

House



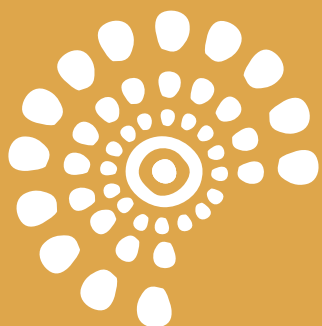
RESIDENT NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2024



In this edition.

Tenant of the Season Awards	4
Engagement calendar	5
Sprout into spring!	6
Report maintenance	7
CommunityCorner	8
What's on Spring 2024	10
Noticeboard	11



Acknowledgement of Country

We at Churches of Christ acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands on which we stand and pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging for they hold the memories, traditions, cultures, hopes and aspirations of First Nations People.

We acknowledge and recognise the resilience of generations of First Nations People and stand with you now and always.

We are committed to walking alongside First Nations People to establish a foundation of trust and take meaningful action to preserve, affirm and promote the world's oldest living culture.



Contact us.

Standard Office Hours
9 am to 4 pm weekdays

Brisbane

PO Box 508
41 Brookfield Road
Kenmore Qld 4069
P 07 3327 1674

Ipswich

PO Box 252
Booval Qld 4304
26 The Terrace
North Ipswich Qld 4305
P 07 3436 8900

Gold Coast

PO Box 412
Ashmore City Qld 4214
1 Griffith Way
Southport Qld 4215
P 07 5539 7655

Sunshine Coast

8 Cooma Terrace
Caloundra Qld 4551
P 07 5492 8439

Bribie Island

52-68 Cotterill Avenue
Bongaree Qld 4507
P 07 3410 3751

After Hours Emergencies
1800 446 604

**If you require an interpreter, call
TS National on 131 450 and ask them
to call Churches of Christ Housing
Services on 1800 406 566.**

Front cover: Residents from Marblewood Apartments, Hillcrest enjoying the gardens they have cultivated since 2020 when the development was opened.

Welcome from Gus Taddeo General Manager.

Welcome to the spring edition of *HouseTalk* for 2024. I hope your winters were warm and full of good company.

As we enter spring, I find my attention turning to the outdoors. Many of our communities have been preparing for spring, pruning back their community gardens ready for new growth. One community at Bribie Island has even established a worm farm with the help of our Community Engagement team. These are great community-building activities and in some cases have the added benefit of providing free fruit and vegetables for residents. For those who are interested in growing their own food, we've included some tips on page 6.

Coincidentally, the Queensland Government's new 50-cent public transport program also recently came into effect. This program sees all public transport trips cost only 50 cents regardless of where you get on or how far you travel. With the chill of winter now behind us, I think this is a great opportunity to explore places further away from our homes.

Consider asking a neighbour if they'd like to join you on a 50-cent trip to somewhere you've never been before – just be sure to read the route schedule so you know how to get home! I think of how this



offer may benefit our older neighbours in particular, who are more likely to experience social isolation, particularly if they live alone.

As standard, we have plenty of events scheduled for the next 3 months, including several Resident Engagement Meetings (REMs). A REM is a great opportunity for you and your community to discuss matters that are important to you face-to-face with staff. Remember, you can attend a REM if you live in the region where it is being held, even if you don't live at the site it's being hosted at.

I wish you all the best for the rest of spring as we all eagerly prepare for the holiday season.

Cheers,

Gus

Join our Facebook community

Learn about current Housing Services updates and stories.



Scan the code!
facebook.com/cofcsocialhousing



Tenant of the Season Awards.

Spring 2024. Our quarterly Tenant of the Season Awards recognise those who have gone above and beyond to make a positive difference by supporting their neighbours and communities. Award recipients are announced in each edition of *HouseTalk* and receive a certificate accompanied by a gift voucher to acknowledge the impact they've made.

Well done to this season's winners – thank you and keep up the great work!

