



Kathrin at Breakfast Club



New development in Kingswood opens



Meals distributed to Glebe residents

## What's happening around Greater Western Sydney?

### Bransgrove Community Centre

The Coolaburoo Neighbourhood Centre in Revesby will be using the community centre at 85 Bransgrove Road. Starting in September, they will run a wide range of activities including educational outreach, kids and youth programs, counselling, families and single parents workshops, school holiday programs, walk and talk, and tai chi. All activities are for any MAH tenants in the South West Sydney region.

### Kingswood Community Centre

The Norwest Christian College is working with one of our complexes in Kingswood through a new project

### based learning initiative called the Schools to Community Programs.

Student groups will bring to life a community garden, a pen pals program, a community connectedness program and much more! Dates have been set and we now look forward to working with other local businesses such as Bunnings and church groups who are supporting us to deliver this program.

### Colyton Complex

Colyton High School has also come on board with the Schools to Community Program with student groups such as the Boys Shed that will be taking the lead in greening the community through a community gardening project. It is

our goal to have a range of schools and tertiary institutes working with MAH complexes to tackle collective community challenges like student truanting.

We also look forward to running workshops in various community hubs with other services. Some examples of what we are thinking about include **healthy cooking, waste management, gardening, mental wellbeing, and cultural awareness courses.**

If you would like to take part in local initiatives, **please contact your Community Development Officer Kudzi (GWS) on 1800 269 672**, and keep an eye on your community noticeboard for updates.

## What's happening around the grounds at Common Ground?

**Spring is knocking on our door, and that means gardeners are getting ready for a new season of growth!**

This also means creating beautiful rooftop gardens and balconies. If you'd like to get involved, please speak to staff about gardening times.

Check out how we brought a bit of colour to COVID with the help of **The City of Sydney and Winter Living Colour who donated an astounding 200 plants** to Common Ground. Tenants, volunteers and The Growers Association came out one Friday for a massive plant-out of the rooftop gardens, as well as the communal BBQ area (photos overleaf).

### CONTACT US



Mission Australia Housing hotline: **1800 269 672**



Level 2, 81 Flushcombe Road, Blacktown NSW 2148



**missionaustralia.com.au/housing**



Facebook/**MissionAustraliaHousingSydney**

### Breakfast Club

Please join local tenant and chef, **Kathrin at Common Ground, for Breakfast Club every Friday in the communal kitchen.**

If you are interested in volunteering for the Breakfast Club, please see reception.

### Meals and fresh produce

We are receiving **OZ Harvest meals Monday and Thursdays in the afternoon. C3 Cares Camperdown** is providing us with fresh fruit, veg, and other food **on Thursdays**. See concierge on the day for more details.



### Twinkle toes and back cracks

**CQUniversity visit Common Ground on Wednesday's** providing free podiatry (feet) care **8:30am - 4:30pm** and chiropractic services **Mondays from 8am - 12pm.**

### The Food Pantry

**Your low-cost food rescue grocery service is now open. Everyone welcome!** The Food Pantry by Addison Road Community Organisation is operating **Tuesday and Thursdays 12pm - 4pm** from the social enterprise space accessed by Pyrmont Bridge Road.

### Interested in helping run our new low-cost food rescue grocery service?

Addi Road is looking for volunteers to help out for a few hours a week. Register interest in the Food Pantry by contacting your **Community Development Officer, Kyle on 1800 269672.**



# From our Executive



## Spring has sprung!

Spring is a time of growth and there certainly has been a lot of planning for this with all the exciting garden projects across our housing communities. With roof top gardens at Common Ground in Sydney, garden competitions from Blacktown to the Blue Mountains, and community gardens popping up across the Mid North Coast of NSW.

**What a great way to start a new season in our own backyards after what has been a very challenging past 6 months for all of us!**

Spring is usually the time we come out of hibernation and look forward to outdoor events and activities. With COVID-19 becoming a major part of our daily lives, thinking and planning, we need to make sure we are all taking the right actions so that you, your communities and our staff remain safe and healthy at all times. **This means some of our activities need to be**

**postponed or delivered differently in line with the expectations of NSW Government.**

This may feel frustrating at times as we implement new processes that allow for physical distancing like reduced staff numbers on site, trialling and testing new technologies including phone inspections and connecting with you on Facebook. **I thank you for your patience and perseverance** as we work harder to get these right. At the same time, I hope we can all embrace these challenges and changes as a positive new way forward.

Despite these challenges, **it was fantastic to meet with Minister Ward and Minister Ayres at the opening of the new development of 19 studio apartments in Kingswood**, only days before tenants started moving in. We look forward to continuing discussions with government to deliver more social and affordable housing options across Sydney in the future.

