

Community Housing Tenant News

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Tenants urged to join Network

The Metro Tenant Network was set up 18 months ago to bring community housing tenants together to share their experiences, learn from each other and improve their communities. Since then the Network has worked with tenants from almost all the housing associations in the Sydney metro area. But we always want to bring more people together. You can join us by filling in the registration form for the network or by coming to one of our events. To find out more call Adam West at the Federation on 9281 7144 ext 211 or email adamwest@communityhousing.org.au



Participants at the most recent network workshop

Greening communities

Greta Angel reports on a new initiative at Garrigal Community Housing in Dee Why.

The Fisher Environment Group was founded due to the desire of residents wishing to improve their unruly, weed infested communal garden area. Our aim was to make the garden user friendly, improve ambience, plant native and other

flowering plants (to replace the weed infested garden beds) and create new garden beds.

By researching etc we gained access to the Community Greening Service that the Dept of Housing and the Botanical Gardens Trust run for DOH tenants. They included us in their programme and we received some donations of plants, vegetables and advice. To contact this service ring Murray Gibbs or Stephen Paul - Community Education 9231 8050

Thanks to the support of the CSNRTS service we were able to get a grant Local Council to further our venture. We improved soil and planted mostly native plants.

We then gained a Grant from OCH to continue on a larger scale venture; our aim to work together to make our garden a place to enjoy, entertain and meet as tenants and invite friends and family, allow our children to play, grow vegetables, herbs and plants generally. The OCH grant enabled us to have a pergola with paving built, purchase a barbecue and add this to the pergola area. We created new garden beds and improved already existing beds. We have had many BBQs and parents have been able to hold children's and adult Birthday parties. The Pergola area has proved to be a successful meeting place and we have had many special occasion days- Easter Egg Hunt, Craft days etc.



Local residents enjoy community greening

Next Tenant Network workshop

Tuesday 20th February 2007

10.30– 1.30

Club Ashfield

Free – all metro tenants welcome – lunch and refreshments provided

If you'd like to come along, please complete a registration form and return it to your association

Special workshop topic:

Working with groups

+ inspiring examples of what tenant participation can do
and training for tenant network members



Knock Knock! Tenants' Network calling

The Tenants' Network invites you to join us to:
Strengthen partnerships
Have your say
Enable and increase tenant participation
Help build communities
and have some fun at the same time!

News from the sector:

St George tenant bursaries

As part of the 20th Anniversary Celebrations, St. George Community Housing set up an ongoing education bursary fund in order to help SGCH tenants pay for the continuing costs of education of their children.

This year there were a total of 25 bursaries: 10 bursaries of \$400 and \$800 each for primary and high school recipients respectively, and five bursaries of \$1,200 each for university or college recipients.

- To assist children of tenants that have good scholastic results to further their education
- To encourage children of tenants to pursue education as a way of fostering and developing a successful future career
- To share with tenants who uphold and respect their tenancies with SGCH our appreciation of their contribution to SGCH
- To commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the founding of SGCH.

Associations show commitment to Network

The 15 metropolitan housing associations have shown their commitment to supporting tenant participation and the Tenant Network by agreeing to meet tenants' reasonable travel expenses when they come to Network events.

This is very welcome news, and it should help us to encourage new people to get involved in Network events. Tenants should not be out of pocket for coming to events to support their communities.

Please note that different associations have different ways of assisting tenants to come to the Network. For example, some associations provide a mini-bus, and others will pay for public transport. You **must** contact your own housing association to check on what expenses they can cover and how they can reimburse you.