



# THIS IS LUGARNO

Q2 2026 (May)

## What is the Lugarno Progress Association?

The Lugarno Progress Association (LPA) was founded in 1922. It is actually an incorporated not-for-profit community group run by volunteers.



Lugarno is a strong community with almost 6,000 residents, who are proud of the natural beauty of our peninsular suburb and its rich history and indigenous heritage. The main objective of the LPA is to act in the best interests of the ratepayers and residents of Lugarno, consistent with its motto *“Lugarno, naturally beautiful”*. It advocates on behalf of Lugarno residents to preserve or improve for its residents, the amenity and environment of the suburb.

The association relies on information and support from the residents of Lugarno to decide annual advocacy and focus areas. The monthly LPA meetings provide an opportunity for locals to unite and vocalise any resident concerns and to also listen to interesting guest speakers on varying topics. Throughout the year, volunteers organise community events to encourage connection and community spirit. Any new ideas for event and suburb improvements are welcome in our meetings or via email.

You are welcome to attend any of our community events or our monthly meetings (the 1st Monday of every month from 7pm for a 730pm start at church hall of Lugarno Anglican church, except January or December or public holidays). Only members have voting rights. So join today to support our volunteer work and stay informed for \$15 (min) for 1 year, or \$30 (min) for 3 years. Head to our website [lugarnoprogress.au](http://lugarnoprogress.au) to join as a member (or ask for a paper application form).

**“Help keep Lugarno beautiful by joining the Lugarno Progress Association and getting involved.”**

RIVERWOOD POLICE STATION: 02 9717 5399  
GEORGES RIVER COUNCIL: 02 9330 6400

## DON'T FORGET...

- Do you own a historically significant item that you would be prepared to donate or lend to the LPA so that we can digitise and index it into our Lugarno Historical archives collection? Do your neighbours know of this project?
- We are seeking the help of a volunteer to help with grant applications.

## Upcoming events - Save the Date

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2026: The launch of Lugarno's History Bushwalks.** Join a bushwalk departing 9am from Chivers Hill shops led by historian Ron Denhom, and/or gather at 11am for morning tea at Webbs Dam Evatt Park with special guest MP Zhi Soon.

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2026: National Schools Tree Day from 9am.** Bring your gloves and green thumb spirit to help tidy up the garden beds at Lugarno Public School.

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2026: Celebrate National Tree Day in Gannons Park from 10am.** Council are organising the planting of natives, plus a BBQ & refreshments.

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> August 2026: Thai Social Dinner at 7pm:** Meet at Lugarno Thai Restaurant at Lime Kiln shops for a banquet plus trivia night with local friends.

### Details coming soon....

Subject to support from the community and volunteer help, the LPA can repeat some prior events such as our Young Local Leaders and Kids Market and a CFU & Bushfire Education Community Seminar.

Please email us on [contact@lugarnoprogress.au](mailto:contact@lugarnoprogress.au) if any of these events personally interest you and you wish to help us organise it for Lugarno residents in 2026.

This newsletter is currently published quarterly by volunteers. To contribute to our articles or news, or offer ideas or photos, please send before mid-Aug to meet the next edition deadline. Our advertising rates are very reasonable. We offer 1/8th of a page for \$30 (for 2 quarterly editions). To book potential advertising please email us. Bookings will be made in order of receipt. We also welcome donations to assist with future printing costs. Volunteers needed for letterbox drops.



## Anzac Day

Article by LPA General Committee Member Keith Robb

A very well arranged and presented ceremony was attended by two representatives of the LPA along with a host of other dignitaries. These included our State and Federal political members, RSL senior office bearers, a Warrant Officer from the Army and a P&C representative.

The ceremony consisted of video screenings and addresses by some of the guests. All through the ceremony, senior students were involved. In all it was a very moving and informative ceremony.

A highlight of the ceremony was the story of a Western Australian army volunteer. He was captured during the fall of Singapore and treated like a slave on the Hell Fire Pass railway. At its completion he and a number of other survivors were being transported in the hull of a cargo ship to work in the Japanese coal mines. An American submarine mistook the vessel to be a Japanese cargo ship carrying supplies to Japan. They had no idea that the holds held prisoners of war. Somehow, the Australian soldier managed to get off the ship, found a piece of timber to cling to, and drifted for three days without food or water before being rescued and cared for by an American vessel. When found, he and the other survivors were covered in oil slick, emaciated and near death. Surprisingly, he eventually made his way home and lived to become a centurion.

