

foundation focus

Newsletter for Foundation Housing tenants 📍 Summer 2020

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Always Was, Always Will Be

Foundation Housing celebrated 2020 NAIDOC Week with Noongar art classes and the unveiling of a mural at our Bennett Street complex.

Always Was, Always Will Be was the theme for NAIDOC Week and we unveiled a mural that was painted over four days by Noongar artist Seantelle Walsh. It features two red tail cockatoos and in Aboriginal dreaming stories, cockatoos represent healing and change as well as the indication of coming rain, which was particularly apt as the skies opened just after the unveiling. Other parts of the artwork symbolise Foundation Housing staff and Bennett Street residents around a campfire, representing community and a place of serenity. There is also the winding journey to a safe home, which is what many of our tenants have been through.

Seantelle said, "I became inspired for the mural after speaking to the tenants who wanted it to represent a peaceful place that adds to the



character of the area but is also calming, which is why the colour blue was chosen."

Also featured are dots, which represent being part of the community. After the unveiling, staff and residents were invited to contribute their own dots to a central part of the mural which had been left clear for this purpose.

In the lead-up to NAIDOC Week, the creative juices flowed freely during Noongar Art Classes also held at Bennett Street. Whadjuk Noongar Artist Julianne Wade

lead the painting classes for staff and tenants over two afternoons. Participants were invited to create their very own Aboriginal inspired masterpieces in acrylic on canvas in a quest to learn about the importance of art in Aboriginal culture and heritage.

Meanwhile in Broome, Foundation Housing held another NAIDOC event opened by resident Lynda who delivered the Welcome to Country. Art classes were held along with a cooking workshop, which included kangaroo skewers, damper and cupcakes decorated with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags. The event included many of Foundation Housing's tenants as well as representatives from partner agencies across the community, who have become an integral part of the Frederick Street lodge.

Christmas Closures

Please note that our offices will be closed from 12.00pm Thursday 24th December until 8.30am Monday 4th January. Please call **1300 895 205** for emergency maintenance issues during this time. Only emergencies will be dealt with – please wait until 4th January to report any other matters.

Kadadjiny Days: thinking, listening & learning

Kadadjiny is a Noongar word interpreted as thinking, listening and learning – so it was only fitting that Foundation Housing created Kadadjiny Days as a way for tenants to meet their neighbours and discuss any issues and ideas they have about their home.

Organised by the Housing Co-ordinators, it's also a great way to learn about any local services, programs and facilities, as well as Foundation Housing's policies, maintenance reporting and how tenants can get more involved in where they live.

In November, Foundation Housing conducted its first Kadadjiny Day at the Subiaco Road complex, which is purpose built for those living with special needs.

The outcome resulted in an art workshop being arranged for January uniquely tailored to the tenants' specific requirements. Kadadjiny Days are planned in the new year for complexes in Bronte Street, East Perth and Ammanford Crescent, Butler. Please speak to your Housing Co-ordinator for further details or information about how to arrange such a day.



BHP Community Day

Working together with the community is at the heart of Foundation Housing's values. In early December we teamed up with volunteers from BHP Western Australia to transform the garden at our Subiaco complex on Bagot Road.

BHP provided 10 volunteers as part of their community volunteer programme, who all worked hard to transform the gardens with the digging of beds, mulching and planting. The plants were sourced from several nurseries along with

donated cuttings from resident Claire, who says, "This means so much to all of us and it's a fantastic effort to see everyone working together to make a difference for the residents. It's nice living in a space that's cared for and subliminally cheers you up." Claire has been a strong advocate for the garden areas to be improved and was an active participant in the work with BHP.

Community Engagement Coordinator, Neall says,

"This is what it's all about – connecting with the community and giving something back. We hope everyone finds joy and peace in the facelift and maybe it will inspire others to get out in the garden too."

The day finished with one of Neall's sausage sizzles, bringing everyone together after their hard work and nourishing both appetites and souls.



