

Housing News

Happy Easter



Events are now back on!



Get back in to roof top gardening



Forums and workshops online

Mould attack pack

The last couple of weeks have been very wet and everyone is experiencing the after effects.

As the water recedes there are damages that will need to be attended to. We appreciate your patience while we process the reported damages, balance that with available tradespeople and insurance company requirements. **If you have new damages to report, please call us on 1800 269 672.**

If you have not had damage to your property, there is still a lot of dampness in the ground and in the air. This is perfect for mould growth. Please see the **Mould Fact Sheet** included with this newsletter for more information.

The NSW Government has released details of their financial assistance package for anyone impacted by the floods.

You can find details at: service.nsw.gov.au/floods/financial-assistance

We have free Mould Attack Packs available for tenants. Just call us to pick one up or we will deliver to your door! If you have a mould issue that is beyond general cleaning, please contact us urgently on 1800 269 672.

Mission Australia Housing Forum goes online!

With the always changing COVID regulations we have not been able to come together to talk about what is important to you!

So this year, we are hosting a large online tenant forum along with smaller pop up forums in your local neighbourhood or complex.

Join in the fun at 10am – 11.30am, Wednesday 4 May 2022

We will have lots of guest speakers including Centrelink, Disability Services, NSW Police, Mission Australia Housing staff and many more... **Watch this space!**

There will be great prizes and give-aways from \$50 gift vouchers, Western Sydney Wanderers apparel, GWS Giants apparel, Sydney Zoo tickets and much, much more.

Keep an eye on your notice boards and Facebook groups for login details in April.

Your safety is our greatest concern



Testing your smoke alarm once a year is an essential property inspection that we must do to make sure your smoke alarm is working correctly and is compliant.

This reduces risk to you and your loved ones during a fire.

Remember home fires are not just contained to your home but can also spread to your neighbours. Winter is on its way so it is really important that we are able to access your home to check your smoke alarm. Please talk with your Housing Officer if you have any questions.

CONTACT US

- 📞 Mission Australia Housing hotline: **1800 269 672**
- 🏠 31 Pyrmont Bridge Rd, Camperdown NSW 2050
- 💻 missionaustralia.com.au/housing
- 📘 facebook.com/groups/commongroundsydney

We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the traditional custodians of our land – Australia. The Gadigal people of the Eora Nation are the traditional custodians of this place we now call Sydney.



Update FROM OUR EXECUTIVE

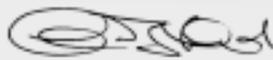
Welcome to the first newsletter for the year!

With the lingering effects of COVID-19 and then the devastating floods across NSW, I am constantly amazed by the resilience and strength of our communities in these challenging times.

I would like to thank you for your patience over the past couple of years as we have responded to Government guidelines and restrictions throughout COVID-19. We are excited to be returning to offices and seeing you back out in the community and in your homes, carrying out regular housing services. It is a really re-energising feeling to be connected again to our tenants and communities.

We are excited about the soon to be **new look and feel at Common Ground, with the re-design of the ground floor.** This project aims to improve our tenant and community spaces. Works will be commencing soon. You can read more about it in this newsletter.

Wishing you all a very safe and happy Easter and that this Lunar Year of the Tiger continues to bring us all strength.



Chris Bratchford
Executive, Mission Australia Housing



REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE CORNER

Here's what's been happening since January in your area:

53 repairs and maintenance requests received

53 work orders completed

Most common repairs:
Leaks, cleaning of common areas and blocked toilets

\$50,206
total spend

With NSW Government now easing lockdowns and restrictions, we can now get out n' about more.

Watch out for the friendly faces of **Regional Assets Manager, Teena** and familiar face, **Danielle** who is now your **Asset Officer**.



The Assets team will be out and about through April to June to assess your property and it's condition, and to plan any maintenance. This is also known as a Property Assessment Survey.

Rapid Antigen Tests available (or more commonly known as RATs)

Through the NSW Government we have a limited supply of RATs for tenants. **Please contact your local office on 1800 269 672** if you need a RAT or ask staff onsite who will have stock of them.

Get out and about over Easter and Anzac Day with **FREE PUBLIC TRANSPORT**, Thursday April 14 to Tuesday April 26!

What is pandemic fatigue?

We can all tick the box when it comes to being affected by COVID-19 in some kind of way.

Some symptoms you may experience are:

- feeling hopeless and trapped
- lack of motivation
- nervousness
- tearfulness
- tiredness
- headaches
- not hungry
- sore muscles
- wanting to be alone
- feeling slower

Tips for recovery

- Please see your local GP if you are concerned
- Start walking daily
- Eat healthy meals
- Stay away from too much media, including news, phones and devices

For more information visit health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/update/Pages/pandemic-fatigue.aspx

ATTENTION ALL COMMON GROUND TENANTS!

You can now call **1800 269 672** for any housing services, repairs & maintenance requests or community development information.



Go for a daily walk and refresh!



We need you!

Become a leader in your community and get paid at the same time.

We need;

- Weekly editor
- Sub editor / proof reader
- Art director
- Cartoonist
- Contributors – seniors / pet owners / horticulturists / chefs / stylists and more!
- Event planner

We are hosting a variety of workshops in **theatre, nutrition, work health safety, white card, drivers training, gardening, BBQ, barista, food pantry** and more onsite.

If this sounds like you contact your Community Development Officer on 1800 269 672.



What's happening around the grounds @ Common Ground?

Those pesky little mozzies!

You may have noticed more mozzies around the place with all this wet humid weather. For your health and comfort and for that of our staff we have made some changes to the ground floor courtyard to get rid of these little nasties!