The ceremony concluded with the laying of wreaths by the visiting dignitaries and student representatives of each year. A further wreath laying was conducted by the Principal, the school captain and prefects and LPA representatives at the William Cross memorial.

The overall and powerful message throughout was “Lest We Forget”.



## The Campaign for Glenlee Continues

Article by LPA President Linda Simon

The campaign to preserve Glenlee continues, with Friends of Glenlee (FOG), supported by the LPA, recently holding a community meeting, visiting State and Federal MPs, and speaking to a meeting of Georges River Council. Subsequent to that meeting, Council unanimously carried a motion calling on the Minister for the Environment and Heritage Penny Sharpe, to commit to placing an interim Heritage Order on Glenlee immediately in the event that a Development Application is lodged. Friends of Glenlee have also raised this issue with the Minister by letter, reminding her of her commitment to protect Glenlee in the case of “an imminent threat”.

The motion also called on Council to contact Senator Malarndirri McCarthy, Minister for Indigenous Australians, to advise her of the likely presence of Aboriginal artefacts on the site. The Council is also asked to seek urgent funding commitments from the state and federal governments for the public acquisition of Glenlee.

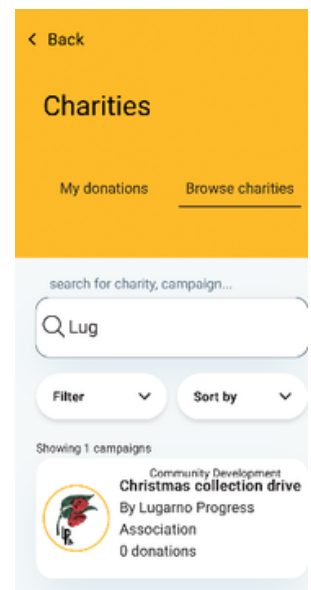
Thanks to Councillors Peter Mahoney and Matt Allison for continuing to keep this matter before Council. Councillor Mahoney made the point in an interview with the Leader: “I look forward to a cash injection by the state or federal government or both, to save Glenlee Lugarno for the current and future generations”.

## Return and Earn

LPA is now registered with the Return and Earn Program. This means that if you collect 10c bottles and cans, you can choose to donate the monies to our community group. We encourage you to give it a go! To donate to the LPA you must use the app.

Set the app “active payout” to donation. Below is the charity donation page to fast-track searching for us at your nearest refund point. Begin typing “Lug” and the LPA name will be displayed.

Keep in mind that if you don't have the app and just press the donation button on the machine, 100 per cent of your refund will be donated to their major fundraising appeal which is currently Children's Medical Research Institute (Jeans for Genes).



## Music in Evatt Park: A Vibrant Celebration of Talent & Community

Article by LPA Social Media Manager Teanna Danculovic

On Sunday 29th March 2026 from 2pm, the Lugarno Progress Association (LPA) hosted an outdoor music concert in Evatt Park. With grant funding from Georges River Council a large production was organised with temporary stage installation, food/drink vendors, professional entertainment, and a public marketing campaign.

The LPA would like to thank everyone who attended, as well as those who volunteered their time before, during and after the event to make it a success and allow the community to have such a fabulous day. We were blessed to have sunny and non-windy weather during the event which enhanced the atmosphere and ambience on the day. It was a thoroughly relaxed day which the audience enjoyed from the comfort of their picnic rugs and chairs. The backdrop of Webbs Dam provided a picturesque and naturally beautiful setting.

It was lovely to see so many locals unite with their friends and family and catch up with neighbours. This LPA event was the perfect opportunity for locals to gather together, share stories, and have a good yarn listening to familiar songs amongst nature.

We were joined on the day by Peakhurst Ward Councillor Matt Allison who represented Georges River Council, and shared an update on the ongoing campaign to "Save Glenlee".

