



CEO MESSAGE

Welcome to 2020 and the Summer edition of our tenant newsletter.

As we go to print with this edition the Shoalhaven and Eurobodalla and Bega Valley Local Government Areas have been impacted by the most widespread and severe bushfire event in recent history. The current NSW bush fires have caused widespread loss and distress. They have impacted individuals, families and the whole community. Our prayers and thoughts go out to all who have suffered tragic circumstances.

The NSW State Government is providing a range of services and programs to support people that have been affected by the bushfires. If you or anyone you know has been impacted by bushfires they may be eligible for financial assistance through one these programs. Many other programs that aim to support recovery including a range of mental health support programs are also available.

For more information about assistance that can be provided please contact the **NSW Disaster Welfare Assistance Team** on **1800 018 444**. Alternatively you can call the Southern Cross Housing Communities Assist Team on 02 441 3102. Members of our team will assist you to find the right support that is needed.

As we look back on 2019 Southern Cross Housing went through a significant period of change and growth. With our recent amalgamation with Sapphire Coast Tenancy Scheme, we welcomed our new tenants and staff in the Bega Valley Shire and it takes the number of properties that we managed from approximately 2,200 to 2,300. Despite these changes, our mission to provide high quality housing and tenancy management and access to support for people who need affordable and stable housing remains our primary focus and our tenants remain at the heart of everything we do.

During 2020 Southern Cross Housing conducted a Tenant Satisfaction Survey. Approximately 700 tenants participated in this survey and I would like to thank all of those that took the time to be involved. This year's report provides a valuable comparison to the sector benchmarks and the result will set a starting point for Southern Cross Housing to measure future years' progress against set goals. This feedback also helps us understand areas we need to improve on to ensure our clients are better served and supported.

During December it was fantastic to see so many residents at Christmas Parties that were held in Nowra, Ulladulla, Batemans Bay, Unanderra and Cooma. Thank you very much to everyone who attended these events. We greatly value being able to connect with our tenant communities and will expand upon this by developing a number of new Tenant Advisory Committees throughout the regions we service. If you are interested in getting involved in one of our Tenant Advisory Committees please contact our Communities Assist Team on 02 4413 1102.

The Southern Cross Housing Scholarship program continues to provide funding opportunities for those wishing to participate in further education and I am looking forward to seeing some more applications from residents in 2020. Please take the time to think about how you and your family could take advantage of this program. Thank you for a great year in 2019. There have been many challenges for all of us throughout the year. On behalf of everyone at SCH we wish you a happy and safe summer.

Alex Pontello - CEO



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TALK TO US



We would love to hear from you. If you would like to contribute with ideas for the next SCH NEWS please contact us on **1300 757 885** or email communities@scch.org.au.

SCH CHRISTMAS PARTIES

During December 2019 Southern Cross Housing's Communities Assist Team worked with staff in Batemans Bay, Cooma and Ulladulla to plan and deliver a range of Christmas celebrations across the Shoalhaven Region.

ULLADULLA

In Ulladulla around 50 tenants came together to enjoy a wonderful Christmas lunch at the Ulladulla/Mollymook Bowling Club. Tenants described the lunch as fabulous, particularly enjoying the trivia questions and the opportunity to meet and socialise with each other.



BATEMANS BAY

At Batemans Bay over 25 SCH tenants enjoyed a wonderful lunch at the Batemans Bay Soldiers Club. The lunch provided an opportunity for residents to spend time with each other in a relaxed atmosphere.



COOMA

Cooma tenants enjoyed a lovely lunch at the Cooma Ex Serviceman's Club. The lunch was attended by 12 tenants. Tenants described the afternoon as a wonderful occasion to socialise, celebrate the festive season, and have a great meal.



UNANDERRA

Residents living in the Unanderra area decided that they would like to celebrate the festive season by having an informal cold lunch outside, close to resident's homes. Staff from SCH helped to prepare salads and meats.





Free activities included a display by the Shoalhaven Zoo, a jumping castle, face painting and Christmas Carols that were sung by the wonderful Salt Ministries Choir. A BBQ was provided by the Nowra Lions Club and Santa Claus made a special visit on a NSW Fire and Rescue fire truck, bringing smiles to young and old alike.

NOWRA

The Nowra SCH Christmas Party was held on Wednesday 18th December from 11.30am – 1.30pm at Parramatta Park in East Nowra. The free event was organised and facilitated by Southern Cross Housing and was held to allow community members and tenants of Southern Cross Housing to come together and celebrate the festive season for a day filled with Christmas cheer.



