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TENANT PROFILE

From the editor's desk



This edition of *Around the house* features a guest editor Unity's Project Officer Community Connect Anna Minges

Hey there one and all,

It's that time of year again and I'd like to do a shout out to all the Unity tenants who helped with *Around the house*, participated in the focus groups about the new Tenant Service Charter and the 2014 Tenant Survey as well as those contributing to the plans for the South Project. I'd also like to point out that this is Unity's 14th edition of the tenant newsletter and the tenant editors, contributors and all of us at Unity hope you like what we're doing with it.

When December rolls around, most people tend to celebrate. Unity's 2014 Tenant Christmas Party certainly was a lot of fun this year. For those of you who made it, thanks for coming and if you couldn't get there, please join us next year.

Have a merry Christmas and a new year that brings something new and exciting.

Warm regards,

Anna Minges
Anna Minges

Do your Christmas shopping without going overboard



This time of year can be hard on your budget and many tenants find it difficult to manage their budgets over the festive season. So, if you're looking for a bargain try the following places for food and gifts.

Affordable food and supermarket items

Community Food SA Shop 5, 580 Main North Road Gepps Cross

Torrens Island Market 43 Moorhouse Road, Port Adelaide Sundays from 6am – 1pm

Rite Price Grocery Clearance Stores There are eight in all, here are three:

- 206 Main South Road, Morphett Vale • 1159 South Road, Clovelly Park
- 183 Philip Highway, Elizabeth South

Editors pick Adelaide's top 10 op shops

Check for opening times

Brighton Salvos 429 Brighton Road, Brighton

Christies Beach Vinnie's 27B Beach Road, Christies Beach

Brooklyn Park Goodwill 285 Henley Beach Road, Brooklyn Park

Darlington Salvos 1507 Main South Road, Darlington

Fulham Salvos Shop 6, 505 Henley Beach Road, Fulham

Gepps Cross Salvos 580 Main North Road, Gepps Cross

Red Cross Superstore 317 North East Road, Hampstead Gardens

Melrose Park Salvos 1069 South Road, Melrose Park

Morphett Vale Vinnie's 190 Main South Road, Morphett Vale

St Marys Red Cross 1267-1269 South Road, St Marys

THE VOYAGE OF THE CHRISTELA:

THE **AMAZING ADVENTURES** OF **MURRAY KER**

by Tom LaFrenais



Mr Ker – back in the day

The most fulfilling lives we live are spent pursuing love and adventure. In the end, nothing is more important or rewarding. These lives are impossible to summarise, so we will make no attempt to do so with the life of Murray Innes Ker. Born in SA, Murray, now 84, has travelled the world, serving with the British military, the Botswana police, and adventuring under his own steam (and the winds) beyond. Better, we think, to tell you one of his stories of sailing the seven seas to describe to you Murray's adventurous character.

Unity tenant, Murray twice crossed the Atlantic on his first voyage with the yacht 'Christela', travelling from England through Spain, Portugal and the Canary Islands to Barbados, Brazil and back to South Africa. In November 1972, and with very little experience or preparation, Murray and his three crewmates were thrown and heaved about the ocean in gale force winds for seven days before arriving at Moana, Spain, their first port of call. The wild weather was too much for one of his crew, who promptly packed his things and departed. "Smoke literally poured out of Fred's shoes as he made off along the waterfront." But Murray, being made of stronger stuff, committed himself to the hardships and pleasures of the journey ahead.

Moana and nearby Vigo, welcomed Murray warmly. Friendly people came out of the local woodwork to take him on tour, help with his boat and buy him beer. This kind of hospitality would be experienced many times to come as he sailed around the Atlantic.

After more partying in Portugal and Tenerife, the Christela bravely crossed the ocean, landing in Barbados after 22 days. Not bad considering they lost the entire rudder and had to make do with one they slapped together from bits and pieces on deck. Murray met many

more adventurous friends and good times in Barbados before sailing on to Brazil, by which time he was looking quite salt-soaked and wind-swept indeed. "We attracted considerable attention as we were bearded and John's hair was about a foot long, plus the fact that our clothing was not at the peak of elegance."