Thank you Councillor Allison for your dedication to improve our neighborhood and your political efforts to make Lugarno even more beautiful for future generations.

We must also acknowledge the incredible kindness of the Lugarno Lions Club. Volunteers from the Lions Club arrived early to assist the LPA with setting up and stayed after the event to help with packing down the equipment and cleaning up rubbish. Dressed in their distinctive Lions Club uniforms, their friendly smiles and helpful hard-working nature were hard to miss.

Thank you, Lugarno Lions, for your ongoing support to the LPA and our community. Your kindness and generosity to donate your time and resources is greatly appreciated by the community.



If you love Lugarno and would like our suburb to be able to repeat the Music in Evatt Park event, please reach out and offer to volunteer for the next one. Without locals chipping in, then we are unable to repeat this concert.

If you do not have the time to assist in organising the next production, then head to our website and join as a member so that you can provide financial support and be kept in the loop for upcoming events, including music, so that you don't miss out.

*The LPA would like to extend a massive thank you to the performers for entertaining us all. Plus the volunteers that chipped in to plan in advance and on the day and help make the event run smoothly.*





## Local Musical Talent..

The event program was a truly amazing combination of local talent. We enjoyed an introductory set performance by The D'lights, who welcomed us warmly with their incredible pop vocals. The D'lights are a retro and pop cover band consisting of 3 singers and a guitarist (with 3 of them from the same family!). Their song selection included a mix of old classics from Cher, KC & the Sunshine Band and Bette Midler which were integrated seamlessly with modern covers from Dua Lipa, Jesse J, Justin Timberlake and Bruno Mars.

It was wonderful to have such delightful youthful voices singing from the local Lugarno Public School choir. Plus the music ensemble from Georges River College showcased their band's modern collection of songs. Inviting local youth provides the opportunity for students to build their performing skills to a large audience. They all performed with immense professionalism and we appreciate the hours of rehearsals that they invested to present a polished show. We wish you all the best of luck with your future musical endeavors.

Finally, to complete the musical lineup, we were treated to an hour-long set by local brothers Noel and Paul Mason, drummer Warren Trout and keyboardist Shannon Stitt. They have all individually achieved outstanding success in the music industry locally and worldwide.

Paul Mason is a renowned Australian guitarist that has been a finalist in the National Jazz Awards, and is a current guitarist with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra. He has performed extensively with Jessica Mauboy and alongside international artists such as Sting and Harry Connick Jr. His brother Noel Mason is an ARIA-award-winning bassist and graduate of the Manhattan School of Music and has also performed with Jessica Mauboy and Sting. As a 2-time National Jazz Awards finalist, he is also a member of The Vampires (whose album won the ARIA Award for Best Jazz Album).

Drummer Warren is highly respected in the Australian music industry and has performed with the likes of Dragon and Jimmy Barnes.

Shannon Stitt is an accomplished and iconic Australian musician and keyboardist known for his work with Uncle Jed, Human Nature and Mental As Anything.

Thank you all so much for entertaining us and sharing your talent. Playing a combination of originals and covers, their vocals combined with the band's tight instrumentation, made for an uplifting musical experience. At one point their dad Ken Mason, long time LPA member and former president, also joined them on stage for some classic rock songs from the old school era.

## Lugarno's History: Webbs Dam

Article by LPA Social Media Manager Teanna Danculovic

Webbs Dam has a long historic link in Evatt Park. It was named after Ernie Webb who ran market gardens. This portion of the park was marked as a place on a map in 1951 (G. Blewett). Following the discovery, a football field was added (1967), a parking area added by Hurstville Council (1968), and in 1971, LPA announced its expansion and growth into practical and functional sporting fields for the neighbourhood (G. Blewett). Evidently, there was a team effort since 1951, to make Evatt Park all that it is nowadays. For example, Lugarno Lions Club, building the playground in 1974 (G. Blewett).

The old Dam was supposed to be additional playing fields, however, LPA had other ideas for Webbs Dam (G. Blewett). Such as, a recreational area. Therefore, today, we have an area for ducks and nature's wildlife, potential picnic areas, and walking routes. Webbs Dam is a bush area, which is significant and symbolic part of Lugarno's and Evatt Park's natural and luscious bush which surrounds us all.

