



# Housing Trust News

December 2022

## Meet Razan

Razan is 19 years old and about to start her third year at University. For the past two years, Razan has been a Tylah West Education Scholarship recipient, and this has helped support her through her tertiary years.

'With the support of the scholarship I have been able to purchase my laptop, a bare essential for uni studies. It has helped me to buy text books that cannot be borrowed from the library, vital for exam study. It has helped me to buy a printer, which has made things just that bit easier when studying at home'.

Born in Libya, Razan has been in Australia for most of her life. Her mother, father and older sister have all received scholarships in the past, and this year her younger sibling is also a recipient. 'I think people take education for granted sometimes. The costs can be a real barrier, especially in larger families. With hard work and the help of the scholarship, nearly all of my family are engaged in trades or professional roles now. This benefits the whole community in the long run.'

Razan goes to uni full time and works in Nowra in an Accountancy firm part time, so life is busy. 'I have loved every minute of it. I know my family's future is bright and am very grateful to have been given opportunities and know I will pay this forward in my lifetime'.



Razan at TWES 2022 Presentation



## Office Holiday Closures

Our office will be closed from 12pm Fri 23rd Dec and re-open on Tues 3rd Jan 2023. For any emergency repairs during that time please call our after hours service on 4254 1166.



# CEO Report

I can hardly believe this is our December newsletter the year has flown by. We hope you had a great time at the Tenant Christmas Party.

2023 will mark the 40th anniversary of Housing Trust. We are planning some great events and activities for the year ahead and will share more of that with you all early in the new year.

We will also be continuing our advocacy in the lead up to the NSW State Election. We need to ensure that whoever forms government places housing as a priority in the next term. There's some information in the newsletter about how you can get involved and lend your voice to the "Confront the Crisis" campaign. As always a huge thank you to all of you who have shared your stories over the year.

I am thrilled to announce that we've signed an historic agreement with the University of Wollongong (UOW) to establish the "Housing Trust Opportunity Scholarship". The scholarship provides a student with \$5,000 over 3 years of study (\$15,000 total). Recipients must be applying for study at UOW and live in social or affordable housing anywhere in the Illawarra or Shoalhaven. There are more details on how to apply in the newsletter.

The good news keeps on coming for Housing Trust with a number of local and national business and individual awards including 2022 Business Illawarra Awards Outstanding Community Organisation. Without your support, feedback and participation these awards couldn't be possible.

We held another successful Housing Trust Golf Day raising funds for our Tylah West Education Scholarships. This has enabled us to award 27 scholarships. I'd like to thank our sponsors and supporters for making this possible.

A special thank you to our Tenant Advisory Group for their service this year. It is wonderful that this group dedicates time to ensuring our tenants have a voice and ability to influence decisions made by us.

We hope to be able to bring more events and opportunities to connect with each other in 2023.

I wish you all a very merry Christmas and look forward to a brighter 2023, with a bit less rain and finally putting this pandemic behind us.

Michele Adair



Join us on March 1 2023 for Confront the Crisis National Day of Action. You can share your voice and follow the campaign via the link below

[www.facebook.com/ConfrontTheCrisis/](https://www.facebook.com/ConfrontTheCrisis/)

## Scholarship News

### Housing Trust Opportunity Scholarships

#### Apply Now!

Applications are now open for Housing Trust Opportunity Scholarships with the University of Wollongong. You can apply for this scholarship on UOW Website.

<https://scholarships.uow.edu.au/scholarships/search?scholarship=2961>

Applications close 29 January 2023.



### Tylah West Education Scholarships

Housing Trust is pleased to announce 27 scholarships have been awarded to Housing Trust tenants for 2023. This has been made possible by the generous support from our partners whom attended the 2022 Golf Day fundraiser.

We would like to thank Tylah's family for their ongoing support of the scholarship which helps tenants with the costs of their education and training needs. Together we assist in creating opportunities and building brighter futures.



