

HouseTalk

Churches of Christ Housing Services
Resident newsletter
Winter 2022



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Contact details and office hours.

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Gold Coast

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Ashmore City Qld 4214
Cnr Olsen Ave & Griffith Way
Southport Qld 4215
07 5539 7655

Sunshine Coast

8 Cooma Terrace
Caloundra Qld 4551
07 5492 8439

Bribie Island

52 Cotterill Avenue
Bongaree Qld 4507
07 3410 3751

North Ipswich

26 The Terrace
North Ipswich Qld 4305
07 3436 8930

After Hours Emergencies: 1800 446 604

Office Hours: 9.00am to 4.00pm weekdays

If you require an interpreter, call TIS National on 131 450 and ask them to call Churches of Christ Housing Services on 1800 406 566

Acknowledgement of Country.

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands on which we stand and pay our respects to the Elders past, present and emerging, for they hold the memories, traditions, cultures, hopes and aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

We recognise, respect and celebrate the survival and resilience of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, including recognition of those whose ongoing effort to protect and promote the world's oldest living culture will leave a lasting and proud legacy for their people.

Front cover image, pictured, from left to right:

Arlette won the vibrant pink orchid in the Gold Coast Neighbourhood Day lucky door raffle, which was presented to her by one of the service providers, Rhee from Diversicare.

Welcome from Gus Taddeo. General Manager.



Welcome to the Winter 2022 edition of *HouseTalk*. In my first few months as General Manager, I am pleased to have met and connected with many of you, in your communities, by attending several housing events. This was something that was important to me to be able to do early on in my role.

The first half of 2022 has seen a flurry of activity and energy across the regions as our Community Engagement team have hosted a variety of community events with you.

Some of the events I attended included the popular Neighbourhood Days at various housing locations. Centred around a free barbeque and a theme, like Harmony Day or Easter, these events offer much more than simply a chance to meet and socialise with each other. By partnering with other organisations, we create an environment where you can access a variety of services relevant to your community.



Pictured above: Crowds gathered at our largest Neighbourhood Day in Spring Hill.

I visited the Kingsford Smith Drive Neighbourhood Day in Hamilton, where I saw residents benefit from having a GP onsite providing COVID vaccinations, and witnessed residents enjoying the free chiropractic and physiotherapy treatments offered by the Central Queensland University Health Clinic.



Pictured above: David from the Kingsford Smith Drive Housing complex gives the thumbs up for Neighbourhood days.

I also attended an event in Ipswich, where we supported an existing community event that brings the community together and provides access to relevant supports. Held at Browns Park, across the road from residents at our Flint Street complex, the event was like our Neighbourhood Days, but on a larger scale. I am so pleased to see that we are partnering with other groups and organisations through events like this that benefit residents and the wider community.

It was great to visit communities and events ranging in size from the 26-unit Hamilton complex to the collaborative Spring Hill Neighbourhood Day that was open to over 600 people. Thank you to all of you who chatted with me, shared your stories and welcomed me to your communities.

As the cold of winter has now taken hold, I hope that the warmth felt by the energy and activity of our community events will continue to give you a sense of home and wellbeing.

Gus Taddeo | General Manager – Churches of Christ Housing Services

Tenant of the Season Awards.

Tenant of the Season Awards recognise residents who have gone above and beyond to support their neighbours and communities and make positive change. Award recipients receive a certificate and gift voucher to thank them for their efforts. Thank you and well done to this season's winners – keep up the great work!

<p>Michelle H., Ipswich</p> <p>Michelle has gone above and beyond for a neighbour who has been in and out of hospital. Michelle cared for the neighbour's dog for over six weeks and has also been there at other times to help, often at short notice.</p>	<p>Travis S.F., Ipswich</p> <p>Travis helps with set up, pack down and cooking at the chaplain barbeques. He also contributes food and cleans the equipment after each use. Travis is a friendly face around the complex who others can go to if they need support, from opening jars to moving furniture.</p>
<p>Maree W., Logan</p> <p>Maree frequently supports her neighbours. She checks on those she knows are unwell, regularly transports a neighbour to the library, and cares for another neighbour's dog when needed.</p>	<p>Nicole R., Ipswich</p> <p>Nicole has recently been a great support for her fellow residents during a time of great sadness. She has not only been there on a personal level but has also made sure pets are cared for, has helped with tasks, and ensured people are well-cared for and not left alone.</p>



You can nominate one of your neighbours for next season's awards by emailing CCHSLStories@cofcqld.com.au with the subject 'TOTS Nomination'.

