



A message from the GWS Tenant Action Group

What an exciting time we have had since last penning an article for the Mission Australia Housing (MAH) spring newsletter. Welcome to summer and this seasons update!

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect back on activities the Tenant Action Group (GWS TAG) have been involved in over the past year. What a busy year it has been! See what we have been up to below.

Being a part of the GWS TAG and working with Mission Australia Housing opens up many opportunities. Over the past 6 months we have participated in a series of leadership workshops with Mission Australia Housing Blacktown staff. It was great to be able to come together for a full day to brain storm and share ideas on how we can better work together and plan for the future. It was a very proud moment at the workshop when GWS TAG members were asked about significant points in their lives, and all saying that

it was 'joining the GWS TAG so they could help people.' We certainly have a great bunch of dedicated and committed members!

I would like to remind you all that the TAG for Greater Western Sydney is made up of tenants – just the same as you. We hope to represent all tenants from East Hills to Blackheath and suburbs in between. If you are interested in getting involved we want to hear from you!

So December ends our year but not our planning for 2019. If you have any ideas or would like us to visit your complex in the new year please feel free to contact us on the details below.

Until next year your GWS TAG team wish you all a safe and merry Christmas!

Jeff Coulton, GWS TAG Chair
p: 1800 269 672
e: tag@missionaustralia.com.au

Goodbye Stella

After nearly 5 years with Mission Australia Housing as Community Engagement Officer, Stella Jean-Louis has moved on. Everyone at Mission Australia Housing, and especially the Blacktown office, would like to thank Stella for her dedication and enormous enthusiasm for all things 'community' over the years!

Stella managed to wrap up her time with us at the annual School Holiday Fun Day in October – an event she was instrumental in developing. Children and families from Mission Australia Housing, Evolve Housing and SGCH braved the wild and wet weather to participate in a variety of activities on the day.

As a part of the staff changes across Mission Australia Housing this role will work closely with the Housing and Assets Teams, as well as tenant and resident groups to deliver long term and lasting changes in communities across the GWS region. We look forward to letting you know who your new Community Development Officer is in the new year. **In the meantime, please contact Cheyne Hart, Regional Manager in the Blacktown office for any questions about community engagement.**

GWS TAG in action over the past year



2017/18

Contact us

Mission Australia Housing hotline: **1800 269 672**
Level 2, 81 Flushcombe Road, Blacktown NSW 2148
missionaustralia.com.au/housing



Camperdown Community Day



Do you recognise this face?

Benita Collings (better known for her *Play School* days) has been a long time supporter of the Camperdown Community Day hosted in partnership with Common Ground. Pictured middle with staff.



Local tenants enjoy the Sydney Street Choir



A celebrity in the midst!

Welcome new, and not so new, staff to the Blacktown Office



To provide the quality services you deserve we have made some changes to our Blacktown team.

Cheyne Hart is your new Regional Manager. **Cathie Williams** is your new Team Leader, Tenancy Services. **Rachel Reid**, who is a familiar face in the Blacktown office, has returned from maternity leave and is now your Partnerships and Support Coordinator. **Please call 1800 269 672 if you would like to know more or speak to either of these staff in person.**



Cathie Williams



Cheyne Hart



Rachel Reid

From our Executive



It is truly amazing that another year has flown by and yet again, Christmas is fast approaching!

On reflection, I can say that it has been a truly exciting year working with government to increase the much needed supply of social and affordable housing across NSW. We are now looking forward to putting some of this preparation and planning in to action in the new year.

To do this, we have been busy recruiting and training staff so we can provide you, and future tenants of Mission Australia Housing, the best possible service you deserve. I am delighted to introduce you to some new faces in the Blacktown office in this newsletter.

Thank you to all tenants for taking the time to work with us over the past year through resident groups and forums and also providing valuable feedback through the Annual Tenant Survey. We know that we have not done some things well in the past and we have areas to improve.