**Thank you to all who participated in the Impact Measurement Survey** we held in May and now the **Annual Tenant Survey through CHIA**. These surveys are very important in telling us how we can better improve our services to you, in your home and around your community. I am pleased that we can



share some of the Impact Measurement Survey results with you in this newsletter.

It is with great excitement that we say goodbye to winter and hello to a new season which I hope brings health and happiness to you all.

Chris Bratchford  
Executive, Mission Australia Housing

## Learn for FREE through NSW TAFE



**NSW TAFE is currently running some free courses.**

**Statement of Attainment in Professional Computing.**

Mount Druitt and Kingswood Campuses. You will learn great computer skills needed to get into the job market.

**Statement of Attainment in Introduction to Retail.** Mount Druitt and Kingswood

Campuses. You will learn how to be an effective sales assistant, develop communication skills, and how to create visual merchandise displays.

**Contact TAFE on 131 601 for further info or visit [tafensw.edu.au](http://tafensw.edu.au)**

**Are you looking for a job?**

If you are either working part time or looking for work,

**please contact your Community Development Officer Kudzi on 1800 269 672.** Kudzi has

connections with great Employment Service Providers for all types of Job Seekers.

Enrolments are also being accepted into courses such as White Cards, Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA) and resume writing.

## Stop the spread



**It is important to our community's health and wellbeing to let your Housing Officer know if you take a COVID-19 test.**

There's a lot of mixed messaging in the media and social media, so we recommend monitoring the NSW Government's recommendations, [nsw.gov.au](http://nsw.gov.au)

**1800 020 080 National Coronavirus Helpline** for information and advice about COVID-19.

**13 11 14 Lifeline** provides free, 24-hour telephone crisis support service.



**Join us on Facebook/ MissionAustralia HousingSydney**

for all your local community announcements, events and activities. **We will still provide this information via letters and posters in your community notice board.**



# What has COVID done for you?

**Meet Lucian and Alex.** Lucian is a member of our GWS Tenant Action Group and has recently been doing the weekly rounds at his complex to support fellow tenants during this tough season of COVID-19.

Tenant, Alex is full of passion and many skills. Together, Lucian and Alex have joined forces, regularly cleaning and gardening around their complex. They organised a rubbish pick up day for their complex, which was a great success and now these two partners in COVID-crime are in full swing setting up an incredible

community garden. They have drawn up plans and are working with others to build garden beds and fences.

Stay tuned for updates on these two COVID-19 superhero's!! **If you know of any other COVID-19 superhero stories please email them to Kudzi at [housingenquiries@missionaustralia.com.au](mailto:housingenquiries@missionaustralia.com.au) to feature in our next newsletter.**

## Common Ground warriors

If you get the chance, **congratulate Possum on the successful move to her new home in Glebe. Possum lived at Common Ground for 9 years.** But don't worry, she can't keep away, you will still see her out and about, helping around Common Ground.

**A big shout out to Robin, Dirou, Lena, Possum and Sandor for picking-up, organising, and distributing fresh fruit, veggies, and much needed meals during COVID-19.** We celebrated their support by taking them out to dine at our partner social enterprise restaurant, Colombo Social who has been helping us to produce and distribute meals to Sydney's hungry.



Some of the 240 hampers

## Thank you Hillsong!

**A big thank you goes out to Hillsong City Care for supporting some of the most vulnerable tenants across Sydney. During COVID-19 they have donated 240 hampers that have all gone out into MAH communities around GWS.**

Tenants have been extremely grateful for this act of kindness during a very difficult time: **'I'd like to thank Hillsong City Care for their recent gift of groceries to myself and the other Mission Australia Housing tenants in the Blue Mountains. In these difficult and sometimes stressful times, it is heartening to be thought of by others - people and organisations who give selflessly to others in need.'** Heather (MAH tenant)



Fresh fruit and vegetables



Tenants Lucian and Alex working hard

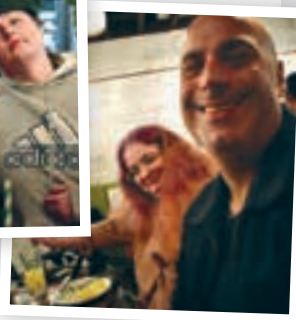
## What you told us:

Feel cared for and not forgotten. I am able to avoid shopping centres and feel safe. Very satisfied, thank you for all your efforts!

It has helped a lot. Even just to know people out there care.

Great to be part of a community that helps its residents.

Community looking out for community!



**Left to right:** Thanks to Robin and Lena (above left) and Possum and Dirou (above right) dining at Social Colombo after all their efforts to help feed Sydney, top right; Lucian and Alex working hard and right; Rachel and Marryanne with the friendly local Police



Rachel and Marryanne with local Police

## CrimeStoppers in your neighbourhood

Please visit the Police Community online page to stay updated with what is happening in your local area: **[portal.police.nsw.gov.au](http://portal.police.nsw.gov.au)**

If you see or hear anything suspicious in your complex or community please take photo/video evidence and contact the

**CrimeStoppers hotline 1800 333 000 or visit [crimestoppers.com.au](http://crimestoppers.com.au)**

### Remember!

You can choose to remain anonymous when you report incidences to keep your community safe.



