

Compass

TENANT NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2022 EDITION

compass

housing services

Home *in* Place



JOIN US ON THE HOME IN PLACE JOURNEY

Compass will soon be Home in Place

By now you should have received a letter in the mail, advising you that Compass will officially begin trading as Home in Place from the 29th of April 2022.

This change will not alter your tenancy in any way. You do not need to sign a new lease, or complete any paperwork, and you will continue to receive the same excellent service you have come to expect.

We have always believed our mission was bigger than simply providing accommodation. As well as providing the security and dignity that comes with affordable housing, we are also determined to create thriving and sustainable communities where individuals and families can flourish and look to the future with hope and optimism.

Home in Place is not just a name, it's an expression of our values and a statement about who we are, and what we do. We are excited about what the future holds and grateful to have you as part of the Home in Place community.

Frequently Asked Questions

WHY IS COMPASS CHANGING ITS NAME?

Compass is changing its name to Home in Place because we are no longer just a social housing company.

Although social housing is still our core business, we now do a range of other things like property development, community development, facilities management, and disability housing. We're also exploring new opportunities and expanding into new areas. The new name is about reflecting that growth and creating a brand identity that captures the full range of what we do.

WHY "HOME IN PLACE"?

Compass has always believed that social housing is about more than accommodation, hence the focus on "homes" rather than "houses". The concept of "place" is central to our company philosophy.

It is one of the reasons we devote so much energy to trying to help our clients feel connected, and active participants in their communities – this is something experts refer to as "place making" – it's the process of strengthening the connection between people and the places they share.

WILL THE CONTACT DETAILS CHANGE?

The 1300 number will not change. You will also still be able to contact us via our website. The old URL will automatically redirect to the new site. The new website address is WWW.HOMEINPLACE.ORG

WILL THERE BE ANY CHANGES TO THE STAFF?

No, existing Compass staff will continue to work for Home in Place.

WILL THERE BE ANY CHANGE TO MY RENT?

No, there will be no impact on the way your rent is calculated and you can continue to pay rent in the same way you do now.

WILL I HAVE TO UPDATE MY CENTREPAY DEDUCTIONS?

No, any existing direct payments you have set up will still work once Compass becomes Home in Place.

You can find out more about the rebrand by visiting our website at WWW.COMPASSHOUSING.ORG or by scanning the QR code.

Alternatively, you can give us a call on 1300 333 733. We're always happy to hear from you.





**ARE YOU MUSICALLY CREATIVE?
PERHAPS YOU HAVE A WAY WITH WORDS?**

**WE ARE SEEKING SUBMISSIONS
FOR A NEW HOME IN PLACE SONG!**

We are soon to be Home in Place, and it is time for a fresh tune to propel us into a bright future.

We are after an original musical masterpiece (music and lyrics) that captures what it means to have a “Home” and the value of “Place”.

The song will be sung by a tenant choir at Home in Place events and recorded for use across various platforms.

THE WINNER WILL RECEIVE A \$100 EFTPOS VOUCHER!

**PLEASE EMAIL YOUR LYRICS AND THE AUDIO FILE TO
GESADMIN@COMPASSHOUSING.ORG BY FRIDAY 27TH MAY.**

Grow a Star News

Grow a Star is an innovative, youth mentoring and scholarship program that helps young people from disadvantaged backgrounds overcome the financial or generational obstacles that are preventing them from following their academic, sporting or artistic dreams.

The program was created by Compass Housing Services and is the first of its kind to be designed and operated by a community housing provider.

By enabling young people to pursue their passions, the program aims to build the self-confidence in young people to achieve their highest ambitions and foster habits and behaviours that can set them up for life.



Max's Story

After some tragic family events in their home state of Western Australia, Max and his mum Scherie moved to Newcastle for a fresh start in 2015. Max was nine years old at the time. It was just the two of them.

In April 2021, Max and his mum Scherie became homeless after the owner of the property they had been renting decided to move back in. Even with an impeccable credit and renting history, it was impossible for them to find affordable accommodation with the impact of the pandemic producing low vacancy rates in the area, rent bidding and hundreds of people competing for properties. With no family here, Scherie was forced to delve into her superannuation fund to pay for food and temporary accommodation in motels in the local Newcastle area. They weren't eligible for refuge accommodation because Max was 15 and considered too old..

After six months of living from day to day and doing the best that they could, and with the longest stay in any motel being 3 days, they were finally offered a home in Wickham with Compass Housing through the Social and Affordable Housing Fund (SAHF) program.

Their experience with homelessness was extremely stressful and had a significant impact on both of them, particularly Max who had been dealing with depression for some time now. They were overcome with emotion with the prospect of finally moving into their own place, somewhere with stability, to call home and they are both so grateful to have received this opportunity.

