

MYPLACE

NEWSLETTER FOR TENANTS AND RESIDENTS OF HOME IN PLACE
ISSUE TWO

Home
in Place



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GROUP MANAGING DIRECTOR
HOME IN PLACE



Hi there HIPsters,

Housing people who otherwise can't afford to house themselves, in the economy they live in, is a social mission for Home In Place. There are just so many people who are not in a suitable home or have no home at all. Adequate housing is a declared human right that responsible governments need to address, as it is a basic human need, and why the vision statement of Home In Place is: "that all people have appropriate and affordable shelter, and are engaged in sustainable communities."

We are very pleased that we are housing around eight thousand families in our various portfolios. We are concerned too about the hundreds of thousands in Australia and New Zealand that don't have adequate housing. Is this a mission you could be a part of?

As most of you would have noticed, Home in Place has been requesting that, any tenants with creative/music/singing skills, get in touch with us.

Why, may you ask?

Well, firstly anything that connects our team, and our customers, is a good thing.

Secondly, as is being stated in academic circles here and there, the general approach people take to decision-making is changing from being pure logic-rational-evidenced-based decision-making, to a mixture of logic and emotion. The emphasis is the growing reliance on emotion in the decision-making mix today. Politicians and general citizens agree that we are in a housing crisis, and those in power need to do more about it.

How do we affect people emotionally? In many ways, but music, videos testimonials, and the like, greatly assist, in conjunction with supporting research, data and reports.

Also, thirdly, in this modern world, having music and video content being developed and shared via our website and social media platforms is a great advantage, and creating our own is a fraction of the cost of buying music and other content.

We have some in-house musicians, composers/writers, visual artists, and the like, but most can only afford to give limited time. So, we need more of all, but particularly in the short term, a bunch of people that can form a choir to lead in one song, be background in another, and generally be available to assist in our overall media productions.

If you would like to get involved, contact your local Community Participation Officer on 1300 333 733 or email us at contactus@homeinplace.org.

Social Media Champions

Many of you have connected with Home in Place via our social media platforms - links on the back page.

We try to post content that is engaging and useful to our tenants and the wider community but we need feedback and input from you.

We are calling for expressions of interest from our tenant group to join a special reference group for social media. Members of this group will provide feedback on current messaging and will become brand and content champions, providing content and encouraging their fellow tenants to do likewise.

If you are interested in joining this group, please email JACOB@HOMEINPLACE.ORG



Tenant Reference Groups and Our Voice Panel

Did you know that each Home in Place branch has a Tenant Reference Group?

Tenant Reference Groups are a local forum for communication with tenants. Our Tenant Reference Groups enable us to keep tenants informed of developments and to receive feedback on how services are experienced by tenants.

Our Tenant Reference Groups members are active, engaged tenants who represent the community and bring great ideas to the table about improvements, initiatives, and getting other tenants involved! You may see them at events in the coming months, including Mental Health Month and the various Christmas activities.

Each Tenant Reference Group also has a representative who attends the Our Voice Panel, a formal committee that sits within the Home in Place Board structure. This Panel considers issues and improvements that have impact across our tenant body, and aims to work with Home in Place on solutions. The Our Voice Panel recently gave feedback on a demo of the upcoming tenant portal and is excited for this to roll out to tenants far and wide!

Tenant voice is vital to our tenant experience. We are looking for tenants who want to get involved and be active in their communities. If that's you, please email getinvolved@homeinplace.org



PICTURED ABOVE (L-R) ALAN, GREG BUDWORTH, ROSS AND TOM

Tenant Reference Group Member Spotlight

Our first spotlight is on one of our longest serving reference group members, Tom pictured above.

Tom has been a Central Coast tenant for 11 years and in that time has been actively involved in Tenant Reference Groups, the Our Voice Panel and previously the Compass Tenant Improvement Panel.

Tom worked in risk management for a number of years and brings that experience to both groups.

Tom and his wife have a cocker spaniel named Laila - an Eric Clapton reference - and Tom is a keen golfer too.

Mental Health Month Events

October is Mental Health Month. The theme this year is “**tune in**” and to celebrate, we are hosting some special events.

Home in Place tenants are invited to come along for free screenings of Ticket to Paradise. Before the feature film, we will show a short video featuring some very personal stories from your fellow tenants as they share their experiences in overcoming mental health issues.

Some dates and venues are yet to be confirmed but you can RSVP for the following movie screenings in Singleton and Boolaroo.

Details of the other screenings will be advertised on our Facebook page  @homeinplace



Free Mental Health Month Movie and Lunch

Venue: Majestic Cinemas Singleton - 21 Ryan Avenue Singleton

Date: Tuesday 18th October 2022

Time: 10am - 2pm

Home in Place is partnering with Singleton Neighbourhood Centre to put on Mental Health Month Movie Matinee for Home in Place tenants.

There will be a free screening of Ticket to Paradise starring George Clooney and Julia Roberts starting at 10am at Majestic Cinemas, followed by a free lunch at the Open Door at Singleton Neighbourhood Centre from 12:30pm.

Please register your attendance to secure your place!

[HTTPS://EVENTS.HUMANITIX.COM/SINGLETON-MENTAL-HEALTH-MONTH-MOVIE-MATINEE](https://events.humanitix.com/singleton-mental-health-month-movie-matinee)

Free Mental Health Monday Movie

Venue: Lake Cinema - 62 Main Rd, Boolaroo

Date: Monday 31st October 2022

Time: Doors open 11am (screening begins at 11.30am)

As part of Mental Health Month, Home in Place Newcastle branch is putting on a free Monday movie event. Come along and watch Ticket to Paradise, starring Julia Roberts and George Clooney.