# Green thumb competition



Throughout the season of spring, the **Community Development Team** will be visiting different complexes checking out garden spaces in either common areas or backyards.

There are gift card prizes up for grabs. **To enter call Kudzi (GWS) or Kyle (Common Ground) on 1800 269 672.**

The judging will be based on:

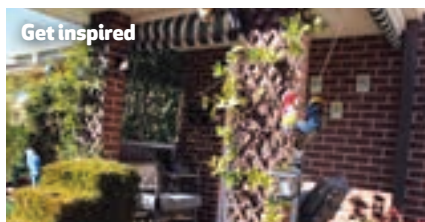
- 1. Design** – Colour and character
- 2. Culture** – Tell your story
- 3. Sustainability** – Is your garden environmentally friendly?
- 4. Maintenance** – Is your garden easy to look after?

To get you started here are a couple of websites for some inspiring green thumb ideas.

**Pinterest** is a great phone and computer application for creative minds, [pinterest.com.au](https://www.pinterest.com.au)

Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney, [rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au](https://rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au)

**Winners will be announced in the summer newsletter.**



## It's time to spring in to springtime salads

**This season, we are going to try some lebanese cuisine. One of our awesome champion tenants from a Sydney South West complex has a recipe just for us!**

Christina is a great cook who loves experimenting in mixing her own cuisine with others.

*'This is a lebanese recipe called fattoush (lebanese salad). It is just as famous as our tabouli salad and is also known as the lebanese peasant salad.'*

### Ingredients for salad

- 2 whole lebanese breads
- 2 heads of iceberg lettuce, chopped
- 3 stems of thinly sliced green onion or 1 whole red onion
- 2 tomatoes, diced
- 2 lebanese cucumbers, diced (cut same size as tomatoes)
- ½ cup fresh mint leaves, coarsely chopped
- ½ cup flat-leaf parsley, coarsely chopped (leaves only, no stems)
- 1 bunch purslane or watercress (optional)
- 4 radishes, cut in half and thinly sliced

### Ingredients for dressing

- 2-4 cloves garlic, crushed
  - 1 teaspoon salt
  - ½ cup fresh squeezed lemon juice, about 2 large lemons (adjust for your own taste)
  - 1 teaspoon powdered sumac, plus more for sprinkling on individual salads if desired)
  - ½ cup extra virgin olive oil
- Mix all ingredients in a mason jar and shake.

**Method** ...it's easy!

Open up lebanese bread (you will have 4 individual pieces) bake until golden and crispy or put under the grill and toast.

Mix all ingredients in a bowl then break the bread using your hands into bite size pieces. Pour dressing on top and mix. **Enjoy!**



# What's on?



With COVID-19, many events have been cancelled but keep an eye on these websites for what's happening in your local area.

## NAIDOC 2020

New proposed dates are 8-15 November 2020 (TBC based on COVID-19)  
[naidoc.org.au](https://naidoc.org.au)

## Blacktown

[blacktown.nsw.gov.au/event](https://blacktown.nsw.gov.au/event)

## Blue Mountains

[bmcc.nsw.gov.au/community](https://bmcc.nsw.gov.au/community)

## South West

[cbc.city.nsw.gov.au/community](https://cbc.city.nsw.gov.au/community)

## Penrith

[penrithcity.nsw.gov.au/community](https://penrithcity.nsw.gov.au/community)

## Camperdown

[innerwest.nsw.gov.au/explore](https://innerwest.nsw.gov.au/explore)

We still hope to host tenant forums, Christmas celebrations and other events in some way. As COVID-19 restrictions change, we will let you know what we can and can't do. Everyone's health and safety is our priority.

**Please check your community notice board, our Facebook page and your letterbox for updates.**

# Tenant Action Group profile

**We recently we got to know a bit more about our current TAG Chairperson, Susan.**

**Place of birth:** Sydney

**Place of childhood:**

Northern Territory

**Favourite meal:** Lamb roast with all trimmings

**Favourite colour:** Purple, because it is a pure and a royal colour.

**Favourite holiday so far:** South Coast, NSW

**Hobbies:** Crocheting and gardening

**How long have you been living with MAH:** 11yrs

**Favourite actor:**

Bette Midler

**If you were Prime Minister for a year what would you change:** Prison reform and violence against women

**What is TAG?** A group that advocates for tenants through programs and projects

that are localised to the needs of each community.

**What is your career history:** Retail for over 20 years