Max is currently in Year 11 and attends the Big Picture Program in Cooks Hill College. He loves the school, and their unique project-based learning style suits

him. He has a whole new lease on life and his major project in 2021 was producing a game show. Through this project, he was required to demonstrate the use of mathematics, English, and science to acquit his curriculum.

Max is also completing his Cert II in Hospitality at school and is holding down three part time jobs at local cafes and a hotel. He is keen to learn about the hospitality industry and gain valuable experience, but he is also aware that the money he does earn helps his mother and their day to day living. Max has organised a saving plan for himself and has 40% of his wage going into savings and the rest is for day-to-day spending for himself.

Max was referred to Grow a Star for assistance with his education. He didn't have a computer and was often required to stay late at school or borrow his girlfriend's computer to complete assignments. Max has a passion for the arts, specifically writing and producing short films and having a computer is essential for his education.

Through the Grow a Star program, Max has received a \$2,000 scholarship from Collective Heart, to purchase his computer and other requirements he may have while completing his education. Max is committed to finishing Years 11 & 12 and his hospitality qualifications before realising his dream to travel the world and document his travels through writing, podcasts, film and photography.



Trek With Kallan

Kallan Strong was referred to the Grow a Star program in 2015 by his paediatrician. He was just 15 and dealing with bullying and stigma associated with his Autism Spectrum Disorder. Kallan had a passion for the sport of ten pin bowling at the time and found this was a place he could escape the noise and focus on something that made him happy.

Kallan's mum, Lee, said the Grow a Star program has been instrumental in helping Kallan to reach the top level in his sport. Originally, the program assisted him with specialist coaching for six months and this enabled him to get to his first national championships in Melbourne in 2015.

Over the past seven years, Kallan has been selected to compete in the NSW state team at the National Disability Titles, captaining the team for the last three years and he will be travelling to Melbourne in June 2022 to defend their national title once again. Kallan has competed in countless state and national championships, winning over 160 medals and numerous titles.

In 2020, Kallan completed his Diploma of Photography & Design at TAFE and in 2021 he was awarded Student of the Year and Creative Design Ideation Student of the Year at the TAFE Excellence Awards in 2021.

He set up his own photography business in 2021 (Kallan Strong Photography) and has already won several photography competitions and recently engaged his first business clients, photographing several events and numerous weddings on the Central Coast, Port Stephens and Sydney.

"To have other people show an interest in you and support you in reaching your goals has been so beneficial for Kal." says Lee.

"We have always appreciated the opportunities that Grow a Star have provided Kal and he now wants to 'give back' to the program, by participating in the upcoming Trek for the Stars fundraising adventure in Cradle Mountain in November 2022."

The trek will see participants undertake a 5-day hike around the spectacular Cradle Mountain National Park in Tasmania as part of a fundraising campaign for Grow a Star. Each participant is also tasked with raising \$3,000 for the program.

Kallan is keen to take his camera on this adventure, and capture all of the action on the ground. You can join him!

For more information go to EVENTS.INSPIREDADVENTURES.COM.AU/EVENTS/GROWASTAR-TASMANIA-2022

Do you have a young star in your family?

Someone with big dreams and the talent and drive to reach them with a bit of help?

Learn more about the Grow a Star program and the application process at GROWASTAR.ORG

Upcoming Events

Every year we host various fundraising events to support Grow a Star. We mentioned the Tasmanian Trek on the previous page, but there are a couple more events you, or someone you know, may be interested in joining.

The following events are based in Newcastle NSW, but any support we can get for Grow a Star is greatly appreciated. A full list of the ways you can support the program, including hosting your own events, can be found at GROWASTAR.ORG



Lunch for the Stars

Tickets are now available for the 2022 Lunch for the Stars!

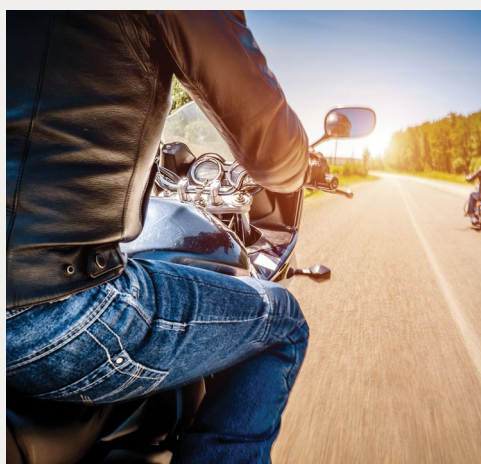
Special guest speaker is speed skating superstar Steven Bradbury.

Steven tells an amazingly inspirational story of triumph over adversity, of how he underwent years of obsessive training, pain, setbacks, sacrifice and life threatening injuries and of how he armed himself with the information and tools he needed to achieve this amazing success.

Come and join us on the 10th of June at Noah's on the Beach to hear his story, have a few laughs, enjoy a delicious lunch and raise funds so that more young dreams can come true.

