

AROUND THE HOUSE

AUTUMN 2025 EDITION 32



Community drives progress at Millicent Lions Park



The Lions Park project in Millicent is a great example of the community working together. It's helping bring people closer and making the town better.

The Lions Park Working Group has made strong progress in fixing up the park. Their recent talk with the local council went really well.

They are now waiting to hear if they will get a Thriving Communities grant. If they do, the money will be used to build better paths and toilets for people with disability.

One exciting part of the upgrade is the new community garden. It's growing fast, thanks to help from residents, Unity Housing tenants, Millicent High School, and Gladys Smith Early Learning Centre.

The Wattle Range Council is also helping. Play equipment from Tantanoola Primary School has been moved to the park.

The team is proud of the support from the community and is excited to keep working together to make the park even better.



Calling all artists

The CHARTS Awards competition is open to all community housing artists in South Australia, including talented artists within Unity Housing.

- Previous categories have included youth, emerging, and established artists.
- Entries open 1 July 2025.
- Awards night and exhibition details coming soon.
- Exciting prizes await!



Our 2023 winning tenants Adeeb, Marie and Jungle.

CHARTS
Community Housing Art Awards South Australia

For more information, please contact
Tenant Engagement Officer **Lesley Standaloft**
on **0439 310 434** or email l.standaloft@unityhousing.org.au.



Nominate and celebrate exceptional neighbours

Unity Housing is thrilled to announce we are holding our successful **Good Neighbour Awards** for tenants in Millicent and the inner city of Adelaide!

Do you know a neighbour who spreads positivity, lends a helping hand, or makes a real difference through their acts of generosity and compassion? Now is the perfect time to show your appreciation! Nominations for tenants in the following suburbs are now open until **Friday 30 May: Adelaide, Bowden, Brompton, Gilberton, Kent Town, Ovingham and Kensington**. Nominations for the Millicent awards have closed.

An Awards Ceremony will be held at Millicent Football Club on **Thursday 15 May** and at Unity Housing's Bowden office on **Tuesday 17 June**.

This is a chance to give back to your neighbours who give so much to others.

Nominate today and make a difference!



For more information or assistance with your nomination, please contact Tenant Engagement Officers **Amanda Phillips** on 0427 445 723 or a.phillips@unityhousing.org.au or **Jacqui Matthews** on 0417 241 873 or j.matthews@unityhousing.org.au.

~COMPETITION~

We're giving three lucky tenants the chance to win a **75-piece Bunnings toolkit** and a **Big W pamper pack**



Photos courtesy of Bunnings and Big W

Entries close Monday 2 June • Winners will be notified by Friday 27 June

A new chapter in community art

HOCKING PLACE

Unity Housing's Hocking Place Colour Project has reached its final stage after three years of brightening the building with artwork.

First Nations artist Scott Rathman, who painted the first mural, came back to add more colour and creativity. He painted the staircases and a bold mural on the rooftop, turning plain spaces into exciting art.

Tenants say the artwork has lifted their spirits and helped bring people together. Many have enjoyed chatting about the murals and feeling more connected.

To celebrate, Unity held a Neighbour Day event on 1 April, with games, food, and prizes. It was a fun day for everyone.

Now we're working with tenants to explore how the rooftop space could be used in the future.

The Colour Project has brought energy, joy, and a stronger sense of community to Hocking Place, making it a more welcoming home for everyone.



Jade and Anthony.

Have your say in the 2025 Tenant Survey

For Adelaide western metro and Limestone Coast tenants only.



We'd like to know what you think about our services.

We'll send you the survey in July by email or via Australia Post.

You could win a prize just by filling in the survey.

Millicent gears up for All Abilities

We invite the Millicent and surrounding community to enter this year's **All Abilities Art Exhibition** and showcase your talents.

The exhibition is proudly presented in collaboration with Wattle Range Council, Perfect Circle Support Services, AC Care Millicent, and Unity Housing.



Mary won the 2024 All Abilities Art Exhibition with her 'Snail Tea Pot Cosy'.

Save these dates so you don't miss the opportunity to be part of this celebration of creativity and inclusion:

- **Entries open:** Monday 21 July
- **Entries close:** Friday 22 August
- **Official opening event:** Friday 26 September at 3.30pm at the Millicent Visitor Information Centre

More information will become available over the next few months. For any queries in the meantime, please contact Tenant Engagement Officer **Jacqui Matthews** on **0417 241 873**.