FUNDS RAISED AT HT GOLF DAY 2022

# \$27,500



## Gift Card Winners

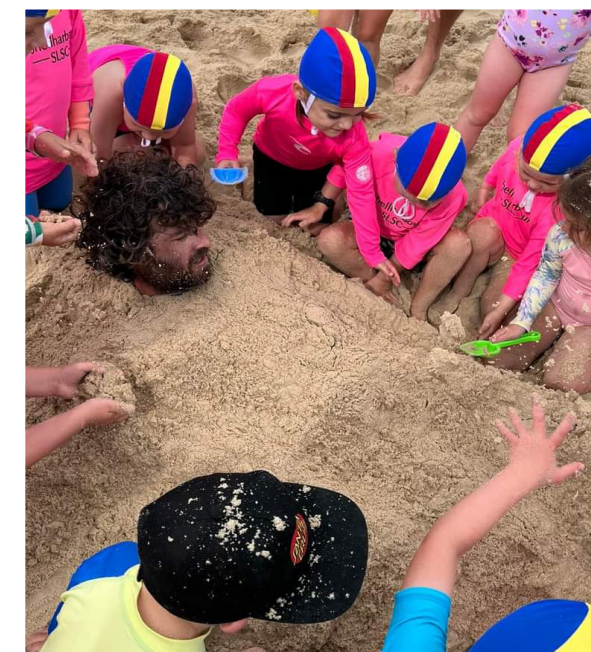
Winners are grinner! Congratulations again and thank you to our wonderful tenants who completed our Tenant Satisfaction Survey. Each year after the survey closes, those that participated automatically go into a draw to win one of ten \$100 gift cards.

## Staff Spotlight - Meet Josh

Josh has been the backbone of the Lawns and Gardens Maintenance Program for over 5 years. A fully qualified horticulturalist, Josh loves working outdoors and in nature getting his hands dirty and making our environment beautiful. He has a deep passion for all plants but natives in particular bring him the most joy.

It didn't take Josh long to tune in to the value and importance of community housing. 'I learnt very early on not to judge anyone's situation. I have seen the absolute best in some of our tenants and realise any one of us could face homelessness for any number of reasons. The people I work with are so varied, but all hold one thing close to their hearts, a compassion and care for others. I am glad to be part of that'.

Growing up in Warilla, Josh's love of the sea led him to volunteer with the Shellharbour Beach Pups, the prequel to Little Nippers. 'After a long and debilitating illness, leading 3 year olds to love and respect the ocean is something that makes me truly happy. I fell into the role accidentally but haven't looked back. The Illawarra is a beautiful place to live and every day I know I am blessed'.



## Christmas Recipe

### A yummy Christmas treat for all!

If you feel like getting into the Christmas spirit and making Christmas Rocky Road, we have a great recipe from BBC Good Food. You can mix it up and use whatever left over fruits/sweets you have in your cupboard. Checkout the recipe via the link below

[www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/christmas-rocky-road](https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/christmas-rocky-road)





# Community Information



## Do you dream of owning your own home?

Head Start Homes, is a not-for-profit community services organisation that offers public, social and affordable tenants free support across their entire homeownership journey. If you would like to know more checkout [www.headstarthomes.org.au/apply](http://www.headstarthomes.org.au/apply) or call Kate on 0416 196 912.

You can also easily express your interest by clicking on the [I want to express my interest link](#) on their website - it should take less than 5 minutes.

## Are you Cyber Aware?

It is more important than ever to ensure you're cyber aware and your details are secured to the best of your ability.

The ACSC (The Australian Cyber Security Centre) provide a number of resources and lessons on cyber security and awareness. They recommend taking these simple steps today to protect yourself.

1. Update your devices
2. Set up and perform regular backups
3. Turn on multi factor authentication
4. Set up secure passphrases (don't use Password 123, making it a long phrase you would know, i.e. ilovetogodancinginspring!!!)
5. Recognise and report scams
6. Watch out for threats

To check how cyber secure you're take ACSC free quiz here [www.cyber.gov.au/learn](http://www.cyber.gov.au/learn)



## Service NSW

Don't forget to check your eligibility and register for Service NSW's vouchers. Current vouchers available include Creative Kids, First Lap Learn to Swim, and Before and After School Care.

Service NSW Website and App also provides access to the NSW Government Savings Finder. This tool allows you to access up to 70 rebates currently available for eligible residents of NSW. For more visit

[www.service.nsw.gov.au/campaign/savings-finder](http://www.service.nsw.gov.au/campaign/savings-finder)

## Maintenance Performance

# 7 seconds

Nov 2022



Average time calls answered by Housing Trust Maintenance Team.

## Anglicare Food and Financial Assistance

As costs for day-to-day expenses such as rent, food and power continue to rise, a setback such as sickness, loss of a job or an unexpected bill can make you feel your financial situation is getting out of control. Anglicare can provide immediate practical assistance and longer-term solutions to help you build a more hopeful future. If you're finding it difficult to pay for food, Anglicare can provide immediate practical assistance through their mobile community pantry. Call 1300111278 or go to

[www.anglicare.org.au/what-we-offer/food-and-financial-assistance/](http://www.anglicare.org.au/what-we-offer/food-and-financial-assistance/)



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

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