

Annual General Meeting 2019

Almost 100 tenants, staff and guests from partner organisations attended our Annual General Meeting on 12 November. Following a rousing Welcome to Country by Auntie Ann Weldon from the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council, WHC Chair, Alice Spizzo, drew on the year's highlights including the successful transfer of 151 Northern Beaches



tenancies from government and our increased registration status as a Tier One community housing provider. CEO, Debbie Georgopoulos also spoke about the growth of WHC homelessness services in south western Sydney.



Following formalities, broadcaster and political commentator, Julie McCrossin AM gave a moving account of childhood experiences that have led to a lifetime of social activism. The afternoon ended with a delicious lunch and lucky door prizes generously donated by supporters.

For more information, download a copy of our Annual Report 2019 from our website: <http://www.womenshousingcompany.org.au/aboutus/annualreport>



NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2020

CEO Message	2
Staff Updates	2
Water Restrictions	3
MP Visit	3
Volunteering	3
What's On	4

Please contact Fiona on **8202 9312** or Fiona@womenshousingcompany.org if you'd like more information about any of the articles in this newsletter.

OFFICE HOURS:

9.00am – 4.30pm
Monday – Friday

REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE

Phone: 02 8202 9313

Email: repairs@womenshousingcompany.org

After hours emergency repairs: 1300 556 057

Congratulations Michele!

Michele from Narraweena won a \$100 gift voucher for completing an SMS survey of our new Northern Beaches tenants.

Annual Tenant Satisfaction Survey

For your chance to win one of 5 x \$100 gift vouchers, please complete the Annual Tenant Satisfaction Survey. Your survey has been emailed to you. If we don't have your email address, a printed survey is enclosed.

We value your feedback and use it to improve our services. Completed surveys received by 17 February will be entered in the prize draw.

Women's Housing Company

Suite 901, Level 9, 418A Elizabeth St, Surry Hills NSW 2010

T: 02 9281 1764 or 1300 942 111 (outside Sydney)

E: contact@womenshousingcompany.org **Interpreter:** 131 450

www.womenshousingcompany.org

CEO Message

Welcome to the first newsletter for 2020. I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable festive season and I offer you my best wishes for the new year.

The AGM in November was a great opportunity to celebrate our achievements over the last year, share plans for the coming year and connect over lunch. I am very pleased to provide an update on the following:

- New housing in Pendle Hill – we finalised the purchase of new social housing for women aged 55 and over in late December and the first tenants move in to their new homes from January. This has been a major project, funded by the NSW Department of Communities and Justice and the Women's Housing Company, delivering housing for 22 older women. An official launch will be held in early 2020.



New over 55s housing in Pendle Hill

- The Woolloomooloo Women's Housing Project is nominated for a National Urban Development Institute of Australia Award in the Affordable Housing category. Great recognition for this joint project between the NSW Land and Housing Corporation and the Women's Housing Company.
- New strategic plan – we have started work on a new Strategic



Plan 2020-23. The Board, staff, Tenant Advisory Group and other stakeholders will have input to shaping the future of our organisation.

I hope you enjoy reading the newsletter and I encourage you to get involved in some of the activities listed on the back page.

Best wishes,

Debbie Georgopoulos
CEO WHC

Staff Updates



Jane Barnes – Tenancy Manager

Jane joined the team in November and is managing tenancies in Sydney's Inner West. Jane has most recently worked as a Housing Officer at Mission Australia and previously

as a Client Service Officer with the Department of Communities and Justice (formerly FACS).



Cathie Williams – Tenancy Manager

Cathie also joined the team in November and is managing tenancies in Newcastle, Coffs Harbour, and central Sydney, as well

as the Affordable Housing portfolio. Cathie has strong experience in real estate, community services and tenancy management in private and non-government organisations.

Donations Received

We are extremely thankful to have received seven beautiful crocheted blankets, donated to the Women's Housing Company by the Lilyfield and Rozelle Crochet and Knitting Society - known as LARCKS. The group of 15 friends comes together to support community groups by providing handmade blankets, made with love and care. The blankets will be used at our crisis accommodation in south western Sydney for women who have experienced homelessness. Thank you LARCKS!



**Would you like to join a Knitting Circle?
See back page for details**

Level 2 Water Restrictions Across Sydney

More than 85 per cent of Greater Sydney's water is supplied by captured rainfall. With the current drought, dam levels have reached the lowest levels in a decade.