The day was attended by a range of over 15 different community organisations, not for profit organisations and government agencies. The organisations and agencies were on hand to meet people and hand out a range of information about the services and activities that they provide. Australian Unity assisted by hiring bathroom amenities and Shoalhaven Council provided drinking water for all participants. We are very grateful for our wonderful community partners contributing to help make the day a success.



MEET OUR C.A TEAM

Southern Cross Housing Communities Assist Team (left to right), Cathy – Community Engagement Coordinator, Blake – Administration Assistant, Amira – Trainee and Sharee – Service Integration Coordinator.



TENANT TIPS

WATER SAVING TIPS

Water is a precious resource, especially during this time of drought. Taking short showers and planting drought-resistant gardens are just a few ways that you can conserve water. Here are a few more ideas.

IN THE GARDEN

- Wash your car or boat on the lawn and water the grass at the same time.
- Make sure taps and hose fittings are not leaking, a dripping tap can waste more than 2000 litres a month.
- When watering the garden use a trigger nozzle hand held hose and only water where required.
- Water your garden in the early morning or late afternoon to avoid water evaporation.
- Don't water when it is windy.
- Install a rainwater tank for garden use, check for rebates offered by Council.



IN THE KITCHEN

- Kitchens account for up to 20% of your indoor water usage, installing an efficient low-flow tap will help reduce the amount of water you use.
- Always turn taps off so they do not drip.
- When using a dishwasher only wash full loads, and use the shortest cycle possible. Many dishwashers have a conserve cycle.
- Re-purpose used water on the garden.

IN THE BATHROOM

- Check regularly for toilet leaks, try putting a small amount of food colouring into the tank and observing whether it seeps to the bowl without flushing.
- Turn the tap off when brushing your teeth and only turn the tap on to rinse or clean the brush.
- Capture shower water in a bucket while you are waiting for the hot water to heat up, your plants will love it.

IN THE LAUNDRY

- Wash only full loads in your washing machine.
- Use the shortest cycle possible for washing clothes, and use the "suds-saver" feature if your machine has one.
- If your washer has an adjustable water-level indicator, set the dial to use only as much water as is really necessary.

WHAT'S COMING UP NEXT ?

ULLADULLA

6 & 7 Feb - Asist Training (Suicide Prevention)
9 Feb - Marine Rescue Ulladulla Wharf Markets

BATEMANS BAY

25 & 26 Jan - Eurobodalla Agricultural Show
28 Feb - Crank it Up Rock Concert
29 Feb - Batemans Bay Seaside Carnivale

BEGA VALLEY

1 Feb - Bega Cheese Cup Carnival
6 Mar - University Registration Day

If you want to know more about any of these or other events please refer to our website: www.scch.org.au/scch-events/ or contact your local Housing Officer.

CLEANING TIP FOR RANGEHOOD FILTERS

WHAT YOU WILL NEED

- Boiling water
- Baking soda ½ a packet
- Detergent ½ cup.

HOW TO CLEAN

Scrub the rangehood filters with baking soda and detergent, immerse in boiling water for 60 seconds (if required add additional bicarb soda). This simple recipe cleans filters like they were brand new.



WASTE RECYCLING TIPS

Recycle right. Recover all paper, cardboard, plastic bottles and containers, glass bottles and jars, aluminium cans and foil and steel tins.

Do not put recyclables in plastic bags. Use a tub or basket to carry these items to your recycling bin.

Donate your old clothes and shoes. These items do not belong in the recycling bin and if they can't be donated, they belong in the waste bin.

Garden waste belongs in your green waste bin. Do not put lawn clippings or branches in the recycling bin.

Take care not to put waste in your recycling bin. Make a conscious effort to separate your recyclables and waste and place them in the correct bins.

Compost food scraps. These can be used on your garden as fertiliser.

Have local council or private recyclers take your whitegoods (fridges, washing machine, dryers etc).

Electronic waste. Enlist the services of electronic retailers who have recycling bins for discarded appliances (mobile phones, batteries etc).



MANAGING YOUR RENT AND WATER BILLS

Our goal at Southern Cross Housing is to help you sustain your tenancy for years to come by working together to solve any problem that may arise.