Please include their name and provide a few sentences reason as to why you are nominating them.

Top tip of the season.

A reminder now that we've started winter: mould strikes with a vengeance!

Mould builds up in damp areas and can be hard to get rid of once you've got it.

To prevent mould developing, remember:

Ventilate

Open windows and doors when possible, use exhaust fans in bathrooms and toilets, and use rangehoods over your stoves. Using an air conditioner on 'dry mode' is also an effective way of preventing mould.

Keep an eye out for leaks

Identify where water may be leaking, e.g., from pipes and gutters. Contact your Housing Officer as soon as possible if you find a leak.

Proactively dry wet areas

Use bathmats to keep bathrooms dry; use dishcloths to keep kitchen sinks and surrounds dry.

We also recommend checking your electrical equipment, such as heaters and electric blankets, before using them this winter. Check the cords and connections to make sure they are not damaged or frayed since last time you used them.

Protect yourself this flu season.

Until 30 June 2022, the Queensland Government will be offering free influenza vaccinations to all Queenslanders over 6 months of age at GPs and pharmacies.

After 30 June, you can still receive a free flu vaccination from your GP if you are:

- 65-years-of-age and over
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people over 6-months-of-age
- Children aged between 6-months-of-age and 5-years-of-age
- Pregnant women
- People over 6-months-of-age with certain medical risk factors, including heart disease, severe asthma, impaired immunity, and diabetes.

About financial abuse.

Financial abuse is a form of coercive control and can constitute domestic and family violence. It is when someone uses money to gain power or control over a partner (and in the case of elder abuse, a parent).

Financial abuse can take many forms, but some of the most common ones include:

- Controlling/monitoring access to money, accounts, benefits, and pensions
- Refusing access to sufficient funds
- Refusing to allow someone to view bills/statements
- Not contributing fairly to household expenses
- Purposefully not sharing information.

How to get help:

Contact **1800-RESPECT (1800 737 732)**, the national domestic and family violence counselling and support service.

Contact the **Elder Abuse Prevention Unit (1300 651 192)**, a helpline for support, referrals, and information about elder abuse.

Are you receiving Rent Assistance – and as much as you're entitled to?

Residents living in Community Housing and receiving an income support payment from Centrelink may be entitled to Commonwealth Rent Assistance (CRA). It is an amount of money paid to you to help you cover the cost of rent.

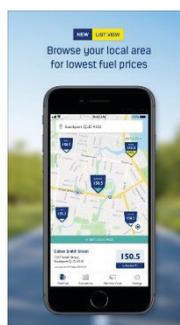
Following a rent review, the amount of rent you pay may change. You should contact Centrelink to inform them of any changes to the rent you pay (or household circumstances, such as relationship changes and if the number of children you care for changes), as you may be entitled to a greater amount of CRA.

The Golden Rule.

The Golden Rule says, **'treat others how you wish to be treated.'**

When speaking to staff, volunteers, and contractors, please remember to be respectful. Recently, staff answering phones have been shouted at and abused. Please remember to treat us how you would like us to treat you.

Find Fair Fuel prices.



Did you know that the RACQ has a smartphone app that enables you to find the best fuel prices in your area? The **Fair Fuel** app is available for free on both Apple and Android phones. The app also tells you what RACQ believes is a good price for fuel at the time and whether fuel prices are currently rising or falling.

Centrelink appointments.



Skip the queue – make an appointment! Walk-ins at some Centrelink service centres may still be accepted, but you may be required to wait a long time before being seen.

To make an appointment for your local Centrelink service centre, call your regular payment line. If you don't know your payment line number, check servicesaustralia.gov.au/appointments

Celebrating Harmony Day

Acacia Ridge, Brisbane

Harmony Day promotes Australia's cultural diversity and the strength it brings to our communities. This year, we celebrated Harmony Day at our Acacia Ridge Campus with a multicultural lunch and music.

