

I sometimes shed a tear, a home forever!! ...

I'll just sit here and smile.



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Home News



December 2015

Five Minutes of Fame: Anne Gostelow

First of all I would like to acknowledge the kind political activists in the St Kilda community who, in the 1980's, recognised that a diverse range of St Kilda residents on low incomes were being pushed out of the area due to gentrification and rising rents. Their initial hard work and lobbying directly led to the establishment of quality Community Housing in the City of Port Phillip and then other suburbs. The same community housing that we live in with PPHA. As one of the longest PPHA tenants, I'd like to briefly tell the story of my PPHA property.

23 years ago I moved into a 3 bedroom flat, as a sole parent with two children, aged 1 and 9. What a relief it was to be offered secure, affordable housing after having to move house 4 times in the previous 3 years and worrying that due to rising rents we would have to move out of the area in which we had all our links.

Our block of 9 flats was the first property targeted for families that was managed by the then St Kilda Housing Association (SKHA, now PPHA). When I moved in all flats were tenanted. Three with SKHA tenants and the rest with private tenants, who had been living here before the block was sold and SKHA took over management. As the private tenants moved out flats were allocated to people on the SKHA waiting list. Over the years, there have been a few changes of residents in the 2 bedroom flats. The 3 bedroom flats have been stable, with long-term occupants. The present tenants generally respect each other's privacy and accept our differences as well as our commonalities. The long-term residents, who have supported each other through life's up and downs, naturally have a closer relationship.

Over the years some of the tenant's children have moved out and then come back home again. They are part of what



Anne Gostelow

are termed the "Boomerang Generation". It can be very difficult to live out of home for this generation, particularly when their parents are unable to give them any financial help. I believe that the only thing I can do to help is to provide my young adult child with the home in which she has lived for most of her life, if needs be.

Generalities in the media about how the "boomerang generation" move back home to save money to buy their own property or travel and that their parents are losing their retirement savings as a result, does not take into consideration the children of low income, no asset parents in their analysis. My daughter now pays more rent than she did for the year she was living away from home. Also I am saving money because she pays half of the facility fees & usage for our amenities. Plus she helps around the house.

Being able to experience continuity of tenancy in a flat within our community has been great for my family and myself. I believe that all tenants of the Port Phillip Housing Association are extremely lucky to be living in secure, affordable and good quality social housing.

Holmesglen Neighborhood Activation Project

PPHA supported the successful City of Monash submission for a \$250,000 State Government grant to create an urban park in Ashwood, improving the aesthetic appeal, amenity and safety of the current shared bike/pedestrian path. The plan includes:

Upgrading a shared bike/pedestrian path to encourage more walking and cycling between the Holmesglen shopping strip and the local neighborhood

A new urban park with a rest and conversation area, multi-generational playspace, shade trees and garden. The multi-generation playspace will include a climbing wall, bike maintenance stations, bike racks and shaded spectator seating areas.

Artwork will be created on the climbing wall to help prevent graffiti and create a visual feature for the site.

Whilst the project won't be completed until 2017, PPHA will partner with Amaro Neighborhood House, to run mosaic workshops for residents to participate in the creation of the street art proposed for the site. Stay tuned for further news.



Up & Coming Events:

Food Mate Returning in 2016

PPHA in partnership with Second Bite and Inner South Community Health will be running three Foodmate programs in 2016. Food Mate is more than just a cooking program- it is an opportunity to connect with others through learning about nutrition, having fun and sharing food.

We are currently looking for volunteers to work on the Foodmate program, especially to help with shopping and providing support during Foodmate sessions. It is a great way to get involved in your local community and learn more about food and nutrition.

If you are living in a rooming house, look out for information about the next Foodmate program and how you can benefit from being involved.

If you are interested in volunteering or participating in the Foodmate program just contact community@ppha.org.au or call Helen on 9534 5837.

Hero's Journey begins again in 2016

The next Hero's Journey course for PPHA tenants will begin in January 2016. The Hero's Journey is designed for people interested in working or volunteering to develop skills and use the Hero's Journey framework to set goals and achieve them. The course is free for PPHA tenants and runs for 10 weeks at Elwood St Kilda Neighbourhood House. Interested tenants need to contact Simone at co-ordinator@esncl.com.au or call 9531 1954 or email community@ppha.org.au

Rooming House Riders –group ride leaders needed

The RACV Community Foundation has provided PPHA with a grant to run a group riding program for PPHA tenants. We are currently looking for volunteers

to lead group bike rides in the St Kilda area and to help with the program. If you would like to volunteer or be involved in the group riding program just contact Helen at community@ppha.org.au or phone 9534 5837.