As a part of this journey we have been working closely with our Tenant Action Group (TAG) in Greater Western Sydney (GWS). I would like to sincerely thank the GWS TAG whose determined dedication has helped shape who we will be tomorrow.

Already festive lights and decorations are beginning to adorn home windows and front yards but more importantly, it is time to celebrate with our loved ones and friends.

This time of year can be expensive and exhausting for many of us. Lending a helping hand, catching up with people you've lost touch with or providing personalised gifts for others are just some ways to take the pressure off and still give something from the heart.

I look forward to working with you, your families and your communities in 2019. Wishing you all a safe and very happy holiday season from us all at Mission Australia Housing.

All the best,

Chris Bratchford
Executive, Mission Australia Housing

School Holiday Fun Day... rain, hail or shine!



Not even the wild wet weather kept children and families away from the annual School Holiday Fun Day hosted by **Mission Australia Housing**. Evolve Housing and SGCH in October.

Crazy clown performing entertaining tricks



White Ribbon talk

**Tuesday 20 November,
1pm – 2pm**

Free legal advice for women.

Eckert Legal will provide practical legal advice on leaving an abusive relationship. Our speaker is a qualified solicitor and a member of The Law Society of New South Wales.

Bookings are limited. To secure your appointment please contact Tracey Caldwell on 9839 6659 or email.

All bookings are strictly confidential.



**Max Webber Library,
corner of Flushcombe Rd
and Alpha St, Blacktown**

**#whiteribbon
@WhiteRibbonAust
whiteribbon.org.au**

8 quick tips to keep your coooool this summer

1. Dress for the occasion

To feel cooler in high humidity:

- Wear loose cotton or other natural fabric that breathes.
- Choose breathable sheets that keep you cool, such as cotton or bamboo.

2. Unplug

Everything you plug into a socket produces heat. Unplug all unnecessary appliances or electronics when not in use. Even those little red glowing lights that stare at you in the middle of the night indicating the item is turned off drain energy and produce heat. **Turning something off is not enough – unplug.**

3. Use natural light and high efficiency lighting

Take advantage of daylighting or use energy efficient light bulbs, such as LEDs. A traditional 100 watt light bulb can increase the heat by 11 degrees per hour in a small room.

Also, consider decorating your home in light colours. Light colours reflect more light and reduce making heat.

4. Don't cook or cook outdoors

During the summer months, try to pre-plan meals so that you don't need to use the oven during the day. If you have to use the oven, try to cook your meal before noon or after the heat of

the day around 4pm. Or if you have a community BBQ at your complex a meal outside with others is also a great way to cool down and relax!

5. Close your blinds from late morning until early evening

'Let the sun shine in' is a cute song for children, but not helpful for keeping your home cool. Close your blinds from late morning until early evening.

This simple act can keep a room 10-15°C cooler.

7. Cool down a room

Close off rooms that are not in use, and focus your cooling only where it is needed.

8. Plant shade

Sun-loving, shade providing plants, trees and shrubs in front of windows that get the afternoon sun can cool down your house and add a beautiful outlook to your yard or veranda.

Trees and foliage also lower surface and air temperatures by providing shade, and can reduce the temperature by 11-25°C.

Heat tolerant plants that help provide shade:

- sunflowers
- dwarf fig tree
- lemongrass
- mimosa tree
- cannas

And remember, with every watt you save you are not only helping your wallet but also the environment!



**Did you know
2 in 3 car seats
are not used
properly?**

**FREE child car seat
safety check,
Wednesday
5 December,
8:30am – 1:30pm**



Our authorised checkers will make sure that your child's car seat is safe and secure in your vehicle so that your child is protected if you have a crash. The check and refitting is FREE.

You only pay if you need extra fittings like buckles or extension straps so bring these with you if you have them.

Find us at The Ponds Shopping Centre in the underground carpark (near the travelator, The Ponds)



9. Avoid the sweats

Dehumidifiers take moisture out of the air and are really helpful during summer or a rainy spell. **Not only do they help with the heat in Australia's climate they also tackle mould problems** which will help protect your electronics and music equipment, preserve important documents, and keep sofas, chairs and curtains from smelling.

