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HOUSES FOR STORIES

Winter
2022



HOUSING
CHOICES
TASMANIA

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From the General Manager



Hi Everyone,

Since our last edition of Home Stories, we at Housing Choices Tasmania have been very busy meeting and engaging with new and long-term residents across the state.

A large part of our work has been building community bonds and ensuring the residents who joined us, from the more than 475 Housing Tasmania dwellings that transferred to HCT management, understand the various services we provide. We are also looking at new ways to create inclusive communities and deliver our services.

The feedback you have provided us through conversations and our recent resident survey over the past months will help us plan our activities for the next year.

We have held several great community events in the past few months including a National Reconciliation Week celebration in

Ulverstone, Easter in the Park with the East Devonport Neighbourhood House and Neighbourhood Day in Smithton. We will be holding a range of different activities over the coming months, which we hope you'll get involved with.

As many will know the Tasmanian Resident Advisory Committee (TRAC) is responsible for raising collective issues that affect residents and provide HCT with advice and feedback.

As a part of our growth and our wish to enhance the profile of our TRAC some new members have recently joined the TRAC. I particularly want to thank our departing members, Diana, Dorothy, Kylie and Marianne, for the dedication and support they showed to HCT and welcome our new members Paul, Lee and Burtukan. We look forward to the next steps!

In this edition, you will find a story from our resident Jill. She has developed a strong bond with her chihuahua, who is an important member of her family. There is also a story on the factors to consider before getting a pet.

As the weather gets colder, please check out our tips for keeping warm.

Stay well and I hope you enjoy this edition.

Kind regards,

Kim Bomford
General Manager
Housing Choices
Tasmania



Easter Bunny hops into Devonport

Housing Choices Tasmania residents were among about 200 people who attended the annual East Devonport Neighbourhood House Easter in the Park celebration in April.

The afternoon of festivities included Easter bag decorating, obstacle courses, lucky dips and guessing competitions.

The park was filled with children of all ages who thought a surprise visit from the Easter Bunny was particularly special.

There were grinning faces all around thanks to the effort of East Devonport Community House Community Development Officer Lisa.

Lisa said without the help of community volunteers who ran activities and the local organisations who attended, including the Devonport Library, Devonport City Council, West and East Devonport Child and Family Centre, the event would not have been such a success.



Fresh faces for the Resident Advisory Committee

In the last edition of Home Stories, we put a call out for residents to join the Tasmanian Resident Advisory Committee and shape the way services are provided.

We have since had residents Paul, Lee and Burtukan join as new members. We hope to share more information about them in the coming editions. Thank you to out-going members Diana, Dorothy, Kylie and Marianne for your dedication.

The importance of an active resident advisory committee is to ensure that the diverse needs and interests of our communities are represented and reflected in the delivery of our services.

It is a platform for resident voices and perspectives to be heard and provides valuable feedback to help improve our policies and operations. The role of the committee is also to engage and include residents in community development events, programs and initiatives.

TRAC Chair Gavin pictured above.

Making your voice count



Thanks to everyone who completed our short resident survey recently.

Your responses will help us to plan the next 12 months of programs, events and activities by informing future community engagement programs and ensuring we deliver relevant and necessary services.

Growing community bonds in the north-west

Since November, Housing Choices Tasmania staff have been busy meeting and greeting hundreds of new residents whose properties were transferred to Housing Choices Tasmania's management under the Tasmanian Government's Community Housing Growth Program last year.

As part of the transfer, Housing Choices has commenced the first round of Property Condition Surveys of the 475 Devonport, Smithton and Ulverstone properties, with most of the house inspections completed. These inspections are a crucial part of ensuring that we deliver good quality maintenance services for our residents.

The Community Development Team has also been working in the new areas, building relationships with a range of new service providers.

Inclusive Communities Team Leader Sam van der Meulen said this enabled the team to gauge what services were available and develop the best ways to connect new residents with services and social activities.

"We have been establishing long-term relationships with service providers and have begun linking our residents who might be struggling into appropriate support services," she said.

"We've been talking to residents about what activities they'd like to be involved with and ways to build a greater sense of community."



Neighbourhoods combating loneliness

To celebrate Neighbourhood Day in March, Housing Choices Tasmania joined with several community groups across Smithton and Shorewell Park to host a range of activities for locals.