### References:

Graham Blewett. *Lugarno History: Parks – Evatt.* Paragraph 1. <https://sites.google.com/site/lugarnohistory/home/parks> Date accessed: 14/5/26.





## Lugarno FC 2026 Season Begins

Article by LPA Treasurer Tim Roff

The grass is cut, the lines are marked and the balls are pumped up! Yes - Lugarno Football Club's 2026 football season has just kicked off. ***But do you know the history of the club?***

The origins of the Lugarno Football Club can be traced back to 1962 when the club's 'Fourfathers' – Bill McAfee, Ken Derrett, Harry Brown and Cyril Henness - pledged to bring the world's soccer game to Lugarno. A meeting was held for all interested residents at the Progress Association Hall in Lime Kiln Road. On the back of this, the club registered 4 teams in 1963 and actually played some home games at Taylors Reserve that year.

In 1964, the 9B's and 8C's became the club's first premiership winning sides. In 1966 the club was able to re-locate full-field games to Gannons Park. The club's complete relocation to Gannons Park was completed in 1975 when a mini-field was installed allowing the club to leave the historic Taylor Reserve.

The first uniform consisted of a turquoise blue jersey, white shorts and blue and white hoop socks. In early 1975, the club decided to purchase tangerine shirts to match the tangerine shorts introduced in 1970. Today, the club is instantly recognisable across the fields of the St George area with their distinctive tangerine uniforms. As a mark of respect to the historic club colours, the club's training jerseys retain the turquoise blue colour.

In 2011, the club achieved a historic goal, winning the Premiership in the men's Premier League competition. Plus through the decades 79 Life Members have been inducted. These awards are presented for either years of playing for the club as well as for significant contributions as volunteers. Lugarno Football Club celebrated its 60th year in 2022 which saw the introduction of a new club logo reflecting the modern club.

This season the club fields over 60 teams, with more than 800 players in age groups from the under 5's to over 45's. Female players are now a significant component of the club, no doubt inspired by the recent success of the Matildas!

The spirit of volunteerism is alive and evident as the club is run by a dedicated group of volunteers both on the Committee as well as setting-up fields, coaching and running the canteen.

As we commence this season, we look back at the great history of the club and remember the importance of community sport at all levels to promote physical and mental health of our members, volunteers and supporters.

## Women, Gardens & Agency in Imperial Russia

Extract from the book written by LPA Secretary Katja Heath

<https://www.bloomsbury.com/au/women-gardens-and-agency-in-imperial-russia-9781350544505>

This non-fiction book (published by Bloomsbury Academic) is out for sale on May 15th 2026. It explores how a woman used her garden to influence politics in the conservative nineteenth century. The Australian connections are very intriguing — particularly how Governor Macquarie and Joseph Banks used Australian plants as diplomatic signals. For example, Banks sent New Zealand flax to suggest Britain's plans to cultivate it in NSW, reducing reliance on Russian flax, which was essential for naval ropes and sails.

*“Do you know that the plants you pass on a bushwalk along the Georges River may have cousins that once sat in the palace gardens of an imperial Russian empress? In the nineteenth century, plants from the colony of New South Wales were used as instruments of diplomacy, sent as carefully calculated gifts between governors, kings, and empresses, carrying political meanings that went far beyond their beauty.*

*We don't know exactly which plants Governor Lachlan Macquarie chose when he packed a selection from his garden onto Russian naval vessels departing Port Jackson in 1820. But we know he sent them, and we know why. Macquarie made a practice of sending plants from his own collection to rulers across Europe, not as casual gestures, but as deliberate acts of self-promotion, designed to enhance his own prestige and project New South Wales as a flourishing, sophisticated colony worth knowing. He did the same within the colony itself, hoarding seeds of agricultural plants to exchange for power and influence with local landowners. The recipient on this occasion was Empress Maria Feodorovna of Russia, one of the most influential women in Europe and, conveniently, a passionate botanist.”*