As a tenant the worst possible thing you could do is stop paying rent and water charges. If you are late with your rent or water payments your account will be in arrears and you will be in breach of your tenancy agreement. This could lead to you having to move out of your home.

Southern Cross Housing is reliant on the income received from rent and water usage payments to cover external Council costs and also to ensure that there are adequate funds for maintenance and other important programs and services.

Southern Cross Housing will always let you know if you are behind in your rent or water charges. We will generally write to you about this however we might also talk to you on the phone, visit you at home or notify you by email. You can also check your rent statement or phone your Housing Officer and ask them to check your account.

If Christmas has left you struggling to make ends meet and you are finding yourself falling behind with rent and water payments there are easy ways to address the issue. Be proactive and speak to your Housing Officer.

POLICY UPDATE

APPEALS

Copies of Southern Cross Housing policies are available on our website at www.scch.org.au. These policies and procedures are designed to meet agreed standards of service for community housing and to comply with the law.

Staff try to apply these policies fairly and transparently, so that tenants and applicants receive services that they are eligible for. However, tenants and applicants may not always agree with a decision Southern Cross Housing makes. If you disagree with a decision, you have a right to appeal. This appeal will be considered by a more senior staff member who was not involved in the original decision.

You can lodge an appeal by emailing us at info@scch.org.au, by writing to us at any of our office locations, through our website www.scch.org.au, or by phoning us on **1300 757885**.

Generally, appeals must be lodged within three months from the date a decision is communicated to a tenant or applicant. However, we can extend this timeframe if you advise us within 30 days of the decision that you require additional time to collect evidence to support an appeal.

COMPLAINTS

Staff try to meet the expectations of tenants, but sometimes things can go wrong. If you are not satisfied with the tenancy or maintenance services you receive from Southern Cross Housing, you are entitled to make a complaint. You should also tell us if you are unhappy with the standard of work done by any of our contracted tradesmen.

You can make a complaint by emailing us at info@scch.org.au, by writing to us at any of our office locations, through our website www.scch.org.au, or by phoning us on **1300 757885**.

You do not need to fill out a special form, just tell us why you are not satisfied. It would also be useful to include any relevant dates and the names of staff members you spoke to if possible. We will acknowledge receipt of your complaint within 2 working days and write to you advising the outcome of your complaint within 21 days.

Southern Cross Housing welcomes feedback from tenants, both positive and negative. Your feedback will help us to provide a better level of service.

REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE

EMERGENCY

If you have an emergency that happens outside of normal working hours (Monday – Friday 9am – 5pm) please call one of the following emergency maintenance numbers:

Southern Cross Housing Tenants – 1300 757 885

FACS Housing Transfer Tenants – 1800 422 322

If you are in a leasehold property please refer to the emergency contact number numbers that are listed on your lease.

It's important to note that the after-hours contact number is for emergencies ONLY.

If your repair is NOT urgent then please wait until the next working day and report the issue by calling 1300 757 885. Alternatively you can complete a request online at www.scch.org.au.

REPORTING MAINTENANCE ISSUES ON 2018 TRANSFERRED PROPERTIES

If your property came across in the 2018 stock transfer from the NSW Department of Family and Community Service please use the following information to report any maintenance issues:

- Call **1300 757 885**
- For Maintenance Enquiries please press **2**
- As part of the 2018 Tenancy Transfer please press **1** (to transfer to Lakes Maintenance)

As a Tenant you have the right to:

- Request for a maintenance issue to be rectified /fixed
- Enquire about completion timeframes
- Report if you are unhappy with the quality or timeframe of work

Please ask for your reference number each time you make a call so you can assist the Lakes Maintenance team when following up.

Note: While Southern Cross Housing is not directly responsible for your maintenance, if you are unhappy with how your request has been handled or the quality of work completed, please contact Lakes Maintenance in the first instance.

If you are still not satisfied with the outcome you may contact Southern Cross Housing directly by calling 1300 757 885, press **2** and then hold for a SCH Maintenance Operator.

WHAT IS AN EMERGENCY?



- Burst Water Service
- Blocked or broken toilet system
- Serious roof leak
- Gas leak
- Dangerous electrical fault or serious storm/flood damage
- Fire damage
- A failure of the electricity
- Failure of any essential service for hot water, cooking, heating or laundering
- Any fault or damage that causes the premises to be unsafe or not secure



REPORTING A REPAIR

If you need something repaired in your home, there are a few different ways to get in touch with your local Southern Cross Housing office. Please refer below to see what these are.

