



Homes Out West

Making a Difference

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A Bi-monthly Insight into Community Housing

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From the Executive Officer's desk

The cold weather and winter season is well and truly here now. It is difficult to believe that we are almost half way through the year already—how time flies when you are busy.

At Homes Out West we continue to be kept busy rolling out the ongoing program of property upgrades throughout the region; welcoming a large number of new tenants housed through the Nation Building Economic Stimulus Plan; completing our six monthly rent reviews and inspections; development of new partnerships with service providers in the region and the advancement of a number of the key priorities in the organisation's new Strategic Plan.

I would like to welcome on board our new staff members and look forward to the skills and strengths they will be able to contribute to Homes Out West. I hope they enjoy being busy!

The change of Government in NSW earlier in the year has seen NSW not having a direct Housing Minister for the first time in 70 years. Responsibilities have been split between the Family & Community Services Minister – Pru Goward and Greg Pearce Minister for Finance & Services. This split is a concern to the sector and we are continuing to work with our peak body the NSW Federation of Housing Associations in understanding the implications and flow on effects.

Finally, don't forget our inaugural Impressive Gardener competition now is great time to warm up by getting busy in the garden or amongst your pots in preparation for the spring blossoming.

Geoff Mann — Executive Officer

ARE YOU ABLE TO BE CONTACTED?



Homes Out West staff and tradespeople often experience difficulties being able to contact tenant's to discuss important issues including maintenance work required at the property.

We would like to remind all of our tenants that you need to let us know if your contact details have changed so that we can update our files.

If you have let a tradesperson know that you will be home at a particular time in order for maintenance work to be completed, it is extremely important that you are home at that time. You need to let the tradesperson know if you need to change the time of their visit.

If you have organised to meet a staff member at your home or at one of our offices, it is again extremely important that you are available for this appointment or you contact your Housing Worker to reschedule the appointment. Homes Out West staff try to assist you with your tenancy but this can be very difficult if we are unable to contact you.

Homes Out West Maintenance

1300 038 233

For After Hours Emergencies
Call the Contractor on your Lease

MEET OUR NEW STAFF MEMBERS



Eliza is our new Service Development Manager.

Eliza is originally from Bendigo and now resides in Deniliquin. She completed a

Bachelor of Urban Planning and Development degree at the University of Melbourne.

Eliza has worked as a Town Planner with local government in Perth, Bendigo and Echuca. She has also spent time travelling and working throughout Europe.

She is a keen netballer and plays for the Deniliquin Rams and enjoys playing and watching sport, wining and dining and beach holidays!

Favorite Food: sushi
Favorite Drink: champagne
Favorite TV show: Angry Boys

Maree is our new Admin Assistant.

Maree began her working life with the Commonwealth Bank in Deniliquin shifting to Jerilderie and Hay with husband working for Purtil's in Deniliquin.



On returning to Deniliquin she worked at the Gulpa Sawmill until July 2010.

Maree is married with two adult children and enjoys the outdoors with walks and camping holidays, she also enjoys holidays taking her to the coastal areas.

Favourite Food : Grilled fish/salad or anything with chocolate
Favourite Drink : A Sauvignon Blanc
Favourite TV Show : Master Chef/Getaway

Heating Tips

The most energy & cost efficient way of keeping warm is to rug up under a blanket or extra layers of clothing. However, on chilly nights, there are a couple of simple ways to save energy while keeping your home warm with your heater:

- Use draught stoppers on all your doors and windows to save up to 15-20 per-cent of heat loss
- Use thick curtains for added insulation
- Keeping doors shut and blinds drawn to help conserve the heat in the house

Gas & Electric Heaters

Keep the temperature between 18C and 20C - every two degrees you lower the setting of the thermostat, you can save up to \$138 per year

Wood Heaters

Run most efficiently at medium or high burn rates

Keep these tips in mind when using you heaters and hopefully help reduce your electricity bill. If you have any questions or problems with your heater please call Felicity or Eliza at the Homes Out West office.

