

AROUND THE HOUSE

AUTUMN 2022 EDITION 23



YOUR OPINION MATTERS

Unity Housing wants to be the best possible landlord for our tenants so it's important for us to know how we are going and if we need to make changes and improve our standards.

In June, we will be sending our tenants a short survey to learn how we can improve our communication with you about our services.

The short survey will be sent to all tenants via text message, email or the post on **Tuesday 14 June** and, as a thank you for your time and valuable feedback, you will go in the draw to **WIN one of five \$50 shopping vouchers** to use anywhere eftpos is accepted.

Visit this link on our website for all the details
<https://unityhousing.org.au/tenant-survey-information/>

**Thank you for your continued support
of Unity Housing. We can't wait to read
what you have to say!**



Unity Housing is proud to once again host an exhibition of tenants' artwork in August as part of the 2022 SALA Festival.

The South Australian Living Artists (SALA) Festival is a state-wide festival of visual art and was established in 1998 to promote and celebrate the many talented visual artists in South Australia.

This year, we will have an online exhibition on our website (www.unityhousing.org.au) and in the Adelaide CBD.

More information on the exhibition dates will be communicated in coming months.

Tenant artists are invited to submit up to three pieces of art.

If you are interested in submitting artwork, please contact Community Development Worker Gabby on **0427 445 723** or g.parente@unityhousing.org.au.

**ALL SALA FESTIVAL ARTWORK SUBMISSIONS
ARE DUE BY FRIDAY 17 JUNE.**

SALA South Australian
Living Artists Festival



SALA FESTIVAL 2022

Artists' call



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Welcome to the April edition of *Around the House*.

You will find this edition promises an interesting and engaging 2022 with the introduction of new ideas and groups.

The upcoming tenant survey will make people think about what we have got and what we can achieve.

Unity's involvement with the art – once again hosting an exhibition of tenants' artwork with the SALA Festival; the Christmas card artwork exhibition; and the celebration of tenants' winning artwork at The Mill Adelaide – shows the strength and input of our artistic tenants.

The progress of the Reconciliation Action Plan is commendable.

The stories of tenants who volunteer in the community like Nancy and Clyde – who even received the Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee Medal for his community contributions – could encourage those who have a void in their life to take up voluntary work.

Upgrading your home can give you a greater feeling of belonging and enjoyment as Arron and Janet and Ken can show you.

Millicent's food sharing initiative is a praiseworthy enterprise which would give them and their customers great satisfaction.

The environmental project Canopies for the Community for planting trees in the western region is another great idea to make a difference for tenants and the community.

Finally, have fun participating in the recipe collection for The Community Cookbook!

Looking forward to a colourful and eventful 2022.

Thank you,
Giselle

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

Launch of our Reconciliation Action Plan approaches



Unity Housing has continued to work closely with Reconciliation Australia to develop our first Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), *Reflect*. We are delighted to report we have been given provisional approval so our RAP is now in the final design stage. The design of our RAP is being undertaken by Dreamtime Creative, the company that created our bespoke artwork (pictured). Our RAP will be a statement of our commitment to the cause of reconciliation and to ensuring that our organisation and housing services are culturally appropriate and accessible for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples.

We are proud to say there are around 526 Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people living in Unity Housing properties, representing 12 per cent of all our tenants.

Our RAP is an action document that will set a number of target outcomes. We will be openly accountable for meeting these outcomes. Our RAP Working Group is guided by the wisdom and cultural knowledge of Aunty Yvonne Agius and Vince Buckskin, and our Board and Executive team are committed to this process.

We will keep you updated on our progress with the RAP through *Around the House*.

Christmas card artwork exhibition

2022



This year, all Christmas card artwork submissions received from tenants will adorn the cover of our 2022 Christmas card as a collage and also feature in an online exhibition on our website.

Keep an eye out for all the details in the next edition of *Around the House* and start thinking about your Christmas-themed artwork masterpiece!

Award-winning artwork showcased at **THE MILL ADELAIDE**

The artwork of six talented Unity Housing tenants who were finalists in the 2021 Community Housing Art Awards South Australia (CHARTS) was showcased and celebrated in an exhibition at The Mill Adelaide in the CBD during January.

Artwork from Annette C, Mandy M and Annette C – who entered and won in their nominated categories – and Jungle P, Susan C and Coral S was beautifully displayed at The Mill Adelaide.

