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HOUSES FOR S

**Autumn
2022**

HOUSING
CHOICES
TASMANIA

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From the General Manager



Welcome to the Autumn edition of Home Stories

Since our last edition I hope you have all had the chance to spend some quality time with your friends and family and have enjoyed some summer weather.

It was certainly great to see so many of you at the various Housing Choices end of year celebrations, including the Santa in the Park event held in Shorewell Park.

I know for some the festive season can be a particularly tough time of year and this year we were also impacted by the tragic accident that occurred in our Hillcrest community, the effects of which will be with us for years to come. So, in this edition of Home Stories we have included the contact numbers for a range of mental health services and encourage you to reach out if you need help.

Over the past few months, we at Housing Choices Tasmania have continued to focus on supporting more Tasmanians into stable, suitable and affordable homes. Of huge significance was bedding down the transfer of another 475 tenancies from Housing Tasmania across to Housing Choices. We have therefore been building our community bonds through a range of events with new service partners and community initiatives.

In this edition you will find stories from two locals, Rosie and Kathy, who have developed new connections with their community through our Fun Fridays and Community Creations groups. These lovely women are among many locals who aren't Housing Choices residents but are benefiting from our community development programs.

There is also a resident profile on social justice warrior and Queens Walk resident Timothy Smith. The Hobart local is a fierce advocate for the rights of people living with disabilities. His story is a powerful reminder of the importance of appropriate affordable housing.

You will also find a beautiful and uplifting poem in Poets' Corner.

I hope you enjoy this edition.

Kind regards,

Kim Bomford
General Manager
Housing Choices
Tasmania





Sisters Join Creative Community

Tasmanian sisters Rosie Imer and Kathy Young are part of Housing Choices' ever-growing extended family.

While the pair aren't HCT residents themselves, they've developed strong ties to Housing Choices through their involvement in community groups Fun Friday and Community Creations and they've both gained lifelong connections in the process.

"Seven years ago, I lost my husband to cancer," Rosie said.

"Sitting at home doing nothing, it just reminds you of stuff."

"I go to the group and (HCT Community Development Officer) Nikki helps us feel really good. We talk and we make stuff."

With Nikki's encouragement both Rosie and Kathy have become regulars, despite some initial hesitancy from Kathy.

"I said I'd go to see what the groups were like first and I've been going for almost 12 months now," she said.

"I like the company and Nikki is wonderful. We're taught different things to sew and how to do it properly. It's really good to meet up with friends and family ... it's actually fun to sit down and have a chat with them while doing a bit of sewing."

A mum of nine, Kathy said the connections she's formed in the community groups help her maintain a positive outlook after losing two children.

"These things that I do now really helps me to get out and not dwell on what's happened. If I didn't have the things to do, I'd go crazy."

As well as HCT community events, the First Nations sisters share their creative talents at the Burnie Child Family and Learning Centre – also known as 'The Hub'. The Hub provides a range of health, wellbeing and educational services and programs for families with children under the age of 5. It aims to support parents and enhance accessibility of services in the local community.

As well as knitting mittens and handbags at The Hub, Rosie created an Aboriginal flag that she kindly donated to HCT.

HCT Community Development Officer Nikki Campbell said the sisters shared the creative skills they learnt at The Hub at HCT community groups.

"Rosie and Kathy are also both very artistic and creative people in their own right, and they share those skills with other members of the groups."

"They help empower other group members with their confidence in sewing and crafts - it's really great to see."

She said the sisters were part of the wider community connecting through shared activities hosted by HCT.

"We are focused on building inclusive communities, no matter who your landlord is."





Social Justice Warrior Tim from Queens Walk

Since moving into his Queens Walk property in 2014, Housing Choices Tasmania resident Timothy Smith has gained a newfound freedom and become an advocate for those living with disabilities across the state.

Tim lives with haemophilia and previously lived in a private rental property that was not designed for someone in a wheelchair.

He said living in inappropriate housing was damaging his physical health.

"I had to go up small flights of stairs. My wheelchair barely fit and I had to get up to wheel it up and down.

"My living situation exacerbated my disability. I was in hospital pretty much once a month for a week at a time. I needed a place where I could use a wheelchair, and Housing Choices had one such flat available."

Now a Queens Walk resident for more than seven years, Tim has become a vocal advocate, fighting for greater building and development accessibility for people living with disability.