They also come on wheels and are easy to move around from room to room as you need. For example, place it in your lounge room while you watch TV of an evening and then move to your bedroom overnight.

You can buy an economical humidifier from Bunnings for around \$100.



Lazy Daizy hommus

**A quick and easy dip
perfect for all those festive
Christmas gatherings!**

Ingredients

- 1 x 420g can of chickpeas (80c at Woolies)
- 1 x garlic clove (crushed)
- juice of 1 lemon
- 1 x tbsp olive oil
- a pinch of salt
- 2 x tbsp tahini (\$4 for 375g jar at Woolies)



Method

Crush chickpeas in a bowl with a fork. Mix in olive oil, tahini, garlic, lemon juice and salt to taste. Spoon in to a festive bowl, cover in glad wrap and place in fridge.

Before serving decorate with a bit of Christmas cheer (holly, tinsel, Santa decoration). Serve with crackers or veggie sticks (carrot, celery etc.) for the healthier option.

Any leftover is a tasty way to jazz up a sandwich.

Preparation time: a very quick 10 minutes and you are out the door to celebrate!

Recipe from our in-house home cook, Miss Daizy's mum from the Recruitment Team at National Office.

What's on over Christmas?

Mount Druitt Christmas Light Up concert

**Thursday 22 November,
6pm – 9pm**

Mount Druitt will welcome the 2018 Christmas season with the annual concert at the Dawson Mall, Mount Druitt.

Local residents can enjoy a free live Nickelodeon's PAW Patrol kids show, stage performances by local community groups, Christmas carols, as well as a visit from Santa.

At 8.45pm the Christmas tree will be lit up, showcasing its fairy lights and vibrant decorations.

Blacktown Christmas Light Up concert

**Thursday 29 November,
6pm – 9pm**

Blacktown City will welcome the 2018 festive season with its annual Christmas tree light up and concert in the Civic Plaza, from 6pm to 9pm.

Local residents can enjoy a free Christmas Concert featuring free DreamWorks Trolls kids show at 7.45pm, live stage performances by local community groups, Christmas carols, kids Christmas show, free face painting, and of course a visit from Santa Claus.

At 8.45 pm, the iconic Christmas tree will be lit up, showcasing its fairy light and decorations.

**From everyone at Mission Australia
Housing we wish you all a very safe
and happy festive season!**



A taste of Christmas in Penrith CBD

**Friday 30 November,
5pm – 10pm**

Penrith's Tree Lighting is bringing you spectacular performances, live music, food trucks, Christmas wares market stalls, face painting, roaming characters and much more.

Santa arrives at 8pm to the light tree!

Sydney's festive Christmas playground in the heart of the city.

**Saturday 24 November,
6.30pm – 9.30pm**

See the heart of Sydney's city centre come alive with roaming entertainers, stage shows, choirs, lights, decorations and activations, mixed with late-night shopping there will be fun for everyone!

Eat, drink, shop and sing your way around the city centre (Pitt St mall) as Sydney kicks off the festive season. Santa will arrive in a brand new sleigh – stay close to say hello as he rides his way through the event.

The Martin Place Christmas Tree will light up at 8.30pm as fireworks illuminate Sydney's spectacular skyline.

Pop these events in your calendars, and get ready to light up the night with Santa and enjoy the festive season wherever you are!



Mission Australia Housing Christmas office closures

Don't forget there are changes to our office hours over the Christmas period:

Blacktown office

Tenancy and Support Services will NOT be available from
Friday 21 December 2018 (5pm) –
Wednesday 2 January 2019 (9am).

For any property emergencies over this period please call the Mission Australia Housing 24 hour hotline on **1800 269 672**.



Common Ground Sydney

Tenancy and Support Services WILL be available via concierge over the Christmas period.

Tenancy staff will NOT be available from Friday 21 December 2018 (5pm) – Wednesday 2 January 2019 (9am).