COMMON EQUITY NEW SOUTH WALES

REGISTERED PROVIDER

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2015

One of the properties in the Care-N-Co Co-operative, as featured on pages 6 to 7.

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From The CEO

The first few months of this year have been highlighted with a variety of activities that confirm the importance and relevance of Common Equity and the co-operative sector in the community housing market.

In February, I presented a paper on co-operative housing at a Social Enterprise Forum hosted by Fairfield Council. The forum examined the various types of social enterprise and was keen to also understand how housing co-operatives operate and their effectiveness in supporting tenancies.

I have been invited to present a paper as part of a panel on new directions in community housing at the upcoming NSW Housing Conference in May and also, facilitate another panel discussion at the conference on tenant engagement. This is good news for our sector as we are starting to achieve recognition regarding our contribution in the community housing arena and receive recognition as a valid and contributing model. In recent Bulletins, CENSW has called for members to nominate to attend the housing conference.

Common Equity has also been approached to participate in round table discussions in Canberra in the next couple of months regarding the value of the co-operative model for housing for disabled people.

A Senate Inquiry into co-operatives and mutuals was agreed in early March. The inquiry will examine the contribution of co-operatives, mutuals and member owned businesses to the national economy and the current barriers to innovation, growth and free competition. It will look at the impact of current regulations, comparisons between mutual ownership and private sale of publicly held assets and services, and any related matters. The Business Council of Co-operatives and Mutuals will be submitting to the inquiry and it is likely we will provide any relevant information via that mechanism.

In March, housing industry associations voted to form a national body. The formation will occur over the next twelve months and under this organisation the NSW Federation of Housing will become a branch. A stronger national body for community housing will be an important step for the whole community housing sector.

Common Equity was recently notified by the Housing Registrar that we have been successful in our latest annual national housing compliance report. This is good news for the whole sector and thank you to all the co-operatives that have provided information to support our report to the Registrar.

On a happier note, Common Equity is hoping to schedule a picnic day later this year and provide an opportunity for co-op members to gather in a social environment. We have heard at our regional meetings that the opportunity, in those forums, for linkage and exchange is limited and, that other opportunities for Co-op mingling would be appreciated. So we are hoping we can host at least an annual event going forward that is more relaxed and informal. The picnic day will be an opportunity for sharing, fun and the creation of new personal linkages. Stay tuned for more information regarding the day.

Robyn Cahoun, CEO

Working for the Sector

Meeting The Needs Of Households & Communities Survey

Most of you would have by now received this Survey either via post or at a consultative meeting with me. The survey has been prepared as part of the Community Development Plan (CDP), pertaining to goal six (6). The information provided by you through this voluntary survey is strictly confidential. The results will be analysed and presented in a collated form only.

I want to thank all co-op members and tenants who already have or are filling in the survey and returning it to CENSW via the self-addressed envelope. You can alternatively also fill in the survey online via Survey Monkey. Please type this link, *www.surveymonkey.com/s/LQQ9677* into your browser to access Survey Monkey.

It is challenging for tenants and for co-op members to keep up with some of the demands that CENSW asks of you and I want to briefly inform you why we have developed the survey and what we hope it will deliver for the benefit of tenants, households and sector communities, like the Seniors, single households, and so forth.

Firstly, we hope to enable and to assist individuals and their households who are seeking support in areas of health, education, employment and so forth to link in with external Services and community groups in order to receive the support they are seeking.

Secondly, we hope to be able to develop internal and external support mechanisms for the sectors community groups, which feel that they have ongoing or future needs that are best, identified now to make appropriate strategic decisions for the sectors' future. This can especially pertain to our senior community but also other co-operative communities.

Your answers will further assist us in developing a targeted Grants platform and also over time to cultivate interest-based groups within the sector. Interest based groups, over time would be supported by CENSW to facilitate speakers, discussions and other relevant written information or to arrange Seminars and to join with the broader community where related. The survey goals are geared to assist broadening activities and engagement of individual tenants & their households and also to foster better outcomes for community groups.

If you want to discuss the Survey further or if you have new and creative ideas or would like to discuss with me your ideas on community development please don't hesitate to contact Mirjana, on 9356 9240 or email me on, mirjana@commonequity.com.au

Mirjana Kreiselmaier

Working for the Sector

Sector Training

Common Equity is about to launch a new governance training programme for co-operative members which will be available in the second half of this year. This is part of Common Equity's ongoing commitment to sector capacity building and sustainability. The training will be available to co-op members.

