

MIA MIA

Aboriginal Housing Victoria's renter newsletter

edition III 2023

Welcome back to Mia-Mia!

We are so excited to share this edition with you.

In these next pages, you'll find:

- A wrap of NAIDOC Family Day at the Farm and lots of photos
- A featured renter artist
- How to take part in The Voice referendum
- A gardening competition
- A program to help you become a home owner

Thanks for reading!

NAIDOC Family Day at the Farm a huge success

As Wurundjeri man Thane Garvey welcomed crowds to Country at the Collingwood Children's Farm, smoke rising above, it was as if everyone could feel this year's NAIDOC Family Day at the Farm would be one to remember.

We had more than 2000 people come through the gates and we handed out hundreds of show bags. The kids loved the activities – emu feather crafting, face painting, etching and boomerang art – and listened on to storytelling by Yarra Libraries. Uncle Herb Patten and Maylene Yinarr performed beautiful music, too.

Everyone bopped along to Indigenous Outreach Projects hip hop and traditional dance performance, with 3KND broadcasting the whole event.

The stalls were a hit. We served thousands of sausages, hundreds of burgers, and many, many serves of popcorn and fairy floss to delighted young ones.

While the kids kicked the footy and ran around with Keon Park Stars, the oldies had fun of their own by taking part in our huge raffle, giving away thousands of dollars worth of donated prizes.

Our renter artists had an opportunity to show and sell their works and up in the barn, the Elders were treated to massages, scones and weaving.

Thank you for coming down and being a part of our first NAIDOC Family Day at the Farm since 2019!

NAIDOC Family Day at the Farm 2023

Check out these amazing shots from our NAIDOC Family Day at the Farm! It was our first celebration at the Collingwood Children's Farm since 2019 and what an incredible celebration of First Nations people, language and culture it was.





Are you in arrears?

Being behind on rent is never easy.

We are here to help.

Just let us know you need a hand – we can help you figure it out.

As a not-for-profit, it's vital we help you get back on track, because it helps us keep doing what we do.

Get in touch with your housing officer - there's no shame in asking for help.

Getting help

Here are a few programs that can help with your arrears:

- Aboriginal Tenancies at Risk (ATAR): look online for your local ATAR
- Tenancy Plus: housing.vic.gov.au/tenancy-plus-support-program
- VALS: vals.org.au/civil-human-rights/



A pathway to home ownership: The Victorian Homebuyer Fund

Are you interested in owning your own home?

Since its launch in October 2021, the Victorian Homebuyer Fund (VHF) has been helping thousands of Victorians buy their own home.

Aboriginal Housing Victoria is working with the Victorian Government and VHF participating lenders (Bank Australia, Bendigo Bank, Commonwealth Bank and Indigenous Business Australia) to support eligible Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Victorians to apply to the VHF.

The shared equity model offered through the VHF can help you own your own home sooner.

Eligible First Nations applicants need a minimum 3.5% deposit (plus acquisition costs) to get started. The VHF will then contribute up to 35% of the purchase price, in exchange for an equivalent share in the property. The Government's contribution decreases the size of the mortgage you will require to buy a home, as well as the deposit you will need to save, meaning you can get into your own home sooner.



Artwork by Matthew Atkinson

Dylan, a Yuin man, says he couldn't have bought a home within the next 15 years without the Victorian Homebuyer Fund.

"One of the most satisfying things about moving into my own home was being able to make it my own space. One of the first things I did was put up wallpaper and make a nice balcony to hang out on," he says.

to find out more about eligibility follow this QR code or go to:
<http://ahvic.org.au/programs/home-ownership-for-aboriginal-victorians>



Get informed about The Voice

Later this year, the whole of Australia will be asked to cast their vote to decide whether to change the constitution to recognise the First Peoples of this land by establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice. The Voice would give advice to the Australian Parliament and the Government on issues that impact the lives of First Nations people.

AHV spoke to renter Georgia* about why they are taking part in the referendum.

Will you be voting in The Voice referendum later this year?

I definitely engage and recommend that renters do come along and have a vote and have a say. It is for all of our communities to have their say, so why not?

What does it mean to you to be a part of the referendum?