It's OK to complain

Everyone deserves to live in a safe and peaceful place. Unity Housing is here to help make that happen. If things aren't right, please tell us. We want to help.

How to make a complaint

You can complain about Unity Housing if

- repairs are taking too long
- staff were unhelpful
- you told us about a problem but nothing has changed

You can complain about your neighbour's

- loud music, yelling or fighting
- rubbish or messy yard
- bad smells or pests

You can report problems to Unity Housing without giving your name.

Call our Customer Care Centre team on 1800 551 814

Email feedback@unityhousing.org.au

Visit our website

HOW TO MAKE A COMPLAINT



SCAN ME

In an emergency, call 000.

Unity Housing must follow the law when dealing with tenants. This can take time but we are working on it.

Unity is here to support you.
Your voice matters,
your feedback helps us do better.



Since June 2024, tenants from the boarding house have been going to EFM Health Clubs in Bowden each week. They have been working hard and seeing remarkable results! Many have improved their strength, fitness, and energy, and have also noticed better balance, coordination, and mental health.

Stephen (pictured above) shared his story, "My strength and balance have improved 150%. I used to hold onto the escalator rails at shopping malls, but now I do not need to because my balance is so much better."

This opportunity comes from Unity Housing's partnership with Reclink, which offers different sports and recreational activities for tenants.

Going to the gym is not only about fitness, but also a chance to meet new people and have fun. Tenants have connected with others from different programs. While the workouts can be tough, everyone agrees they are worth it and extremely rewarding.



Fidencio at the rowing machine

Powering homes, changing lives



"Our quarterly bills were \$700 and with the battery they're \$550 so a saving of \$150 a quarter comes in handy."

Andrew, Tenant

Unity Housing and Tesla are helping tenants take control of their energy use! Since February 2024, we've invited tenants from 1,829 homes to join this exciting project.

So far, 297 tenants have signed up, with 242 homes already fitted with solar and/or battery systems. These systems use solar panels to capture energy from the sun or from the grid and store it in a battery, so homes can use electricity even when the sun isn't shining.

This reduces the need for power from the grid (the main electricity supply). With 1,425 solar panels and 3.33MWh of battery power installed, tenants enjoy lower bills, reliable energy, and less pollution, creating a healthier, greener future for everyone.

Tenants Andrew and Tanya with their children (pictured) live in Adelaide's south and have a battery installed. "Our quarterly bills were \$700 and with the battery they're \$550 so a saving of \$150 a quarter comes in handy," Andrew says.



This initiative won an Excellence in Community Housing Award in 2024 for its new and creative way of helping tenants access clean, reliable energy.

~ Coming soon ~ Tenant voice roadshow



Together, we're shaping a better future.

We're excited to announce the launch of our Tenant Voice Forums – a series of in-person events coming to both metropolitan and regional areas starting in 2025. This roadshow is all about hearing from YOU and making sure your voice shapes the future of Unity Housing's services.

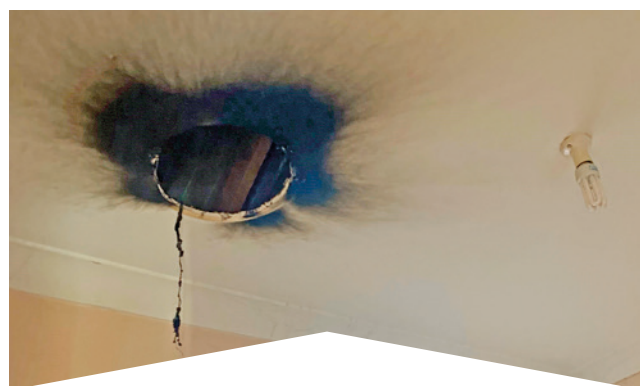
It will include:

- Adelaide western metropolitan and Limestone Coast areas
- Face-to-face forums where you can share your ideas and feedback

Stay tuned for dates and details and get ready to make your voice heard. Keep an eye on your inbox, SMS and Facebook for further updates!

Cleaner exhausts, safer homes

Exhaust fans help remove smoke, steam, grease, and smells from your home but if not cleaned, they can become a fire risk.



