

Mia Mia

ABORIGINAL HOUSING VICTORIA
MESSAGE STICK NEWSLETTER | AUGUST 2013



New homes for Wurundjeri Country



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Maori Housing share their journeys

IN APRIL A DELEGATION from the Maori Housing Foundation Trust came to Australia to meet with a number of social housing providers in Victoria to discuss their journeys through the housing registration process. The Maori Housing Federation Trust achieved registration status in January of this year.

The delegation met with eight different social housing providers during their visit to Australia including Aboriginal Housing Victoria. We welcomed the delegation on April 18th,

discussing both the Trust's journey through to housing provider status and our own work currently being finalised to present to the Office of the Registrar for association status here in Victoria.

The Maori Housing Federation Trust is focussed on increasing home ownership to the indigenous population and providing long-term housing to all New Zealanders. The Trust is one of the first indigenous housing organisations to gain social housing accreditation in New Zealand.



Ian Hamm joins the AHV Board



THE INCLUSION OF A WIDER ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY MEMBERSHIP for our Board is an important facet of AHV's growth strategy. In that respect we are very pleased to announce Ian Hamm as our newest Board member.

Ian is a Yorta Yorta man who has been actively involved in the Victorian Aboriginal community in a personal and professional capacity for many years. He has extensive exposure to policy development and program management through his work with the Federal Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and the State Department of Planning and Community Development. Currently he is Director of Indigenous Economic Development at the Department of State Development, Business and Innovation.

Ian is also chair of Connecting Home Ltd (a service for the stolen generations), a director of the First Nations Foundation, the Tigers in Community Foundation and a member of the Sustainable Forestry Council for the Victorian Association of Forest Industries.

Ian is also a former President of the Western Region Football League, one of the major Australian football leagues in Melbourne.

New homes for Wurundjeri Country

Housing needs are focussed on suburban Melbourne with our development of new units in Reservoir.

AS PART OF OUR GROWTH STRATEGY, AHV has engaged builders, Watersun Homes to construct 3 brand new units in King William Street, Reservoir, to help meet the high demand for Aboriginal housing in this area.

Planning and approvals on this project had previously taken around a year to finalise. A start was made on the King William site back in May and is already well progressed. It is a project fully funded by AHV with completion estimated at year's end.

These 3 residential properties will be stand alone single-storey units. Each comprises of 3 bedrooms, kitchen, family and meals area, lock-up garage and adequate garden space. Quality fittings and fixtures are also a highlight of these additions to AHV's property portfolio.

Located centrally in the older part of Reservoir, these new properties are a short drive to nearby shopping strips and a modest walk to reserves and public transport.

Our builder, Watersun is a Melbourne-based property company that specialises in residential, community and office construction.



AHV has already engaged Watersun on 2 other projects - in Halls Gap and Bendigo. Notably, Watersun recently completed the impressive aged care, health and community complex for the Rumbalara Aboriginal Co-operative in Shepparton.

Watersun has also made a firm commitment to Aboriginal employment within AHV's building agreements and also through it's "Yileen" partnership with Koori Employment Enterprises. "Yileen" aims to deliver housing construction, maintenance and capital works projects that help create Aboriginal employment opportunities, as well as providing advisory services in these areas.

Russell Sturtevant, AHV's Asset Manager, said: "Watersun's indigenous programs and excellent commitment to Aboriginal employment have been an important element in them winning tenders for our recent projects."

"We are also very pleased with the good quality of work and finishing on our projects by Watersun over the past 18 months of our relationship," Russell added.



The King William Street project is seen as an important step in growing AHV's capacity to meet the high demand for Aboriginal housing in targeted built-up areas within Wurundjeri country.

At the same time, AHV is continuing to support regional needs such as Bendigo, where we have started construction on two four-bedroom houses with Watersun.

As part of a long-term growth strategy, these projects will enable us to move forward with other accommodation construction and purchases of existing dwellings for our people in similar areas of need.

Our Mia Mia Newsletter will be providing on-going coverage and updates of this project and others as they progress - so make sure to check out Mia Mia when it arrives in your letterbox to find out more.

AHV's NAIDOC Family Day: a celebration of our culture for every family

OUR NAIDOC FAMILY DAY at the Collingwood Children's Farm on 11 July this year, proved yet again to be a great success, drawing in significant crowds throughout the day.

Big fun was had by little ones and big ones alike.

A performance and workshop by the Gindan Djalbu Aboriginal Dancers gave everyone an insight into traditional dance that was met with great appreciation and interest from both children and adults.

Activities on the day included face and boomerang painting as well as emu feather craft work. Refreshments, including a barbecue were provided to help maintain energy levels.

The farm animals are always a big hit with the kids and the early arrivers got their chance to milk the cow!

Our special guest this year was none other than Aboriginal Olympic hurdler, Kyle Vander Kuyp, who assisted with the raffle draw and then kindly hung around to satisfy those kids who were keen to get their hands on autographed photos of a legendary sporting idol.