It's about having a voice, letting me have a say and speaking on behalf of the community because I am a community member. Engaging other community members to have say.

Do you feel excited there is an opportunity for Aboriginal voices to be heard?

Finally! Yes, we finally get a chance to be heard. So why not take the opportunity.

Do you recommend renters get informed before the vote?

Definitely, go out and have a look, the good and the bad of the outcome.

To learn more about The Voice referendum, go to:
• <https://voice.gov.au/>



*name changed for privacy



Notices

You're invited to join our Wellbeing Programs

Our culturally safe Wellbeing Programs, operating in metropolitan Melbourne, Geelong and Ballarat, can assist you to achieve your individual and household goals and dreams. You may want to create a savings plan, gain employment or enrol in study. A life coach will meet with you regularly to support you in identifying and working towards your aspirations. Together with your life coach you will explore ways to achieve your goals.

We believe that your goals are important!

Contact us:
Free Call 1800 248 842 or
Email wellbeing@ahvic.org.au

Find the latest AHV news!

If you're ever wondering what's been happening AHV, the Board Communiques have got you covered.

They are available on the AHV website under 'Reports and Communiques'. These documents highlight news presented to the Board at their meetings.

To find them, go to:
<http://ahvic.org.au/comms-news/documents-and-resources/reports-and-communicue>

A reminder

When you update your new rent amount with Centrelink, remember to put down your housing provider, AHV, as **'Other Housing Organisation'**. This will ensure you receive your rental assistance payment.

Gardening photo competition!

Do you love your garden? Are you proud of your patch?

Send us a photo and you could be in the running to win a Bunnings voucher! The first prize winner will receive a \$50 Bunnings voucher, with second and third runners up to receive a \$30 and \$20 Bunnings voucher respectively.

email entries to:
communications@ahvic.org.au

Homelessness Week

During Homelessness Week, which ran from August 7 to 10, housing officer Uncle Neil visited Uniting Care in Horsham to make a donation on behalf of AHV to help the service continue their important work.
#endhomelessness



There's a new renter portal and SMS system on its way!

We are excited to announce that by the end of 2023, we will have a new Renter Portal and SMS service which will provide more options of how you can communicate with us.

The Renter Portal and SMS service will allow you to connect with us from your phone, tablet or computer. You will be able to access personal information such as rent statements, tenancy forms & documents online. You can make a payment, log a repair request and more.

Annual Rent Review Update

Don't forget to send in your Annual Rent Review (ARR) documents if you haven't already.

Your eligibility for subsidised rent will soon be assessed, and you will then be advised of your rent payable.

The new rents will take effect on 18 September 2023.

Please reach out to your housing officer or the rent review team if you have any questions.

Get in touch

Find your local regional housing office

<p>Ballarat 706 Sturt Street Ballarat Central VIC 3350 Mailing address: PO Box 1186 Bakery Hill VIC 3354 Tel: (03) 5331 6518 Fax: (03) 5338 8829</p>	<p>Bairnsdale (Located at GEGAC) 37-53 Dalmahoy St, Bairnsdale VIC 3875 Tel: (03) 5150 0700</p>	<p>Bendigo Synergize Hub 43 Williamson Street, Bendigo VIC 3550 Mailing address: PO Box 248 Bendigo VIC 3552 Tel: via head office: 1800 248 842 Fax: via head office (03) 9403 2122</p>
<p>Mildura The Deakin Business Centre Corner Eighth Street & Lemon Avenue, Mildura VIC 3502 Tel: via head office: 1800 248 842</p>	<p>Shepparton 32 Roe Street, Shepparton VIC 3630 Mailing address: PO Box 1386, Shepparton VIC 3630 Tel: (03) 5821 8720 Fax: (03) 5821 8718</p>	<p>Head Office Narrandjeri House 125-127 Scotchmer Street, Fitzroy North VIC 3068 Free Call: 1800 248 842 Telephone: (03) 9403 2100 Email: clientservices@ahvic.org.au Hours 8:30am - 4:30pm, Monday to Friday For all housing/client enquiries: clientservices@ahvic.org.au For maintenance requests: maintenance@ahvic.org.au</p>



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