With very limited supplies, Murray's crew faced another crossing of the Atlantic. "My tobacco was finished on the 28th day. No sugar in our tea or porridge. Gah!! No comforts of any kind." They ran out of food on the 43rd day, but were kindly assisted by several vessels they met in the days ahead who provided them with food, water and cartons of cigarettes.

After many months of some pretty tough adventuring and wild, fun merry-making, Murray finally made it to his destination in Cape Town, South Africa, all in one piece. Christela would need a bit of patching up though, before her next great voyage. The Atlantic voyage of Christela, like all great loves and adventures, was not without significant risks and difficulties, but was also full of wonderful new friends and enriching experiences of the world. Murray's epic journey shows that all kinds of hardships can be easily endured when an adventure is really worth it.

Boarding house cyclists get into gear

Increasing fitness and improving well-being are just some of the benefits of the Onya Bike Cycling Club.

The program, which began with free bike hire for boarding house tenants, has been so successful, five tenants committed to training for and participating in a charity bike ride, and completed the 30km ride as part of Amy's Ride on Sunday 2 November.

One club member, Mark Schaffer, said participating in the cycling program has been very rewarding.

"I chose to join the bike club to get fit and to get out and see Adelaide, as well as having fun riding with other people. Since being involved in the bike club I have been a lot healthier, with more muscle tone and a much clearer head."

"I wanted to do Amy's Ride because it's a great cause, as well as it being a great chance to train for and finish an event," he said.

**Completing Amy's Ride is a huge milestone.
CONGRATULATIONSTEAM!**

Onya Bike has been established with a grant from the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure's Community Grants program to encourage more people to take up cycling as a recreational and fitness activity across Adelaide.

Unity used the grant to purchase four bikes, along with helmets, high visibility vests, locks, maintenance kits and maintenance and cycling safety workshops through Bike SA.



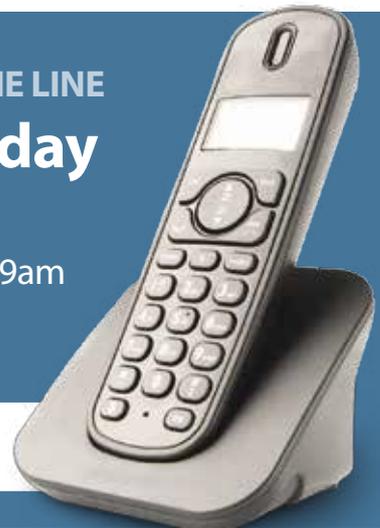
NEW EMERGENCY AFTER HOURS MAINTENANCE PHONE LINE

**The new phone line will start Friday
12 December from 5pm**

The service will then run on every weeknight from 5pm to 9am and weekends 5pm Friday through to 9am Monday.

**The new number for after hours
emergency maintenance is**

8237 8799



ABIG thanks to our 2014 sponsors and funders

Unity would like to thank the **Department of Communities and Social Inclusion's Community Benefit SA community grants program** for the garden grants for our boarding houses and the Community Shed.

BuildTec made it possible to publish an additional edition of the tenant newsletter, *Around the house*. **The Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure's Community Grants program** got Onya Bike Cycling Club into gear. **Adelaide City Council** continued to support city tenants with its three-year strategic grant, Community Connect in the City. And last, but not least, SA's **Department of State Development** has boosted our green credentials by kickstarting an energy challenge project at The Terrace Boarding House.

thanks

Make a new friend in the south

Unity tenant, Giselle Robin, is starting a new social, friendship and support group. She lives in Adelaide's outer southern beach suburbs, but is happy for anyone to join in. Giselle's message to *Around the house* readers is, *"I've been so inspired to start a friendship group. Mainly for outings like beach walking or coffee, leading to discussions on any subject, but a book club or writing workshop might be popular too. Let's discover our interests."*

"Social isolation can be crippling and some people experience mental health issues which make their situations more difficult, and even lonely. I think this group could help."

"If you are interested in joining such a group, call me. I'm happy to start small. My number is 8556 6240 and I use email. My address is gisellerobin@comstech.com – I'd love to hear from you."