Tickets at EVENTS.HUMANITIX.COM/LUNCH-FOR-THE-STARS-WITH-STEVEN-BRADBURY

Ride for the Stars



Join us on a three day road trip throughout NSW on the Ride for the Stars Motorbike Adventure!

Travelling over three days across our scenic countryside, you'll be riding alongside like-minded people making a difference to the lives of young people in our community.

We will start from Newcastle NSW on Friday 14th October and travel to beautiful North Haven on the NSW Mid North Coast where we will stay overnight. On Saturday 15th of October we will head inland to the picturesque town of Uralla. On our final day, Sunday 16th October, we will make our way back to Newcastle via Walcha, Gloucester and Stroud.

To register, or for more information, go to RIDE-FOR-THE-STARS-2021.RAISELY.COM

Community Hubs

Compass' community hubs - the 123 Community Hub in Broken Hill and The Meeting Place on the Central Coast - provide a base for local support agencies to offer outreach services as well as a place for tenants and their local community members to meet, socialise and volunteer.

The hubs host several tenant and community events including free lunches, school holiday programs, community garden activities and sporting programs. Importantly the hubs also offer a location for external agencies to meet with our tenants and provide services which meet their needs.



The Meeting Place | Tumby Umbi

During COVID lockdowns we converted the Shack Shop at The Meeting Place into a base for packaging and distributing hampers and care packs for tenants impacted by COVID. Throughout the most recent lockdown, more than 700 hampers and care packs were distributed across the Central Coast alone.

During the lockdowns, there was limited opportunity to open The Meeting Place on Northumberland Way Tumby Umbi to the public - but not now!

The Meeting Place is now open 10am-2pm Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Secondbite is available on each of these days. The Shack Shop is open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Regular community lunches will be resuming soon, and special celebrations are being held. We have already celebrated Easter and Mother's Day at the Hub with plenty more to come!

Like and follow our Facebook page for further updates [@THEMEETINGPLACECENTRALCOAST](#)



Volunteers needed! Maureen and Jenene would love to hear from anyone interested in volunteering at The Meeting Place. It's a great place to work with a wide variety of roles available. Come and join in the fun, make new friends and give back to the community. Call them on 1300 333 733 for more information.

123 Community Hub | Broken Hill



Thanks to a partnership with NSW Health, during the most recent COVID outbreaks, the 123 Community Hub on Creedon Street at Broken Hill was temporarily converted into a COVID testing and vaccination clinic to help ensure our tenants and the local community more broadly had direct access to these crucial services.

During the closure, we were able to continue our work with the sustainable gardening project and squeezed in a few community events including the community drumming program.

Normal services and activities are starting to resume at the 123 Community Hub on Creedon Street at Broken Hill. We expect to be hosting morning teas and lunches very soon. The Sustainable Gardening Club is back on Thursdays 10am-12pm - all welcome. Hub Outreach and CommuniTEA will be resuming soon.

Keep an eye on the hub's Facebook page [@123CREEDONSTHUB](#) for updates.

Homeless Connect Days



The Australian Bureau of Statistics estimates around 116,000 Australians are homeless on any given night.

Many Compass tenants have experienced homelessness in one form or another. Some have fled domestic or family violence. Others have experienced addiction or mental health issues. Some simply can't afford to rent privately.

Compass works closely with local homelessness support services in all areas to help people experiencing homelessness transition into stable long-term accommodation. We are also a major contributor to several innovative new projects designed to reduce homelessness.

As part of our ongoing contribution to community, Compass has provided charity, Hunter Homeless Connect, with a dedicated coordinator to run their annual Hunter Homeless Connect Day event since 2012. The event is a one-stop-shop of human and community services, including free health checks, legal services, haircuts, massages, immunisations, birth certificates, food, clothing and much more.

It is delivered by a community coalition of government and non-government organisations and volunteers and enables people in crisis to access vital services.

Are you interested in volunteering?

Each year around 1000 guests attend the event, plus over 300 service providers and volunteers.

The 2022 event will be held at the Newcastle Entertainment Centre on Wednesday 10th August.

Hunter tenants, Hunter Homeless Connect are calling for volunteers. You don't need any experience, you just need to be a compassionate and caring person and have the capacity to have conversations with people and a willingness to accept people as they are.

To find out more or to register to be a Hunter Homeless Connect Day volunteer go to

[HUNTERHOMELESSCONNECT.ORG.AU/REGISTER-TO-VOLUNTEER](https://hunterhomelessconnect.org.au/register-to-volunteer)

COMPASS CALL CENTRE 1300 333 733

Business hours for all general tenancy enquiries or 24/7 for emergency tenancy and maintenance issues.

WEBSITE [COMPASSHOUSING.ORG](https://compasshousing.org) SOON TO BE [HOMEINPLACE.ORG](https://homeinplace.org)

EMAIL CONTACTUS@COMPASSHOUSING.ORG