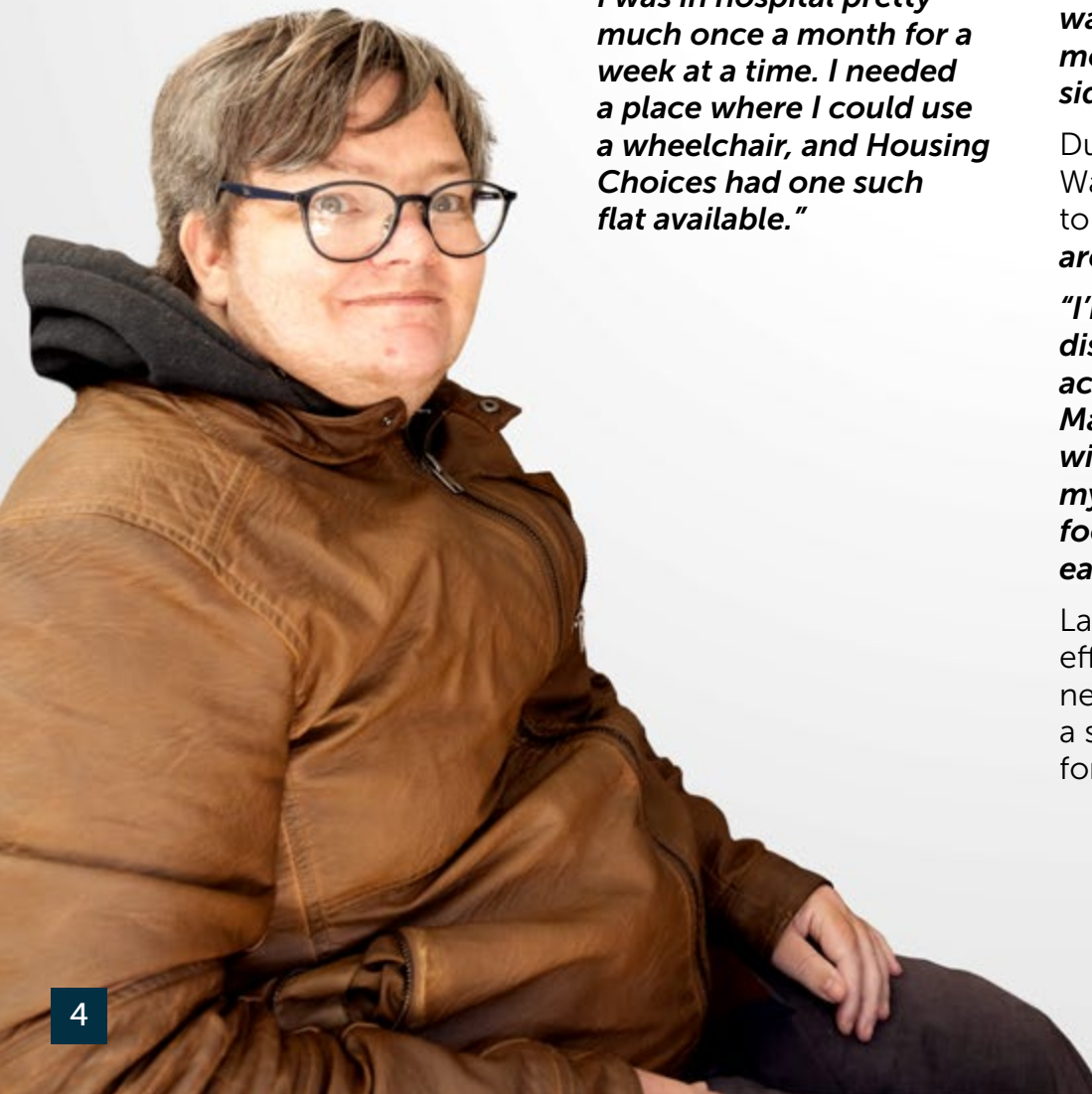
The issue was one of Tim's key campaign promises when he ran for candidacy in the Tasmanian Greens' most recent election.

"The experience was eye-opening. I advertised around Queens Walk, and it was great to see how many more people were on my side than I thought."

During his time at Queens Walk, Tim has worked hard to ***"make the Queens Walk area the best it can be."***

"I'm passionate about giving disabled people equal access to the community. Making sure that those with mobility disorders like myself can move around footpaths in our suburbs easily."

Largely thanks to Tim's efforts, the Queens Walk neighbourhood has become a space that is welcoming for all. Tim also hopes to





New Partnership Sparks More Learning Opportunities

remind fellow residents to be mindful of people living with disabilities and those with mobility disorders.

