



June 2014



Artists on the road: M.A.D.E. Exhibition and forum.

Following up on last years' Visions in Substance Art Exhibition, a group of artists who live in PPHA housing were invited to exhibit their work at the Museum of Australian Democracy (M.A.D.E.) in Ballarat in March. Jane Smith, the director of M.A.D.E. saw it as a great opportunity to start a different conversation organizing a forum to discuss the issue of homelessness to be held in conjunction with the exhibition.

Jax Roan, the Grampians Homelessness Network Co-ordinator spoke about the typical stereotype and perception of what homelessness looks like – old guy sleeping in a park with a bottle in a bag. But today homelessness occurs for many people from diverse backgrounds, including couples, families and employed persons. Because of the high demand, services have no option but to put them in a queue, asking them if they have family or friends with a lounge floor they can sleep on or a car they can live in until there is

an opportunity to assist – maybe in 12 months.

The forum aimed to give voice to people who are not heard and to open the window on social housing, showing that it is for people from all walks of life, including people who are working, those who are unemployed, old people, young people, families etc. The residents who participated found it an opportunity to start to remove the stigma that they often experience when they tell people they live in social housing, to show it's for ordinary people going about their lives - not those who are trouble and strife - and in the words of one tenant "put the people back in to community".

An unforeseen benefit of participating in the exhibition and forum has been the development of a supportive social network of artists encouraging each other. As Lisa Fam said in an interview "I'm being seen for who I am and a large part

of that is my artistic self. It's wonderful to be seen that way and to have that valued." Julie Armstrong said that being able to participate in this and the previous exhibition had given her "a whole new exuberance, a whole new meaning to her life".

A short film was made about the M.A.D.E. exhibition and this can be viewed on the PPHA website.



I love having friends and family around to show off my home – I'm really proud.."

Pats on the Back and Trophies in the Hand.

It wasn't a gold medal at the Olympics, nor was it an Oscar at the Academy Awards. It wasn't even a Logie. Nevertheless, the awards have been forthcoming for PPHA recently. It is exciting for staff to be acknowledged for their hard work and for the organisation to be recognised as a top performer in our sector.

Powerhousing Australia

Powerhousing Australia is a national organisation bringing social housing providers across the country together to share knowledge and expertise and as a combined force to better address the housing crisis, bringing political and community attention to the issue. Karen Barnett and Kerry Riches attended the Powerhousing Australia award ceremony in Sydney, not knowing how PPHA would fare, having nominations in 3 of the 5 possible categories. They were moved and proud when we were successful in two categories.

The 2014 Powerhousing Australia Annual Awards in the Leadership and Innovation category was won by PPHA

for the Ashwood Chadstone Gateway Project, Victoria's largest social housing project partnership between the State Government and a registered Housing Association.

The 2014 Powerhousing Australia Award for Outstanding Achievement was won by long-time PPHA staff member and tenancy worker, Kerry Riches, in recognition of her many years of commitment to 'her' men at The Regal rooming house.

HESTA National Awards

In a similar vein, the 'Unsung Hero' category of the 2014 Hesta Community Sector Awards also provided an opportunity to further recognise the esteem with which Kerry is held by her colleagues, the sector and her tenants.

Kerry was one of only 5 finalists from over 400 nominations. Although she did not win the national award, we at PPHA are very proud of the work that she does locally and across the broader sector. To us she is a winner.



Trudy Ryall

Sir John Monash Award

Congratulations to Trudy Ryall, a tenant at Ashwood, who was recently awarded the Sir John Monash Award for Outstanding Advocate for People with Disabilities. Monash City Council recognises local residents who have volunteered their skills and time for the benefit of the City and its community with this award. You may recall Trudy from the December Newsletter – having been born deaf and being legally blind, Trudy is a co-founder of the advocacy group Deafblind Victorians and was an advisor to the Federal Government on the development of the National Disability Insurance Scheme. In her spare time, Trudy also works with Let's Connect, the Victorian Deaf Society, Vision Australia and the Women with Disabilities program.

Property Council of Australia

The Ashwood Chadstone Gateway Project was a finalist in the Property Council of Australia Awards in the category for Best Residential Development.

Although unsuccessful, it was the only finalist from Victoria, the only nomination of a community housing organisation, the only nomination from a not for profit and the only social housing project nominated. Just being nominated was a big win for community housing.



Karen (L) and Kerry with their Powerhousing Australia awards.



Doing it for themselves: Creating Community

The residents in 4 Power Ave, 93 older persons units, have been making full use of the large purpose built communal area on the ground floor of their building. Having met whilst attending some of the community activities organised by PPHA, a couple of the residents decided that they wanted to be involved in organising their own social activities. They have formed a resident committee within the building and have surveyed the other residents to find out what sort of activities they were interested in.

The committee of residents, initially a few, then 6 and now growing to ~ 9 people organises events and activities based on what people want. The focus is to provide affordable activities (gold coin donation) that encourage residents to come out of their apartments and socialise with each other.