AHV would like to thank all those who volunteered for our NAIDOC Family Day to ensure its ongoing success.



Aunty Pat Ockwell and Ricky Mullett speak at our NAIDOC Family Day

"NAIDOC WEEK IS ... A CELEBRATION OF OUR CULTURE AND IDENTITY", said respected Elder, Aunty Pat Ockwell, delivering the Welcome to Country address to a large attentive crowd of children and adults, at our NAIDOC Family Day at the Collingwood Children's Farm on Thursday, 11 July.



Aunty Pat Ockwell

Drawing on her long association with AHV and its Family Day, Aunty Pat noted that over the years, she had "seen a lot of changes with AHV, good things for our Community and the housing issues are improving quite fast - for our people's benefit".

In expressing her pride to have served and been involved with AHV, Aunty Pat made mention of "realising the shared vision" of herself and many before her, of "working towards the transition of ownership of Victorian Aboriginal rental housing."

Acting AHV CEO, Ricky Mullett, recognised the traditional owners of local land, the Wurundjeri people and went on to speak of this year's NAIDOC Theme: the 50th anniversary of the Yirrkala Bark Petitions.

These were the first ever recognised indigenous land rights documents, tabled to Australian Parliament in 1963. The petitions of the Yolngu people of Arnhem Land set in motion a journey that eventually achieved major native title victories for Aboriginal people.

Ricky also gave a special thank you to the Collingwood Children's Farm for their continued, long support of AHV's annual event and also their support of our Community.



AFL SportsReady Graduation

Held at the MCG on Friday, 3rd May

THE AFL SPORTSREADY Indigenous Employment Program is a targeted traineeship model that provides additional services such as mentoring, presentations, workshops and cultural awareness training for Indigenous youth and host employers. This program delivers trainee retention, engagement and a clear transition to employment or further education for Indigenous young people. AFL SportsReady is a leader in the delivery of career opportunities for this group.

Through the Indigenous Employment Program, AFL SportsReady has successfully delivered employment and education to over 1,100 Indigenous trainees.

AHV has participated in the program this past year for the first time. Our inaugural SportsReady trainees, Peita Shaw and Stephanie Baker, started with AHV in June 2012 and finished in February 2013. Peita and Steph both graduated and received certificates for that achievement.

A graduation ceremony was held at the MCG on 3rd May 2013. Unfortunately, Steph was unable to attend but Peita attended with her family to



L to R: Rebecca Pavez, Kym Williams, Peita Shaw and Tracey Winmar

be part of the presentation. Tracey Winmar and Kym Williams attended the event on behalf of AHV to help celebrate their achievement.

During their time at AHV the trainees were able to gain experience in all aspects of office support across all areas of the organisation. The success of the traineeship program is evident by the number of certificates presented throughout the evening in areas such as health and education, with other Victorian corporations.

A feature of the evening was an address by Kyle Vander Kuyp, former Australian Olympian and Indigenous Mentor with AFL SportsReady, who gave an overview of his association with AFL SportsReady. He also spoke about the opportunities available for those interested in undertaking future traineeships.

Our Tenancy and Asset Teams conduct workshop

FROM 27-28 JUNE, OUR STAFF MET to conduct a Social Media Workshop and discuss operational policy. The two days provided valuable training and insights for both Teams.



A section of the Social Media Workshop



Annual Rent Review

WE ARE IN THE PROCESS of conducting the Annual Rent Review for 2013.

Thanks to everyone who has responded to AHV's requests for documentation. If you have not responded and think you may be entitled to a subsidised rent, please contact your Housing Officer or Head Office to obtain an Application for Subsidised Rent form so we can assess your eligibility.

If you have responded then you will be notified of the new rent charge by mail in the first week of August. New rent charges will be applied to your rental account on the 19th of August, 2013.



Secret Kids' Business

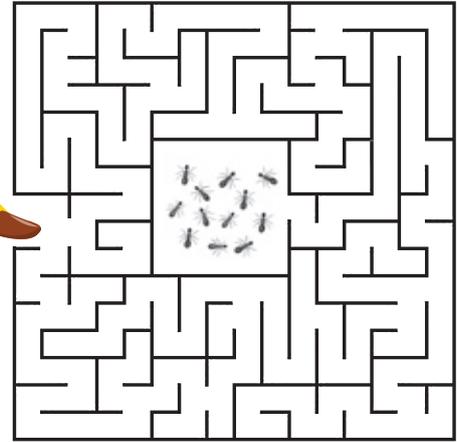


ABORIGINAL WORD SEARCH

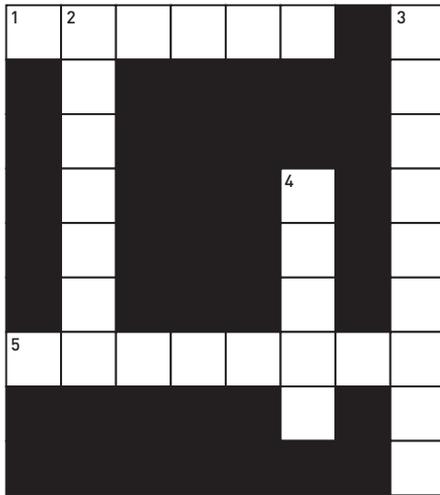
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MIA MIA MAZE

Help Ella the Echidna find her way to her next feed of ants.