We have-

- Removed all plants that mozzies like to breed in
- Installed industrial outdoor fans
- Donated the worm farm to a local community garden
- Given the court yard a complete deep clean

Please let us know if these changes improve the mosquito problem at Common Ground.

Common Ground gets a make over

Over the next little while you will see some changes to the common spaces at Common Ground. We will do our best not to disrupt you but these spaces are in need of a refresh and will help improve Common Ground and what we can offer tenants onsite.

To find out more join our tenant meetings and tenant group to have your say on how these spaces will be used. Connect with your Common Ground Facebook group where we will post regular updates and speak to your Housing Officers and Community Development Officer who are always happy to answer any questions.

Watch this space Common Grounders!

Meet Danielle



Assets Danielle

One of Mission Australia Housing's unsung champions of the Sydney team, Danielle started with us as a teenage student placement and is now all

grown up and is your Asset Officer.

How long have you worked here?

I started my traineeship in 2018 and joined Mission Australia Housing in 2019.

What other positions have you had while working at Mission Australia Housing?

Business Trainee, Client Service Officer – Reception, Acting Asset Officer

How did you end up working for Mission Australia Housing?

When I was fresh out of high school I wanted to complete a traineeship instead of going to University. I was interviewed by Mission Australia Housing who agreed to host my

traineeship. At the end of my traineeship the reception role was vacant, I went for the interview and was successful. The rest is history!!

Favourite colour? Pink

Favourite sport to play? Paintball

Favourite holiday you have been on and why? Travelling with my partner to see family and friends in northern and north west of NSW.

Favourite vegetable?

Hot potato chips

Favourite meat? Chicken

What's your favourite style of music? Club music

Where do you love to shop? Big W

Favourite NRL team?

Penrith Panthers

If you were the Prime Minister of Australia, what would you change? Make child care/ day care free, increase weekly pension rates and emergency disaster funds.

Are you falling behind in paying your rent and bills?

Talk to your Housing Officer who can help you to set up a payment plan. **Paying off debt in small amounts often can help you get on top of this!** Call 1800 269 672 for more information.

Easter & Anzac dates



15 April – Good Friday

16 April – Easter Saturday

17 April – Easter Sunday

18 April – Easter Monday

25 April – Anzac Day

The Mission Australia Housing offices are closed on Easter Friday, Easter Monday and Anzac Day. **For emergencies, please call 1800 269 672.**



Scan the QR code to receive the latest updates via Facebook. Join Mission Australia Housing's Facebook groups to receive updates regularly. **If you prefer to receive notifications via email or SMS,** please call 1800 269 672. [facebook.com/groups/commongroundsydney](https://www.facebook.com/groups/commongroundsydney)

Are you paying the right amount of rent?

Each year, Mission Australia Housing carries out a rent subsidy review for all tenants. This is to check if you are still eligible for a rent subsidy and paying the correct rent based on the income earned or benefits you receive. **The difference between the market rent value and the rent you pay is called the rent subsidy.**

Each year, we also check the rental market to see how much average rents are in your area and update your property market rent to match.

Act early, talk to us.

Market rent reviews and Affordable Housing rent reviews happen once a year. Social Housing rent reviews happen twice a year.

We will contact you by letter to let you know when this is happening.

Learn how to grow food

Pocket City Farms invites you to get your hands dirty and learn how to grow local food. Enquire at reception!

Urban Farm Tour

Saturday May 7, 10:30 – 11:15am

Grow your own mushrooms

Saturday 21 May, 10am – 12pm

All about wicking beds workshop

Saturday 4 June, 10am – 1pm

Urban Farm Tour

Saturday 4 June, 10:30 – 11:15am



Hot cross bun french toast



Let's indulge in some warm, fuzzy and crunchy deliciousness this Easter! This is a unique take on the traditional Easter hot cross bun. Enjoy!

What's in it

- 6 hot cross buns
- 2 eggs
- 1/3 cup + 100ml cream
- 1/4 cup milk
- 1 tbsp caster sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 50g butter



How to

1. Slice the hot cross buns in half horizontally, and set aside.
2. In a bowl, whisk together the eggs, cream, milk, caster sugar and ground cinnamon.
3. Preheat a non-stick frying pan to a medium heat, add the butter.
4. Take each hot cross bun piece and dip it in the egg mixture, coating all sides.
5. Let the extra mixture drip off the bun, then place into the frying pan.
6. Cook on each side for 2-3 minutes or until golden brown.



Do you want to work in the Community Housing industry?

Community Housing Industry Association (CHIA) NSW and the NSW Government are providing opportunities to undertake paid employment and training in community housing.

This nationally accredited qualification will provide with:

- Understanding the community housing workplace
- Working with tenants and applicants to understand their needs, and assessing and overseeing property management

Both paid employment and training are for 12 months with support provided by dedicated mentors, trainers and workplace coordinators.

"The cadetship has been amazing. I am so grateful for being given the opportunity to be involved." 2021 cadet

For more information on this exciting Community Housing opportunity, email CHIA NSW at cadetship@communityhousing.org.au

Watch this space for the next round of cadetship application dates!

Thank you! We thank our volunteer tenant group members for helping improve our communities! We greatly appreciate your ideas and involvement. **Interested in getting involved with local groups?** Call 1800 269 672 to speak with your Community Development team.

Safety in your community 1800 333 000

The team at Mission Australia Housing is committed to the safety of everyone in our communities but **we are not the police.**

If you think you see something that is illegal or a crime you need to report it to the police. The link below is the **NSW Police Community Portal** with important information about what to do when you are feeling unsafe.

police.nsw.gov.au/safety_and_prevention/your_community

Tips and tricks from your local police constable:

1. You can always choose to be anonymous.
2. When you report an incident, ask for an incident number to track it.
3. Your phone call and information could be the most important piece that brings the needed change.