



A DECENT
HOME FOR
EVERYONE

Housing Trust News

April 2023

This year marks 40 years of Housing Trust serving the community of the Illawarra. We are celebrating this wonderful milestone in a number of ways. The first event will be a photography exhibition at Project Contemporary Artspace in Wollongong from 21st June until 3rd July. We will be holding a morning tea on 26th June for tenants and encourage you to come along.

The artist and photographer is Tim Bauer who has created an incredible body of work for the exhibition. Each of our 33 subjects are either Housing Trust tenants, staff or community members and each will tell their personal story to accompany the images. You may be familiar with Tim's work as he recently photographed The Hon. Tanya Plibersek MP and her daughter for the cover of Good Weekend in the Sydney Morning Herald. I hope to see many of you at the exhibition.

We have also begun work on Housing Trust's Reconciliation Action Plan. This process will help us understand our own journey towards reconciliation with our First Nations peoples. We will report more on the project and ways for you to become involved in the coming months.

Housing Trust has been successful in securing \$488,000 in NSW State Government funding for the delivery of capital maintenance programs across Land and Housing Corporation owned, Housing Trust managed properties. The funding will deliver new kitchens, bathrooms, flooring, internal and external painting, new roofs and windows to 20 homes. The works are well underway and on track for completion June 2023.

We are also very excited to be kicking off two new projects to provide more affordable homes to the people of the Illawarra. Our Princes Hwy Dapto project will begin earthworks in June closely followed by our Dudley Street Wollongong project in July.

It's been a busy start to the year and once again I would like to thank those of you who've collaborated with us on research, media, property, customer and other projects already this year. Stay tuned for more 40th Anniversary celebrations later this year.

Michele Adair,
Housing Trust CEO



Elliot and Michele

2023 Presentation

The Housing Trust recently presented its Tylah West Education Scholarships to 28 tenants, providing much-needed resources and support.

The annual scholarship program has been running since 2017 and aims to help those on low incomes overcome barriers to education, training, and employment opportunities.

This year's program marks its seventh year, having already supported 122 tenants and distributed almost \$136,000 in funds. The scholarships have helped cover costs such as school and university fees, laptops, equipment, internet services, textbooks, tools, and work boots.

Local sponsors, including South32 and Commonwealth Bank, have stepped in to support this year's program. Peter Baker, South32 Illawarra Metallurgical Coal Vice President Operations, said they are pleased to support Housing Trust's scholarship program. "Housing Trust has provided safe, secure and affordable housing to the Illawarra community for decades. This partnership will support educational and training pathways for Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander tenants, setting a strong foundation for future employment opportunities."

South32's funds will specifically support Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander applicants.

The Tylah West Scholarships were established in memory of Tylah West, who was part of Housing Trust's Aboriginal traineeship program.

The Housing Trust Charity Golf Day will take place on Friday, May 26, 2023, at Wollongong Golf Club.



Meet Judith

Housing Trust tenant Judith was born and raised in Nowra and was one of 4 girls. Her first job was at the paper mill where she worked for 5 years before joining the Railway where she worked for 28 years.

After raising two beautiful daughters and 28 years of marriage, Judith divorced. "We had our own home, but when my husband and I separated I was unable to buy a place by myself. I have been in this Housing Trust property on Lake Entrance Road now for 5 years and I love it here. Close to the shops, bus lines and my family. It's perfect for me. I know how lucky I am because if I had to pay market rent there would be literally nothing left for anything else."

Judith was a volunteer at kids footy until the COVID19 pandemic shut everything down. Being a social person, Judith spiralled into a depression. But being proactive by nature she took matters into her own hands and volunteered at Warrigal Shell Cove. "I knew how bad I felt, I cannot imagine what it was like for those in nursing homes unable to see any of their loved ones."

Twice a week, Judith runs bingo and other games at Warrigal. She loves what she does and giving to her community.

"I highly recommend people volunteer in some aspect, whether big or small. It not only helps others, but gives oneself a real lift too."

We're moving our forms to our website for your convenience! Check out some of the forms available here

housingtrust.org.au/tenants/forms/

Kicking off 2023!

It's really wonderful to see events kicking off again in 2023 after a disrupted couple of years. Our tenants and thousands of other seniors had a fantastic time at the Premiers Gala Concert to celebrate Seniors Week. This year's theme was 'Celebrate Together' and that is exactly what our tenants did. With entertainment by Kate Ceberano, Ross Wilson, Harrison Craig and more, the star studded line up bought smiles all round. Thank you to all of our seniors for their valued contributions to their families that help to keep our communities going.



TAG

If you'd like to have your say and help shape the way HT delivers services to tenants then the Tenant Advisory Group might be for you. The Group meets quarterly with a lunch, great conversation and opportunity to directly provide feedback and suggestions. Call 4254 1166 if you'd like more information.



Easy Italian Pasta Salad

With the beautiful Autumn weather upon us, cool salads are an easy, light, energising food that gives our bodies the nutrients it needs to feel great. Try this Easy Italian Pasta Salad from www.taste.com.au/recipes/easy-italian-pasta-salad-recipe/2gslzykf for a refreshing change.



Call Out Fees

We want to make sure your home is always in the best condition, and our contractors are here to help you with any repairs or maintenance needed. To ensure we can provide you with the best service possible, our contractors will always try to contact you to arrange a suitable time for the repairs. In the rare case that we can't get in touch with you, we may attend your home to see when we can complete the repairs.

We understand that life can be unpredictable, and sometimes plans change unexpectedly. If you agree to a specific time for the contractor to attend your home, but you are unable to be there on the day, please let us know as soon as possible so that we can reschedule with the contractor. We want to avoid any inconvenience or frustration on your part, and we appreciate your cooperation in helping us maintain your home.

We know your time is valuable, and we will do our best to work around your schedule. However, if you are not at home at the agreed time and have not provided enough notice to change the appointment, a call-out fee may be charged to cover the contractor's time and expenses. We hope you understand that this is necessary to ensure our contractors can continue to provide quality service to all our customers.

Community Information



Vouchers

Back to School Vouchers! The NSW Government has released 3 x \$50 vouchers, totalling \$150 for each student returning to School in 2023. Vouchers can be used towards the cost of School uniforms, shoes, bags, technology such as laptops, and more. Vouchers expire 30th June 2023.

www.service.nsw.gov.au/back-to-school-vouchers

Maintenance Performance

7 seconds

January 2023



Average time calls answered by Housing Trust Maintenance Team.

Regional Seniors Travel Cards

Applications for Regional Seniors Travel Cards 2023 are now open! The regional seniors travel card provides eligible seniors in regional, rural and remote areas with a \$250 prepaid card to help ease the cost of travel. You can use the travel card at certain retailers across Australia to pay for fuel, taxis and pre-booked NSW TrainLink regional trains and coaches. Wollongong residents are not eligible. Visit Service NSW to apply <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/regionalseniorstravel>



Confront the Crisis Illawarra/Shoalhaven Summit

It was a full house at Confront the Crisis Illawarra-Shoalhaven Housing Summit. HT and Business Illawarra sponsored the event alongside CHIA NSW as a call to action to find practical solutions to the growing housing crisis in our region.

ABC Illawarra Journalist Mel James hosted the event and was accompanied by panellists Michele Adair (Housing Trust), Mark Degotardi (CHIA NSW), Adam Zarth (Business Illawarra) and Steve Turner (ColonySix).



Housing Trust, artwork by **JS Koori Designs** and Housing Trust staff.

We love your feedback! Please reach out to us should you have any concerns.

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