Adele D. LABRADOR

Adele demonstrates great community spirit by generously knitting beanies and blankets for aged care residents and those in need during winter. Her woolly creations are donated to our aged care facilities in Western Queensland.

Judy R. ACACIA RIDGE

Judy serves lunches every week at the weekly barbecue. She is always involved from beginning to end. Judy preps the food, serves the food and also cleans up after. She promotes community spirit in the community centre at Mortimer Road.

Jo T. SPRING HILL

Jo has spent her own money to help beautify the gardens around her home – she's added half a tonne of mulch, numerous plants of various varieties and border decorations all around the complex, sprucing up the look of the gardens and making them feel as if they were just planted!

Bernard W. BONGAREE

Bernard has been doing an amazing job helping look after the garden area around the community room. He extends his care to the rest of the gardens and helps other residents with their gardening. He also volunteers his time at a local op shop working hard and cheering up the other volunteers and customers and is the type of person to go out of his way to help residents whenever there is someone in need.

You can nominate your neighbours for next season's awards by emailing HSCcommunications@cofcqld.com.au with the subject 'TOTS Nomination'.

Please include their full name and approximately 50 words explaining your reasons for nominating them.



What is a REM – Resident Engagement Meeting?

A Resident Engagement Meeting (REM) is an opportunity for you as clients of Churches of Christ Housing Services to tell us what's important to you as individuals and as communities. We hold at least 2 REMs per region, per year. At REMs, our communities come together – we not only discuss important matters that are relevant to all our residents, but we also celebrate our communities' achievements.



Engagement calendar.



Activity	Date + Time	Details
Ipswich bus trip to Toowoomba Festival of Flowers	Wednesday 2 October 8:30 am – 4 pm	Pick up from 26 The Terrace, North Ipswich at 8:30 am
Gold Coast bus trip to Nerima Gardens, Ipswich	Thursday 10 October 9.30 am – 3:00 pm	Pick up from 120 Queen Street, Southport at 9:30 am
Gold Coast mystery bus tour	Tuesday 15 October 9 am – 3 pm	Pick up from 120 Queen Street, Southport at 9 am
Mitchelton Seniors Neighbourhood Day	Wednesday 16 October 10 am – 12 pm + lunch	Mini expo with stallholders held on-site + followed by lunch
Acacia Ridge bus trip to Nerima Gardens, Ipswich	Thursday 17 October 9 am – 3 pm	Pick up from 425 Mortimer Road, Acacia Ridge at 9 am
Bribie Island bus trip to Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve	Friday 25 October 9 am – 3:30 pm	Pick up at 52–68 Cotterill Avenue, Bongaree at 9 am
Hillcrest bus trip to Nerima Gardens, Ipswich	Tuesday 29 October 9:30 am – 2:00 pm	Pick up at 46a Middle Road, Hillcrest at 9:30 am
Fishing trip with Mission Australia and Murri Watch	Friday 1 November 9:30 am – 3:30 pm	Pick up on-site (Light St, Hynes St, Gregory Tce, Kinross St, Kingsford Smith Dr)
Hillcrest REM	Monday 4 November 10 am – 11 am	Community room
Acacia Ridge Melbourne Cup Party	Tuesday 5 November 1 pm – 2:30 pm	Race viewing party and ice creams in the community centre
Mitchelton REM	Wednesday 6 November 10 am – 11 am	Community room
Bribie Island REM	Thursday 7 November 10 am – 11 am	Coolamon Apartments community room
Caloundra REM	Friday 8 November 10 am – 11 am	Community room
Little Mountain REM	Monday 11 November 10 am – 11 am	Banksia Apartments community room (not campus auditorium)
Gold Coast REM	Tuesday 12 November 10 am – 11 am	120 Queen Street, Southport, community room. Guest speakers GCCC – 'What to do in an emergency' + Seniors Officer – 'Free activities/events for everyone'
Acacia Ridge REM	Thursday 14 November 2 pm – 3 pm	Community centre
Ipswich REM	Wednesday 20 November 10 am – 11 am	19–25 Flint Street, North Ipswich community room

RSVPs help us ensure we cater adequately. For events like bus trips where we have a limited number of seats, RSVPs are also essential to ensuring we have enough room for everyone. Please RSVP to us by phone on **07 3327 1674** or by emailing **HousingServices@cofcqld.com.au**.