Attendees enjoyed Turkish, Greek, French, Dutch, Australian, Brazilian, Egyptian and Moroccan cuisines – there was something for everyone! Food was shared over enjoyable conversation prompted by questions written on orange card (the colour of Harmony Day) and spread around the table. One of the questions asked, "What

does harmony mean to you?" Residents said that Harmony Day is about unity, hope, peace, humanity, love, and respect for other cultures.

"It's about, all people from every nation getting together peacefully and sharing life," wrote one resident.

We were delighted when resident Frank hopped on the guitar and keyboard alongside Chaplain Phil on the drums and treated us to renditions of *Hotel California* (The Eagles), *Dreams* (Fleetwood Mac), *Bohemian Rhapsody* (Queen) and *Dancing Queen* (ABBA).

You can scan the QR code with your phone to see the performance on YouTube!



Joining community in Browns Park.

Ipswich

In early-April, we joined other community organisations at Browns Park, Ipswich to support those experiencing homelessness, housing stress, or living in social housing.

We handed out free clothing and quilts (made by the Caloundra Church of Christ ladies quilting group) and offered digital support and housing information to nearly 100 people. Other groups on the day provided free food, haircuts, vaccinations, and physiotherapy and chiropractic treatments. It was a great afternoon for everyone involved, particularly residents from our complex on the same street as the park.

We hope to continue participating in this event every three months, which will be called 'Crossroads in the Park'. If you are a local resident, we hope you can join us at the next event in late-July. Keep your eyes peeled for the poster closer to the day.



Bringing warmth leading up to winter.

📍 Caloundra, Sunshine Coast

The quilting group generously donated dozens of quilts to Housing Services to give out at Neighbourhood Days and other events.



Pictured left: Norma, from the Caloundra Church of Christ, with one of the quilts she and others made as part of their fortnightly quilting club.

Breaking bread over Easter.

📍 Caloundra, Sunshine Coast

Caloundra residents celebrated Easter with the Community Engagement team, Housing Officer Michelle and Maintenance Officer Rob.

They all shared a meal together – including hot cross buns and Easter eggs – and talked about what Easter meant to them and their plans to celebrate with family and friends. They were also joined by Emily, who spoke to them about UnitingCare's Seniors Enquiry Line (**1300 135 500**). It is a free service that can advise you on a full range of topics, from scams, financial services and technology to transportation options, social activities, and health services.



Pictured above: Community Engagement Coordinator Sue Hughes with resident Chez and Maintenance Officer Rob.

The first Gold Coast Neighbourhood Day.

📍 Southport, Gold Coast

Residents were absolutely delighted by the beautiful quilts that were 'made with love' by women from Caloundra Church of Christ and donated for the Gold Coast Region Neighbourhood Day.

The event was held at Southport Church of Christ on Wednesday 27 April and was our first Neighbourhood Day run on the Gold Coast. As is custom at our Neighbourhood Days, a free barbeque was on offer, plus a lucky door raffle, hot drinks and stalls staffed by various service providers.



Housing Services team member Jacob giving out quilts to residents. **From left to right:** Jacob, residents Helen and Judy, Housing Officer Kelly, Emily from UnitingCare, and resident Sue.



Arlette (pictured in the blue) won the vibrant pink orchid in the lucky door raffle, which was presented to her by one of the service providers, Rhee from Diversicare.

Chaplain Graham joined in on the fun and conversation on the day. He spoke about two new social committees at our

Queen Street and Hunter Street apartments, which aim to "empower residents towards creating their own destiny". If you are interested in getting involved and helping to shape these groups, be sure to reach out to Chaplain Graham.

Gardens bring joy.

Hillcrest, Logan

Our seniors' apartments at Hillcrest in Logan is home to some very green thumbs.



The residents have been tending to the gardens since moving in over two years ago. Now they are seeing the fruits of their labour blossom after plenty of trial and error to discover what works in the local environment. Resident, Kay, said she was somewhat of an amateur gardener when she started but is now proud of what

she has managed to help create. Kay hopes her tips below will give other budding gardeners the confidence to have a go.

