

# Co-op Connect

Summer 2015

Co-operation  
HOUSING



## BREAKING NEWS!

Co-operation Housing has been in the news twice recently – both for good reasons!

First we were interviewed for an article in the Fremantle, Melville and Cockburn Herald newspapers, promoting the inclusion of co-operative housing in new affordable housing developments.

You can read the article at: <http://heraldonlinejournal.com/2015/02/20/co-op-idea-for-burt-street>

We were also invited to promote the co-operative housing model on an episode of West TV's current-affairs program *Undercurrent*, focusing on affordable housing.

We are very grateful for these opportunities to help spread the word and generate community interest and engagement.

## OUR PARTNERSHIP POTENTIAL GETS A BOOST ...

Co-operation Housing has been awarded 'deductible gift recipient' (DGR) status, which will allow any donations to be tax deductible by the donor.

This will enhance our capacity for growth by increasing our attractiveness to potential donors and partners – including both organisations and individuals – who are considering supporting or partnering with us in our work.



## ... AND SO DOES OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS



We are very pleased to introduce our new Technical Director (Property), Natasha French.

Natasha joins the Co-operation Housing board with more than 10 years' experience in the property industry in Australia and overseas, including a current role as associate director of a major real estate advisory firm.

She has already contributed invaluable to our strategic planning process with her extensive knowledge and experience of the planning and management of residential developments, including apartment and retirement village developments, and budget and stakeholder management.

We look forward to having Natasha share and apply her considerable expertise to future growth and partnership opportunities.

## DO YOU KNOW YOUR RIGHTS AS A TENANT?

Co-operation Housing, FOHCOL and Legal Aid WA have collaborated to develop a series of workshops on tenancy law, focusing specifically on the rights and responsibilities of residents of housing co-operatives as both tenants and landlords. Everyone is welcome. See over for more details.



## ALTERNATIVE HOUSING MODELS IN OUR OWN BACKYARD

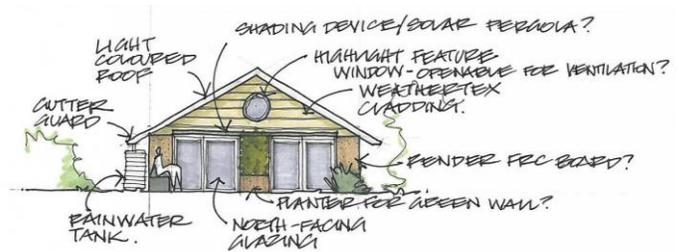
Housing co-operatives are not the only kind of alternative housing gaining in popularity in the current climate of unaffordability. Below are some of the more innovative and interesting models in our own backyard.

### The Eco-Hamlet (Greenmount, in the Perth foothills)

The Eco-Hamlet is a 'micro-housing' development designed to be environmentally, economically and socially sustainable.

It is based on a combination of principles from eco-villages, housing cooperatives and intentional communities.

**More information:** [www.theecohamlet.com.au](http://www.theecohamlet.com.au)



### The Green Swing (Lathlain, near Vic Park)

The Green Swing is a small-scale housing development that aims to promote sustainable, affordable, medium-density housing within an urban area.

Homes are built using the principles of passive solar orientation, run on solar electricity and hot water, and use rainwater for the house and bore water for the garden. Communal areas include a vegetable garden, outdoor kitchen, bike storage and workshop space. **More information:** [www.thegreenswing.net](http://www.thegreenswing.net)

### DecoHousing (Denmark, in south-western WA)

DecoHousing is affordable housing with shared common spaces, facilities and resources, designed to foster friendship and community.

Residents own their own unit and pay strata/ membership fees for the upkeep common areas. They are financially autonomous and save time and money through collaboration and co-operation.

**More information:** <http://decohousingdenmark.wix.com>



Co-operation Housing, FOHCOL and Legal Aid WA invite you to a series of jointly developed workshops on tenancy law, focusing specifically on the rights and responsibilities of residents of housing co-operatives as both tenants and landlords.

### Workshop 1: Overview of Tenancy Law for Housing Co-operatives

This first workshop will provide the foundation for future workshops in the series. All tenants of housing co-operatives are welcome and encouraged to attend, particularly those new to the sector, those wishing to upgrade their knowledge and skills and those in tenancy management or maintenance roles.

**When:** Saturday 9 May 2015  
9.15 for a 9.30 am start (finishes 4 pm)  
**Where:** Fremantle Council Reception Room  
**Cost:** Free. All welcome. Lunch provided.  
**RSVP:** by Friday 1 May 2015  
See below for contact details

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