It was a chance for the communities to come together to build positive relationships and prevent loneliness.

Thanks to Wedge Street Neighbourhood House, The Vinnies Van and the Circular Head Aboriginal Corporation, residents enjoyed wood fired pizza, a barbeque, and soup from the Vinnies van in Smithton.

Community Development Officer Nikki Campbell said everyone had a great time joining in activities like kelp basket making, cricket and more.

"It was great to see the community come out," she said

"The Neighbourhood House was bursting with people having a great time."

Housing Choices Tasmania also teamed up with Burnie Works, Burnie Library and the Vinnies van to host a Neighbour Day event in Shorewell Park.

"Acting mayor, Giovanna Simpson, attended and opened the event. Giovanna thanked participating services for the work they do in the area and welcomed Shorewell residents to the event," Nikki said.

Encore Performing Arts kindly provided all the entertainment for the day.

"Members of the community braved the rain to come out and help celebrate. Everyone who attended enjoyed celebrating their community's diversity."

What veggies to grow



JUNE

PLANT: Asparagus crowns, early potatoes, rhubarb divisions, Jerusalem artichokes, globe artichoke suckers, potato onions, chives, shallots and garlic cloves.

SOW: Long-keeping, salad and spring onions, broadbeans and English spinach. In containers under glass or indoors sow seed of cabbage, cauliflower and broccoli to raise seedlings for August planting.



JULY

PLANT: Asparagus crowns, early potatoes, shallots, potato onions, long-keeping, salad and spring onion as small seedlings, garlic cloves, rhubarb divisions, Jerusalem and globe artichokes.



AUGUST

PLANT: Certified seed potatoes, Jerusalem artichokes, shallots, potato onions, garlic cloves and oca (*Oxalis tuberosa*). Off-sets (suckers) of globe artichokes (for tasty food and brilliant flowers). Divisions of chives, rhubarb and asparagus crowns. Sturdy young seedlings of cabbage, cauliflower, celery, broccoli, lettuce, onion and leeks.

SOW: Direct where they are to be grown seed of peas (including delicious snow peas), broad beans, turnips, swedes, Asian brassicas, English spinach and onions. In warm, well-drained soil or containers, sow silverbeet, cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli and lettuce seeds.



Enter our gardening competition

We are excited to open our two garden competitions again and see what you have achieved in your green spaces this year.

Competition 1 Front and backyard gardens:

There will be five winning entries and all entries will receive a garden pack.

Competition 2 Apartment/ balcony garden:

There will be five winning entries and all entries will receive a garden pack.

Please send us photos of your garden by email or give us a call and we can come take some images. All entries are due by **Friday November 18**.

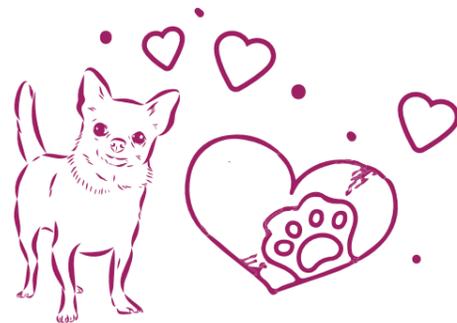
Contact our Community Development Officers or email to find out more.

communitydevelopmenttas@hcau.org.au

1300 312 447



Jill and Missy: a tiny dog bringing big love



For many Housing Choices Tasmania residents, pets are important family members and housemates. In this edition of Home Stories, we turn the spotlight on a resident whose life is all the richer because of her furry friend.

When Jill's granddaughter presented the Housing Choices Tasmania resident with a tiny long-haired chihuahua in 2008, Jill fell in love instantly.

"When I saw her, I said I was going to keep her until the day she dies and give her the best life," Jill said.

"She's the best pet I've had. She loves people."

Jill grew up on a farm where she spent her days surrounded by cows, horses, cats and dogs, but before being gifted her chihuahua Missy, 76-year-old Jill had been without an animal companion for a number of years.

Now it's rare to see them apart.

"She (Missy) didn't used to like me going out, – but I bought an electric scooter and now I can take her for a ride," Jill said.