Sprout into spring!

The start of spring is the perfect opportunity to plant the seeds that will help you level up your gardens – pun intended!

We've put together a whole bunch of tips for seasoned and budding green thumbs alike.

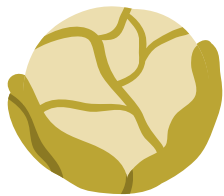


Grow to save

Have you ever thought about how growing your own produce could help you save on your grocery bill?

Whether you have a community garden, big yard, balcony or just a sunny windowsill, growing herbs, fruit and veggies is not only a great hobby, but can help you reduce how much you're spending on fresh produce at the supermarket.

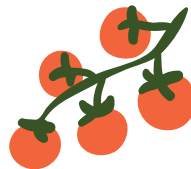
Some of the easiest things to grow at home are:



Lettuce

Place leftover lettuce stems in a bowl with a small amount of water

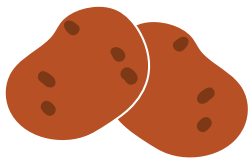
in the bottom. Keep it somewhere that gets good sunlight and mist regularly. After 4 days, roots will begin to appear, meaning you can transfer the lettuce to soil.



Tomatoes

Rinse the tomato seeds and allow them to dry. Plant in potting soil until you notice

them start to grow. Allow the seedlings to get a few inches high before transferring them outdoors. During cold weather you can grow your tomatoes indoors, just remember to keep them in an area that gets plenty of sunlight and water a few times each week.



Potatoes

For this you'll need potato peelings that have eyes on them.

Cut those peelings into 2-inch pieces, ensuring there are at least two or three eyes on each piece. Allow them to dry out overnight and then simply plant them about four inches deep in your soil. Make sure the eyes are facing up when planting. After a few weeks you'll see the potato plant begin to grow.



Herbs

Grow herbs like basil, oregano, parsley, rosemary, mint, chives and coriander from seeds in about 7 weeks.

Simply use fresh potting soil in a smaller container, sprinkle seeds and lightly cover with more soil. Water them down well and cover with cling wrap to keep moisture inside and promote germination.



HINT:
you can also use eggshells as planters for seedlings



What about a worm farm?

Worm farms are a great way to turn food scraps into rich fertiliser for your garden.

Almost half of all household waste is organic and therefore ideal for composting, yet so many of us throw food scraps in the bin instead of composting them.

Recycling your organic waste with a worm farm is good for both the environment and your garden, so why not explore if your community can get a worm farm up and running with the help of our Community Engagement team?

We can work with you to find a suitable place in your community for a worm farm that is easily accessible and doesn't cause nuisance for any other residents. If your community doesn't have a social club or the ability to purchase or make worm farm equipment, we can explore if there are any local grants we can apply for together. Check out the working bee our Coolamon Apartments community had to start their worm farm (*photos above*).

For those of you preferring something smaller in scale, check out this blog post about how to set-up a worm farm on a balcony:



What to feed your worms:

- Leftover kitchen scraps including fruit and vegetable peelings. Go light on citrus and if you add anything meaty, be sure to bury it to avoid odours.
- Cardboard and paper. Remove any plastic windows or tape before adding. Items like shredded newspaper, paper egg cartons, office paper, or takeaway boxes. Soak these in water and then drain before adding to the worm farm.
- Coffee grounds and loose tea or tea bags.
- Crushed eggshells.

Use what the worms produce as fertiliser for your garden and watch it flourish!



Report maintenance

Please don't wait for an inspection to report maintenance.

Many people like to perform a big 'spring clean' during the new season and may come across items that need maintenance or repairs.

It's best practice to report maintenance to us as soon as you identify it, whether it's routine or emergency.