John Mant Scholarship

The first round of allocations for the newly created John Mant Scholarship have occurred and we have an article on the scholarship recipients on pages 10 to 12. Congratulations to the recipients and good luck with your studies.

Seeking Grant Money For Co-Op And Direct Managed Capacity Building

Common Equity has lodged a grant proposal on building friendly neighborhoods and managing conflict in our communities. The proposal centers on the delivery of a training programme to co-op members and tenants regarding effective management of conflicts and building consensus.

NSW Community Housing Conference

This conference is scheduled for early May. Common Equity secured places for four tenant members to attend and has called for expressions of interest in recent weeks.

Sector Advisory Group

Calls have been issued for expressions of interest in participating in the Sector Advisory Working Group. Following feedback at our consultation sessions at the regional meetings and the 2014 AGM, we have identified that important issues in the sector are the need for;

1. Increasing sector cohesion by creating sector awareness through communication strategies
2. Supporting Co-op's to create a model sector.

The working group will be asked to consider these issues and potential strategies that could be enacted to advance us in both aspects.

Regional Meeting Schedule 2015

Date	Meeting	Location
Tue 23 June	Northern	Grafton
Wed 24 June	Central	Sydney
Thur 25 June	Western	Liverpool
Wed 1 July	Hunter	Bulahdelah
Wed 1 July	Southern Region	Teleconference
Tue 20 October	Northern	Grafton
Wed 21 October	Central	Sydney
Thur 22 October	Western	Liverpool
Wed 28 October	Hunter	Bulahdelah
Wed 28 October	Southern Region	Teleconference

Profiling Our Co-Operatives

In this edition of the Newsletter we profile Care-N-Co Co-operative

In 1993 the Government of NSW provided funding to the Macarthur Disabled Action Group to build a Villa Complex for people with physical disabilities and their families including the provision of a 24 hours care opportunity (now a spare bedroom and bathroom in our meeting room building). Eight members were actively involved in the purchase of land, the design of the villas and the construction of the site. The site was completed in 1998 and 6 tenants and their households moved in.

The purpose of this project was to assist people with physical disabilities to remain at home as long as possible rather than to go into a Nursing Home or institutional living if their needs became more complex. The co-operative is located close to shops and public transport enabling residents to attend community activities and social outings. The grounds are spacious and allow for carers and guests to park on site whilst providing a Service to or visiting residents. Two additional car spaces have currently been approved and will be built on site.

Margaret Wiezer, Troy Esparon, Peter Watkins, Paul Bowman, Rosemary Gray

Co-operative:

Our constitution is based on grassroots philosophy, involving everyone. All members are actively involved in running the co-operative by being directors and also occupying operational roles and responsibilities.

A good indication that our aim of providing long-term specialised housing is still alive is demonstrated in the fact that four of the original members still live in the complex. The other two members/households have lived at Care-n-Co between 8-10 years. '*We have very few vacancies, only when there is a breakdown of health or similar*', a member said. '*Our members have seen many changes over the years in community housing policy and structure, especially lately under Common Equity NSW. We do our best to keep up with the times even though sometimes we feel that the volunteer work we provide is increasing in time*'.

Most of our members are also involved in external committees, who often meet at Care-n-Co's Community Room. The involvement with other groups gives us the opportunity to use and share our experiences with disability requirements and housing. For example, we have been working with the Campbelltown City Council and a variety of Seniors Groups, whilst others use our Community Room, e.g. the Resident Action Group (RAG), Working Together In Minto (WTIM) and a Guitar Group practice with one of our residents.

Memorable events where local Members of Parliament visiting our co-operative and appreciating our efforts in providing co-operative housing in the local area.

As a small group we have however great talents amongst us: guitar players, singers, dancers – Jazz and Tap, knitting and crochet, gardeners, computer experts and at Christmas time – Santa in a wheelchair and Frosty the Snowman.