### How the meeting happened...

*“The connection came about almost by chance. In 1820, Russian naval vessels on a Pacific exploration voyage stopped at Port Jackson. Their commander, Captain Mikhail Vasiliev, was received by Macquarie, and during their meeting conversation turned to the Empress and her well-known love of botany. Macquarie quickly arranged for plants from his own garden in the Domain, the land that would later become the Royal Botanic Garden Sydney, to be sent aboard the ships when they left, along with a note emphasising their quality and their origins in the colony. When they arrived at Pavlovsk, Maria Feodorovna's magnificent estate outside St Petersburg, those plants became part of one of the great gardens of imperial Russia. Whatever they were, they had made an extraordinary journey, from the shores of Port Jackson to the heart of European imperial power.”*

### The Plant That Threatened an Empire...

*“The most politically charged botanical exchange involving New South Wales had come earlier, and it centred on a plant many of us know well. New Zealand flax (*Phormium tenax*) is common along the Georges River foreshore and throughout the bushland of our area. To nineteenth-century eyes, however, it was something explosive.*

*Joseph Banks had first brought the plant to European attention after accompanying James Cook on his circumnavigation in the 1760s. Banks immediately grasped its strategic significance: its fibres were extraordinarily strong, far superior to ordinary flax, and Britain had a serious vulnerability. It depended heavily on Russia for the flax used to make rope and sailcloth for its navy. Banks began promoting New Zealand flax as the solution, and he even argued that one reason to settle New South Wales was to establish a nursery for the plant, growing it for use across the British Empire and ending dependence on Russian supplies altogether.*

*Against that backdrop, the decision in 1785 to send New Zealand flax as a gift from King George III to Empress Maria Feodorovna looks very different from a simple gesture of goodwill. On the surface it was friendly and botanical. Underneath, it carried a quiet but unmistakable signal: Britain was working to make itself independent of Russian flax. The gift said “we value your friendship”, while also whispering “we are planning to no longer need you.”*

*Maria Feodorovna appears to have understood perfectly. The plant was not tucked away in a greenhouse. It was displayed inside the Pavlovsk palace itself, accompanied by samples of manufactured flax fibre and materials demonstrating what the plant could produce. That careful staging was not accidental. This was a gift designed to be read politically, not merely admired.”*



### Gardens as Political Spaces...

*“These exchanges are at the heart of my new book, *Women, Gardens, and Agency in Imperial Russia: Empress Maria Feodorovna's Pavlovsk Park (1777–1828)*, to be published by Bloomsbury Academic in May. The book argues that in the nineteenth century, when women were formally excluded from most political life, gardens became something remarkable: spaces where women could think and act with real political intention. Through the plants she cultivated, the monuments she commissioned, and the gifts she received and gave, Maria Feodorovna engaged in diplomacy and exercised political influence, even if history has often overlooked it.*

*The connections to our own corner of the world give this story a particular resonance. The flax growing beside the Georges River, the unknown plants *Macquarie* gathered and sent halfway around the world, these were not just specimens. They were arguments, overtures, and strategies, dressed up as flowers. Next time you pass them on a walk, they might look a little different.”*

### Did you know?

- RecycleSmart have recently opened up the Pink Market at their Sydney Warehouse at 1-3 Ricketty Street Mascot. Every Tuesday-Friday between 9am-1pm you can buy preloved items at accessible prices: books, vinyl, CDs, clothing, entertainment, homewares - you name it! These high quality items are saved from landfill. Instead of getting it recycled straightaway, they're given another shot to be loved. New stock drops weekly offering the local Sydney community fresh finds and bargains for a sustainable circular economy.
- After years of advocacy and a groundswell of public pressure, the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) recently recommended the removal of the most dangerous rat poisons, Second-Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides (SGARS), from retail shelves. Bunnings announced they will be the first major Australian retailer to remove these products following the regulator's recommendation. LPA (as well as Oatley Flora and Fauna Conservation Society (OFF) has supported this campaign for years. To encourage the Minister to sign it off, take 3 minutes to add your voice by completing the [Birdlife Australia proforma](#).