Our timeframes for actioning maintenance requests are:

Routine repairs

14-day response

Maintenance that does not prevent regular use of the property.

Priority repairs

24-hour response

A fault or damage that causes serious inconvenience to the tenant.

Urgent repairs

4-hour response

A fault or damage that endangers health and safety or could result in extensive damage to the property.

Emergency repairs

1-hour response

A fault or damage that could lead to death or injury of persons, or serious damage to the property.

CommunityCorner.



Christmas in July celebrations

On Monday 16 September there will be exactly 100 days until Christmas! While we're not quite there yet, we did bring some winter joy to our regions by celebrating Christmas in July. Celebrating Christmas in the colder months like those in the northern hemisphere do always feels special – especially when we also get to hear stories of residents who grew up or have lived abroad and have seen what a real white Christmas looks like! Check out some pics of our celebrations!





SUNSHINE
COAST

Banksia Apartments officially open

In July, Member for Caloundra Jason Hunt MP joined residents, staff and other special guests to officially open our newest development at a ribbon cutting ceremony. Banksia Apartments is a 50-unit seniors Social Housing and Specialist Disability Accommodation development located at Little Mountain on the Sunshine Coast.

In addition to Mr Hunt, attendees heard from Housing Services General Manager Gus Taddeo and Churches of Christ Board Chair Nigel King. We were also joined by Sunshine Coast Mayor Rosanna Natoli, and Councillor Tim Burns, who some residents may remember was a Churches of Christ chaplain many years ago.

Resident Mary W was also interviewed by 7 News and *The Courier-Mail*, reflecting on her housing journey to Banksia Apartments and the importance of Social Housing. We would like to thank her for her hospitality as she also welcomed us into her unit for a tour. A few days later, we also held a resident welcome event accompanied by a Welcome to Country, tour of the campus, art activity and bingo. We are so glad the units are now officially open and are excited to see what the future holds for the Banksia Apartments community!

IPSWICH

NAIDOC Week

We loved celebrating NAIDOC Week with you at Ipswich in July. NAIDOC Week is a celebration of the history, culture and achievements of Australia's Traditional Owners, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Hundreds of public NAIDOC Week events are held around Australia where people from all backgrounds come together to celebrate, learn and connect.



BRISBANE

Spirit of community at Mitchelton

A small but mighty group of residents that live at our Mitchelton

integrated community always go above and beyond when organising events in the community room. Hazel, Valmai, Nola, Sharon, Ron and Nimal work hard in preparing, serving and cleaning up after each of the events. A huge thanks for your dedication to ensuring all residents get to enjoy a vibrant and caring sense of community where they live.

LOGAN

Garden colour blooms at Hillcrest

A dedicated group of proud residents from our Marblewood Apartments at Hillcrest meet regularly

to tend to the gardens around the complex. Using established plants from their own gardens prior to relocating, Deb and Bert planted 28 plants across two garden beds. The upkeep of the gardens is funded by the Marblewood Social Club from lunches, raffles and recycling bottles and cans. See the front cover photo of this issue.



What's on.

Spring 2024



LOGAN

Jobs Expo for Trades, Manufacturing, and Construction Industries



Looking for work opportunities or to upskill in one of the above industries? Connect with local employers and training organisations at this event, who help those looking to start or change careers. This event is also perfect for teenagers and young adults who are deciding what they want to do in the future.

Monday 9 September from 9 am to 1 pm
Logan Metro Sports and Events Centre
357 Browns Plains Road

Visit their website for details:

<https://ourlogan.com.au/whats-on/logan-jobs-expo-trades-manufacturing-construction/>

IPSWICH

The Handmade Expo Market



Handmade Markets feature 100 stalls to spoil you with choice. Held at Nicholas St Precinct, you'll have 3 hours free parking in the undercover carpark, or drop in from nearby Ipswich Train Station and bus stops.

