

## Tenants have a plan



- Connect to the wider tenants' movement

### What's in the plans?

The group's priorities include planning to continue with a number of its current activities, like the newsletter for tenants and the four tenant workshops a year at Ashfield. It is also planning some exciting new ideas like videoconferencing and expanding the organisation to cover the whole state.

The 8 priorities picked by tenants for this year were:

1. Inviting tenants from all NSW community housing associations to join the Network and encouraging them to elect a representative
2. Encourage Housing Associations to recognise the role played by Tenant Network representatives and to consult them
3. Campaign to ensure that the Network is consulted when policy changes are proposed that will affect tenants

### Tenant Network representative committee members

The Community Housing Tenant Network have completed their first strategic plan. It gives the group a clear direction for the next three years. They have also drawn up an action plan which says what their priorities for the year ahead are.

The plans are the result of careful discussion amongst tenant reps, active supporters of the network and active tenant members. The plans can be found on their website [www.communityhousing.org.au/tenantnetwork.html](http://www.communityhousing.org.au/tenantnetwork.html).

The overall vision for the group is 'to work in unity towards greater involvement for community housing tenants in NSW.' The new statement of

purpose says that the Network is a group of tenants who are working together to:

- Represent the interests of all Community Housing tenants in NSW
- Share information, ideas and good practice
- Support and promote learning, educational, volunteering and employment opportunities for tenants
- Assist and support tenant leaders and representatives
- Ensure that the Network is led by tenants and run in the best interests of all Community Housing tenants in NSW

Cont....

# International Women's Day

4. Continuing to run quarterly workshops. Workshops will be promoted for the year ahead and have agreed themes and expert speakers where necessary
5. Continue producing at least four newsletters per year that are written by tenants, for tenants. Work to secure the widest possible distribution for the newsletters
6. Use the most effective videoconferencing and teleconferencing techniques to allow access to tenants who are unable to travel to events.
7. Develop a poster to publicise the Network and distribute to all associations
8. Where a genuine and significant problem has been identified, make representations to the associations in question, via their tenant rep., staff, their CEO or if necessary, their board. Assisting associations to develop an action plan to resolve the issue if possible.

What do you think of these priorities? We want to hear, so you can send us a message through our google group bulletin board on our web pages or write to the Secretary, Tenant Network c/o Suite 301, 64-76 Kippax Street Surry Hills NSW 2010

The newsletter group would like to say a big thank you to all rep. committee members and active tenant members for all their commitment this year. It has been hard work but lots of fun. We're getting there!

**Hello my name is Graciela Nogues from Women's Housing Company Ltd. (WHC)**

**I am the Community Development worker and as part of my brief I was invited to write a short article for the Tenants Newsletter. I would like to share with you one of the many activities WHC has organised with the tenants for last March 2008. Women across countries celebrated on the 8 of March- International Women's Day. Hundred years of struggle paved the paths with determination to achieve equal rights, empowerment and for the betterment of women and society at large.**

**WHC has also launched last February the "WHC Calendar". It is with much pleasure to announce this activity as a very important part of 'Tenant Participation'. This Calendar was an**

**initiative expressed by our tenants- at the tenant's meetings- on April 2007. The making of Women's Housing Company's first "CALENDAR" was not only fun but, has also been very much welcomed and celebrated by the tenants, colleagues and staff. In the months to come we are confident to keep growing and covering the many initiatives that tenants are proposing to encourage the right to participation and give tenants a well deserved voice.**

**I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for inviting me to write in your Newsletter and to encourage all the tenants to keep persisting in the tasks for participation and empowerment. With you determination and contribution we will achieve a very successful year.**

**Take care. Graciela**



# St. George tenants go to Taronga

At the request of a Tenant Advisory Group meeting held at the SGCH Christmas party at Fairfield on December 5th 2007, St George Community Housing issued zoo admittance tickets to approximately 350 tenants to enter Taronga Zoo Park.

The tenants were met at the top gate by SGCH staff who directed them to a rest shelter where other SGCH staff had morning tea organised with tables and chairs set out to allow people to snack and socialise.

Unfortunately the weather conditions deterred many people but those of us who attended were able to take advantage of breaks in the rainy conditions to tour the zoo and see the animals.

I sheltered from most of the down falls in the newly built Great Southern Ocean exhibit building and was privileged to view one of the only leopard seals in captivity in the world. All three are in Taronga Park and all were found badly injured on the Australian East Coast. One, a male, was found on Balmoral Beach in Sydney Harbour.

Scientists are completely baffled as to why the Antarctic based mammals ventured so far from their normal habitat. Effects of global warming on the Southern Ocean is considered the most likely cause.

This exhibit alone, Built to a cost of four million dollars makes a visit to the zoo very worthwhile.

With the adult admission price at \$37, SGCH is to be congratulated

on their attention to tenants welfare and clearly shows why they continue to be an example to other Community Housing providers.



Written by: Richard Graham, St George Tenant

# Annual General Meeting and elections: 24th June 2008

## Free tenant workshop and Annual General Meeting Tuesday 24th June 2008

The event will include: Inspirational examples of tenant participation  
Guest speaker from Housing NSW Tenant Participation Unit  
Annual General Meeting

Election of representatives from each Housing Association that has not already elected a rep through an existing representative tenant group

The role of a representative: 'how can we help?'

Our plan to develop tenant participation in NSW for the next 3 years

10.00 for a 10.30 start - 1.30

Club Ashfield, 5- 7 Charlotte Street Ashfield  
Refreshments and lunch provided

To register download the registration form from  
[www.communityhousing.org.au/tenantnetwork.html](http://www.communityhousing.org.au/tenantnetwork.html)

or call Adam on 9281 7144 ext 211

Kamilaroi is an Australian Aboriginal people who are from the area between Tamworth and Goondiwindi, west to Narrabri and Lightning Ridge, in northern New South Wales. Kamilaroi mythology includes Baiame, the ancestor or patron god. He was married to Birrahgnooloo, with whom he was the father of Daramulum. The Kamilaroi Highway was named after them.

The Turuwal people were an Aboriginal sub-group of the Dharug language nation in the area around Wollongong, south of Sydney. They are famous for the name of the boomerang coming from their language.

Wiradjuri, or Wiradhuri, speak the language of the same name. They occupied a large area of central New South Wales, from the Blue Mountains in the east, to Hay in the west, north to Nyngan and south to Albury. This area includes the towns of Wagga Wagga, Bathurst and Dubbo.

Our Acting Chair, Susan Lucock attended a Federal Government Community Cabinet with Jenny Macklin, the Federal Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs. The Minister recently responded to Susan by saying:

"Thank you for your interest in the Australian Government's third Community Cabinet meeting in Penrith on 15 April 2008. Thank you for providing information about your organisation. I understand that it provides opportunities for community housing tenants to better engage with tenancy issues collectively. The Government recognises the role that community housing plays in providing people with flexible options for low cost housing.

Thank you once again for your involvement.  
Yours sincerely  
JENNY MACKLIN MP"