

foundation **focus**

Newsletter for Foundation Housing tenants  Spring 2020

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Celebrating NAIDOC Week A chance to join together

Foundation Housing will be celebrating the culture and contribution of Australia's First Nation people during NAIDOC Week.

The celebrations are part of our ongoing commitment to our Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) and we are pleased that we will be in a position to take part in the week, after it had to be postponed from its usual time in July due to COVID-19.

NAIDOC Week celebrations are normally held across Australia to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. NAIDOC is celebrated not only in Indigenous communities, but by Australians from all walks of life.

At Foundation Housing we'll be holding a lunch time event to celebrate the completion of a specially commissioned mural at our Bennett Street complex by Seantelle Walsh, a young contemporary Noongar Artist, born and raised in Perth (Whadjuk country). Seantelle has worked across the WA community under her trade name Kardy Kreations. She delivers painting workshops to various schools and organisations,



Always Was, Always Will Be.
8-15 NOV 2020

NAIDOC Week Celebrations

Noongar Art Class
Tues 27 Oct & Wed 28 Oct
1.00pm – 3.00pm
67 Bennett Street

NAIDOC Week Lunch
Tues 10 Nov
1pm – 2pm
67 Bennett Street

All welcome but RSVPs are essential. Register for both events by emailing community@foundationhousing.org.au or call 9422 0700

encouraging cultural diversity with a contemporary perspective on Aboriginal Art and Culture. Seantelle has been working with

tenants of Bennett Street to develop a design. All Foundation Housing housing tenants are welcome to attend this event but RSVPs are essential.

In the lead up to NAIDOC Week we are hosting two free Noongar Art Classes on 27 & 28 October, also at Bennett Street, in East Perth. Tenants and residents are invited to join Whadjuk Noongar artist Julianne Wade for a painting class where you will create and take home your very own inspired masterpiece. The class is free and materials are supplied but bookings are essential. Come for one or both sessions.

Foundation Housing's new Community Engagement Officer Tiffany Ugle will be at both events and is looking forward to meeting more of our tenants and residents. Tiffany is a Noongar woman who will be working with our Community Engagement Coordinator Neal to particularly focus on enhancing our engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tenants.

We have been featuring Noongar words on posters at our Hampton Road Lodge. These have been shared with us by Noongar man Jorgen Ford from the Reintegration into the Community group



Kaya	Hello	Koort	heart
Wanjoo	Welcome	Boodja	the land
Moort	Family	Koorlbardi	magpie



Tenant rep sought to **join committee**

Foundation Housing is seeking a tenant to join its Tenancy Services and Engagement Committee so that our Board of Directors and management team can directly hear the views of our customer tenants and residents and receive input into the decisions that impact them.

The tenant committee member will represent the approximate 3500 people who live in one of the 2000 homes we provide across WA through this important subcommittee of our Board.

The role of the Tenant representative will be to:

- Act as a full member of the Committee, preparing for and attending meetings and contributing to agenda item discussions

- Act as a customer voice on the Committee, ensuring that a service user perspective is included in the decision making process
- Represent the views of customers on issues which may impact them or their housing
- Enhance the diversity of the Committee's membership
- Ensure Committee members are aware of customer views about service delivery and housing policy
- Undertake community engagement to understand customer views and represent them at a Committee level

In return for your time spent on Committee activities, an allowance will be paid to cover expenses such as travel, internet usage, mobile phone usage and your time

spent preparing for and attending meetings.

Training and support will be provided and the specifics of this can be discussed with individual candidates to ensure they feel supported and prepared for the scope of activities.

In order to be considered for this role, please submit a written Expression of Interest (maximum 2 pages) outlining your interest in being a member and how you believe you can add value to the Committee in the areas listed above.

Please include details of your previous experience as a tenant and any relevant work experience that would enhance your capacity in this position.

Email
narelle@foundationhousing.org.au



Apply for a **scholarship**

Applications are now being accepted for Foundation Housing's 2021 scholarship program for tenants and residents.

Two scholarships of up to \$2000 are available to assist the recipients with course fees or study expenses for any TAFE or university course, or other vocational training including online learning.

The Kathleen Gregory Scholarship is specifically for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tenants. Applications will be assessed based on eligibility, commitment to engage in study and the ability to demonstrate how the funds will:

- help you reach your education and employment goals
- remove financial barriers to education opportunities
- enable future employment opportunities
- build your independence and capacity.

Application forms and lots of additional information is available on our website or you can call our office or email community@foundationhousing.org.au to arrange for application pack to be posted to you.

Applications close on **27 November 2020**.

Need help to fill in the forms?