MIA MIA CROSSWORD



Across

1. Aboriginal word to describe something that is great.
5. This bouncy animal is native to Australia.

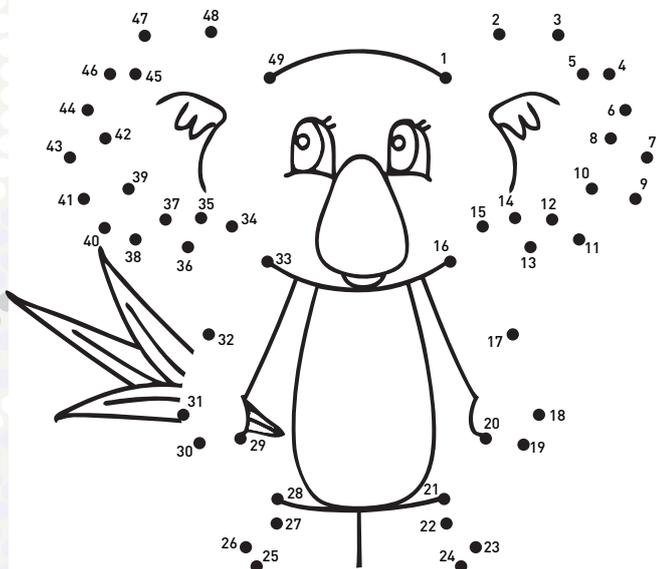
Down

2. Often referred to as the Australian hedgehog.
3. A pool of water that many animals drink from.
4. This sacred rock is in the middle of the Australian desert.

DEADLY COLOUR-IN



TRACK THE DOTS





TENANT Yarn



What are “Tenant Responsibility Maintenance Charges”?

Your tenancy always comes with a responsibility to take care of your property.

AHV aims to recover costs where repairs to a rental property are necessary as a result of damage or neglect caused by the tenant, another household member or a visitor who enters the property with the tenant’s permission.

When AHV raises a Maintenance Works order that is considered to be the responsibility of the tenant, this work is raised as a Tenant Responsibility Maintenance Charge (TRMC).

If you have received documents from AHV regarding a charge for maintenance works, please contact AHV on 9403 2100 within 17 days of receiving the letter. Failure to respond to this letter will result in AHV seeking a maintenance compensation order through the Victorian Civil and Administration Tribunal (VCAT).

What you need to do when ending a tenancy

AHV requires tenants to give written notice prior to ending their tenancy. Notice is given by completing a “Tenant’s General Notice of Termination” form or by supplying the same information in a letter to AHV. The keys should be provided to AHV within 2 days of the tenancy end date.

Written notice 28 days prior ending the tenancy is preferred however it is not mandatory as we understand this may not always be possible. Please provide us with as much notice as possible.

The tenant remains responsible for the payment of rent up to the tenancy end date and all outstanding rent at the time of vacating will be pursued by AHV.

For all your repairs and maintenance needs please call one of the following AHV Maintenance Lines:

General metro (03) 9403 2166

Regional: 1300 664 392 (cost of local call)

Emergency after hours: (03) 9403 2171

AHV installs new housing software

AHV HAS RECENTLY INSTALLED a new and improved housing software system.

The new system called SDM was established in 1975 and has specialised exclusively in social housing software solutions since 1987.

In December 2012 SDM and AHV staff commenced configuration of the new system, ensuring it was customised to the needs of AHV.

SDM staff provided initial training to the Assets Team in November 2012 and followed in January with training for the Tenancy Team.

The project management team has since delivered follow-up training specifically tailored to meet the

needs of each position. Overall there were 17 training sessions covering all aspects of tenancy, allocations, waiting list and configuration.

The shortfalls of our old system processes meant that staff had to rely on ‘work-arounds’ to complete many tasks.

The benefits of using the SDM system means that our entire business will be conducted on one system enabling a more reliable and efficient exchange of information between teams, which translates into improved service for all our tenants.



Hours of Business: Monday to Friday, 8:30am – 4:30pm. **Address:** Narrandjeri House, 125-127 Scotchmer Street, North Fitzroy, VIC 3068. **Telephone:** (03) 9403 2100.

Fax: (03) 9403 2122. **Email:** info@ahvic.org.au **Aboriginal Housing Victoria** is a not-for-profit organisation that works to deliver accessible, affordable, appropriate and secure housing to meet the social, cultural and economic aspirations of the Victorian Aboriginal Community.