Christmas Celebrations

All are welcome to attend.

- Essendon and Parkville Christmas Celebration Friday 11 December, 5pm – 7.30pm, Galada Avenue Playground, Bunjil Way, Parkville
- Ashwood Christmas Celebration (South Road and McKinnon tenants are welcome): Wednesday 16 December, 5pm – 7.30pm, Holmesglen Reserve, Power Avenue, Ashwood
- St Kilda Christmas Celebration Tuesday 22nd December, 1pm – 3.30pm, Catani Gardens (Pier Road), St Kilda

Community Gardens Project.

We have partnered up with the EcoCentre in St Kilda to create communal gardens in our properties.

Throughout 2015 six edible community gardens have been planted in PPHA properties. Our plan is to create more and more community gardens. If you are interested in gardening, and particularly growing seasonal and organic produce call into the EcoCentre on any Friday:

EcoCentre Garden Outreach

Drop by the EcoCentre to see the volunteers in action; how to maintain a community garden, garden care, seasonal growing, harvesting, tasks

Take home FREE seeds, seedling or cuttings
Day/Time: Fridays. 10am-3pm

The EcoCentre are running a series of workshops specifically for PPHA residents

Dec 18 - Growing Herbs in Recycled Containers Workshop - great gift idea - and take home a FREE Mint Tea plant!

Jan 22 - Saving Seed and Sowing Seeds Workshop - FREE seeds to take home!

Feb 19 - Common Garden Pests and Natural Management Strategies - FREE seedling to take home!

Where: EcoCentre 55A Blessington St, St Kilda (cnr St. Kilda Botanical Gardens)

If you would like to see a garden planted where you live, email Philippa at parmstrong@ppha.org.au.

Staff Movements

We welcome the following additions to our staff team:

Jack Panton
as General Manager, Property Development



Carmel Shute,
Executive Officer



Andrew Williams,
Tenancy Management Officer



Season's Greetings

As another year draws to an end, we take the opportunity to reflect. A new property – Essendon – has been completed and tenanted bringing the PPHA family to over 1400 members. The Tenant Artists Collective has successfully held its third exhibition, this year as a part of the Fringe Festival. Engagement between tenants and PPHA has steadily increased, with the establishment of a new community development team and a variety of new events and activities. PPHA and our CEO Karen Barnett have been the recipients of a multitude of awards recognising commitment and endeavour in the area of affordable housing.

As we look to the future, we will be analysing the results of the recent tenant survey and using your views to guide improvements in service delivery and directions in tenant engagement. PPHA will continue to search for a suitable site for another new development and to advocate strongly for increasing the supply of affordable housing.

As you pause and reflect, we hope that your year has also been rewarding.

Wishing you the joy of family, the gift of friends and the best of everything for the New Year.

Home Is Where the Art Is

A large crowd were on hand for the opening of the latest exhibition of art works by the PPHA Tenant Artists Collective, this year as part of the Melbourne Fringe Festival.

Dean Stewart formally welcomed guests to country and Martin Foley MP, the Minister for Housing and Creative Arts, officially opened the exhibition. Ant Bridgeman and Jan Grey, who were both exhibitors, relayed some of their life experiences and gave an insider's view of the work involved in producing art for the exhibition.

The art was diverse in style, from writing to visual, from realistic to abstract, from ceramics to oils. It included the delicacy of cut and decorated egg shells to the intrigue of an electronic interactive titled "Inside My Brain". As the Fringe program

stated "Not restricted by theme, genre or medium, this show is a synthesis of creativity, storytelling and artistic expression.... The quality and diversity of the works in this exhibition will shatter the stigma and negative stereotypes generally associated with community housing."

A meet and greet with the artists and tour of the Gasworks Arts Park was held on 30 Sept. This provided an opportunity for the 50 tenants attending to learn some of the background to the pieces on display.