Annette C's piece *Self Portrait, Me and Art* was selected as the profile piece to advertise the exhibition.

Open to established, emerging and novice artists, the 2021 CHARTS competition received 183 entries from more than 90 South Australian community housing tenants, including 16 entries from Unity Housing tenants.

Finalists attended the awards ceremony at Adelaide Town Hall in November.



Mars Jumper
by Susan C



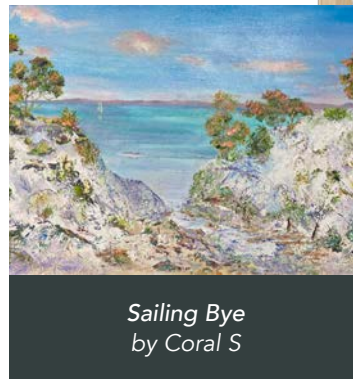
Patchwork Woman
by Mandy M



Self Portrait, Me and Art
by Annette C



Australian History, A Moment in Time, Dingo Holden Car
by Annette C



Sailing Bye
by Coral S



Spot the Dog
by Jungle P

Calling all recipes for **THE COMMUNITY COOKBOOK**

Unity Housing is running an exciting new community project and needs your favourite recipes.

We are proud to announce The Community Cookbook – a skillshare project open to all our tenants, suggested by our very own tenants Giselle and Andrew (pictured).

This project will provide opportunities for tenants to develop connections with neighbours and feel a sense of belonging, meaning and purpose within a community of like-minded people.

We invite you to submit your most favourite recipes to be shortlisted for the cookbook which will be printed and available to download from our website later this year.



Giselle



Andrew



Send us recipes that are meaningful, cultural, have family ties, are fun and most of all delicious. If you would like to join in the fun, submit your details and recipe(s) by **30 September 2022**.

Email to south@unityhousing.org.au or post to

1/506 Brighton Road,
Brighton SA 5048



Submit as many recipes as you like!

All welcome to join The Adelaide Art Collective

The newly-formed Adelaide Art Collective successfully held its first gathering in March.

The Adelaide Art Collective is an opportunity for tenants with an interest in art to come together, socialise and learn new skills. Participants share their art skills and knowledge each month through art demonstrations and collaborative art projects.

The group meets on the first Thursday of each month at the Adelaide City Library and all age groups, art abilities and art mediums are welcome. Unity Housing will provide some basic starter art materials, however, you should also bring your own preferred art supplies.

If you would like to join The Adelaide Art Collective or find out more, please contact Community Development Worker Gabby on 0427 445 723 or g.parente@unityhousing.org.au.

More than most, Nancy understands how quickly life can change and the importance of having access to safe, secure and affordable housing.

Born and raised in Port Pirie, Nancy and her husband Nick had many wonderful years together as homeowners and Nick was employed at the local lead smelter. In 1999 Nick became unwell and was diagnosed with cancer. He passed away six weeks later.

Nancy was left devastated; living alone in a large home that was a challenge to maintain and in an isolated location with no neighbours for friendship and support. Suddenly, Nancy was reliant on Centrelink income and facing financial pressures she had not previously encountered.

After years of encouragement from her daughter, Nancy agreed to request alternative housing and moved into a two-bedroom unit in Port Pirie, managed by Unity Housing.

SAFE AND SECURE HOUSING makes all the difference



“You get to meet people that you normally wouldn’t meet. Everybody has a different story.”

Nancy has never regretted her decision and says that although she is quiet and keeps to herself, it is comforting to know she has supportive neighbours that can be called upon if needed.

Nancy has been a dedicated volunteer in her community for decades: she was a volunteer with Meals on Wheels for 50 years, a member of the YWCA of Port Pirie for 50-odd years, and a volunteer with the Red Cross’s Telecross for around 25 years.

“I don’t do a great amount now but I still go to YWCA on Tuesdays, on Thursdays my daughter takes me shopping and on Fridays I go to a friendship group in town with a group of ladies,” Nancy says.

“You get to meet people that you normally wouldn’t meet. Everybody has a different story.”

Nancy outside her Port Pirie home



Clyde receiving a Club Legend award

A lifetime of tales to tell

Born with a fighting spirit and an innate need to help others, retired SA Metropolitan Fire Service Commander Clyde has thrived in the face of many challenges and humbly improved the lives of countless people.

