



From our Executive



As 2015 comes to a close I would like to take the time to reflect on Mission Australia Housing and "why we do what we do". At the heart of what we do are our 5 core values: Compassion, Integrity, Respect, Perseverance and Celebration.

For us here at Mission Australia Housing, this means that housing is much more than providing a place to live for our tenants. **It's about creating safe, inclusive and vibrant communities where people feel valued and everyone has the opportunity to contribute.**

Already Christmas lights and decorations are beginning to adorn home windows and front yards

and it is time to celebrate our loved ones. This can also become an expensive and exhausting time of year for some. Remember that gifts do not always have to cost you money. Sometimes the cost can be your time, your thoughts and your efforts in creating personalised presents for family and friends. See our suggestions for some great ideas on inexpensive Christmas gifts that come from the heart to those you love.

And although it is a season of celebration, it is also a time to respect our neighbours so please be conscious of their expectations. This is also a time to look out for others and check in on those around us who maybe spending this time on their own.

Wishing you all a safe and very happy holiday season from all us at Mission Australia Housing.

Kind regards,

Chris Bratchford
Executive,
Mission Australia Housing

Clever Christmas gift ideas

Three fun ideas to create a special gift for family members or friends this festive season:

1. For the little artist

If you have kids who love to draw or colour in, why not surprise them with a special binder you have filled with plastic page protectors and decorated with colourful paper and stickers? You could throw in some pencils, crayons and paper too, setting them up to save their artwork in one inspiring place.

2. Personalised gift certificates

Know some new parents? Give them a much-needed break with a gift certificate for a night of babysitting. A friend or relative in need of some help for odd jobs around the home? A gift certificate for handyman work will be well received.

3. Teacup candles

To make one of these gorgeous teacup candles, simply melt wax in a pot, add a fragrance if desired, then support a craft-store wick standing in an old teacup (tip: try local op-shops) while carefully filling the cup with wax.



Contact us

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

🏠 9/7 Saladin Circle, Clarendon Vale Tasmania 7019

💻 missionaustralia.com.au



Running the Rubbish Out of Town

What do you get if you cross the rubbish in parks and laneways with 100 locals and two skip bins? A cleaner Clarence Plains.

In November, One Community Together asked the community what would help create a safer Clarence Plains. One of the things that the community said was get rid of the rubbish in the streets and parks... huh? How will that improve safety? Well, as you know, a community that people take pride in is a safer community.

So One Community Together got in touch with Clean Up Australia and the result was the first Clarence Plains Spring Clean.

On a windy Saturday, 17 October 2015, almost 100 local people set out to clean up the park from Mockridge Road to Marston Street, around Stokell Creek, Nielson Park and surrounding park areas and six laneways around Benboyd Circle and Landers Circle. What a difference working together can make! Clarence Plains is now almost 8 cubic metres in rubbish lighter.

Well done to those who volunteered on the day. To all of you who could

not make it this time, look out for the Clarence Plains Spring Clean 2016 – we would love to see you there.

Finally, thanks must go to the Clarence City Council who supplied the skips and cleaned along Goodwins Road in the week before the clean-up. Thank you also to Councillor Heather Chong, the Clarendon Vale and Rokeby Neighbourhood Centres, the Lions Club, Mission Australia Youth Beat, Bunnings, Cromarty, Clarence Council Youth Services, Hillsong Church and Grace Church for your support leading up to the event.

An extra special thank you must go to the locals who put in the extra hours to make this happen – Linda, Marie, Shane, Scott, Robin and Katie.

Mission Australia Housing is a passionate member of the One Community Together project – for a safer Clarence Plains.



The Annual Tenant Survey: stats from the Island State

25% of tenants responded to the survey and this is what we found:

78%  **of tenants said that repairs & maintenance were the most important issues to them**

89%  **of tenants found Mission Australia Housing staff helpful**

77%  **of tenants were satisfied with Clarence Plains as a place to live**

- 28% are dissatisfied with the condition of their home
- 84% of tenants reported a repair to Mission Australia Housing in the last 12 months
- 73% of tenants said that they were satisfied with the repairs and maintenance done
- 50% of tenants said that rubbish and litter in the community and abandoned or burnt out cars were the most important neighbourhood problems

“We moved in here when my son was 7... he is 42 now. We have only lived in this house... it was nearly brand new when we moved in. Wouldn't live anywhere else... we look after each other in this little street!” Mission Australia Housing tenant

Plains to Plate – growing Clarence Plains



Plains to Plate is a project supported by community members and services that live and work in Clarence Plains. The main aim of Plains to Plate is to help everyone to eat well and have fun growing their own fruit and veg.