Kay's garden tips

- Know your soil. What you can grow will depend on the type of soil you have. At Hillcrest, the soil has a high ratio of clay, meaning more fragile plants have struggled to grow. Geraniums and marigolds are two types of hardy flowers I have seen success with.
- Don't over-water. By waterlogging plants, you deprive their roots of oxygen, which can cause root rot.
- Avoid watering in direct sunlight. Watering plants in the height of the day will not only mean the water evaporates quicker, but you may also burn your plants. The water that sits on top of the leaves may act as a magnifying glass for the sun and damage the plants.
- Choose self-seeding plants. Some flowers may self-seed and spread naturally, meaning less work for you in taking cuttings and transplanting them. Just be careful of how much a particular flower will self-seed, as it may overgrow and become unruly.

Coolamon farewells Chaplain.

Bribie Island

Chaplain Luke Finlay has worked at our Coolamon Apartments on Bribie Island for nearly 10 years.

Over that time, he's seen nearly everything – from the splitting of the Bribie sandbar earlier this year, to countless Christmas parties and dress-ups, to the opening of Coolamon Apartments Stage II, which nearly doubled the complex's size last year. As a chaplain, he supported residents from all walks of life on their unique journeys.

While leaving Churches of Christ, Luke will continue to work in the homelessness and housing space in the Moreton Bay Region.

The Coolamon Apartments community farewelled Luke with well wishes, lots of laughs and many memories of the good times they shared together.



"To Pastor Luke, I will never forget you. Thank you for getting me into my beautiful home. I wish you all the best now and always." –Michelle D

"Who was to know that Luke and I were to become the best of friends? He was so good putting others and me at ease with a joke or two. Be happy Luke." –Gayle

"I had the great pleasure of getting to know Pastor Luke since I moved into Coolamon Apartments 10 years ago. He has helped me many times. The social club would not have been the great success it was without his input and helping hand. Thank you once again for being my friend and supporter." –Susan

"Luke took a lot of problems off people's shoulders. We trusted him 100%. He was our friend and always will be. We wish him the very best for the future." – Nicholas and Raelene

RESIDENT REMINDERS

June – July Resident Engagement Meetings (REM)

LOCATION	DAY/TIME	VENUE
BRISBANE (ACACIA RIDGE)	Thursday 2.6.2022, 10.00am – 12.00pm	On-site Community Centre
HILLCREST	Tuesday 7.6.2022, 10.00am – 12.00pm	On-site Community Centre
BRISBANE (CITY)	KSD: Friday 17.6.2022, 12.00pm Light/Hynes: Wednesday 29.6.2022, 12.00pm Gregory/Kinross: Thursday 30.6.2022, 12.00pm	On-site alongside BBQ
BRIBIE ISLAND	Tuesday 14.6.2022, 12.00am – 1.30pm	On-site Community Centre
GOLD COAST	Thursday 16.6.2022, 11.00am – 12.30pm	Southport Church of Christ – 1 Griffith Way, Southport*
BRISBANE (MITCHELTON)	Tuesday 21.6.2022, 12.30am – 2.30pm	Arana Hills Church of Christ (2 Bringelly St, Arana Hills)
IPSWICH	Thursday 23.6.2022, 10.00am – 12.00pm	The Terrace Community Space (26 The Terrace, North Ipswich)
CALOUNDRA	Wednesday 6.7.2022, 11.00am – 1.00pm	On-site Community Centre

Faces to a Name.

From the Community Engagement Team

Sue and Jacob are our Housing Services Community Engagement Team and work out of the Brisbane Head Office in Kenmore. They work to foster connection and collaboration among residents and their communities. They also run events and activities for residents, such as affordable cooking classes, digital training, and upskilling opportunities such as the Tenancy Skills program.

You will find Sue and Jacob regularly taking photos and gathering good news stories showcasing the residents and communities we support. They also run the Resident Engagement Meetings for each region and are always happy to take a call and chat about what can be done to support your community.



Sue



Jacob



Wes



Peter



Rob

New to the Chaplaincy Team

We welcome Wes Bust, who will be based at the Booval office in Ipswich. Wes has experience in the social and community service sectors. He joins the other Housing Chaplain in Ipswich, Michelle Warren, and they will work closely to support residents in Ipswich.

Peter Hamer will be based at Bribie Island. Peter has an established connection with this community, having delivered food there regularly. Welcome, Peter, we are delighted to have you as part of our community!