Upcoming dates:

Saturday 14 September from 9 am to 1 pm
Saturday 12 October from 9 am to 1 pm

Visit their website for details:

<https://www.nicholasst.com.au/event/the-handmade-expo-markets-october/>

SUNSHINE COAST

Maleny Arts and Crafts Group Biennial Quilt Show 2024



A two-day celebration of quilting by Maleny Arts and Craft Group quilters. Over 100 quilts on display along with challenge quilts, a fabulous traders alley, cafe, tombola stand and sales table with handmade goodies. You will have the chance to win a quilt, sewing machine or quilt kit in the raffle.

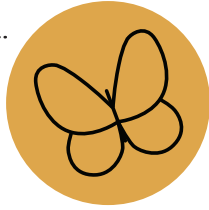
Saturday 28 September and Sunday 29 September from 9 am to 3 pm. \$5 entry includes a tea or coffee.

Visit their website for details:

<https://events.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/event/24667560-a/maleny-arts-and-crafts-group-biennial-quilt-show-2024>

BRIBIE ISLAND

Bribie Island Butterfly House



The Butterfly House is a magical destination and a safe sanctuary for butterflies. If a butterfly lands on you, that's wonderful – so have your camera ready.

Every Wednesday and Sunday from 10 am to 4 pm

Entry fees:

Adults.....	\$12
Concession	\$10
Child (4-15)	\$7
Family (2+2)	\$34

Wheelchair and stroller friendly

Visit their website for details:

<https://www.bribieislandbutterflyhouse.org/>

BRISBANE

City Sounds FREE Live Music Program



Australia's largest and longest-running free music program introduces fresh bands and artists to Brisbane City audiences every week at venues including Queen Street Mall, Post Office Square, Reddacliff Place and other pop-up locations in the City.

Keep an eye on their website for details:

<https://visit.brisbane.qld.au/places-to-go/inner-city/the-city/the-city-sounds>

GOLD COAST

HOTA Markets



One of the Gold Coast's most vibrant community markets comes alive with in-season farm-fresh produce, delicious artisan foods, boutique fashion and handcrafted wears.

Every Sunday from 6 am to 11:30 am

Home of the Arts (HOTA)
135 Bundall Rd, Surfers Paradise

Visit their website for details:

<https://hota.com.au/whats-on/live/event/hota-markets>

Noticeboard.

Spare change: 50c public transport

For 6 months from **5 August 2024**, all Translink public transport services across Queensland cost just **50 cents per journey**, no matter where you start or how far you go.

This great initiative by the Queensland Government will not only help bust congestion on our roads, but it's a great opportunity to explore where you live. Have you considered asking a neighbour if they'd like to go on a day trip with you?

UPCOMING STATE ELECTION

A Queensland state election will be held on **Saturday 26 October 2024**. If you've changed address since the previous state election in 2020, it's important to ensure your enrolment details are up-to-date! You can do this by checking the Australian Electoral Commission website at check.aec.gov.au.

Remember, voting is compulsory in Australia and those who don't have a valid reason for not voting may be fined – unpaid fines may then be handed off to SPER. Most schools and some churches and community centres will act as voting booths. You may also be able to pre-poll before election day.

If you're unsure what State Government electorate your address is in or how to vote, visit ecq.qld.gov.au.

Food relief

If you or someone you know is struggling to afford food, there are people and organisations who can help. OzHarvest offers a free and anonymous search tool to help you find food relief in your area.

Visit the following website and enter your postcode – you'll be provided with a list of contact details for organisations that provide free or reduced-cost food: ozharvest.org/food/receive-food-individuals



41 Brookfield Road
Kenmore Qld 4069
07 3327 1674
housingservices@cofcqld.com.au
cofc.com.au/housing

Churches of Christ Housing Services Limited ABN 25 604 517 026 is a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee and is a wholly owned subsidiary of Churches of Christ in Queensland ARBN 147481436 (incorporated in Queensland).

We are a leading community housing provider delivering services across the full spectrum of housing need, from homelessness programs to social housing and affordable housing products.