Risks of dirty exhaust fans:

- **Fire hazard:** Dust and grease can block airflow and overheat the fan.
- **Electrical danger:** Dirty fans can spark or short-circuit.
- **Not working well:** A clogged fan uses more power and works less effectively.

Your responsibility as a tenant:

- Keep exhaust fans, ovens, and stovetops clean.
- Clean at least once a year (or more if needed).

How to clean your exhaust fan

- 1 Turn off the fan at the power.
- 2 Remove the cover.
- 3 Wipe blades with a soft cloth or a sponge and water or use a small vacuum brush.
- 4 Check the motor for dust or grease.
- 5 Put it back together and test the fan.

Tip:

In kitchens or greasy areas, clean every 3 to 6 months.



Need help? Please contact your Housing Officer or phone 1800 551 814.

Help the bees with a bee hotel



Bee numbers have been going down in recent years. This is a worry because bees are very important for the environment. Bees help grow our food by moving pollen from flower to flower. Without bees, many fruits, vegetables, and flowers would not grow well. One simple way to help bees is to build a bee hotel.

What is a bee hotel?

A bee hotel is a safe home for solitary bees. These bees don't live in hives like honeybees. They like to live alone in small holes. Bee hotels copy the natural places where solitary bees like to live. They are made from things like wood, bamboo, or cardboard tubes.



Unity's bee project

In 2024, Unity's gardening group met Lola, a bee and butterfly expert. She showed us how to build bee hotels. Lola also gave everyone paper daisy seeds to plant. These flowers attract both bees and butterflies!



How to make a bee hotel

- 1 **Choose materials** ~ Use an old tin can, wood, or bamboo.
- 2 **Drill holes** ~ Make holes of different sizes (2mm to 10mm) in wood blocks, bamboo tubes or straws. Seal one side of the bamboo. Cut the bamboo/straws to the size of your tin can.
- 3 **Assemble** ~ Fill the tin can with bamboo tubes, straws, or wood pieces.
- 4 **Place** ~ Put your bee hotel in a sunny and sheltered spot near flowers. Make sure it's stable and not moving in the wind.

For more information or to join our gardening group, please contact Lesley on 0439 310 434 or l.standaloft@unityhousing.org.au

~ COMPETITION ~

Calling all artists!

2025

Christmas card artwork

Unity Housing will showcase your creative and artistic talents on our 2025 Christmas card. Entrants can use any medium they like – the sky is the limit!

~ Please note – only one entry per person ~

"I encourage other people to enter in the future. I've won something for the first time, I've got some validation now. I'm still beaming." Our 2024 competition winner, Sue, on what winning first prize means to her.

Save these dates

Competition opens:
4 August

Competition closes:
29 September

Prizes for the winning entries:

First prize – \$300
Second prize – \$150
Highly commended – \$50

More information and the entry form will be in the next edition of *Around the House*.

Christmas cheer spread from Adelaide to Peterborough



Shivonne and Barry at The Terrace lunch.



Tenants and staff at the Peterborough event.

Unity hosted a lovely lunch for eight tenants in Peterborough on 17 December and for our tenants at The Terrace Boarding House on Christmas Day.

In Peterborough, the atmosphere was filled with warm conversations and friendly chats.

It was a fantastic chance for tenants to connect in a relaxed environment, fostering both new and ongoing friendships. The food was a hit too; everyone indulged in a spread of wraps, fresh sandwiches, and delicious desserts that added an extra touch of sweetness to the day.

Tenant involvement at The Terrace was a highlight, with 16 tenants volunteering to set up, cook, and assist with food collection. Amazingly, 10 platters were delivered to our other boarding houses, ensuring no one missed out on the celebrations.

The event highlighted community and festive spirit with tenant David saying, "It was good. The food was excellent and we had enough leftovers for the next day as well. Everyone was very appreciative."



Thelmy, Simone, Steven and Tracey at The Terrace lunch.



Would you like to be involved? **GET IN TOUCH!**

We encourage tenants to get involved in submitting ideas and helping us find good stories to be included in future editions of *Around the House*. Share your ideas and send us interesting and informative content for other Unity Housing tenants to enjoy.

If you have content to share for the next edition, please email editor@unityhousing.org.au by **Tuesday 10 June**.

We'd love to hear from you!