To the question, what would be different if members wouldn't live in a co-operative, Les, the Chair answered: '*You know, I wouldn't know as much as I know about disability Services and all the other external communities that here at Care-n-Co we're so greatly connected with*.' Everyone else nodded and expanded on Les' comments by giving examples. I thought that the local connections made this co-operative community alive; they have formed relationships with other groups and communities that are aligned with Care-n-Co's

Profiling Our Co-Operatives

mission of an inclusive future for the betterment of all people with disabilities. Despite the challenges and hard work over the years it seemed that all members supported their community engagement and are proud of their achievements.

Troy mentioned that '*the fact that the buildings were custom made is a real advantage for us who live here. The wheelchair fits into every corner of my house, the doors are big enough to get through them*' and so forth. That is not something that bureaucrats could have thought of in their standardised thinking'.

Rosemary spoke about the changes in the environment and showed two old photographs, one a very flat parcel of land prior to the site being built, and the second one of two members, Troy and Peter 15 years ago or so. Aren't they a happy lot!

Troy and Peter

The area across the road has changed too, Rosemary remarked, once an old public housing estate, now in the midst of becoming a new mixed and modern housing model. The flash business signs along the road speak for the new development. '*It is good', members comment 'but it is much busier than it used to be*'.

And the last question we spoke about, '*which one would instantly move out if they won 1Million dollars not withstanding the eligibility criteria'*. Strangely enough there was silence, except one member stated, '*yes, I would, for my son*'(due to Care-n-Co's objectives). It's a peculiar silence to say the least, despite the ongoing issues that life in co-operative community brings. But then, how we humans assess our experiences and well-being is not so straightforward.

Care-n-Co members always liked to get together for an occasional BBQ and according to Troy have had great success. We were talking about getting that BBQ fixed up and maybe to re-vitalise the activity, to chill out together after a hard days work and to remember the co-op's history and to drive it's future.

I want to conclude the introduction of Care-n-Co with one of the original objectives that the founding members felt important to include into their brief:

'T*o learn and grow in new and interesting directions as faced by challenges individually and in co-operative living*.'

I want to thank Care-n-Co for talking with me about their co-op and their personal ideas and recollections of the past and future.

Mirjana Kreiselmaier

Property Management

In the Maintenance Team, we have been looking at ways to improve our processes and the service we provide to the sector, especially in regards to Schedule 3 Maintenance. It became apparent through the feedback received from several tenants across the portfolio that we needed to sharpen the process and invite each tenant and co-operative to have input into the final product.

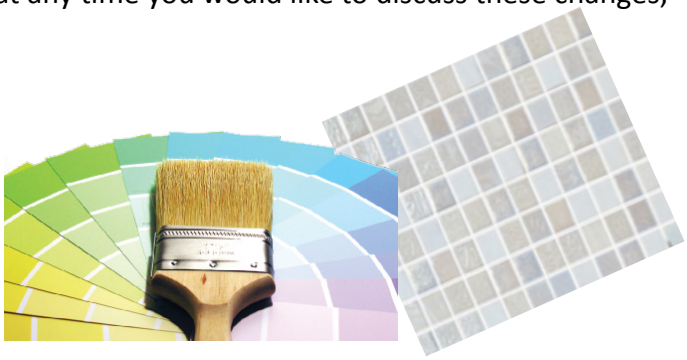
Moving towards the 2015/2016 Financial Year, CENSW has decided that we will begin to tender the bathroom and kitchen upgrades where we are delivering several within a particular co-op. We believe that this will deliver a better outcome, both financially and in regard to efficiency, across the board.

Our process has been changed for the better. We will advise each Co-op ahead of time any Schedule 3 Repair that has been identified for the relevant properties. At that point, we will engage three contractors to Tender for these projects. They will need to provide colour selection palettes, chosen by CENSW, to each tenant and co-operative prior to submitting their Tender to us. This will give choices of 3 different colour tiles for each surface, as well as any paint selections that may be required. A copy of the Scope of works will also be provided to the co-operative.

Each co-op and tenant will be required to sign off on these selections prior to the commencement of the project. CENSW will be actively involved throughout the process, from start to finish, to ensure that all works are completed to the letter of the scope, and any other agreed changes.

These changes will ensure a transparent process, and also involve the co-operatives and tenants in the important decisions being made on these works. If at any time you would like to discuss these changes, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Andrew Stassen, Property Manager



Who Me??