“Footpaths have been built (in Queens Walk) that make it way more accessible, but people who park across curb ramps and on the footpath make it way less accessible and much harder for people like me to get around.”

Tim now has a taste for politics and hopes to run in the Council election later this year. He says his main goal for the upcoming election is to make bus stops more accessible.

Tim also works with Disability Voices Tasmania, a disability services and support organisation based in Hobart, to further his advocacy work for the disability sector and beyond.

“Disability Voices Tasmania help disabled people get involved with projects so they can improve their lives and their CV.

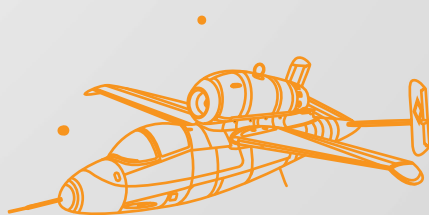
“I was interested in making videos, so they got me to help make a video about what it’s like being a disabled person in Tasmania.

“The organisation is great because it had disabled people write it, disabled actors, and those involved in the production are also living with disabilities.”

In his spare time, Tim is an avid video gamer.

“I play war plane games because it allows me to be in a world where I can walk and run and do things that my disability doesn’t allow me to do otherwise.”

“One of the many positive things about Housing Choices is instead of just ignoring me and taking my rent check, you’ll listen to my problems that I bring up.”



Housing Choices Tasmania is offering a range of free courses and educational opportunities to HCT tenants through a new partnership with literacy and numeracy community group 26TEN.

As part of the partnership, residents across the state have access to additional educational tools and activities, including access to private one-on-one literacy and numeracy assistance and support with computing and technology education.

There are also opportunities for residents to practise their English conversation skills and gain a Certificate 1 in General Education for Adults to increase employment skills and get work ready.

26TEN also offers support for residents to get their learner driver’s license through the First Gear Program.

All the courses are free and HCT Community Development Officers can provide more information and assist with enrolment. Please call **1300 312 447** for information and assistance.



Resident Advisory Committee Callout



We're on the hunt for a diverse range of residents to join the Resident Advisory Committee and shape the way services are provided.

Committee members are responsible for:

- Raising collective issues that affect residents
- Offering advice and recommendations from a resident's perspective
- Providing Housing Choices with advice and feedback to help improve policies, operations and influence service delivery to increase resident participation
- Enhancing community development and resident engagement
- Supporting Housing Choices advocacy work and its voice on affordable housing
- Occasionally communicating and consulting with residents on the activities of the Committee.

Meeting once every two months, committee members responsibilities include:

- Attending at least 60% of meetings
- Preparing for meetings by reading materials that are sent before meetings
- Attending special projects, workshops and events as appropriate and required

- Respecting the privacy of residents and all treating all personal information as confidential
- Acting respectfully of others' opinions and being unbiased and non-judgmental
- Consistently representing the view of Housing Choices many and diverse residents

The committee is not a forum to raise personal housing issues.

We encourage Housing Choices residents including those living with disabilities and residents from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds to volunteer for the committee.

Each committee will aim to have at least one member of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander background and we strongly encourage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents to join.

We'd also love to see greater representation from the south and a new face or two who live areas where we've now expanded our portfolio.

If you would like to arrange a meeting to discuss coming a Committee Member please call **1300 312 447** and advise if you require translating and interpreting services.



Maintenance

To report a maintenance issue to Housing Choices Tasmania, please call us on 1300 512 583.

We have a dedicated team to deal with all maintenance related requests. This team is staffed by people with residential building knowledge and experience. We work closely with a panel of contractors who help us to maintain our properties.



If something is damaged or broken in your home, you can also call our Repairs and Maintenance Hotline on 1300 512 583 to get it repaired.

You can also use this phone number for after-hours emergency repairs. But please keep in mind that our after-hours service will only respond to reports involving the failure or breakdown of an essential service that may affect your safety or security. For example, if your gas, electricity or water supply breakdown.

Further information is also available on our website: **www.housingchoices.org.au/residents/tasmania/report-a-repair**

Poets' Corner



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Thanks to all our residents and community participants for their holiday season-themed entries in the Housing Choices Tasmania poetry competition.

If you would like your poem included in our next edition, please email it to **communitydevelopmenttas@hcau.org.au** and include your name, address and contact number in the email.