Housing NSW Youth Scholarships for 2012

Will you be in Year 11 or 12 in 2012 and think a \$2000 scholarship would help your studies?

Whether you live in social housing or are on the NSW Housing Register you may be eligible to apply for a \$2000 Housing NSW Youth Scholarship.

To be eligible, you need to be under 25 years of age in 2012 and have your school or TAFE college endorse that you have a good attendance record.

Scholarships of \$2,000 may be spent on:

- books • computer equipment
- other specialist education equipment
- tuition, special programs or course fees

Download the information sheet and application form today from www.housing.nsw.gov.au or pick up from a Homes Out West office.

Applications close 29 July 2011.



Don't forget the inaugural Homes Out West **IMPRESSIVE GARDENER OF THE YEAR COMPETITION**

Do you grow your own vegetables?

Do you have great pot plants?

Have you established a balcony garden at your unit?

Do you keep your lawns neat and tidy?

If you answered yes to any of the above or if you know another HOW tenant who you think is a pretty 'impressive gardener' then pick up your phone and nominate yourself/them for the Impressive Gardener of the Year Award.

We have given you plenty of time to get ready and nominate with the judging of the Impressive Gardener of the Year occurring in October this year with the winners announced in our November Newsletter.

Great Prizes to be won

1st Prize :	\$100.00 Voucher
2nd Prize:	\$ 75.00 Voucher
3rd Prize:	\$ 50.00 Voucher

Anyone can nominate or you can nominate someone else.
If you live in a block of units you can also nominate as a group.

We look forward to your nominations and meeting all of our Impressive Gardeners.

RECONCILIATION WEEK EVENTS – 27 MAY – 3 JUNE 2011

The Nyerna Reconciliation Group assisted the Deniliquin community to celebrate Reconciliation Week this year. The events held were extremely successful and included:

- Raising the Aboriginal flag outside the Deniliquin Council building with Mayor Brian Mitch and the Lions club cooking a breakfast for everyone on 27/05/11;
- The launch of 'Paris Dreaming' written by a fantastically brilliant and hilarious Wiradjuri writer Dr Anita Heiss on 30/05/11 at the Peppin Heritage Centre including a performance by Adrian Ross;
- The launch of the Shared History project at the library on 31/05/11 with a special performance of poetry by Alex Allitt;
- A dinner with guests and Dr Anita Heiss on 31/05/11 to discuss Reconciliation matters and ideas for the Nyerna group;
- Presentation to Deniliquin High School regarding Reconciliation with a brilliant didgeridoo performance by student Jimmy Atkinson.

The Shared History project will be a project that the Nyerna Reconciliation group plans to develop over the next few years. The aim is to illustrate the positive relationships between farmers and landowners and other locals with Traditional Owners in the local Deniliquin area. It will also endeavour to highlight the role Indigenous people played in the farming industry and the development of this region.

If you have any stories, information, photos, copies of relevant stock records or maps that you would like to share, please contact Jennifer Townsend – Chairperson Nyerna Reconciliation group.

Thank you to the Murray CMA for sponsoring all of the Reconciliation Week activities and for sponsoring the Shared History project.

For further information contact Chairperson, Jennifer Townsend 035881 4182 or jennifer.townsend@homesoutwest.com.au



Pat Fogarty & Geoff Mann at the flag raising ceremony at Inala House.

Mirambeena Community Lunch

The Mirambeena Community Lunch will be in a short recess from 23 June and will recommence on 20th July 2011 and continue as an ongoing exercise. The recess will cause some inconvenience however frozen \$2.00 take-away meals will be available at the Mirambeena office during the period.



Mousetraps

This is a recipe that I find the kids really enjoy and it's a great way to use up leftovers.

Mix together 2 cups of grated cheese, 2 eggs, 1 deserts-
poon of oil, 1/4 cup cream or milk and 1 tea-
spoon curry powder. To this mixture add chopped
ham, bacon, tomato or any left over vegetables etc.
Spread the mixture thickly on sliced bread and cook
in a hot oven until golden brown.

Cut into fingers to serve. *Good eating*