Level 2 water restrictions have been in place since 10 December. Under strict restrictions you can only:

- use a watering can or bucket to water your garden before 10am and after 4pm.
- use drip irrigation or smart watering systems for a maximum of 15 mins a day before 10am and after 4pm.
- wash your vehicle with a bucket and sponge.
- wash garbage bins using water from a bucket or a hose fitted with a trigger nozzle.
- spot clean hard surfaces for health, safety or emergency reasons, using a hose fitted with a trigger nozzle or high pressure cleaning equipment.
- use a broom to clean paths, driveways and other hard surface.
- wash windows or other glass surfaces using a bucket and sponge or engage a window cleaner who has an exemption permit.

Fines of \$220 apply to individuals and \$550 for businesses for not following restrictions.

Some businesses such as gardeners and builders have exemption permits. They are required to display a sticker on their vehicle.

If you have a medical condition that means you can't carry a watering can or bucket or if you have a carer who can only help you at certain times of the day, call Sydney Water on **13 20 92** to discuss individual needs.

See www.sydneywater.com.au for more information.

MP Visit

Residents at one of our blocks in Strathfield received a visit from the federal member for Reid, Dr Fiona Martin, following upgrades to common areas funded under the Stronger Communities Program. Funding allowed improvements to security, sustainability and liveability at the block. CEO, Debbie Georgopoulos



Dr Fiona Martin, tenants, Debbie Georgopoulos, and Fiona Forrest

Georgopoulos said "we greatly appreciate the boost that Stronger Communities funding provided, allowing us to upgrade the grounds at our senior's block in Strathfield".

Would you like to volunteer and enrich someone's life?

It's a sad fact that 40 per cent of residents in aged care facilities don't receive visitors.

The Community Visitors Scheme (CVS) is a government run program that provides companionship to socially isolated older people. The Scheme is currently looking for volunteers

in the Eastern Suburbs and Inner West who enjoy the company of older people, are good communicators and can commit to visiting once a fortnight.

Community Visitors might share stories, take a walk, or enjoy a TV show together. Residents and visitors are carefully matched with

training and ongoing support. Travel expenses are also covered to make sure no one is out of pocket.

For more information, please contact Fiona on **8202 9312** or Fiona@womenshousingcompany.org.

SMS Reminders

We are now able to send text messages (known as SMS) directly to your mobile phone. SMS is a fast, cost effective form of communication that we will use for selected purposes such as confirming appointments, sending reminders and seeking feedback.

Please help us keep in touch by ensuring your contact details are up to date.

What's On

January

Community Greening Workshop

**Friday 24 January, 10am – 12pm,
Warwick Farm**

The Royal Botanic Gardens
Greening Team workshop.

Pop Up Wardrobe Exclusive for WHC Tenants

**Friday 24 January, 11am-12.30pm,
Rozelle Neighbourhood Centre,
756 Darling St, Rozelle**

Avoid the queues and come to our Exclusive WHC Opening of The Pop Up Wardrobe for an assortment of new clothes, limit of six items per person.

February

TAG Meeting

**Thursday 6 February, 10am-
12pm, Club Ashfield, 1-11
Charlotte St, Ashfield**

The Tenant Advisory Group (TAG) is your platform to share information and experiences about WHC services. We meet every two months at different locations and are always looking for new members.

Walking Tour of Elizabeth Bay House and Woolloomooloo

**Friday 13 February, 10am –
Meet at Kings Cross Station,
Darlinghurst Rd Exit**

Join us for a walking tour of historic Woolloomooloo ending at one of the finest colonial houses in Sydney: Elizabeth Bay House. Weather permitting, we will enjoy a packed lunch at the McElhone Reserve. Please note you must be able to walk up to 30 minutes.

Unless specified, all events and activities are free to Women's Housing Company tenants with materials and equipment provided.

March

International Women's Day Celebrations

**Friday 6 March, 10am-2pm,
Woolloomooloo**

We'll be celebrating International Women's Day with information sessions and a BBQ at our Women's Hub in Woolloomooloo. There'll be presentations on building financial confidence, an introduction to Mindfulness, flower arranging and more!



Ongoing

Wellbeing at Woolloomooloo

- 10am, Tuesdays – Gentle Yoga
- 10am, Wednesdays – Healthy Movements

Wellbeing at Chester Hill

- 10am, Thursdays – Coffee morning and Knitting Circle
- 12pm, Thursdays – Women only swimming at the Wran Leisure Centre (entry fees apply)
- 11am, Fridays – Gentle Yoga

Community Housing Tenant Network (CHTN)

The Community Housing Tenant Network (CHTN) is a working committee of community housing tenants from all over NSW. Please contact Women's Housing Company Representative, Dianna Kelly (DKshorties@gmail.com), if there are any matters you wish to raise.



Please contact Fiona on 9281 1764 or Fiona@womenshousingcompany.org if you would like to attend any event or activity.