

The Gateway Gazette

Strengthening Families, Strengthening Communities

Winter 2026



Bring hope and
warmth to families
this winter

Winter Appeal 2026



Donate

As winter sets in, many families are facing rising costs and difficult choices. Higher electricity bills, food, fuel and the need for warm clothing stretches already tight budgets.

Through our Winter Appeal, we're providing emergency relief to help families in our community stay warm, nourished and supported during the colder months.

With your help, we can ensure no one faces winter alone. Your tax-deductible donation supports local families when it matters most. CLICK THE LINK BELOW TO DONATE:

<https://fundraising.gatewayfamilyservices.org.au/>



We acknowledge and respect the Traditional knowledge holders & custodians of the land on which we work, the Darug & Gundungurra people.



Congratulations Heather Gwilliam, our "Local Senior of the Year"!

We are absolutely thrilled to share that one of our long-serving volunteers, **Heather Gwilliam**, has been awarded the **"Local Senior of the Year Award – Blue Mountains"** for her incredible contribution to Gateway and other organisations like Anglicare.

Heather is not only dedicated – she's also one of the most loved and respected members of our 100-strong volunteer team. Her kindness, positivity and community spirit shine through everything she does.

This award is a wonderful recognition of her many years of service and the impact she continues to make in the lives of local families.

Congratulations – we are so proud of you!



Thank you Peter & Elaine

There was a warm gathering to farewell two of our long serving volunteers, Peter and Elaine, as they prepare for an exciting sea change.

In true Peter-and-Elaine fashion, they asked for donations to our emergency relief pantry instead of gifts – a perfect reflection of their commitment to our community

Even though they're moving out of the area, they're keen to stay connected, so this isn't goodbye. We'll still be seeing them from time to time.



Community Kindness for Mother's Day

Every year, the wonderful women of the **Country Women's Association (CWA) of NSW Glenbrook** generously assemble beautiful Mother's Day pamper packs for the women we support through our Essentials Emergency Relief program.

This year they created **60+ gift boxes**, which will be distributed to vulnerable clients in our community. Over the years these have been received with a lot of gratitude and emotion - for some women, this is the only Mother's Day gift they'll receive. **A heartfelt thank you to the CWA for your ongoing generosity.**



SAVE THE DATE

TRIVIA NIGHT

SAT AUG 29TH @ 7:00 PM
BLAXLAND UNITING CHURCH, 72 OLD BATHURST ROAD

The poster features a dark blue brick background with white horizontal lines above and below the 'SAVE THE DATE' text. A small icon of a megaphone is positioned above the 'TRIVIA NIGHT' text, which is enclosed in a glowing blue rectangular frame. The event details are written in pink and white text at the bottom.





What we're seeing on the frontline of Family Support

In a recent leadership meeting, our Family Support Team Leader Kim shared what her team is seeing on the ground every week.

Their current caseload looks like this:

- **92% of families** are facing mental health challenges
- **85% of families** are living with disability
- **Nearly half** are impacted by domestic and family violence
- **1 in 3** are homeless or at risk of homelessness
- **Almost a quarter** are Aboriginal families managing lateral violence and experiencing intergenerational trauma

Behind every one of those numbers is a family doing their best to hold it all together.

- A parent managing their mental health while caring for children.
- A family navigating disability without enough support.
- A mother finding safety from violence.
- A family unsure where they'll sleep next week.

This is where our dedicated family workers make a difference - providing practical support, advocacy, and connection to help families move forward, one step at a time.

92%
*of our current Family Support caseload

of families are managing mental health challenges



46%
*of our current Family Support caseload

are impacted by domestic and family violence



85%
*of our current Family Support caseload

of families are living with disability



What's going on at Gateway?



We caught up with **Rev Adrian Buggs** at the Springwood Uniting Church to have a chat about a community event we're planning later this year.



Lenore and Mel attended the **"Brunch for Good" fundraiser**, organised by Your Loan Store and with all proceeds supporting The Haven Nepean.



Commerce students from **Penrith Selective High School** set up a small business activity and kindly donated all the proceeds to Gateway.



with social work student Emily



What was your favourite part of placement?

Being afforded the ability to interact with so many clients and helping to make a difference in their lives. Also having unconditional support from a highly qualified team of colleagues has enriched my experience and taught me so many skills that I will use in my future career.

What did you find the most challenging?

Realising the broader structural issues within the social work industry. And how limited resources and funding can restrict the organisations' ability to meet client's needs.

Three words to describe Gateway:

Uplifting, Supportive and Devoted.



What's going on at Gateway?



Our new Art Therapy student Ellis joined our Expressive Therapies team in Katoomba for the start of her field placement this year.



Members of the Gateway team dressed up and celebrated Mardi Gras in style at Katoomba with **Wellways** and **Mountains Youth Services Team**.



Gateway staff and volunteers came together and brought a plate so we could share lunch to celebrate **International Women's Day** in March.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



Thank you

A massive thanks to Danny and Jess from **Walker Real Estate** for their **incredible \$1000 donation** to our Essentials Program!



SUPPORT CHILDREN & FAMILIES IN NEED

Donate

Your kind donation provides food for local families who are doing it tough.

Follow us on social media



www.gatewayfamilyservices.org.au