Farewell to Angas Lodge

Unity relies on the SA State Government to help cover the running costs of Angas Lodge. For 18 months we have tried to have this funding increased as the cost of operating the boarding house has gone up. We were recently advised that additional funding is not available.

Consequently, Unity has made the difficult decision to withdraw from running Angas Lodge. The final date of business will be 31 December 2014.

However, on a positive note, we have been successful in securing additional ongoing funding for our four other boarding house sites for a three year period.

We are all working closely with support agencies to develop a plan with each tenant at Angas Lodge and we anticipate all 44 tenants will be re-housed by 31 December 2014.

The closure of Angas Lodge means a number of staff members have chosen to take a 'redundancy pay out' to go on to something new.

Unity would like to take this opportunity to thank the boarding house tenants and staff alike for the support and concern you have shown each other. Your expressions of best wishes have been greatly appreciated by everyone. If you have any questions about Angas Lodge you can contact Trish Burden, Executive Manager Accommodation Services on 8237 8777 or Danielle Wakefield, Boarding House Manager on 8232 5459.

Thinking about a pool or a spa?

If you are considering a spa or pool – even a small, above-the-ground model – you must contact your housing officer first. There is a process to go through to ensure you and your family's safety.

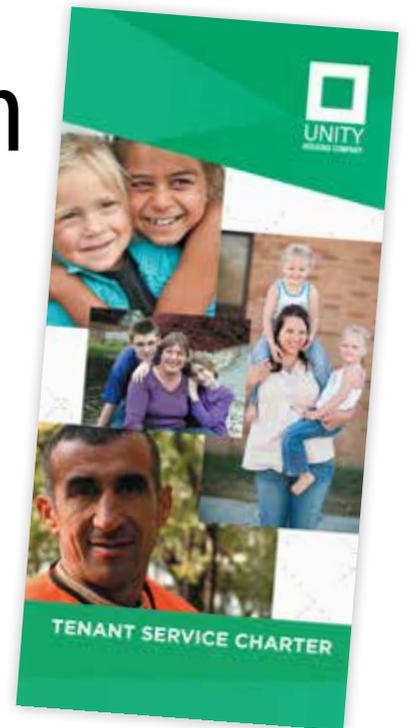


Unity works with tenants on a Tenant Service Charter

Over the year, Unity worked with tenants and staff to develop a Tenant Service Charter – our promise to you about providing excellent service. In the March edition of *Around the house*, Unity invited tenants to take part in a series of focus groups. The results of these discussions proved to be very valuable.

Thanks to all who participated.

Please read the copy of the Charter which we have enclosed with the newsletter. If you have any questions, please call Anna on 8237 8786 or a.minges@unityhousing.org.au



Unity's office hours over Christmas and New Year

All offices, apart from the boarding houses, will be closed from 5pm Tuesday 23 December and will reopen at 9am on Friday 2 January 2015.



CENTRAL

Opening hours Mon - Fri 9am - 5pm
81 Osmond Terrace, Norwood 5067
Phone: (08) 8237 8777
Fax: (08) 8237 8700
admin@unityhousing.org.au
After hours maintenance: 0423 781 840
Emergency after hours maintenance: 8237 8799

SOUTH

Opening hours Mon - Fri 9am - 5pm
1/506 Brighton Road, Brighton 5048
Phone: (08) 8198 1666
Fax: (08) 8296 7705
south@unityhousing.org.au
After hours maintenance: 0423 781 840
Emergency after hours maintenance: 8237 8799

NORTH

Opening hours Mon - Fri 9am - 5pm
179B Philip Hwy, Elizabeth South 5112
PO Box 1195 Elizabeth Vale 5112
Phone: (08) 8287 8600
Fax: (08) 8287 6155
north@unityhousing.org.au
After hours maintenance: 0423 781 840
Emergency after hours maintenance: 8237 8799

THE TERRACE

BOARDING HOUSE
Opening hours Mon - Fri 9am - 5pm
South Terrace, Adelaide 5000
Phone: (08) 8232 5459
Fax: (08) 8232 4582
theterrace@unityhousing.org.au