We at Common Equity love hearing your stories. We have so many interesting and diverse individuals living in our co-operatives and directly managed properties. You all have your own story to tell.

In the last edition of The Bulletin a short notice was placed calling for ones to contact us to share their stories to be published in the Newsletters. If you saw that and thought "*… I don't think that was meant for me*" then please reconsider.

By sharing your story you are helping others who can relate and be inspired by you. Your story may be as simple as how up sizing or downsizing a property has helped you, how living in a co-operative has provided your family with a stable home life, or even how living in a co-operative has provided you with life-long friendships and made you more apart of a community.

So please know this does mean *you*! If you would like to share your story for the next edition of the Newsletter please email lucy@commonequity.com.au or call Lucy on 02 9356 9212.

Quality Corner

NATIONAL REGULATORY SYSTEM COMMUNITY HOUSING (NRSCH)

The Registrar of Community Housing is responsible for promoting a culture of self-compliance and responding to evidence of non-compliance, in order to contribute to a well governed and managed Community Housing sector.

Common Equity undertakes registration on behalf of the sector to ensure our ongoing capacity to function as housing co-operatives. Outlined below is a snapshot of what is needed to meet compliance monitoring.

We collected **106** metrics (measures of performance and activities) about Tenant Housing services, Housing Assets, Community Engagement, Governance, Probity, Management and Financial Viability.

152 Documents: such as Business Plans, Risk Plans, Strategic Plans and Policy and Procedures

+

=

144 hours of work putting all this information together to ensure all requirements are met.

Common Equity recently received its latest recognition compliance report. All Performance criteria were met and we are fully compliant! Good news for Common Equity and the Sector.

People Power At Common Equity

Common Equity 'People Power' has been a strong theme for the start of the year. We are celebrating the individual recipients of the John Mant Scholarship and the tremendous achievements of Ruben Amores from Kapit Bahayan. We are pleased to welcome three new Member Directors: Peter Page, Holly Zwalf and Jimmy Lopez.

As probably the majority of our tenants & co-operative members know by now, Common Equity's board had decided last year to initiate a new programme, the **John Mant Scholarship Programme.** The aim of the board's thinking was to assist our co-operative members and tenants to engage in further education through the provision of incentives. CENSW offered 5 scholarships this time around, to both new and continuing students in their educational pursuits.

Congratulation to the 5 recipients!

For them the goal is to gain paid employment and thereby to increase opportunities and well-being in their lives. The recipients come from diverse cultural backgrounds, and are studying a variety of different subjects but they all have one thing in common. It is their belief that expanded options in life, for example through education and being engaged in a paid career are paramount to increase quality of everyday experiences. It fosters social and economic participation in civil society.

The current recipients are:

1. Paul Bowman, from Care-n-Co in Minto.
2. Rabo Rabo, from Merrylands, a directly managed site. Rabo is a member of the Karen Community.
3. Melisa Kanisek, a single parent from Janneli, a directly managed site.
4. Sean Tierney, from Ningana, a housing collective in the inner city.
5. Yel Win, a newly arrived refugee, living at Merrylands, a directly managed site.

I have asked the recipients questions about, what motivates and inspires them to undergo training and education at this point in time and what their medium and long-term goals are?

Rabo Rabo
Merrylands directly managed site

Rabo, is 25 years old and goes to TAFE, studying to become an industrial Chef. '*I would love to have my own kitchen one day,' he said 'and to make food for people*'. Mr Rabo, loves food and especially to cook for others and to contribute for people to be happier and to live in a better world, he said. Rabo has been living at Merrylands since its inception in May 2011. He has been described by one of the other residents living there, as '*he is very smart*'.

Left to right; Rabo Rabo and Yel Win

Yel Win
Merrylands directly managed site

Yel, 24 years of age, is also a member of the Karen Community. He commenced his tenancy with Common Equity at the end of 2013. The Karen people are an ethnic minority group who originate from Burma, where they were persecuted. They are traditionally farmers, living in small mountain villages, and growing rice and vegetables and raising animals. Karen people arrived in Australia as refugees and are settling in Australia as a people valuing community. Yel could not speak English when he arrived and is learning the language currently through further education and work related training at TAFE. Common Equity is pleased to be able to support Yel in his educational pursuits. His long-term goal is to become a car mechanic. He hopes to earn enough money to help his family and people here and back in Burma. He is very embedded in and supports the collective values of his community.