Call the SCH maintenance line on **1300 757 885**
Visit your local SCH office
Write to SCH at **PO Box 2351 Bomaderry NSW 2541**
Online by completing the [Maintenance Request form](#)

REPAIR TIMEFRAMES

Southern Cross Housing Tenants

Emergency 4 Hour
Urgent 24 Hour
Priority 14 Days
Priority 28 Days

Housing Transfer Tenants

Emergency 4 Hours
Urgent 8 Hours



TENANT OPPORTUNITIES

ASSISTANCE FOR TENANTS WITH MENTAL HEALTH CONDITIONS



The Illawarra/Shoalhaven Homelessness Mental Health Program assists people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness and have a mental health condition. Funding can be used to support people that have mental health issues to pay their rent, better manage their mental health condition and improve their wellbeing and health.

To be eligible you must be over 18 years of age be at risk of being homeless or homeless, and have a formally diagnosed mental health condition.

For more information please phone the Southern Cross Housing Communities Assist Team on **02 4413 1102** or visit www.scch.org.au

NOWRA TENANT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN

The Nowra Tenant Advisory Committee (NTAC) is a great way for you to provide feedback and influence the way that Southern Cross Housing delivers its services. Members of the NTAC will develop an in depth understanding of Social Housing and the range of services and activities that are provided and supported by Southern Cross Housing. Participation will also enable you to gain skills in advocacy, support and event management.

We will be holding our first Nowra TAC meeting at the end of February. It is anticipated that meetings will be held four times a year at different locations throughout the Nowra region.

It is anticipated that TAC's will be established in other regional areas following establishment of the Nowra TAC Group.

The first meeting will focus on the role of the TAC. Together we will determine future meeting times and locations. Staff from Southern Cross Housing will also provide a general overview of the range of services and programs that are delivered by Southern Cross Housing and lunch will be provided.

If you are interested in joining the NTAC and attending the first meeting please contact Cathy (Community Engagement Coordinator) on **02 4413102**.

Nomination forms are available from www.scch.org.au. Nominations close Friday 15th February 2020.



OPPORTUNITY PATHWAYS

Opportunity Pathways is an exciting program that supports you to make a positive change by identifying and achieving your housing, development and employment goals.

This program is for people who receive social housing assistance and focuses on offering flexible and person-centred support with access to learning, training and work opportunities to facilitate improved housing outcomes.

By joining Opportunity Pathways, you or your household members can gain new skills, get training and work experience and receive help to improve your situation depending on your housing independence goals.

Opportunity Pathways is a free program, and if you are aged 17 years and over you may be eligible to participate if you are:

- Living in public, community or Aboriginal housing
- Receiving a Rent Choice Subsidy; or
- An approved Social Housing applicant on the NSW Housing Register.

Your eligibility is assessed, and if you are accepted into the program, staff at Wesley Mission will work with you to create a plan based on your situation, needs and goals.

Throughout the 12-month program, you will have access to one-on-one support, coaching and mentoring, training, workshops, work experience placements, volunteering opportunities, and work retention support.

To help achieve your program goals, you may also receive some practical and financial assistance that may include childcare, help to obtain a driver's licence as well as fuel vouchers and Opal cards.

Opportunity Pathways includes a range of options to support you to find and maintain employment by assisting with resume writing, developing interview skills, finding a job, and ongoing support as you begin to work.

To discuss your eligibility, please call us on 1800 931 108 or email opportunitypathways@wesleymission.org.au.

ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT STUDY IN THE NEW YEAR?

Don't delay – enrolments are now open for Mental Health, Youth Work and Counselling courses across Southern NSW and places will fill fast.

Whether you're starting out, returning to study or furthering your career, TAFE NSW has a course to suit you.

Courses and Delivery Options	Recommended if you want to...
Certificate IV in Mental Health • Wollongong (Full Time) • Nowra (Full Time)	Support people experiencing mental health issues in their recovery.
Certificate IV in Mental Health Peer Work • Wollongong (Full Time) • Nowra (Full Time)	Support others in their recovery by applying your own mental health lived experience.
Certificate IV in Youth Work • Shellharbour (Full Time)	Support young people to achieve their goals in a range of environments.
Diploma of Counselling • Wollongong (Full Time) • Wollongong (Part Time)	Build practical skills to work with clients and support them towards change.
Diploma of Mental Health • Wollongong (Part Time) • Nowra (Part Time)	Expand your mental health skills and knowledge and build on your previous experiences.
Diploma of Youth Work • Shellharbour (Full Time)	Expand your youth work skills and knowledge and build on your previous experiences.