Blooming on Bennett

Raeminn's love of gardening began at a very young age when he would help his parents out in the garden. It's a passion that has stayed with him throughout his life from tending a greenhouse at his own property until now while living at Foundation Housing's complex on Bennett Street, East Perth.

Raeminn previously lived at a Foundation Housing property in Fremantle where he worked to transform the unloved ground into a thriving garden bed.

Following his move to East Perth in 2016, he jumped at the chance to take care of the 6th floor garden terrace. He says about his move, "I really enjoy the community feel at Bennett Street, especially how the tenants regularly congregate downstairs for a yarn."

With plants donated by Raeminn and other tenants who have productive balcony gardens, plus soil provided by Foundation Housing, the garden today is a testament to his care and dedication.

Kangaroo paws, cacti, cannas, rosemary, succulents, various natives, a frangipani, tomatoes and a fruiting blueberry shrub border the communal terrace enjoyed by many of the tenants who call the complex home. Offering expansive views of the city, it's a tranquil place to relax and socialise with other residents. Easing into this new stage of his life,

Raeminn shares, "Gardening gives me a purpose and I love planting and watching everything grow."



To thank Raeminn for all his hard work at both Hampton Road and Bennett Street, Foundation Housing awarded him a voucher as a winner in the 'Great Gardens' competition.

Broome Cooks up a Storm

Each month cooking classes are run at our Frederick Street Lodge in Broome with dietician Lucas from Broome Hospital. In November, the residents used ingredients harvested from the Community Vegetable Garden to make san choy bau, rice paper wraps and a 'one pot' chicken dish.

Judging from the volume of vegetables produced, you'd never guess that 12 months ago the ground was bare. Foundation Housing funded the project and - with the help of PCYC and their leadership boys - the previously dry and empty beds were prepared with topsoil ready for planting. The residents are responsible for maintaining the

garden and have enjoyed watching their plants grow. Seasonal produce currently thriving in the new garden includes tomatoes, pumpkin, eggplant, chilli, corn, basil, lemon grass, fennel and dill.

A big congratulations to the Broome team - Housing Coordinators Tammy and Josie - for the amazing work they've done working with residents to bring the gardens to life.



Christmas Lunches

For those who are hoping to join a community event on Christmas Day, details of two lunches are below. Due to COVID-19 tracing requirements it is necessary to register your interest in advance to secure your spot.

Mission Australia will be running **Christmas Lunch in the Park** at a new location this year – 10.00am-2.00pm at Langley Park (West) Riverside Drive, Perth City. www.christmaslunchinthepark.com.au

The **Joondalup Christmas Lunch** will be held at Central Park on the corner of Grand Boulevard and Collier Pass in Joondalup from 11.30am-2.30pm www.joondalupchristmaslunch.com



Noticeboard

Foodbank vouchers

Please don't forget that Foodbank vouchers are still available from our reception. We hope you find these useful especially in the lead up to Christmas.

Do you know your watering days?

Now that the warmer weather is here it's important to make a note of your allocated watering days, or you may be fined by the Water Corporation.

If you're wondering which is your watering day, please visit watercorporation.com.au/save-water/watering-days

Keeping your garden trim

With summer in full swing, it's time to be mindful that we're in fire season. Please ensure your grass is kept mowed, trees and shrubs are pruned, roofs and gutters are cleared and remove all debris and other flammable material from your property. If you need any help with your gutters or have any issues with large trees, please contact us on **1300 895 205**.

Need to report a repair?

Call **1300 895 205** for all maintenance requests and emergencies. You can also email repairs@foundationhousing.org.au or complete the online form at foundationhousing.org.au/tenants/report-a-repair/



What would you like to read about?

This is your newsletter. Do you have any ideas about what you'd like to see in future issues? We welcome your letters, photos and stories. Please get in touch at communications@foundationhousing.org.au



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