In March, to celebrate St Patricks Day, the committee cooked up a feast and thirty-

five residents attended all decked out in their finest green. Of course, the menu included Irish Stew. Other activities have included games and film nights, a fund-raising event for the Good Friday appeal and the Biggest Morning Tea to raise money for cancer research. In the coming weeks/months it is planned to hold a Xmas in July dinner and to introduce some craft workshops.

Impressively, with a significant number of Chinese residents living in the building who have minimal English, a group of residents are getting together with them on a weekly basis to help them learn conversational English. These residents are now starting to attend activities as well.

Ann Grant, resident and one of the committee members, says that it has helped her make a great group of friends, and made the apartment block "much more than just a place to live".



Charles in the swing of St Patrick's Day

We at PPHA applaud this residents committee and their commitment to community, to reducing social isolation and their 'good neighbourliness' and we wholeheartedly support the initiative.



Jennifer and Glen enjoying a quiet cuppa at the Biggest Morning Tea

Website

We are currently redeveloping the PPHA website and are keen to hear from tenants about the type of information you would like to have available. What would you as residents like to see on the website that might make things easier for you? Would you look at the website to find out information from us? Could we do tenant surveys (for example) on-line via the website? Is there information you would like to be able to access that way? If so, what? Please contact us and let us know your thoughts. Call Joy on 9534 5837 or email info@ppha.org.au.

"I feel settled enough to think about my future."



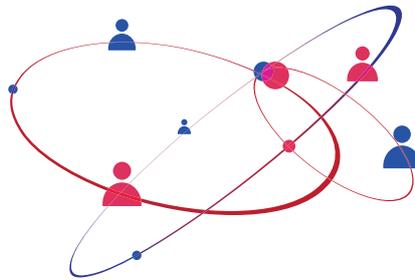
PPHA: Suite 6, 22-28 Fitzroy Street St. Kilda P: 9534 5837 F: 9534 8636 E: info@ppha.org.au W: www.ppha.org.au

PPHA Social Enterprise - Ashwood

PPHA has begun a pilot social enterprise employment program at its Ashwood properties. The program aims to up-skill tenants in care-taker / maintenance roles.

For the initial pilot, three positions have been created with responsibilities which include maintaining the garbage disposal system (compactor and bins), keeping the plant room clean and safe and maintaining recycling bins.

Positions were advertised within the apartment buildings, applications received, shortlisted, interviewed and successful applicants appointed. So far, the successful applicants have received training in manual handling, risk identification, and use of the waste compactor. At this stage, all positions are part-time employees of PPHA and the tenants appointed live in the building where their responsibilities lie.

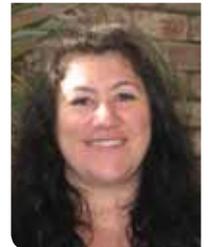


Whilst PPHA has employed tenants to manage tasks at some properties for many years, the use of industrial equipment at Ashwood required a more formalised approach. If successful, PPHA plans to extend the program to other properties and is looking at the potential to introduce other responsibilities, for example, gardening and cleaning.

Congratulations to the successful Ashwood tenants.

Staff Movements

Jo Palmer has joined the organisation in the newly created role of Executive Assistant. With a recent work history in similar roles in the housing sector in Tasmania and in education in Victoria, we are very pleased to welcome her to our team.



Jo Palmer

Obituaries

James Jones of Ravelston rooming house passed away in March. James had been living at Ravelston since 2011.

Laurence Richards of Farrell St Port Melbourne passed away in March. A resident since 2006, Laurence was well-known in the Melbourne music scene.

Louis Jaczina of 4 Power Ave Ashwood passed away in March. He had been a resident since it opened in 2013.



PPHA Advocates Strongly for Community Housing

In its capacity as a Registered Housing Association and Trustee of the Port Phillip Housing Trust (PPHT); Port Phillip Housing Association (PPHA) wrote to City of Port Phillip (CoPP) regarding the proposed application of the state governments new residential zones within the LGA. PPHA was concerned that the proposed application would increase land prices, prevent the building of medium to higher density developments and, if a current PPHA property was destroyed or needed to be rebuilt, would prohibit increasing the number of properties on the land or even rebuilding the same number of

properties! The proposed changes would have restricted the amount of affordable housing options able to be developed and had the potential to reduce the amount of community housing in the case of a rebuild being required. The combined effect of higher land prices and lower yield would have effectively priced all future community housing developments out of the municipality.

Through the strong advocacy of PPHA the application of the new zoning by Council has been amended to ensure there is a future for community housing within the City of Port Phillip.

Whats on

Homeless Persons Week: A Community Art Project with a focus on homelessness is being organised by Inner South Rooming House Group. They want to capture people's stories and experience of home and homelessness. The works will be displayed in the Carlisle St precinct during 4-11th August. For more information contact:

Project Worker Maggie:
8598 6604 / maggie@ppgc.org.au or

Community Artist Katie:
lockett85@hotmail.co.uk