For more information please contact TAFE NSW on 131 601 or visit www.tafensw.edu.au

SCH EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP 2020

Up to \$1,500 is available to approved residents of Southern Cross Housing properties of any age.

Are you a new or continuing Primary or High School student, mature aged student at University, TAFE or are you undertaking study with a Registered Training Organisation?

The Southern Cross Housing Educational Scholarship funding can be used to help cover costs of fees, lessons, textbooks, equipment, uniforms, excursions and childcare to enable you to undertake study, including music and participation in sporting activities.

Applying for a Southern Cross Housing Scholarship is very simple. You just fill out a short application form. Families can submit up to two applications.

AUSTRALIAN UNITY WEIJA ABORIGINAL HOME CARE



Weija Aboriginal Home Care, a branch of Australian Unity are offering support for older Aboriginal people (50 plus) and their families and friends to find out about the range of services and options available through the Federal Governments My Aged Care Program.

My Aged Care provides:

- Information on the different types of aged care services available
- An assessment of needs to identify eligibility and the right type of care for you
- Referrals and support to find service providers that can meet your needs
- Information on what you might need to pay towards the cost of your care.

If you would like support to access services and find out what is available to support you please contact Cheryl Bowers on 1800837999.



APPLY NOW

Online: www.scch.org.au/community/

Phone: 1300 757 885

Email: communities@scch.org.au

Applications Close at 5pm on Friday 28th February 2020.

ACTIVE KIDS

The NSW State Governments **Active Kids program** provides two **\$100 vouchers** for parents, guardians and carers of school-enrolled children to use towards the cost of sport and active recreation. Children must be aged between 4.5 – 18 years, be NSW residents and be enrolled in school (from Kindergarten to Year 12 or TAFE).

Vouchers can be obtained online at the **Service NSW Website** www.service.nsw.gov.au. The vouchers can be used to help pay for the following great activities:

BULWUL BALANG PROGRAM - Health and Wellbeing program for Aboriginal youth (girls): Activities are held at 79 Plunkett Street, Nowra on Thursday afternoons February – April 2020. Book at Waminda Aboriginal Women's Health Centre.

CULBURRA BEACH ACTIVITIES: An 8-week mixed sport and activity program that is conducted on the beach. Participation includes membership PCYC membership plus beach soccer, cricket and touch footy. Held Wednesday afternoons from February 12 – April 1, 2020: \$90:00. Book at the Shoalhaven PCYC.

CULBURRA SURF PROGRAM: A surf instruction program which includes membership to the Boardriders club, learn to surf tuition and club competitions Culburra Beach. Wednesday afternoons commencing in February 2020: \$100.00. Book and use your Active Kids voucher at Culburra Beach Board riders Club

TEEN GYM: A fitness program for teenagers that is conducted over 10 weeks which includes boxing, fitness and self-defence. Teen Gym is for high school children only under the age of 16. Conditions apply, and parent consent must be submitted prior to entry. Includes optional fitness assessment.

LOCAL YOUTH BASKETBALL: Local Junior competition. Bring a friend. Shoalhaven Indoor Sports Centre. 90 Cambewarra Rd, Bomaderry. Term 1 and 2, 2020. Annual registration fee of \$85.50. Term based fee \$112.50. Book and use your Active Kids voucher at www.shoalhaven.bsaknetball.net.au

LITTLE ATHLETICS: An 8-week coaching program. Costs includes option of membership for 2020/21 summer season. Sanctuary Point Oval: Larmer Avenue, Sanctuary Point. August 1 – October 3, 2020. \$100.00. Book and use your Active Kids voucher at St Georges Basin Little Athletics Club.

BMX WORKSHOPS: An 8-week series of BMX instruction and activities. Sanctuary Point Skate Park, Francis Ryan Reserve, Sanctuary Point. February 12 to April 1st 2020. Registration Day 29th January 2020 Sanctuary Point Library



GOOD NEWS STORIES

JERRINJA VACANT LOT

Recently, Southern Cross Housing sent the Clean-up Crew to spend a full day out at Jerrinja to clean up the communal land opposite the Medical Centre. This was quite a complex task, with having to sweep the site first for buried rubbish and then slash the long grass before eventually running the mower over the lot.

