

Community Housing Tenant Network News

Vol.14

September 2009

NSW COMMUNITY HOUSING TENANT NETWORK AGM

This was held at the Ashfield Club on 22nd June, 2009. Our inaugural constitution was accepted.

A report of the year's activities was given by the chairperson and Peter Harris, the tenant representative from North Coast, spoke about Homelessness. We broke into groups to discuss the future of community housing and many hopes and fears were raised.

Tenants at the AGM discussed their hopes and fears for the future of community housing. They came up with some very important points. They feared that as providers grow that they will become more corporate

and for profit and will lose their personal touch. They were worried that we might end up with only 2 or 3 very large community housing providers left. They hoped that growth would mean more housing for more people and reduced waiting lists.

They hoped that growth would also mean that providers will get stronger, more organised, and more sustainable and that tenants will get stronger and more organised. All good stuff and Adam had a job trying to get us to go to lunch as the discussions were so interesting.

Our sincere thanks to all who attended.

Newly elected Tenant Network Representatives



Newly elected Tenant Network representatives and supporters (from left to right) Allan Rankmore, Robert Bembrick, Nelson Cabrera, Pamela Pryor, Maria Barrios, Khalida Tomas, Malcolm Pollard, Susan Lucock, Martha Ghaly-Szabo, Dale Robertson, Nellie Talaman and Peter Harris (Not pictured: John Evans, Greg Dollin, Leslie Fuller and David Solomons)

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Affordable Community housing	Allan Rankmore		02 9628 6721	0406 291 766	allanrankmore@optusnet.com.au
Argyle Community housing	Dale Robertson	PO Box 968 Campbelltown, NSW 2560			
BRIDGE	Pamela Pryor				Ladybushranger@clearview.com
BRIDGE	John Evans		02 9799 7812	0422 174 165	
Central Tablelands	Greg Dollin		02 6372 1124		Gregdollin1961@dodo.com.au
Hume	Khalida Tomas		02 9753 4514	0401 270 773	
Hume	Nelson Cabrera		02 9637 7496	0424 870 859	correo@elespanol.info
Metro	Malcolm Pollard		02 9697 2306		
North Coast	Peter Harris		02 6622 2503	0407 120 599	peter.harris@hotmail.net.au
North Coast	David Solomons	3/3 Oxley St, South Tweed, NSW 2486	07 5524 9210		
St George	Martha Ghaly-Szabo			0425 171 077	
St George	Leslie Fuller		02 9798 9073	0412 063 005	lesliefuller@live.com.au
Wentworth	Susan Lucock		02 8807 7932	0421 432 161	Susanlucock@yahoo.com.au
Wentworth	Robert Bembrick		02 4758 9638		
Women's Housing	Nellie Talaman		02 9897 7256		nellisbel9@gmail.com

Tenant Representative's Page

NEIGHBOUR DAY CELEBRATIONS

Anyone thinking of holding a street party or community event for Neighbour Day on the last Sunday in March should contact their council now.

That's the message from Neighbour Day founder Andrew Heslop. He warned that some municipal bodies had detailed application and planning requirements which need to be considered.

"It's great to know many councils and shires have really embraced Neighbour Day by developing official street party kits to make it easy for residents to apply to temporarily close their street," he said. "But not every street can be closed and that's why it's important to find out as soon as you can what is possible in your area.

Since Neighbour Day began, many local government

groups had made available free barbecues, portable coffee machines, cricket sets and other games to encourage neighbourly get-togethers on this day.

"These initiatives have turned Neighbour Day into a great celebration of community, ultimately bringing people together simply to say thanks for being a great neighbor and for helping to make our street or town a great place to live," he said.

The day began in Melbourne in 2003 following the discovery of the body of an elderly woman who died all alone. Neighbour Day grew from a letter to a Melbourne newspaper to an annual celebration endorsed by neighbours, community leaders and politicians. Steps are in place for it to become an official UN Observance Day. Details www.neighbourday.org

NORTHSIDE COMMUNITY CONNECT

Northside Community Connect is running three educational sessions for Carers of people with Dementia and Memory Loss. Sessions will be held from 7 – 9pm at Cromer Community Centre from 17th to 24th September, 2009.

Contact Marina 9931 7750 or Robyn 9931 7751 for bookings and further information.

CLIMATE CHANGE CHAMPS

More than 420 Warringah households joined Warringah Climate Challenge at a recent awards night.

The Warringah Climate Challenge is a Partnership with Warringah Council and the Nature Conservation Council of NSW.

People who took part earned stars for reducing their household emissions and making lifestyle changes such as turning appliances off at the wall; switching to accredited Green Power (we wish); growing their own herbs and using public transport. One family won a worm farm for their participation

COTA (COUNCIL OF THE AGING) NSW

COTA is a non-profit organization serving all persons aged 50 and over in NSW. Established in 1956, COTA (NSW) is a peak body providing leadership in social policy and community information and education for all older persons in New South Wales and Australia.

The core functions of COTA include:

- Policy development, representation and advocacy; Brokering, referring, collaborating, coordinating, and
- networking among seniors organisations and services to seniors; and
- Informing and educating older persons and all those concerned with their welfare.

COTA was instrumental in establishing NSW Meals on Wheels association, Volunteering NSW, Carers NSW, Retirement Villages Associations of NSW, NSW Senior Awards, Senior Citizen clubs, Senior information services and participated in establishing Seniors Week

(initiated by COTA NSW in 1958 but managed by the state government since 1986).