"She doesn't want to get off it. I'll come back inside, and she'll be sitting on it.

"Missy is the boss of the house.

"That's going to be the tough part, when she's gone."

Jill joined the Housing Choices Tasmania community when management of her house was transferred from Housing Tasmania in 2014.

At the time, she was living in an older Housing Tasmania property, with stair access.

Over time the property was becoming unsuitable as Jill's mobility has slowly declined. Last year she was transferred to a new two-bedroom level-access home with a garage to store her electric scooter and a backyard for Missy.



Thinking about getting a new pet?



Lockdowns and restrictions introduced during the pandemic have prevented many Tasmanians from being able to spend time with loved ones, leaving them isolated. One way to increase opportunities to get outside, socialise and provide some companionship is through a pet.

Housing Choices Tasmania understands the positive impact animals have on a person's mental and physical wellbeing.

To determine whether a property is suitable for a pet HCT does need to assess a few factors first. These include things like the property size, the type of animal and the number of residents already living in the home.

If you think you might want a pet you must apply for permission and receive an approval letter for the pet from Housing Choices Tasmania, prior to bringing the pet into the home.

Important information about having pets

All dogs over 6 months old need to be microchipped and registered with the local council.

Where can I get my pet microchipped?

- your local council
- a vet
- RSPCA

Registration and microchipping fees may vary depending on the council, as well as if the dog is desexed or any other concessions apply.

Similarly, it is compulsory to microchip and desex all cats over 4-months-old. The RSPCA offers financial assistance to people who are on concession or health-care cards to meet the cost of desexing their cats.

To help with payment, the RSPCA runs a cat desexing program for people who are eligible for Centrepay.

The program allows cat owners to stretch out the payments to desex their cat. The owner pays the RSPCA a deposit of \$30 up front and the RSPCA pays the vet bill. The cat owner then repays the RSPCA the amount owing through their Centrelink payments at a minimum of \$25 per fortnightly payment.

The RSPCA also offers desexing for dogs through a Centrepay payment plan scheme. It is only available to people on health care, pension and student cards.

Keeping warm in winter



If you have a heat pump, make sure you clean the dust from the filter regularly. You can wash it in the sink or clean it with a brush or vacuum. Similarly, for Pureheat units, turn off the power and clean the front of the heater.

To keep your bills in-check, make sure your heater is set to maintain a constant temperature rather than pumping it up and down or turning it off and on. Doing this helps the unit work less to keep your house nice and warm.

Alternatively, you can always throw on another layer of clothing. If you have draughts in your home, use door snakes and draught tape to prevent heat escaping under and through doors. And don't forget to use curtains to help keep the heat in and the cold out.

However, it is vital to open windows and doors on sunny days to help with air circulation and prevent dampness or mould, particularly in the bathroom.

The best way to make sure everyone has a shower with hot water is to reduce the length of showers and spread out the time between family members' showers if possible.



Home Stories winter 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.

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

FIND THESE WORDS IN THE GRID

- | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|---------|-----------|
| WINTER | FREEZING | GLOVES | CHIMNEY |
| HOME | COMMUNITY | SNOWMAN | BLANKET |
| RAINING | JUMPER | STORM | HOT COCOA |
| FIREPLACE | FROST | BOOTS | COAT |

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 **hctinfo@hcau.org.au** to go in the draw to win a \$50 Bunnings voucher.

Please also include your name, home address and contact number.

Entries for the competition close on **Friday 2 September**. Maximum one entry per household.

Congratulations to Jason Cole from Huonville who won last edition's puzzle.



Have your artwork on our next Christmas card

We are calling for submissions for a Christmas themed artwork to be used on this year's Housing Choices Tasmania Christmas Card.

The Tasmanian Resident Advisory Committee (TRAC) will pick one of the submitted artworks to appear on cards that will be sent to all Tasmanian residents and service providers.

The resident whose artwork is chosen will receive a \$50 voucher.

Submissions need to be received by Housing Choices Tasmania by **Friday 23 September**. Contact our Community Development Team on **1300 312 447** with any enquiries or send an email to **communitydevelopmenttas@hcau.org.au** with your name, address, contact number and your artwork.

Above: The winning design of the 2021 Christmas card competition.



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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

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