## Completion of Stronger Communities Grant

Article by LPA President Linda Simon

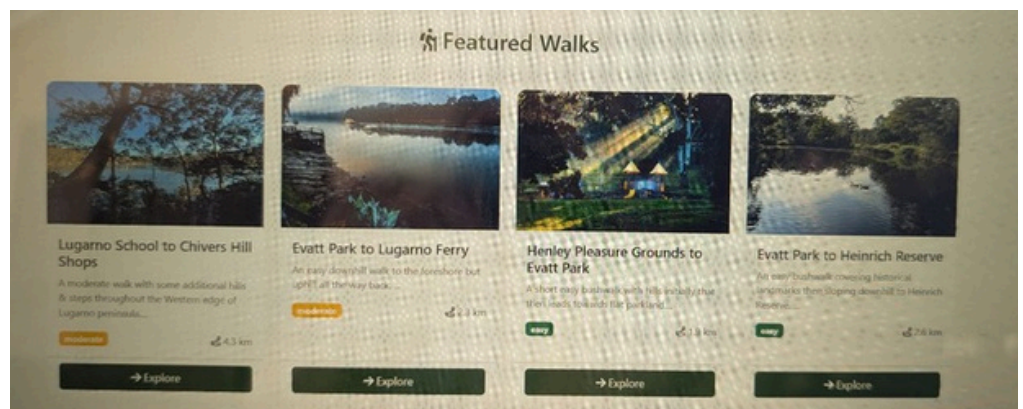
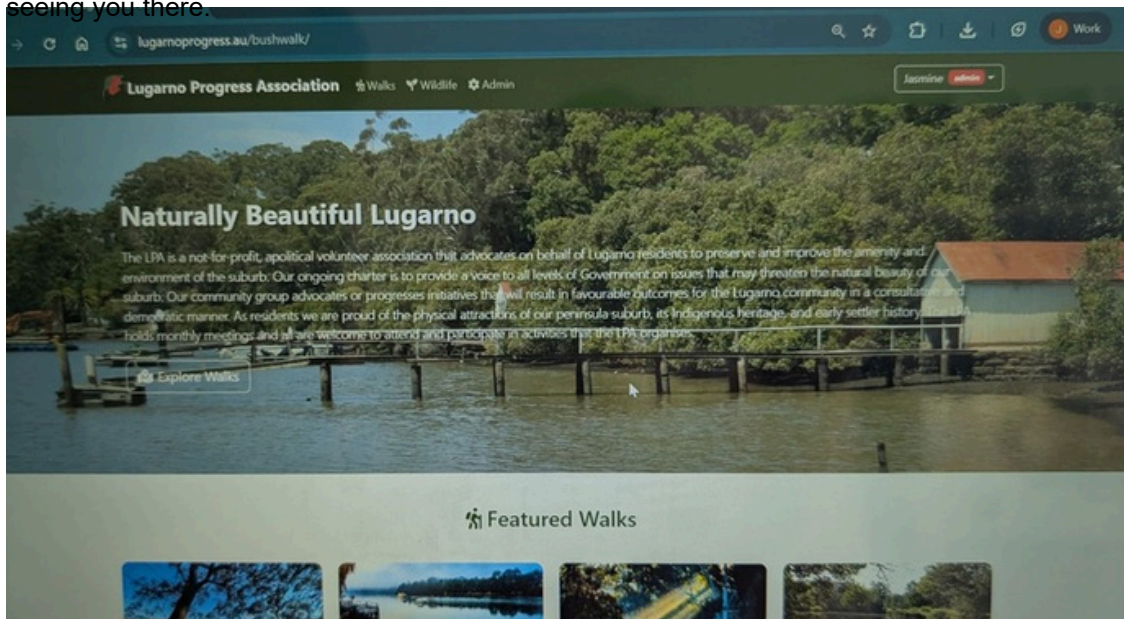
The LPA has completed our project funded by the Federal Government’s Stronger Communities Grant, and submitted our final report. We have created 5 bushwalk/community walks around Lugarno and these have been included in our website. You can find the details of these history themed bushwalks by heading to our website at <https://lugarnoprogress.au/bushwalk/>

The walks include overall instructions, a Google My Map with interactive locations, photos of sights along the walk and information about the local flora and fauna to be found. The information traces the history of Lugarno in these locations, and the photos provide highlights of the beautiful spots along the way – the bush, the river, the birds and the local vegetation.