The area has previously been used to hold community events for Jerrinja residents and other locals but since it hadn't been maintained in such a long time, these events had to be cancelled or held elsewhere. While maintaining this area isn't technically SCH's responsibility, it was considered a kind gesture for the residents. Residents and locals are now happy to have the area back to being usable and no longer an eyesore.



TENANT SATISFACTION SURVEY WINNER

Over 690 responses were received from tenants as part of the Southern Cross Housing Tenant Satisfaction Survey. Information obtained from the survey will be used to help Southern Cross Housing plan and deliver services and programs that meet tenants and the broader community's needs.

The lucky winner of an iPad was Mr Gerald Lacey from Unanderra. Gerald received his prize at the Unanderra Tenant Christmas Party and was very surprised that he had been selected. He was very happy with his prize as had had been thinking about purchasing an iPad for quite a while.

SCH STAFF VOLUNTEERING

During December Eric (Manager, A&D) and Natalie (Senior Housing Officer, A&D) volunteered their time at the Ulladulla Evacuation Centre that was opened to support residents during the Currowan Fire near Batemans Bay. Natalie and Eric assisted staff from the NSW State Government to source accommodation for residents that had been evacuated from their homes that were under threat from the bushfires.

Natalie described her experience as being very rewarding and interesting. Natalie said "At 11.30pm we had placed 89 locals into motels and guest houses, it was a great effort by everyone".

Cathy (Community Engagement Coordinator) also volunteered her time to assist the Huskisson Rural Fire Service. Cathy said "I enjoy volunteering for the RFS and assisting the community. I am always learning new things about the trucks, machinery and fire behaviour".

Rebecca (Housing Officer, A&D) also volunteers her time to assist the community. Rebecca's spare time is spent making packs for local homeless children that are aged between 3 and 10 years. Rebecca coordinates the provision of items that are donated by community organisations and supplements these by purchasing her own items. The packs are distributed to the children of families who present to SCH for assistance. Additional donations that SCH are unable to utilise are passed onto Southern Youth and Family Services for distribution to their clients.





BEFORE



AFTER

SUPPLY STREET NOWRA – FENCE REPLACEMENT

Southern Cross Housing recently replaced an old worn fence in Supply Street, East Nowra. The fence borders parkland and was an eyesore for tenants and people that used the park. Working collaboratively with Mission Australia and the local community Southern Cross Housing completely replaced the fence. The East Nowra Parkland project is part of a larger project that aims to strengthen and build the capacity of community members in East Nowra to make positive changes to their local community.

Southern Cross Housing has a large number of tenants in the East Nowra area and works proactively to support the East Nowra community in a variety of ways, most recently by holding our annual Community Christmas Party in Parramatta Park.

As shown in the pictures below the original wooden fence has deteriorated and was missing many palings. The new fence is made of colour bond and is much safer and attractive. The mammoth task was completed by one of Southern Cross Housing’s reliable contractors in conjunction with our own Clean-up Crew Team.

This cool team is made up of local people that are employed by Southern Cross Housing specifically to undertake clean-up work in and around properties and community assets. At this job the Clean Up Crew were on standby to assist with clearing rubbish and debris from the fence line during installation and demolition stages.

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

More than 6 million Australians make a difference by volunteering each year, doing a wide range of tasks for a wide range of volunteer organisations. People volunteer for many reasons and in many different ways. Some use volunteering as a way to gain new skills or add to their CV. Others use it as a way to meet new people, make new friends or try something new. Making a difference to the community and having a sense of purpose are also popular reasons for volunteering. Whatever your own personal reason is for volunteering, rest assured it is a two way exchange – you give but you also gain.

There are two main ways that people choose a volunteer role. One is to choose an Organisation or cause that is close to your own heart and you want to help. The second is to choose a volunteer role based on the skills you want to use or gain. Think about your own motivations for volunteering, how much time you can commit and what you hope to get out of it? This will help you to choose a role that is a good match for you.

The National Go Volunteer Organisation publishes information about a large range of volunteering opportunities that are available in the Shoalhaven, Snowy and Eurobodalla Local Government Areas. To find out more go to www.govolunteer.com.au and register your interest. Alternatively give the Communities Assist Team a call on 02 44131102 and we can help you to access local volunteering opportunities!





HOUSING

building real community futures