COTA run educational sessions to assist older citizens. Perhaps your tenant group would like to enquire? To become a member or make contact or to find out more about how COTA could assist older tenants go to WWW.COTANSW.COM.AU or PH (02) 9286 3860 Freecall 1800 449 102 (Country NSW callers only)



Social housing tenants train to be volunteer peer education facilitators

WOMEN'S HOUSING COMPANY ASSOCIATION

Women's Housing Company commenced operating in 1982.

Affordable housing options for women receiving low incomes were limited to boarding houses and shared households.

Women's Refuges were able to obtain additional properties to operate as half way housing for women leaving their services. Three womens refuges explicitly established to assist single women further highlighted the need for housing options for single women.

A small amount of funding became available from the NSW Department of Community Services either to establish a new women's refuge or a housing organisation.

With a grant of \$50,000 and four run down shared houses, Women's Housing Company commenced. Within a short time, a new housing program, the Community Tenancy Scheme was established and Women's Housing Company expanded operations and received additional funds and properties.

Women's Housing Company managed less than 50 properties until 1994, when a range of government initiatives assisted community housing to expand. By 1999 the number of properties managed increased to 227 which resulted in substantial internal operating changes.

Women's Housing Company assists only single women without dependant children who wish to live alone. We have been granted an exemption under the Anti Discrimination Act to house single women without dependant children; this was extended to board members being women only. Our largest target group is older women. Currently 45% of tenants are aged between 50 - 70 with a further 7.5% being over 75.

Women's Housing Company currently manages over 640 units of housing across the Sydney metropolitan area. We operate in 28 local government areas from Cronulla to Penrith and up to Hornsby. The areas with the highest number of properties are around, Liverpool, Fairfield and outer areas of Sydney. We have a substantial number of partnerships with a range of agencies and 15% of tenancies are being supported. We provide a range of programs from supported housing through to affordable housing opportunities.

Women's Housing Company also actively participates in a number of sector activities and has a long history

with supporting the NSW Federation of Housing Associations.

In mid 2007 Women's Housing Company participated with 4 other housing associations to establish BlueCHP, an affordable housing property development company.

BlueCHP achieved growth status and has successfully sought funding for a number of new programs. To date Women's Housing Company has obtained an additional 49 properties through BlueCHP opportunities with a further 57 in the pipeline.

BlueCHP has a substantial number of properties in development and all five members will receive an allocation appropriate to their needs and locations.

Women's Housing Company was one of ten organisations who participated in the recent pilot for the new registration system.

We are pleased to announce that we obtained registration status as a result.

By Bobbie Townsend

Notice Board

SOCIAL HOUSING QUERIES

Go to the Community Housing section of the NSWFHA website and many of your questions will be answered. Many useful facts about Community Housing can be found on the website.

www.communityhousing.org.au/C1_CH_in_NSW.html

All volumes of the this Newsletter are available on the Community Housing Federation Website www.communityhousing.org.au/tenantnetwork.html

Another great move forward in reaching more tenants.

News

HOUSING SOLUTIONS BI-MONTHLY REPORT

SUSAN Wilson from Centacare's Tenant Participation Programme recently visited Mudgee at Greg Dollin's (Central Tablelands tenant representative) invitation. He showed her a few sites, including his home, and around Mudgee where community projects that he is involved with, including a park where the community is talking about developing a homework centre, community garden, men's shed etc. Susan also met with Central Tablelands Housing Association Manager, Andrew Daley, with the view also of forming a Tenant Advisory Group (TAG team). This is very hopeful of tenant progress.

Thanks to Greta Angel who informed Greg of this resource.

Discussion was also held on 'Fibro Footprints'. This might eventually happen!! In this discussion mention was made of "Green Loans", a federally funded programme of the Dept. of Environment.

A few more boxes need to be ticked off re housing provider "title" and tenant involvement/ contribution issues. At the time of writing, rebates for water/energy, waste suppliers and infrastructures are not available to community housing where title still remains with HNSW. Green Loans may provide a way forward.

In the meantime, dormant white ant damage has been found in our 60 year old HNSW owned home.

We are waiting until the end of winter to see if they have moved out for good, and if the house is to be repaired or not. The options open to us will keep it interesting. We have continued with our food and shade forests, and it looks a picture, with 37 useful global cooling tree's and understorey gardens planted. The previous tenants' good work and our following efforts made this possible.

Greg & Fransesca.

Events

SPECIAL TENANT WORKSHOP

Special tenant workshop on resolving neighbour disputes and anti-social behaviour

What can be done? What does the law say? How can you mediate to stop problems getting out of hand?

Special guest speakers from the Consumer, Trader and Tenancy Tribunal and a Community Justice Centre

WORKSHOP WILL BE HELD AT CLUB ASHFIELD

ADDRESS: 5-7 Charlotte Street, Ashfield

Free parking available, located next door to Ashfield station

DATE: 28th September 2009

TIME: 10am for 10:30am start to approximately 1.30pm

YOU MUST BOOK AHEAD! - WE CAN ONLY CATER FOR 50 PEOPLE

SO CONTACT SUSAN ON 02 8807-7932 OR 0421-432-161 ASAP TO GET A PLACE

ORGANIC Family Fun Markets



A Tenants Council Project of Affordable Community Housing Ltd,

1st Saturday of Each Month

Location: Carysfield Park

Cnr; Hume Hwy and Johnstone Rd,
Bass Hill, NSW 2197

From 9.00am to 3.00pm

- Organic Fruit and Veggies
 - Arts and Craft
 - Scented Candles
- Perfumes & Fragrances
 - Books * Bric a Brac
- Hand Made Leather Goods
 - Hand Painted Ceramics
- Coffee, Tea, & Hot Food
 - Children's Rides
 - And Lots More Fun For The Whole Family

For more information or Stall Bookings please Visit www.offm.com.au or Phone Market Manager on 9644-4862