

AROUND THE HOUSE

SPRING 2019



Our reconciliation journey

Service Manager, Ruth Tulloch, and her team at Kurlana Tampawardli (KT), which is an Aboriginal Community Connect initiative of Uniting Communities. They showcased their highly successful short-stay housing and support program for Aboriginal people visiting Adelaide from country and regional areas, most commonly for health treatment.

Unity Housing is proud of the long-standing successful collaboration with Uniting Communities and the successful housing provided through the Transitional Housing Program.

"The service works with rural and remote Aboriginal families who are experiencing overcrowding or rough sleeping when they're in Adelaide," Ruth says. "The partnership between KT and Unity Housing is a very important one because we have a common goal to really work together to reduce the cycle of homelessness."

During National Reconciliation Week, Unity Housing participated in the Gawler Reconciliation Community Fun Day on 29 May with an estimated 1,100 people. The day included Welcome to Country, flag raising, Kurna dance performances, live music and storytelling, and Unity Housing provided a very popular photo booth.

Unity Housing's Limestone Coast team held a stall at the NAIDOC event at the Old Mount Gambier Gaol in July. The event was facilitated by Uniting Communities Aboriginal Community Connect and Life Without Barriers where there were cultural activities and children enjoying the local dreaming stories. There was an assortment of cultural delights on offer for lunch, which was enjoyed by more than 40 people who were in attendance.



Photo courtesy of The Bunyip

Unity Housing has significantly increased the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) tenants over the last three years, and we are proud to provide housing to nearly 400 ATSI tenants across South Australia.

We not only provide safe and affordable housing for our tenants but also support the broader ATSI community through initiatives such as our sponsorship of the South Australian Aboriginal Football and Netball Carnival teams; sponsorship and active participation in the Gawler Reconciliation Community Fun Day; membership of Friends of Reconciliation SA; and cultural awareness training for staff.

In May, Unity Housing Board members and senior staff were hosted by Aboriginal Community Connect





FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Welcome to the new format of *Around the House*. The issue may have shrunk, however, we still get an amazing record of Unity Housing's great activities.

Since the increase of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tenants, Unity Housing has engaged in activities with tenants, organisations and communities, which has achieved very fruitful results.

The SALA Festival exhibition 'Artists in Residence – Outside the Square', with Unity Housing artists and artists from the community at Café Outside the Square, had a great variety of landscapes, portraits, watercolours, prints and ceramics. It was well-received by artists and visitors in the warm atmosphere of the café on the opening night.

The survey of the previous SA Housing Trust tenants in Limestone Coast and Adelaide's West has shown again how high Unity Housing ranks on the satisfaction scale and how the results lead to improvements.

Unity Housing staff and tenants took part again in the Walk a Mile for Hutt Street Centre fundraiser.

Something to look forward to is the Tenant Spring Party on 1 October 2019.

Thank you,
Giselle

Please send your contributions to editor@unityhousing.org.au

Thinking outside the square for SALA Festival



“All artwork was very well displayed. The whole night – with music and light snacks – made for a pleasant and relaxing night. Congratulations to all the staff from the café and the organisers.

Trevor, artist

On Friday, 2 August, the 'Artists in Residence – Outside the Square' art exhibition for the 2019 SALA Festival was launched at Café Outside the Square to a reception of around 70 art lovers and supporters. Eight pieces were sold on the night, generating sales of more than \$700.

There were seven Unity Housing tenants participating in the exhibition this year, along with seven community artists. We acknowledge Unity Housing tenants Brian, James, Trevor, Geoff, Margaret, Wayne and FQN for their participation in the exhibition. The content this year ranged from landscapes through to portraits, sculptures, mixed media, watercolours, stencil art, prints and abstracts.

For the launch, the versatile by-day café that serves a delicious range of coffee and food, was transformed into an inviting and warm exhibition space for guests and artists alike, to view and appreciate the efforts that the talented artists have put into each work of art.



INVITATION INCLUDED

Save the Date

Tuesday, 1 October

Tenant Spring Party

Unity Housing invites all tenants and their families to the Tenant Spring Party on Tuesday, 1 October starting at 11.30am at Thebarton Community Centre. Your invitation is included in this edition with all the event details. Two events will be held in December for our tenants in the Limestone Coast and invitations will be mailed out later in the year.

THANK YOU FOR HAVING YOUR SAY

Earlier this year, we sent out a survey to our tenants in the Limestone Coast and West of Adelaide, who were previously tenants with South Australian Housing Authority (formerly SA Housing Trust). We were keen to get your opinions on the condition of your neighbourhood homes and gardens, attitudes to your home and property condition, overall satisfaction with maintenance requests and services, ability to make ends meet, connectivity with neighbours, and other areas.

All 1,066 households were invited to participate in the survey. We received a total of 358 responses representing an overall valid response rate of 33%.

SURVEY RESULT HIGHLIGHTS

83%
Overall satisfaction

89%
Condition of home

79%
Repairs and Maintenance

78%
Neighbourhood Satisfaction

80%
Contact with neighbours

40%
Life improvement since joining Unity

Unity Housing will use this feedback to inform the decisions we make and the service we deliver, with the aim of improving what we do. Your feedback also lets us know what is important to you from year to year.

“
Nothing has ever been too much for Unity when I have rung them. They are always there to help if you can't figure things out. My housing officer is excellent and always available to help.
Alina, Welland”

“
I lost my friend and the Mount Gambier office team were very compassionate to my situation. I can't thank them enough. I would also like to state – from where I stand there is no division in Unity.
Johnny, Millicent”

“
Since we were offered our current place, we could not be more happy with Unity as well as our housing officer who is a great help and easy to contact.
Matt and Jen, Seaton”

Walking a mile in support of people experiencing homelessness

The rain held off and a beautiful sunrise greeted Unity Housing staff and tenants – and around 5,000 walkers – on the brisk morning of Friday, 9 August for Hutt St Centre’s major fundraiser for the year – Walk a Mile in My Boots.

Each year, the Hutt St Centre calls on South Australians to show their support for people facing homelessness by joining them and experiencing what it is like on a winter’s morning to walk one mile.

Hutt St Centre provided participants with a hot breakfast and a tea or coffee at the end of the walk, which culminated in the South Terrace parklands.



Hutt St Centre and Unity Housing have done so much for me. Before coming to live at The Terrace I was living in a grandstand. Now I feel like a normal person and am really proud of where I live. Doing the Walk a Mile made me feel like I was giving something back. I wanted to give back because they have done everything for me – they got me my place at The Terrace, which has made me feel a millionaire. It’s the little things like having my own fridge, somewhere to make a coffee, and having some privacy, which have made a world of difference. Before I felt invisible and now I feel accepted, it’s given me back my dignity.

Damian, tenant (pictured below far right)



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Would you prefer to receive **Around the House** electronically rather than in the mail?

If so, please email **editor@unityhousing.org.au** with your full name and preferred email address and we will add you to our electronic mailing list.



Would you like to be involved? Get in touch!

Unity Housing would like to hear your ideas on how we can continue to provide interesting, informative and creative content in this newsletter. We are committed to increasing opportunities for tenants and encouraging participation, especially through *Around the House*.

If you have an idea, would like to be involved or just want to know more, then please get in touch by

phoning **8237 8750**,
emailing **editor@unityhousing.org.au**
or writing to

**The Editor – 81 Osmond Terrace,
Norwood SA 5067.**

Key dates for the next edition

The deadline for content submission for the next *Around the House* is

Friday, 1 November

Tell us your ideas and send us your articles or photos via the contact details above.