If you would like to get involved with the collective and/or participate in future exhibitions, contact Helen Brooker at PPHA on 9534 5837 or speak to your Tenancy Management Officer.

We can't wait to see what is produced for the fourth installation



Lynne Thomson and Alison Place share a moment with with Martin Foley MP, Minister for Housing and Creative Arts and PPHA CEO Karen Barnett at the opening of Home is Where the Art Is.



Meet & Greet provided a less crowded opportunity to enjoy the exhibition than was afforded on opening night.

For the first time in my life I have been able to plan for a future I want instead of just reacting.



Strategic Direction 2015-2018: Redefining what's possible.

After several months of review and careful consideration, PPHA is proud to announce the release of our Strategic Direction 2015-2018. During the process, the wording of Our Vision, Our Mission and Our Values was altered slightly although in essence they remain the same.

Our Vision:

Affordable HOUSING Accessible to ALL

Our Mission:

Building Affordable Homes and Local Communities

Our Values:

Integrity: We will have a shared commitment to openness, honesty & fairness.

Respect: We will treat all people equitably and well, without judgement or prejudice.

Inclusiveness: We will build communities and facilitate participation.

Collaboration: We will engage with colleagues, tenants and business partners in a team-based approach.

Accountability: We will be responsible for our actions and act professionally.

In the three years covered by the Strategic Direction 2015-2018 we intend to build on our reputation and our success to date to address the desperate need for affordable housing in Victoria. We intend that by 2018 we will have expanded our business, enabling more people to

live better lives in affordable homes. We will focus our efforts on three strategic directions, each realised through a number of strategies:

- Successful tenancies; cohesive communities
- Growth in high quality affordable housing
- Enterprising organisation

Together these ambitions and associated strategies will enable us to progress towards our Vision.

Please visit the About Us tab on the PPHA website: www.ppha.org.au to view the Strategic Direction in full.

Living Local: PPHA Tenant Photography Competition

What does living local mean to you? This was the question posed to tenants in the first PPHA photography competition. The competition was open to PPHA's current residents. Photos taken on smartphones were welcomed, as were photos taken prior to the announcement of the competition. A judging panel of 4 persons external to PPHA selected 8 finalists with winners announced at the PPHA AGM. 23 photographers entered with a total of 97 entries. Here are the finalists:



Right: Luna Tram by Roy Haigh.

Below: Richmond by Toby Crocker was awarded 1st place.



Clockwise, starting at top left:

Spontaneous Moment by Alan Cotton; • Sunrise by Jamal Ibrahim; • Finalists at the AGM with their photos. L to R: Frank O'Connor (PPHA Chairperson), Alan Cotton, Toby Crocker, Elliott Renzies (seated), Jamal Ibrahim, Roy Haigh and James Wray (Manager Housing & Service Development, PPHA); • This image from St Kilda by Elliott Renzies was awarded 2nd place • Warrigal Road by Toby Crocker • San Marcos Guatemala by Toby Crocker • un-named by Moyra Kwan



Celebrating the life of Richard James

(5/8/1931 – 23/9/2015)



At a celebration of the life of well-known St Kilda activist and PPHA tenant, Richard James, PPHA CEO, Karen Barnett, announced that

the next PPHA development in the City of Port Phillip would be named in honour of Richard.

"Richard was a tenant of PPHA for 15 years. He brought eloquence, charm, intelligence and an astute sense of politics and social justice to the people who needed it most – not just to his fellow tenants but to the broader community, to anyone without a voice. His caring

approach went wide. As a member of Port Phillip Council's Older Person's Consultative Group, he brought his outstanding personal qualities to the cause of older people. His sheer presence meant that what he had to say simply couldn't be ignored. Richard helped make a better local community and we want his work to live on through the name of the next community housing development," Karen said.

Richard had been involved in many local political campaigns, was a co-founder of Vintage Men, a member of the Port Phillip Council's Older Persons Consultative Group and the council's Gay and Lesbian Advisory Committee.

Richard had many guises – artist, volunteer, activist and performer. Ill-health prevented him from participating



Karen Barnett speaking at the Celebration of Richard James, watched over by Kaye Sera.

in this year's 'Home is Where the Art Is' exhibition, but he enjoyed a bubbly at the opening the night before he died.

Richard's celebration of ageing as one of the joyous stages of life remains an inspiration.

