women of culturally diverse backgrounds now have a new way to connect with each other and the wider community.

**CALD Women of Canning, a new lifestyle group for women aged 40-years and over, has kicked-off in Bentley, and is already attracting a steady following since the group launched in mid-February.**

Group facilitator Danielle Lobo, from Perth-based organisation Ishar, said that programs like this are an important part of any community, especially in areas where there is a high population of multicultural families like the City of Canning.

“The program is a real opportunity for women of all nationalities to come together and be in a space where they feel included, welcomed and heard,” said Danielle. “The group aims to encourage the growing population of culturally diverse women to become self-reliant and active participants in the wider community by providing avenues for them to access services that they may otherwise not know they have access to.”

“The ladies feel empowered, and love the sense of community the group brings.”

“The change we’ve noticed in the women in our other already-established groups, is that they’re growing in confidence, are able to establish better connections with the community, and feel less isolated.”

Danielle said that by encouraging the women to take pride in, celebrate and promote their cultural origins, customs and beliefs, the community at large will be enriched.

This **FREE** group meets every Tuesday (excluding school holidays) from 10.30am to 12.30pm at the Bentley Community Centre (Youth Room, Nyamup Way, Bentley). Interpreters and refreshments are provided.

For more information about the group, or to register your attendance, contact Danielle on 9345 5335 or email projectofficer@ishar.org.au.

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**Did you know...**

There are **people of more than 35 different nationalities** living in Bentley?

The top five countries with the greatest population in Bentley are:

1. **AUSTRALIA** ............... 3179 residents
2. **MALAYSIA** ............... 849 residents
3. **CHINA** ............... 568 residents
   (excluding Special Administrative Regions (SARS) and Taiwan)
4. **UNITED KINGDOM, CHANNEL ISLANDS AND ISLE OF MAN** ............... 547 residents
5. **INDONESIA** ............... 360 residents

Other countries include India, Singapore, Greece, Italy, Vietnam and Egypt.

*2011 ABS Census data*

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**Women’s lifestyle group helps build better connections**

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Paw-lease don’t feed us!

Stray cats, also known as feral cats, live in the wild or on the streets, and have no owner.

While no one wants to see any animal go hungry, many people don’t know that feeding stray cats can negatively impact your health and the native environment.

Here’s why:

- Strays often carry parasites and diseases that could be hazardous to you and your family’s health, such as fleas, hookworms, roundworms, ringworms, and rabies.
- Strays are not vaccinated, and can spread diseases to other animals.
- Strays have unpredictable behaviour and encouraging them near your home increases the chance of someone getting bitten.
- Stray cats are the greatest threat to our native wildlife, and prey on animals such as local birds, small mammals, small lizards and frogs.
- Feeding strays will encourage them to stay in the area, and encourage more to come.

If you find a cat that does not belong to you, do not feed it, and notify the City’s Ranger and Community Safety Services Team on 1300 4 CANNING (1300 422 664).

OUT AND ABOUT IN YOUR COMMUNITY

FAMILIES FIESTA

Celebrate National Families Week and take part in one or many of the activities on offer during the week. Choose from free swimming at the Leisureplexes, storytime, parenting workshops, youth events, and many other great activities for the whole family to enjoy. The full program of activities will be available closer to the date.

Monday 15 May to Sunday 27 May 2017
Various times and locations (see brochure on City of Canning website closer to the event).

ACT BELONG COMMIT WA DAY 2017

Enjoy a day celebrating all the great things about our people, lifestyle, culture and potential. Participate and enjoy blacksmith demonstrations, sheep shearing, bush tucker tastings, native plant craft workshops and community art.

Monday 5 June 2017
11am to 3pm
Kent Street Weir,
Kent Street, Wilson

Cost: FREE

REFUGEE WEEK

Celebrate and experience the rich diversity of refugee communities through music, dance, film and other events.

Sunday 18 June to Saturday 24 June 2017
Various times and locations. [See brochure on City of Canning website closer to the event.]

Shout out!

The Bentley Buzz is your newsletter! Send us your thoughts and suggestions about what you’d like to see in future editions. Tell us what you love about the suburb and your ideas for change – and help direct the future of Bentley!

For more information and other ways to get involved with the Bentley Buzz, email bentley.regeneration@housing.wa.gov.au