



Tenant Talk

A quarterly newsletter for all Housing Trust tenants

September 2015

International Food & Culture Day



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On 23rd July 2015 more than 150 tenants and community members joined us at the Housing Trust for a celebration of International Food and Culture. Housing Trust tenants originate from more than 60 countries and this event showcased our commitment to diversity, inclusion and respect.

Partnering with local volunteers from SCARF (Strategic Community Assistance to Refugee Families), the event featured local performers such as The Keira High Diamonds Choir, Iraqi rapper Saif al-Temeemi and the beautiful Balinese dancer Sisca Hunt (pictured above).

Highlights of the day included an array of delicious international food served for lunch and a short film called 'Home' that was produced by staff member Arif Khan. The film interviewed tenants and members of the community about their journey to find a new home in Australia and explored the importance of safe and secure housing. Staff member Arif said, "we have a beautiful and unique community which was on full display at the event."

We thank everyone who participated in the day and we invite you to contact our community engagement worker Claire Palmer 4254 1121 or clairep@housingtrust.org.au if you would like to get involved next year.

Tenant catch up— Pauline

We would like to share a little bit about Pauline

What are your hobbies?

There are many things I enjoy doing and that keep me busy, such as reading and being part of a book club, knitting, crosswords, socialising over lunches, and I often meet my sister in town.

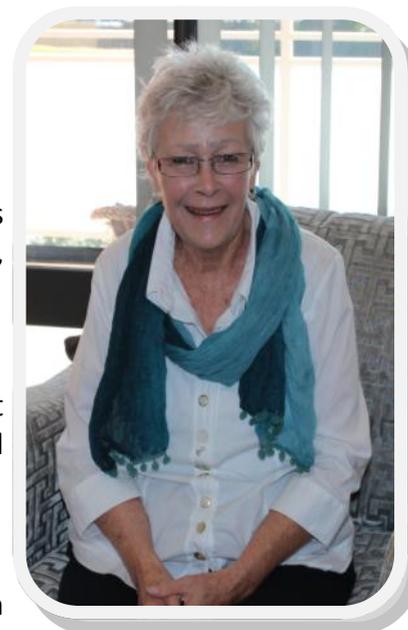
Tell us about the community where you live?

I live in a community of tenants who love to socialise and support each other. I have some great neighbours who regularly have social gatherings where everyone attends and pitches in with food.

What do you like about being a tenant of the Housing Trust?

Being a tenant with the Housing Trust has given me some security in my 'old age' and I feel happy and confident in my new home.

I enjoy the social aspect of where I live and the best part about my home is the extraordinary views from the balcony and the birdlife.



Tenant Talk would like to thank Pauline for her time and for regularly participating in Housing Trust events. Pauline's story highlights the importance of having great neighbours and connecting with your local community. If you'd like to share your story through Tenant Talk, why not contact us? We'd love to hear from you.

GARDEN

Corrimal Community Garden



We are excited to announce that our community garden project located at 32 Eager St Corrimal is finally underway! The garden is open to all Housing Trust tenants and other community members who live locally and would like to get involved.

The community garden will be a shared space to grow vegetables and fresh herbs in our raised garden beds, built with up-cycled and recycled materials and using all organic matter to even make our own soil! Check out our Facebook video for our first 'how to clip' which shares how to build your own raised garden bed for less than \$30.

Working with Access Community Group we will be conducting regular planning days and community working bees at the garden site once a month until February 2016. There will be community led workshops each month. All tools, equipment, sunscreen, plus a sausage sizzle lunch are provided on the day! Our next working bee is Friday 23rd October.

This is a great opportunity to meet other people, learn new skills and grown your own fruit and veggies! Participation is completely free and everyone is welcome. Please call Claire Palmer 4254 1121 for more information on getting involved in the garden.

Housing Trust Education Scholarships

The Housing Trust has recently established a new Education Scholarship program to help families with education and training expenses. Applications are now open to students 18 years or under, who live in a Housing Trust property, and who are completing a HSC or trade qualification in 2016.

We have a limited number of scholarships available and applications close at 5pm on Friday 20th October 2015. If you did not receive an application form or just want to find out more information on how you can apply, please contact Claire Palmer 4254 1121.

FEE-FREE Scholarships at TAFE

Do you want to study at TAFE without paying a course fee?* If you're aged between 15 and 30, have left school and are getting a payment or allowance from the Commonwealth Government, you may be eligible for a Smart and Skilled Fee-Free Scholarship. This means you can get a qualification without paying a course fee*.

No application is required just **Call TAFE Illawarra on 1300 766 123.**

**This scholarship covers tuition and student fees. It does not include textbooks, uniforms and transport. This training is subsidised by the NSW Government.*

If you're thinking about studying in 2016, why not explore your career options and find out what's on offer at TAFE Illawarra by going along to the TAFE Choices Day on Saturday 21 November, 9am to 1pm at Wollongong campus.

Recipe— Stuffed Jacket Potatoes

Ingredients

4 large potatoes, scrubbed

Suggested fillings:

- Frozen peas (steamed) can of sweet corn (drained) mixed with light sour cream
- Mixture of diced tomatoes, white onion & ham with a bolognaisse pasta sauce or light sour cream
- Warmed baked beans, and grated reduced fat cheese

Method

1. Pierce the potatoes several times.
2. To cook the potatoes in a microwave oven, place them on a microwave ovenproof dish. Cook on high until tender (15–20 minutes). Or to cook the potatoes in a conventional oven, place on an oven tray and bake at 180°C until tender (about 1 hour).
3. Cut the potatoes in half. Scoop out the flesh from the centre, leaving a 1 cm shell.
4. Place the potato flesh in a bowl and mash with the potato masher or fork.
5. Add the filling ingredients to potato mixture and stir to combine.
6. Spoon the filling into the potato shells.
7. Place back on the baking tray and bake at 180°C until heated through and golden brown (about 15 minutes) or 5 minutes in a microwave oven.





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Employment opportunity for Housing Trust residents

Would you like to work for an organisation which provides homes, builds communities, creates opportunities and enriches lives? If so, the Housing Trust is looking for a tenant or a household member who is ready to launch themselves into a new career.

Property Maintenance Traineeship

- Earn while you learn
- Central Wollongong location
- Supportive and friendly team environment

The Housing Trust is looking for a tenant or household member to join our Property Services team. This 12-month, full-time traineeship provides on-the-job work experience while you complete a Certificate III in Property Services (Operations) through on-line learning.

What will I be doing?

You will be working with a great team of people to make sure our tenants' homes are well maintained by: visiting and inspecting properties; collecting data and planning maintenance; using hand tools to perform small maintenance repairs; and speaking to tenants about their maintenance needs.

How do I find out more?

If you are a current tenant or live in a Housing Trust property and would like more information about this opportunity, please call Marilyn at the Housing Trust on 4254 1166 between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday or email marilyni@housingtrust.org.au with your contact details.

Tenant satisfaction survey—thank you!

We'd like to say a big thank you to everyone who recently completed our annual Tenant Satisfaction Survey. Around 45% of all tenants completed the survey. The survey is one really important way for us to receive feedback on our services and a report is currently being prepared to collate all the results. In the next edition of Tenant Talk, we should be ready to present the results and also announce the lucky winners of 10 gift vouchers.



Housing Trust is now on Facebook!

We like to share events and photos with you when they happen. Sometimes we'll include different topics you might find interesting or helpful.

You'll find us at www.facebook.com/thehousingtrust.

www.housingtrust.org.au