Over the next two years students and community members will be able to go to free workshops on lots of different topics relating to eating and growing fruit and veg. Keep an eye out or contact Mission Australia Housing or your local Neighbourhood Centre for more information about when and where the workshops will happen.

And if you live in Clarendon Vale and have an interest in gardening then we will soon need your advice. Mission Australia Housing will be building a community garden in Clarendon Vale and we want to know what you would like it to look like. Again call us if you want to be involved. **Happy growing!**



Your January planting guide

PLANT: Broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, capsicums, cauliflower, celery, cucumber, eggplant, leek, lettuce, parsnip, pumpkin, silverbeet, late sweetcorn and tomato.

SOW: Beetroot, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, winter cabbage, kale, carrot (main winter-spring crop), kohlrabi, spring onion, silverbeet, late swede, turnip, lettuce (chill seed in fridge first), late sweetcorn.

Opening of 41 Lardner Road, Victoria

On 16 October, Mission Australia Housing, along with Yooralla, Monash University and the Summer Foundation celebrated the opening of 41 Lardner Road, Frankston in Victoria.

This new accommodation is designed for six young adults with disability to help them transition into the community and aims to reduce the number of young people with disability who reside in nursing homes and aged care facilities.

Supporting residents to live independently, Mission Australia Housing was responsible for building the house tailored for people with disability, including widened doorways to allow ease of mobility and modern hoists in bedrooms



and bathrooms. The design of the house also allows for independence and security as residents can do many things at the touch of an iPad such as contact support staff in an emergency, adjust the lighting,

heating and cooling in their room, and open and close gates and doors. Mission Australia Housing is very excited to be a part of this new housing initiative in Victoria that will help transform the lives of those living with disability.

What can I put in my recycling bin?



Please remove lids and caps, rinse clean and empty all containers

- **Glass bottles and jars only** – do not break
- **Aluminium cans and clean foil trays** – do not crush
- **Steel cans** – including empty aerosol, empty paint tins and pet food cans – do not crush
- **Milk, cream & juice cartons** – do not flatten
- **Plastic beverage, food and non-food containers** – including margarine, ice cream, yoghurt, shampoo and household detergent containers, plus other containers with the triangle symbol 1-7
- **Clean cardboard**
- **Clean newspaper, magazines, junk mail and office paper**

Cool ideas for summer

Things can get hot in summer, even in Tassie. Here's some tips to keep cool without sending your power bill through the roof.

- 1. Be smart about shutting:** shut windows and curtains on hot days; open up the whole house when it gets cool in the evening; and seal door gaps and shut door areas.
- 2. Fire up your fans:** remember to use your bathroom fans or the exhaust fan in your kitchen. Both pull hot air that rises after you cook or take a steamy shower out of your house.



- 3. Hang out in the great outdoors:** when it gets cooler in the evenings, barbecuing and relaxing in the backyard or at a local park can be a lot nicer than cooking in a sweaty kitchen at home.
- 4. Get wet:** use a spray bottle to spray cooled water on your face or place your hot feet in a bowl of water. Keep plastic bottles of water in the freezer and grab one when you go.
- 5. Dress for coolness:** wear loose-fitting clothing, preferably in a light colour. Cotton will keep you cooler than synthetics.

Advance rent competition 3 x \$100 gift vouchers on offer

Mission Australia Housing is again offering all tenants who are in advance with their rent the chance to go into a draw to win one of three \$100 Coles or Woolworths gift vouchers.

If your rent account is in advance you will automatically go in the draw. This prize is sure to come in handy!

Naughty & nice Christmas cakes

Enjoy your choice of naughty or nice this Christmas with these easy cake recipes



Naughty:

Soak 1kg of mixed fruit in 600ml of chocolate (or coffee flavoured) milk and refrigerate overnight.

Next day, add 2 cups of sifted self-raising flour and pour into well greased 25cm x 25cm tin lined with baking paper.

Bake in pre-heated oven (150 degrees/or fan-forced 130) for 1.5 hours. Check with skewer that no mixture is uncooked/sticking to skewer. Leave to cool in tin. Freezes well.

Nice:

Soak 1kg of mixed fruit in 3 cups of orange juice for at least 1 hour.

Add 3 cups of sifted self-raising flour to the fruit and mix well. Put into greased and lined tin. Bake in pre-heated oven (180 degrees) for 1.5 hours.

Christmas vanilla balls

A great Christmas activity for the kids

Crush a packet of plain biscuits finely (with a blender or by hand). Add 1 cup of coconut and 2 to 3 tablespoons of drinking chocolate and mix well. Add vanilla essence (to taste) and stir in 1 can of sweetened condensed milk.

Roll into small balls and roll in either dessicated coconut or chocolate sprinkles.

Set on tray in fridge then store in airtight containers or freeze.

