

AMÉLIE NEWS

Autumn 2023



Amélie Housing
Building hope through housing

Issue No. 4



Ermington Community Gardens

COMMUNITY BLOOMS AT ERMINGTON

On 20 March, Amélie residents gathered together for a barbecue lunch at our Bartlett Street property in Ermington. In attendance was Amélie's Housing Officer, Carolyn Tamati and Member Engagement Officer, Kate Scholl, in support of the POD project. Tenants also had the opportunity to meet our new Support Coordinator, Maryanne Sneddon.

Vinnies' Rydalmere Conference team have been building relationships with tenants at this property for approximately four years; providing regular lunches and get togethers. This has proved a fantastic opportunity for residents from both Amélie and Housing NSW to get to know one another.

These properties were once high on

the Local Command Area's watch list and have now become areas where tenants are proud to live, as they relish the sense of community that has been built up over the years.

Monthly block barbecues will continue to be provided on site at Ermington over coming months, while the Rydalmere Conference team supports the transition of the management and coordination of these lunches to tenants at the block.

The Amélie team is really proud of the work that has been done, and continues to be done, alongside Vinnies Conference members to support this local tenant community. We are particularly grateful for the support that we have had from Conference representative,

Ron Della Vedova, who supported residents to apply for and receive funding from Parramatta Council, to establish a community garden.

Despite some initial setbacks due to COVID, the community garden beds have now been planted, and while they are yet to produce a harvest, we have already seen some residents on ground floor properties feeling inspired to plant small garden beds at the front of their own individual properties.

It is hoped that in the long term, the community garden will further facilitate community engagement at the block and provide tenants with the opportunity to interact and acquire a range of vocational skills in gardening, planning, teamwork, and decision making.

AMÉLIE UPDATES

The latest news from Amélie's CEO, Graham West.

Page 2

COMMUNITY UPDATES

Harmony Day, Easter, International Women's Day, Partnering to Support our Regional Customers

Page 2-3

HOME HINTS & TIPS

Fight Mould and Mildew this Autumn, Foodcare: The Discount Food Shop

Page 4

A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO, GRAHAM WEST



Welcome to the latest edition of Amélie News. In this edition, I am thrilled we are able to put a spotlight on so many outstanding community events

and initiatives that have recently taken place across both our regional and metropolitan areas thanks to our staff, partners - both new and existing; and of course, you, our tenants and customers.

At Amélie/SVdP Housing, we strive to do everything in our power to connect you to opportunity, and shape our services to ensure we can enhance your lived experience within your local community. This includes working in close partnership with Vinnies Support Services and SVdP Society Conference members to provide community development opportunities that foster the development of safe, engaged and supportive communities.

I am proud of the work we are doing in this space and particularly grateful for our new partners who share our values and support our mission 'to provide safe, secure, affordable housing and support to people in housing need'.

Graham West
CEO

COMMUNITY NEWS

Harmony Day at Hackham West Community Centre

Nothing brings people together quite like animals, food and a community get together; and on Tuesday 21 March, we were fortunate to have all three at our Harmony Day event at Hackham West Community Centre.

The event was inspired by the voluntary community work done by our tenant, David Edwards and his emotional support dogs, Swagger and Evie.

Amélie Housing Officers, Mary Redshaw and Margaretha Mutsaers attended, having worked alongside David and the City of Onkaparinga's Community Development Support Officer, Rita Roberts - to make the event a success.

A special thank you to those that made this event possible. It was a wonderful opportunity to see diversity, inclusion, respect and a sense of belonging, in action - particularly on Harmony Day.



You can find more information about David Edwards and his emotional support dogs at: <https://greydogs.wordpress.com/>

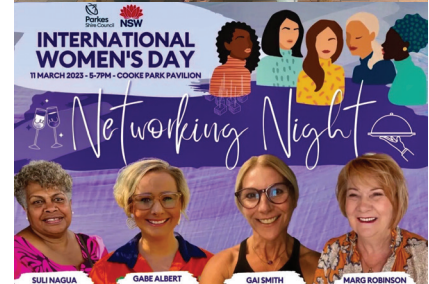
International Women's Day (IWD)

International Women's Day (March 8) is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. This year, the IWD theme was 'DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality'.

Members of the Amélie team recognised the day by gathering together to reflect on the women who have supported, encouraged and challenged them.

At Parkes, Amélie's Margaret Robinson was asked to sit on a panel at an International Women's Day event hosted by Parkes Shire Council.

The event featured three other women in leadership, who represented a cross section of the community and worked in various roles in mining, education, crisis care, and of course, community housing. Marg used this opportunity to speak about the important work Amélie does supporting women in the local community, with housing services and support.



Community Housing Art Awards

Amélie Housing is proud to sponsor the Community Housing Art Awards (CHARTS) in South Australia. The CHARTS were created to celebrate and showcase the creative diversity, depth and talent of tenants in community and social housing.

This event encourages artists, established or emerging, to

participate in CHARTS with 12 awards available for entrants of all ages and levels of experience.

Entries open on 30 April.
www.chartsawards.com.au



Easter celebrations at Penrith

On Easter Monday, Doonmore Street residents and Vinnies Conference members gathered together to enjoy a barbecue lunch, indulge in some Easter eggs and meet some new faces.