Rob Hensser will be based at the Coogera Apartments at Caloundra and he will eventually support the Little Mountain site when it is completed. Rob has chaplaincy experience in the Air Force and will be welcome part of the the Coogera Apartments community. Welcome, Rob!

WHAT'S ON

Note: Please check the event pages online or confirm with the organisers that the events are still going ahead before you make plans.

Brisbane

City Sounds – Free Live Music

Locations around Brisbane, weekly at various times

City Sounds showcases upcoming local musicians from a broad range of genres. Keep an eye on what's coming up on their website:

visitbrisbane.com.au/the-city-sounds

Below is one of the upcoming performances.

Pat Tierney

Outside the Wintergarden

Saturday 25 June, 12:00pm, 1:00pm & 2:00pm

Ipswich

Bushcare Volunteer – Garden of Eden Project

Cribb Park, North Ipswich

Fortnightly from Saturday 11 June – 23 July, then 13 & 27 August, 2.00pm



This event is run by volunteers who have made a difference to the environment. "You might enjoy this as an outing if you are passionate about caring for our natural environment, you like working outdoors in a hands-on role and enjoy working with a diverse range of people." Come along to Cribb Park and look for the orange A-Frame sign. Please wear a hat, long pants and enclosed shoes and bring a water bottle and snacks. If you have any questions you can email: goegcribbpark@gmail.com

Logan

Uplift virtual book club

Delivered live via Microsoft Teams

4th Wednesday of the month, 11.00am to 12:30pm

"An uplifting book club designed to lift your spirits and make you smile." Fiction and non-fiction books included. Please register online. If you need assistance, you can phone the Logan library on **07 3412 5420** or go online at loganlibraries.org

Gold Coast

Bricktionary: The Interactive LEGO brick Exhibition

Home of the Arts (HOTA), 135 Bundall Road, Surfers Paradise

7 August 2022, 5:00pm

Including brand new interactive challenges, and over one million LEGO® bricks, Bricktionary: The Interactive LEGO® Brick Exhibition has something to spark everyone's creativity and inspire them to build their imaginations.

Entrance cost starts at \$12.50.

For more information, contact Home of the Arts (HOTA) on **07 5588 4000** or via email on hello@hota.com.au.

Sunshine Coast

Twilight Markets Caloundra

The Esplanade, Caloundra

Friday 24 June 2022, then the last Friday of every month (excluding July and August), 5:00pm-9.00pm

This family friendly event features around 100 unique stalls offering handmade and artisan crafts, street food, gourmet sweets, fashion, jewellery, fun games for children and much more. Enjoy the beautiful atmosphere with live entertainment and colourful street theatre performances as day slips into night on the waterfront at Bulcock Beach.

More info: events.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au

Bribie Island

Bonfire Night

Sandstone Point Hotel, 1800 Bribie Island Road, Sandstone Point

Saturday, 2 July 2022,

With winter well and truly upon us in July, Sandstone Point Hotel's Annual Bonfire Night is the hottest place to be. Offering Brisbane's biggest bonfires, fire twirlers, kids' rides, food stalls, live music, FIREWORKS plus much more!

General admission adults entrance costs \$15.60.

For more information, contact the Sandstone Point Hotel on **07 3475 3001**.

Tribute to Viv – Labrador.



Labrador residents and Chaplain Graham Wheat would like to pay tribute to Viv, their much-loved neighbour and friend, who passed away on 23 March, one month shy of his 94th birthday.

In honour of the special place Viv held in their hearts, the residents have erected a memorial sign amongst the flowers of one of the gardens, which he had so faithfully tended during his 12 years at the Proud Street apartments (pictured above).

"The community, though shaken, are banding together in sorrow and will not be the same," Graham said.

"He was an elder in his community, respected because of his age, practical knowledge, and experience."

Viv's devotion to creating beautiful gardens and tending them around the Proud Street complex was highly respected by the community.





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Churches of Christ Housing Services Limited ABN 25 604 517 026 is a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee and is a wholly owned subsidiary of Churches of Christ in Queensland ARBN 147481436 (incorporated in Queensland).

We are a leading community housing provider delivering services across the full spectrum of housing need, from homelessness programs to social housing and affordable housing products.

