

# COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



I was recently appointed to the Community Connector position to assist people living in The Terrace Boarding House to build positive connections with the local community, particularly cultural, recreational and arts activities and events.

As a result of a survey people identified an interest in art and decided to paint a mural on a wall at The Terrace. We are working with Tamara, a community artist, who has a long history of working creatively with communities and painting murals. Tamara has the job of teaching some drawing and painting skills to the group as well as overseeing the project.

There are around eight core members of the wall mural group with others who will become involved once painting starts.

The mural will be big and bold and easily seen by all who pass by The Terrace.

Bill Johnson

## NEWS VIEWS &

Do you have any stories, ideas or opinions you'd like to share with other readers?

Please call Jayne on 8237 8779 or mail your stories to TAG Newsletter, 213 Gouger St. Adelaide SA 5000

Community Connect is a 12 month pilot project based at the Terrace. It recognises and harnesses the diversity of the lives and histories of people beyond their current tenancy and seeks to facilitate access to local community life including mainstream arts, recreational and cultural activities that will build self esteem for tenants and acceptance by the local community. Thus removing some of the stigma associated with the frequently used label "homeless person".

Participants are encouraged and supported to develop social and collaborative skills through the music, art, fitness and horticulture programs established to assist to break down some of the barriers people experience through years of physical and emotional isolation. The pilot whilst established as a 12 month experiment is already showing signs of being self sustaining as participants take a lead role in managing and coordinating events and activities.

# UNITY

**affordable housing...sustainable communities**

Winner of the Australasian Housing Institute SA Award for Professional Excellence - Housing Management

# UNITY TAG newsletter

3rd Edition December 2009



## Preferred Growth Provider

This has been a big first year for Unity and we have been endorsed as one of a select group of Providers by Housing SA and Mental Health.

As a Housing SA Preferred Growth Provider, Unity will be eligible to compete for future resources and will be eligible to receive housing through the Commonwealth Government's Economic Stimulus Package.

As a selected partner with Mental Health, Unity will deliver 36 houses to provide supported accommodation to some of the most vulnerable people in our community.

### Unity Facts

- Unity received the 2008 Professional Excellence SA Award for Housing Management from the Australasian Housing Institute in recognition of the establishment of Unity Housing Company Ltd
- Unity has 820 properties across metropolitan Adelaide offering a continuum of housing options from affordable rental through to supported housing
- Unity has a tenancy training house available for agencies to use with their clients to teach cleaning skills, cooking, how to use household machinery, clothing care, washing, ironing, gardening, preparing a budget etc
- Unity has 163 beds in boarding house style accommodation across 5 sites in the city. Options range from single room accommodation with shared facilities to independent apartment style living
- Unity Support Services provide specialist support which assists 140 people each year to access or maintain housing in the city and inner metropolitan area

## ANNUAL REPORT

Unity's first Annual Report is nearing completion and will be available soon. Let your Unity Housing Manager or Unity Support Worker know if you would like to receive a copy

**Abby Relente** – Home Support Worker (HACC)

I graduated this year from Flinders University with a Bachelor of Social Work and Social Planning Degree. While I was still studying I worked at Unity Boarding Houses as Boarding House Worker which gave me hands-on experience in working with homeless people with various issues. I also did my placement at Streetlink Youth Health Service working with homeless youth and at Minda Incorporated working with adults with intellectual disabilities. I was given the opportunity to be part of the HACC Support Team at Unity in which I am happy to be a part of helping me gain more skills along the way.

Last holiday I went to was a backpacking tour in Fiji and will be going on holiday in Yogyakarta and Bali, Indonesia soon. Looking forward to my friend's wedding, riding elephants and water-rafting. I migrated to Australia from Philippines when I was 13 years old and been here for 10 years now. I love living in a multicultural country and having friends from different backgrounds and being invited to all sorts of cultural events such as the Indo Festival and Chinese New Year. I also get a fair bit involved with the Filipino-Community attending Filipino events, festivities and enjoying Filipino food. Other than that, I like karaoke-singing, going to the beach and listening to music

# STAFF update

## new staff in the support team

**Effy Karageorgos** - Complex Needs Worker

Work Background:

- 12 months with the Department of Correctional Services as a Community Corrections Officer.
- University field placements with CARA (disability) and Carers SA.

Hobbies/ Interests:

- Reading; writing (I dabble in poetry); movies (horror and comedy in particular); cooking.
- Elephants.

Favourite Food:

- Banana
- Chicken

Last Holiday:

- NSW Central Coast, along the Hawkesbury River

**Robert Bowler** - Complex Needs Worker

Work Background:

- Teacher in Northern Territory, project work for Murray Bridge and Woodville Councils, Workplace education at Noarlunga TAFE, gas plant worker for Kleenheat, electoral office work, case worker Disability Employment Network, Personal Support Programme case worker.

Hobbies/ Interests:

- Films and anything that moves e.g. cars, trains, plains. Also reading with an interest in WWII history.

Favourite Food:

- Practically anything with strong likes for Thai, Vietnamese, Japanese foods. I like a T-Bone steak once in a while.

Last Holiday:

- Alice Springs in July 2009 and Melbourne in March 2009.

## new to Unity Central...

**Patricia De Maria**

Hi my name is Patricia DeMaria

I started with Unity in August of this year as Unity's Quality Assurance Officer.

Having undertaken similar roles in aged care and heavy industry the decision to join Unity was an easy one having met with and developed an instant connection with the Unity management team and their vision for the organisation. My primary role is to assist Unity achieve their QIC ( Quality Improvement Council ) accreditation, but includes other responsibilities including building and developing Unity's corporate intranet and working with the different teams to develop efficient and seamless systems underpinned by a best practice philosophy.

In my spare time I look forward to renovating my 99 year old house. This often includes multiple sojourns to Bunnings, Antique Restorations, Stepney Auto Salvage and Jack Horner. My hot tips for anyone renovating their home: 1. Have a big breakfast before you hit the road 2. Stop for ice coffees at least every two hours and 3. make Bunning's your last destination for the day, the sausage sizzle often means you avoid having to cook dinner that night !

Thank you to all the staff for making me feel so welcome



**Adam Stone** - Project Manager

I commenced with Unity at the end of September as a Project Manager.

I have been in the Real Estate / Property Development industry all my working life; I was a Real Estate Manager for eight years prior to having my own Property business for 14 years

As Project Manager I will be responsible for the development and management of over 100 houses/ units which have to be completed by Christmas 2010. These building projects will cover a large geographical area for our Affordable Housing, with approximately 36 other dwellings for special needs clients.

I am married to Mirella with two children - Connor who is about to turn 4, and Matilda whom is 21 months. When not spending time with my family, I enjoy fishing in my small boat or beach fishing on the Fleurieu Peninsula.

## farewell...

**Allan Groves**

Allan left Unity on 30/11/09 to take up a position in Darwin with a community group supporting the settlement of refugees with a background of torture/trauma. We congratulate Allan and wish him and Rose the very best for their future.

# STAFF update