This event was made possible thanks to one of the Vinnies Penrith Conference members, who kindly donated the barbecue so it could be used on the occasion and for any other future gatherings. A special thank you to the Vinnies Conference members for their generosity and support in making this event a success.



Partnering to Support our Regional Customers

Customers at the heart in Inverell

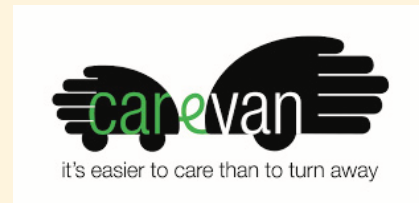
Amélie's State Manager, Poppy Whiting and Housing Officer, Kelly Hallam recently visited tenants at Inverell and met with the Sacred Heart Conference Care & Support team to discuss how they can support our tenants living in the St Mary's units in Inverell.

The Sacred Heart Conference Care & Support team work closely with other agencies in the area to alleviate some of the suffering associated with harsh economic circumstances in regional Australia.

They provide support by:

- Conducting client interviews to understand needs
- Distributing food vouchers
- Meeting the practical needs (for clothing and furniture) of those who are homeless, in rent arrears or at risk of eviction.

In the near future, the Sacred Heart team hopes to extend their scope of work to be able to provide practical, wrap around services to residents at St Mary's Units. We look forward to working with them!



Care Van meals for Albury residents

It was a case of full bellies and full hearts for SAHF residents in Albury last month, thanks to our recent partnership with Care Van; a local Albury organisation that exists to feed the homeless and disadvantaged throughout rural Australia.

Since the initiation of this partnership, Care Van has continued to return to Dempsey Place every Tuesday night for an hour to cook up a feast of delicious food for our tenants.

To mark the opening of this arrangement, Albury's Liberal MP Justin Clancy joined over 20 of our tenants for a hot meal.



Dubbo Sausage Sizzle

We recently held a sausage sizzle for tenants at Dubbo with the help of Jorge Gascon, a tailored support worker from Vinnies.

The barbecue gave us an opportunity to meet with tenants, explain the recent merger, and talk to them about the new arrangements for repairs and maintenance.

Many thanks to Jorge for his attendance and support on the day!

HOME HINTS AND TIPS

Fight Mould and Mildew this Autumn

As we approach the cooler months, it's important to take steps to prevent a build up of mould in your home.

You can reduce mould by:

- airing rooms with open windows or doors or by
- using exhaust fans especially when cooking, having a shower or using a clothes drier
- wiping away condensation
- heating rooms with dry heat (switch to an electric or gas heater with a flue)
- opening curtains and blinds during the day
- cleaning and drying surfaces that get wet regularly
- hanging wet clothes outside
- ensuring clothes and shoes are dry before putting them away
- airing cupboards and reducing clutter in bedrooms

- throwing away any wet, badly damaged or musty items.

The best way to treat mould is by using white vinegar. Vinegar is an excellent, affordable, all-purpose item to keep in the home. It is a natural acid that is non-toxic and harmless to the environment.

You can use it safely on most surfaces by pouring undiluted white vinegar into a spray bottle.

DIY Mould and Mildew Cleaner

What you'll need:

- undiluted white vinegar with at least 5 percent acetic acid
- non-porous gloves
- face mask
- protective eyewear
- spray bottle
- cleaning rag
- soft brush



Instructions:

- If possible, open a window to ventilate the room you're in.
- Put on your protective mask, goggles, and gloves.
- Pour the undiluted vinegar into a spray bottle. Spray it directly onto the moldy surface.
- Let the vinegar sit for an hour.
- Scrub the moldy surface until the mold comes off.
- Dry the area with a clean rag and then throw this away.



FoodCare: The Discount Food Shop

Did you know that Parramatta Community Care runs a discount shop that provides

fresh fruit and vegetables, meat, fish, eggs, bread, milk, juices and a wide range of pantry items to Centrelink cardholders, refugees, asylum seekers and students at low, affordable prices?

The FoodCare shop is located at 18 Barney Street, North Parramatta. The shop can be accessed by appointment. To book, please call 0497 805 788.

To access this service, simply bring:

- photo identification
- your Centrelink card or a Reference Letter from your Case Worker.



EFTPOS facilities are available.

For more information email: foodcare@pcc.org.au or go to: www.pcc.org.au/care

FOR REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE:
Call 1800 950 575

Feedback and Complaints

Amélie Housing takes feedback, complaints and appeals seriously. If you would like to lodge a complaint, appeal a decision, or provide feedback on what we do well or what we can improve, there are several ways you can do this:

- **Use our online Feedback form**
(Go to <https://bit.ly/ameliefedback> or scan the QR Code).
- **Call us on 1800 950 575 (free call).**
Note: Some charges may apply for mobile users.
- **Access independent support.**
If you need assistance in making a complaint, appealing a decision or providing feedback you can ask a nominated person to help you. You will just need to provide consent for staff to talk with another nominated person on your behalf.



ONLINE
FEEDBACK FORM

Your voice matters to us. For more information or for assistance, please speak to our staff.