"I was doing an apprenticeship as a refrigeration mechanic and I would go home each night gasping from the gases we worked with," Clyde, 85, says. "I saw an article in the news about a fireman who had been lowered down a silver mine in Glen Osmond to search for a man who was missing. I said, 'That's what I want to do.' I was fortunate that a friend at our church was the Chief Electrician at the MFS and he helped me get an interview with the Deputy Chief and I got in when I turned 21. I served 30 years 11 months and 17 days, but nobody was counting. When you love your job you never go to work."

Clyde was instrumental in making substantial changes within the MFS.



Clyde (far left) with his colleagues on a Bronto Skylift

"I'd do it all over again if I could."

"We went from 56 hours a week to 40 hours plus two hours overtime," he says. "We got all the penalties we were entitled to and the brigade became self-managing. I worked very hard for improvements for people in the fire service and I still do. Another fellow and I do welfare work visiting people from the fire service who are injured or sick. We visit people to make sure they're okay. I'm a surrogate grandfather to a couple of kids here in Macclesfield whose grandfather lives

interstate. We've built up a friendly coffee club here too. My philosophy is 'don't sit on your own, come and join us.'"

Clyde has enjoyed living a healthy and active life. He played more than 400 games for the Burnside Rugby Club and coached the club

and several SA teams. He is a Fellow of the Royal Life Saving Society and was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee Medal in the late 1970s.

Clyde is a quiet achiever who's naturally propelled to helping anyone he can. "I love the whole lot and I'd do it all over again if I could," he says. "A teacher once told me, 'If you don't learn something new every day then you've wasted a day of your life.' I am studying a Master of Occupational Health and Safety Science so I can keep learning. I'm 85 going on 30."



Outdoor area brings independence and pride

Through NDIS funding and a contribution from his family, Arron now has full wheelchair access to his new outdoor entertaining area which he proudly debuted with a family event in December.

"Arron christened his new concrete area with a family event for his birthday," Arron's Mum Heather says. "We had perfect weather and it was wonderful to see Arron accessing his garden. He was very proud to show it off to his 92-year-old nana."

ROBYN is house proud and clutter free



Before relocating from Smithfield to Salisbury, Robyn says she was living “in a rut” both mentally and physically.

During Robyn’s time in her Smithfield property, she had accumulated what she now says was “a lot of junk” and had found herself “in a rut”.

Robyn was the last tenant in the street to be relocated and, as properties were bulldozed around her for redevelopment, we supported Robyn with a fresh start in her new home in Salisbury which she moved into in August 2010 and proudly says this was her turning point. She eliminated many items she no longer needed nor wanted.

Twelve years down the track and Robyn says she is now “house proud and still clutter free”.

Robyn’s mental health has improved along with her physical health. Robyn loves the area and her neighbours and is incredibly thankful for the opportunity to move closer to her Dad which enabled her to spend much more time with during the last four years of his life.

Robyn loves spending her free time painting, creating diamond art and enjoying her backyard.



Food sharing by generous Millicent locals



IMAGE: FACEBOOK

Donated food is being turned into nutritious and warming meals for people in need in the Millicent community.

Millicent Shares a Plate is a volunteer group that cooks locally-grown fresh produce and provides free food each week to anyone in the community who needs a meal. Volunteers work together in teams to collect vegetables donated by businesses and locals; prepare, cook and serve the food; and other general activities while enjoying a fun and positive environment.

Fresh meals prepared by the group are available each Thursday in the fridge at the Millicent IGA supermarket.

This free food initiative is in addition to the 60 free meals that are also available to take from the IGA supermarket fridge every Monday night, prepared by supermarket manager and New Heaven restaurant chef Sukhi Dhaliwal.

The group is considering ways to develop in the future and is hoping to provide a sit-down meal, including dessert, in the future.

If you would like to know more, please contact:



Unity Housing’s Limestone Coast office on **08 8724 4108**



Wattle Range Council on **08 8733 0900**



Search for ‘Millicent Shares a Plate’ on **Facebook**

More homes for birds, bees, butterflies and trees



Together with our tenants and community partners, a new environmental project called **Canopies for the Community** has kicked off in the western Adelaide region.