We thank those who contributed most of the information and photos to the project – Glenyss Barnham, Leo Rutishauser, Rob Annesley, Ron Denholm and Ross Simon. As well, we thank those who created the project on the website – Aakriti Subedi, Arni Theophile and Jasmine Theophile.

Given the difficulties our original project, Historical Markers, had to meet with certain Georges River Council specifications and procedures we think we have done an amazing job in bringing the project in on time and in creating a wonderful informative set of bushwalks/community walks. We hope to expand into further walks next year, such as creating Lugarno unique insect-finding adventure walks and activities aimed at Lugarno’s young residents.

You can use the bushwalks now, but the LPA are organising a formal launch at Evatt Park on Sunday 28 June. The launch will include some food and drinks from 11.00 am, preceded by a walk at 9am (leaving from the Chivers Hill Shops, Lugarno led by historian Ron Denholm). The Federal Member for Banks, Zhi Soon MP, has agreed to attend the launch, as the project was conducted with funding provided by the Federal Government. Put the date in your diaries now and we look forward to seeing you there.





## Home Support Services

Article by LPA Assistant Treasurer Jasmine Theophile

During our April LPA community meeting on Monday 4th April, we had the pleasure to hear from Care Concierge Kate Montgomerie of Care and Co Match. Their services are nationwide and include some of the following:

- Learning what home support funding or subsidies you are eligible for
- applying and activating services and providers
- short listing aged care homes
- outsourcing administration stress

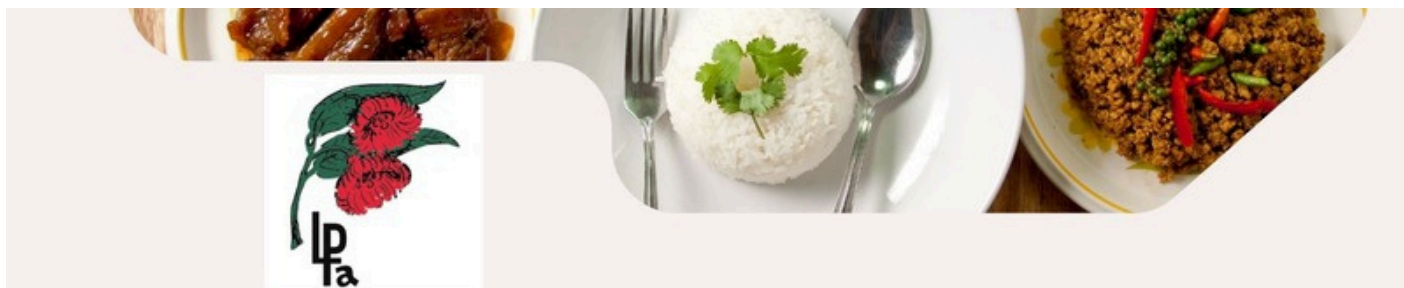
Head to [www.careandcomatch.com.au](http://www.careandcomatch.com.au) to learn more about this national company and their nationwide services.

### Don't Forget...

**Saturday 20th June Weed Whackers** 8am-10.30am. Murdoch Cresc Reserve, Lugarno. Spend a morning tackling weeds at this place in Lugarno where the Georges River meets Salt Pan Creek. Help is needed to keep the weeds creeping in. Bring gloves, hat and water.

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2026 is Planet Ark's National SCHOOL Tree Planting Day.** Are you available to do gardening at Lugarno Public School from 9am? Email your RSVP asap.

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2026 is Planet Ark's National Tree Day.** Join for Bushcare's biggest event of the year to plant native trees, shrubs and groundcovers. Located off Boatwright Avenue, next to the carpark. Just bring your gloves, hat and water, and help plant trees for the future.



# JOIN US FOR A LOCAL SOCIAL NIGHT OUT THAI DINNER

Saturday 15th August 2026 at 7pm

Lugarno Thai Restaurant, 14 Lime Kiln Rd Lugarno NSW

*Fun trivia games will be played on the night with winner prizes*

RSVP asap via email

[contact@lugarnoprogress.au](mailto:contact@lugarnoprogress.au)

(payment details provided closer to the date)

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