We can organise an interpreter or sit with you to help

COVID-19 update

- Our head office in Leederville has reopened four days a week from **8.30am – 4.30pm**, Monday to Thursday.
- Our main phone number is attended Monday to Friday from **8.30am – 4.30pm**.
- Early on in the COVID period we decided not to increase rents for a six month period ending in September 2020, even though we were not legally obliged to do so. Now that the initial period is up, we will return to our regular schedule of rent reviews.
- As reported last issue, property inspections have been resumed. Please let your coordinator know if you are unwell prior to a scheduled visit when they contact you the day before their visit.
- For further information on how COVID-19 may be affecting your tenancy please see our website or speak to your coordinator.

Vouchers changed

We're now sending eligible tenants printed eGift card vouchers instead of multiple plastic gift cards. We'll print each gift card and send it to tenants using Registered Post. Tenants will still need to sign for the registered post the same way they do now. This change means you can now choose between Coles or Woolworths vouchers - just let your coordinator know your preference.

Putting down roots in Ridgewood

Standing in the garden of nature-loving husband and wife Khoushaba and Juliet, you'd never guess there was little more than sand and weeds less than a year ago.

Relocating from Syria in 2016, they had a challenging three years in private rentals while they were on the joint housing waitlist. Foundation Housing was able to offer them their current property in Ridgewood, their preferred suburb since their two daughters were already settled in the local primary school.

With Khoushaba's farming background he found employment in the gardening industry - skills that have come in handy for the transformation of their garden.

With limited funds they not only created a pretty garden full of jasmine and gardenias, but also a productive garden of herbs, lemons, table grapes, figs, mini green apples and aloe vera. A rabbit called Labob, the latest furry addition to the family, certainly enjoys his new home too.

When we asked Khoushaba for the secret to his gardening success he said, "You can't grow anything in sand. You need good soil and a sound foundation."

Wise words, especially when building a new life.



Congratulations!
to Khoushaba and Juliet who win one of our great gardens awards.

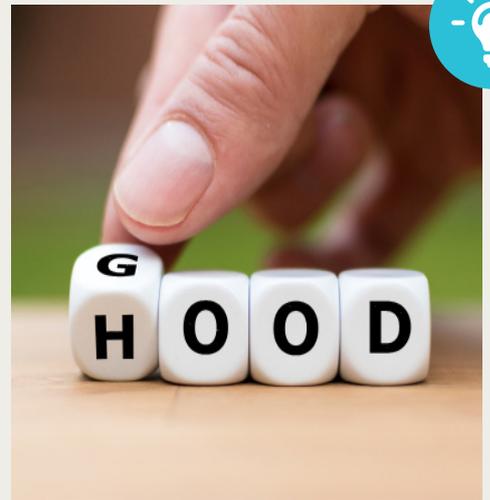
They receive a Bunnings voucher donated by Yardmasters.

Being a good neighbour

Everyone is different and we choose to live different lifestyles, but no matter who you are, being a good neighbor is important because everyone is entitled to enjoy their home peacefully. Being a good neighbour means being respectful of others. You can do this by minimising noise, managing your pets and the behaviour of visitors, and sharing common areas including parking places, laundries and gardens.

Be aware that loud noise, particularly in the evening, abuse, vandalism, noisy vehicles, aggressive pets and any kind of criminal behaviour will upset those who live near you and cause them to complain.

If you need further information on dealing with anti social behaviour from your neighbours you will find helpful information on our [website](#)



Noticeboard

Do you know your watering days?

Spring is here and this means the end of the winter sprinkler ban. If you use sprinklers in your garden make sure they are only used on your allocated watering days or you could get a fine from the Water Corporation.

Visit www.watercorporation.com.au/save-water/watering-days to find out your allocated days.

TAG Meeting

Tenant Advisory Group Meetings have resumed again are generally being held in the community, usually at a Foundation Housing complex. There are currently TAG groups meeting in Midland, and Perth but we are always open to starting additional ones. If you're interested in coming along to a TAG meeting, contact Community Engagement Coordinator Neal for more details. neal@foundationhousing.org.au

Need to report a repair?

Call **1300 895 205** Monday to Friday 8.30am – 4.30pm, Email repairs@foundationhousing.org.au or complete the form online foundationhousing.org.au/tenants/report-a-repair/

Volunteers for photos

We are looking for volunteers who would be happy to have their photo taken to be used in future Foundation Housing marketing. Email marketing@foundationhousing.org.au or call 9422 0759 for further information.

Tip Passes

We have limited numbers of free tip passes for tenants living in the following local government areas:

- City of South Perth,
- City of Stirling
- City of Wanneroo
- Town of Bassendean

The passes can be used to dispose of items such as garden waste, household waste such as old furniture, toys and mattresses and building waste but check the relevant area's website to confirm. Speak to your housing coordinator to request one.

Let us know what you want to read about!

This is your newsletter. Please let us know what topics you'd like to see in future issues. We also welcome your letters, photos and stories. Email marketing@foundationhousing.org.au



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