

Co-op Connect

Promoting the housing co-operative model

Autumn 2016



SUPPORTING THE GROWTH OF THE CO-OPERATIVE HOUSING SECTOR

At our February meeting, the Co-operation Housing Board warmly welcomed Pinakarri Community member Michelle Hovane, who donated a cheque on behalf of Pinakarri Community to support our work towards growing and developing the housing co-operative sector.

Thank you, Pinakarri members! Your generosity will help us in our work towards offering more people the opportunity to live in secure, affordable co-operative housing.

CO-OPERATIVELY PROVIDING AFFORDABLE HOUSING TO SENIORS

Co-operation Housing is proud to announce that we have entered into a collaboration with the City of Fremantle that has seen us take on management of an affordable housing complex for seniors, owned by the City of Fremantle, with the long-term goal of embedding some of the international principles of co-operation into its management.



Image courtesy of the Community Newspaper Group

Consistent with our overall ethos of supporting successful residential communities, based on the housing co-operative model, that are affordable to people on low to moderate incomes, we have already begun to invite the residents to actively participate in making decisions that will affect them, affording them a greater sense of ownership and empowerment about their own homes and community.

The complex comprises 11 one-bedroom units, two of which were vacant when we took on management. We have since had them refurbished and welcomed two lovely new residents who we hope will be very happy in their new homes.

One of the new residents has already been featured in a good-news story in the *Fremantle Gazette*, helping us to spread the word to the wider community.

Read the story

www.communitynews.com.au/news/Housing-co-operative-helps-seniors-stay-independent/7682746

Co-operation Housing

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OUR AGM AND 5TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

The Co-operation Housing AGM 2015 and associated 5th birthday celebrations were an excellent way to see out a very positive year.

It was gratifying to reflect on what we've achieved over the past five years: registration as a company; registration as a community housing provider; recruitment and retention of skilled employees; establishment of best-practice policies and procedures; provision of member services; financial modelling and growth planning; representation of the housing co-operative sector to government and other stakeholders; establishment of networks and partnerships to help grow the sector; and promotion of co-operative living to the broader community.

With collective effort, much has been gained. And much more will be gained as we continue to represent, develop and grow Western Australia's housing co-operative sector over the next five years and beyond.



NETWORKING FOR SUCCESS

The National Co-operative Housing Network held its inaugural face-to-face meeting in October, taking advantage of the fact that all members would be in Perth for the National Housing Conference.

Representatives from Victoria's Common Equity Housing Limited, United Housing Co-op and South East Housing Co-operative, NSW's Common Equity and WA's own Co-operation Housing and FOHCOL discussed the key issues facing housing co-operatives nationally, with the intention of addressing these collectively where possible.

The network will continue to meet two-monthly by phone, and annually in person.

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STRONGER TOGETHER

Our member housing co-operatives are never alone. We've just supported them through their annual Housing Authority reviews, and are ensuring their compliance with the incoming *Associations Incorporation Act 2015*. We're also doing our annual Member Capacity Audits, which allow them to identify their strengths and any areas where they'd like to develop capacity. We'll then work with them to facilitate this in a way that meets their needs.

Our members can call on us at any time for support, assistance, representation or information.

They know that's exactly what we're here for.