

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**Western Weekender**  
**13 December 2023**



## **Saints thanks superstar volunteer workforce**

Smiles, laughter and huge heartfelt thanks was declared at Saints Signatures Community Christmas Luncheon, held on Tuesday, 12 December.

This annual 'thank you' event saw 130 local community care, support workers, volunteers and assistance recipients join together to celebrate and acknowledge the selfless work of these organisations, supported by Saints through ClubGRANTS.

The luncheon was developed by the St Marys Rugby League Club Board of Directors and Michael Lau, owner of Signatures Catering Group. Santa Claus made a guest cameo appearance.

This is the third year Mr Lau has been involved, with Signatures donating all the lunch cuisine as well as almost 100 Christmas gifts and prizes for Tuesday's event.

Board president Warren Smith thanked those in attendance for their crucial work, while Mr Lau recognised the continual assistance and support of these workers over a long buffet lunch and beverages.

"We are thankful for all those that do wonderful work in the community and we wanted to give something back to the frontline workers as well as the disadvantaged kids," Mr Lau said.

"I thank our staff and suppliers for making this happen and we look forward to making it a bigger event next year."

Saints Marketing Manager Giulia Barron reflected on the scope of work of these organisations provide.

"These volunteers are remarkable, they spend time away from their own loved ones to help others," Ms Barron said.

"They are change makers in our community, they take immediate action when or wherever its needed and Saints is very proud and happy to support them.

"Everyone here today has, and continues to, provide a source of stability through difficult times and we thank you for your work."

*Continued p2*

Organisations in attendance which Saints supports through ClubGRANTS included:

- Your Community Needs
- Mama Lana's
- Our Community Cares
- Penrith Community Kitchen
- The Haven Women's Shelter
- PCYC Penrith
- Westcare
- NADO Disability Services
- The Northcott Society

CEO of Penrith CBD Corp, Gai Hawthorn OAM, thanked organisers saying “it’s vitally important for us to continue working with our partners and we’re very grateful to them”.

Penrith CBD Corp focusses on offering support for small businesses, by linking the right people with businesses to ‘invest in the west’ spurring economic growth.

Denise Heath, CEO of NADO Disability Services, said community support enables them to provide valuable services for children and adults with disabilities.

She mentioned recent funding by Saints which enabled NADO to purchase a Liberty Swing for kids and adults in wheelchairs.

“It’s a fantastic association with have with Saints and we’re very grateful for the support the club gives us.”

The Liberty Swing is a world-first Australian innovation that allows children in wheelchairs to enjoy the opportunity, mobility and sheer joy of having a swing in an outdoor park.

St Marys Rugby League Club, through its Saints Cares and ClubGRANTS programs, has this year provided more than \$800,000 to community organisations to ensure their valuable work continues in our district.

“Community is at the heart of what we do here at Saints and these events are a simple way of just saying thank you,” Ms Barron added.



Continued p3



**First image:** St Marys Rugby League Club (l-r) Director John Burns, Chairman Warren Smith and Signatures' Michael Lau with Santa.

**Images left to right then down the page thereafter:**

2. Your Community Needs
3. Signatures' Buffet dining room
4. PCYC Penrith
5. Mama Lana's
6. NADO Disability Services
7. Our Community Cares



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