Since 2001, Adelaide has lost about 14% of its tree canopy. Starting in the western region and working together with our tenants, our vision is to improve the tree canopy in our western region properties by getting together with our tenants to plant many new trees and shrubs.

IMAGE: ISTOCK

This community-based campaign will provide more homes for our wildlife, reduce the temperature in and around tenants' homes, and will be a great way for tenants to meet their neighbours and work together to increase tree canopy coverage.

We are very excited about seeding this new initiative which will bring together interested tenants and make a real difference to our communities. More information will be provided as the project progresses.

TENANT STORY

FLOURISHING FRUIT TREES connect neighbours



Janet and Ken amongst the apricot and plum trees

After years of living in their Fulham Gardens unit with an empty area of dirt to the side of their house, Janet and Ken knew they wanted to create a community garden.

"It was really bare and we thought we could plant some trees and if they're fruit trees then people living in the complex could share the fruit," Janet says. "It was so dry and we wanted to make it look presentable."

Janet and Ken were supported by our community partner UrbanVirons to plant a lemon, apricot and plum tree.

"We said if we bought the trees could we get them planted so the boss from UrbanVirons, Simon, came out and dug the holes for us and helped us plant the trees just before Christmas," Ken says. "Our neighbour Graham put a sprinkler line in the garden too so all we need to do is put on the timer and some of the garden is watered."

"We also planted some geraniums and salt bush and a mandarin tree," Janet says. "We are looking forward to sharing the produce with our neighbours."

ADEEB'S LIFE

expressed through poetry

By *Giselle, tenant*

Iraqi poet, journalist and translator Adeeb, a tenant at The Terrace Boarding House, had his book *My life, my life!* published in English language last year and sent me a copy.

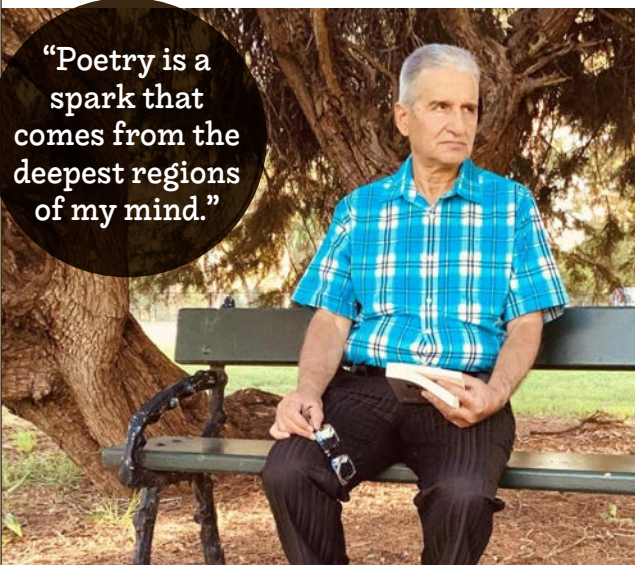
As he writes about his life in poetry, I wondered what led to this approach and asked him a few questions including an introduction to his life, the reason for writing in poetry, and what his plans are for his book and his future.

Adeeb gave me an amazing history of his lifelong involvement with poetry and the remarkable successes with his books internationally, translated in four other languages, winning awards in competitions, and the vast interest from international and Australian media and professionals in high positions. Adeeb has three poetry books in English called *Fatherhood*, *Something Wrong*, and *My life, my life!*

"Poetry, as I understand it, is an attempt to get the code of life and to understand life and get its secrets," he says. "Poetry is a spark that comes from the deepest regions of my mind... and should address the major problems of human life such as love, loneliness, war, death and hunger."

Adeeb is doing an exceptional job of that and says he will continue to write poetry in English and Arabic.

"Poetry is a spark that comes from the deepest regions of my mind."



If you are interested in reading or purchasing Adeeb's outstanding work, visit

<https://www.adeebk.com>

Congratulations

TO OUR COMPETITION WINNERS



Danuta



Nathan

In the December edition of *Around the House*, a competition was open to all tenants to win a summer school holiday party box.

Congratulations to the following winners, who were drawn at random: **Melissa** (Christies Beach), **Nathan** (Mount Gambier), **Conor** (Adelaide CBD), **Danuta** (Seaton), **Jade** (Port Pirie), **Jessica** (Elizabeth Vale) and **Ngoc Yen** (Adelaide CBD).



Bella and Addison

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