All Home in Place tenants welcome! Snacks and drinks available for purchase at the candy bar.

Limited numbers. Please register your attendance to secure your place!

[HTTPS://EVENTS.HUMANITIX.COM/HOME-IN-PLACE-NEWCASTLE-MENTAL-HEALTH-MONDAY-MOVIE](https://events.humanitix.com/home-in-place-newcastle-mental-health-monday-movie)



Lenny's Story

Lenny Steele has been living in community housing in Cessnock with Home in Place since 2017. After serving his country, then falling victim to alcohol abuse, he rebuilt his life and continues to support other people struggling with addiction during his retirement.

After leaving high school, Lenny worked at the local bank, before joining the Navy as a meteorologist aboard numerous war vessels for five years.

Lenny served in Vietnam for seven months, receiving several medals for his service, before he turned to alcohol, landing him in Holsworthy Military Prison for three months before being discharged.

Lenny said the following years were hard.

"I ended up on skid row in my 20s, often being locked up for the night due to drunkenness," Lenny said.

He recalls one day being pulled out of a cell by a police officer who said 'You're not a bad bloke sober, but every time you're drunk, you're nothing but a pest'.

"I was 25 then. He pointed me to James Fletcher Hospital. I joined a detox program there in 1974 and have been sober ever since."

Knowing firsthand the harmful effects of alcohol abuse, Lenny strives to help others find the strength to quit, just as he did.

"I volunteered at Morisset hospital for 16 years. I was working in construction at the time but would run rehab groups for them two or three nights a week. From there I worked at Cessnock Jail for 18 years, working in the remand and minimum-security divisions, running the Phoenix Program. This program informed drug and alcohol users of the detrimental effects that follow.

Following retirement, Lenny continued volunteering to run weekly drug and alcohol programs at the prison.

Lenny's late wife, Cherie, would also volunteer at the jail, helping inmates with literacy problems.

Lenny's unit in Cessnock has a private courtyard, as well as communal green spaces. He grows vegetables and shares them with his fellow tenants.

Lenny has a place to call home and is continuing to support his fellow tenants as a member of the Home in Place Tenant Reference Group and Our Voice Panel.

You can read more of Lenny's story on our website at www.homeinplace.org/stories/tenant



Grow a Star Youth Charity

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 Home in Place 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.

Every year we host various fundraising events to support Grow a Star.

Ride for the Stars

14-16 OCTOBER 2022

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](https://www.raise.ly/ride-for-the-stars-2021)



Trek for the Stars

TASMANIA 8-12 NOVEMBER 2022

On this adventure, you'll spend five days trekking a variety of trails around the Cradle Mountain Village area. From easy shorter exploration walks to day-long hikes and steep climbs up to beautiful lookouts, everyday you'll face a different challenge. You'll discover the Tasmanian wilderness up close on this unforgettable adventure.

The \$3000 you raise on this adventure will assist in making dreams a reality for children that will improve their lives or provide a stepping stone to a positive future.

Travel package is \$3,250 not including flights.

To register, or for more information, go to

[EVENTS.INSPIREDADVENTURES.COM.AU/EVENTS/GROWASTAR-TASMANIA-2022](https://www.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, the application process or how you can support the program at [GROWASTAR.ORG](https://www.growastar.org)

R U OK? Day Events

Check out how the Home in Place team and tenants celebrated R U OK? Day this year.





Kim's Bush Tucker Garden

Home in Place resident Kim will have greater connection to his culture and country thanks to an indigenous garden being installed at his Wallsend group home.

Home in Place teamed up with the Royal Botanic Gardens' Community Greening Program to build and plant-out a vegetable and bush tucker garden at Kims' specialist disability accommodation (SDA) home.

This garden features artwork from local indigenous artist Saretta Fielding on a message pole made from recycled plastic.

Home in Place's sustainability manager, Jandy McCandless, said community gardens are increasingly being used in public spaces, schools, in public housing, and for people with special needs to develop new skills.

Ms McCandless said Home in Place has worked to deliver a number of gardens in its SDA properties focusing on sensory elements such as taste, smell and touch. [READ MORE AT WWW. HOMEINPLACE.ORG/NEWS](http://www.homeinplace.org/news)

Tenant Maintenance

The Home in Place website has all the information you need when it comes to reporting maintenance issues, responsibilities and expectations.

Home in Place is responsible for carrying out maintenance and repairs to properties managed by Home in Place, but where Home in Place has organised maintenance:

- that is not considered the result of fair wear and tear,
- to repair a property that has been damaged intentionally or through neglect by the tenant, or
- that was unable to be completed due to failure to allow proper access

... then those costs are passed on to the tenant.

Basic home maintenance is the tenant's responsibility. The Home in Place team has produce a series of short **Handy Household Hints** videos that may help. Topics include replacing fly screen mesh, fixing sticky door locks, repairing vertical blind hangers, removing mould and much more!

[CHECK THEM OUT AT WWW. HOMEINPLACE.ORG/REPAIRS-AND-MAINTENANCE](http://www.homeinplace.org/repairs-and-maintenance)



Stay in Touch

HOME IN PLACE CUSTOMER CALL CENTRE 1300 333 733

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

WEBSITE [HOMEINPLACE.ORG](http://www.homeinplace.org)

EMAIL CONTACTUS@HOMEINPLACE.ORG



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youtube.com/c/HomeinPlace



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[HOMEINPLACE.ORG](http://www.homeinplace.org)