Contact our Community Development Team on **1300 312 447** if you would like more information.

Poem by Laura

I woke up this morning and decided
I would spend less time worrying about
what I wanted, what I didn't have and
everything that I didn't need.

And start being more thankful for all
the people, things and blessings that
I do have in my life.

It's been so easy to get caught up in the
hustle of the modern world trying to get
all the things in the rush to get more.

Truth is, I don't need any of that to truly
be happy.

I already have everything I could ever
want and need in my life:

Great people that love me, a life full
of happy moments, and everything
I could ever want in this journey to
make my life complete.

I just think somewhere along the way,
I lost sight of the difference between
what I need and what I want.

So, as I turn the page to a new year
and a new chapter, I'm changing my
mindset to one of being more grateful
for all the blessings I do have.

I'm going to tell my people that I love them
more... and show them whenever I can.

I've decided to enjoy the beautiful
moments in my days instead of worrying
about what tomorrow brings.

I'm going to do more for others instead
of focusing only on myself.

Mostly, I'm just going to be the best person
that I can be - happy, thankful and kind.

Maybe someone else will see that and
decide that they, too, want to be more
of a light in the world.

Blessed not stressed.

Grateful not hateful.

Selfless not selfish.

I truly don't know what I can do to help
my little corner of the world a better place,
but it's worth trying.

I won't win any awards but then, I'm doing
it for me, because it makes me feel good.

And maybe if enough of us start lighting
up our place in the world with good things
and kindness, maybe we can lift each other
up instead of letting things divide us.

Something so simple that can be so hard.

One day at a time, one step after the other.

Life, love and happiness.

One beautiful moment after another.

It's always been there, waiting for me.

And now, I'm making the most of
my chances.

Call me whatever you want
- Dreamer, naive, ridiculous or sappy.

But the one thing you'll never be able
to label me is unhappy.

And that, for me, is a pretty good
place to be.

Image by Housing Choices WA resident Susan Gresham.



Home Stories Autumn Puzzle

Win a \$50 Bunnings Voucher!

Find all of the words in the word search except for one, which is not actually in the grid. Words may be forward, backward, up, down or diagonal.

W	E	B	S	I	T	E	Q	U	E	T	R	L
A	H	E	A	L	T	H	K	P	E	Y	F	L
U	T	U	I	O	P	L	J	D	V	C	D	A
T	G	U	T	T	E	R	S	A	I	O	S	F
U	Q	W	E	F	D	A	H	T	T	N	W	S
M	S	T	S	I	T	R	A	E	A	N	T	N
N	T	V	A	P	P	E	A	L	E	E	U	I
N	M	E	N	T	A	L	T	C	R	C	Q	A
T	R	A	I	N	I	N	G	A	C	T	A	R
M	A	C	Z	L	E	A	V	E	S	W	C	D
Q	C	E	N	T	R	E	P	A	Y	U	B	N

FIND THESE WORDS IN THE GRID

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| AUTUMN | UPDATE |
| LEAVES | CENTREPAY |
| FALL | ONLINE |
| GUTTERS | CONNECT |
| DRAINS | MENTAL |
| APPEAL | HEALTH |
| TRAINING | CREATIVE |
| WEBSITE | ARTISTS |



Once you've found all the words in the word search contact our Community Development Team with the remaining word on **1300 312 447** or send an email to **communitydevelopmenttas@hcau.org.au** to go in the draw.

Please also include your name, home address and contact number. Entries for the competition close on **Friday May 13 2022**. Maximum one entry per household.

Thanks to everyone from across the state who participated in our latest word find competition.

Due to the overwhelming number of entries, we have selected two winners: **Darryl** from **Smithton** and **Sally** from **Bellerive**. Congratulations to both.

We have also awarded our birthday draw winners for December and January who have each received a \$20 voucher.

If you would like to join our Birthday Club, please contact our Community Development Team on 1300 312 447.

Mental Health Support



Life is full of challenge and change, ups and downs. If you're struggling, please know support is available.

For anyone who needs help please contact:

Lifeline 131 114

Kids Helpline 1800 551 800

Beyond Blue 1300 224 636



Hobart
Level 7, 39 Murray Street
Hobart TAS 7000

Devonport
5 Steele Street
Devonport TAS 7310

Shorewell Plaza
11A Wiseman Street
Shorewell Park TAS 7320

General Enquiries

1300 312 447

Maintenance

1300 512 583

hctinfo@hcau.org.au

housingchoices.org.au