People Power At Common Equity

Paul Bowman

Paul Bowman
Care-n-Co Co-operative

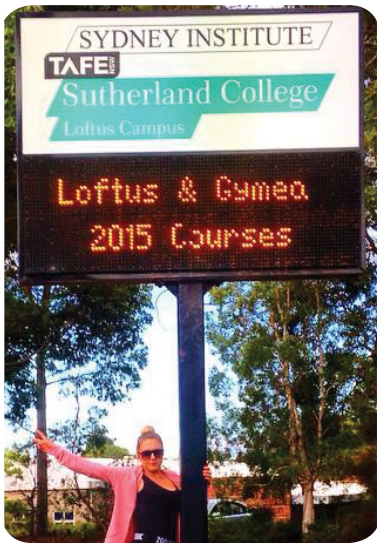
Paul Bowman from Care-n-Co, is a very inspiring man. When I met him and his mother I was told many stories that are a testimony to Paul's dedication and love for Computers. When he was just in 5th class, Paul was fascinated by Computers and by advice of his school teacher, Paul's parents decided to buy him a top notch computer, the Commodore 64K. And that was the beginning of Paul's career. Paul is using a wheelchair to get around and can't use his hands to full capacity which however, has not prevented him to get on in life and his social contributions are truly manifold. He has studied at TAFE and is now enrolled at the University of Canberra, studying for a Bachelor of Information Technology. Paul has taught many people including his family members in how to use a PC and also build the SERVER at Macquarie Fields TAFE and has assisted in web designs. He has held temporary positions over the years and is now looking for a permanent position to utilise his vast skills in Information Technology.

Melisa Kanisek
Janneli directly managed site

Melisa is a young single parent with two small children. She decided to go to Loftus TAFE and to study Community Services. She likes to work with people and is very inspiring and full of vigour. One can't help but believed that she really will make a difference to peoples lives. She wants to obtain a Bachelor of Social Work as a long-term goal. Reading through the eligibility criteria for the Scholarship, Mel said to me. '*What if I need a drivers license as part of the job description in my field of work, would that be acceptable as part of the scholarship*'? At the same time I watched a documentary on a job agency discussing the support requirements especially for young people. A drivers license was identified as the number one criteria in gaining employment. I was very impressed how alert and quick Mel recognised her employment needs. This is the language of success!

When interviewed, Mel said '*the scholarship is going to assist me in getting my license which is extremely important for me to have in the career path I have chosen. It is also important as I have 2 young children that need to be driven to school and picked up, and it's very difficult going from one place to another via public transport everyday which is what I have been doing. The amount I pay for childcare is quite high and having the scholarship to help pay for the courses will significantly help me with affording the childcare costs.*

I am very appreciative of this opportunity I have been given by Common Equity'.



Melissa Kanisek outside the TAFE Sutherland College.

Sean Tierney
Ningana, Housing Collective

Sean, last but not least comes from Ningana, a Collective in the inner City. He has been studying for a while and has embarked on completing the Bachelor of Law. This requires discipline and hard work. His application and references are highly motivating. Sean has high ideals and believes in social justice and aims via this degree in Law to work in an area that inspires his beliefs in social justice. He is passionate about co-operatives and believes that there is plenty of work to be done in the co-operative sector. Sean stated, '*on*

People Power At Common Equity

completing this degree I hope to gain employment as a lawyer and advocate for disadvantaged groups in society. This may one day extend to involvement in politics and making some contribution to policy making.'

In conclusion I want to thank Mel, Sean, Yel, Rabo and Paul for their openness in discussing with me their education and career hopes and wishes. I have encountered so much vigour, belief, strength and uniqueness in each one. On behalf of Common Equity we wish you all the best for your future careers. (Mirjana Kreiselmaier)

APCO president **Ruben Amores** was the lone awardee of the **2015 NSW Premier's Multicultural Community Medal for Lifetime Community Service** during the annual Premier's Harmony Dinner held at the Rose Hill Gardens Grand Pavilion Thursday, 12 March 2015. Ruben was recognised for his many voluntary community leadership roles including being the founding President of the highly acclaimed Kapit-bahayan co-operative Ltd (KCL), current President of the Alliance of Philippine Community Organisation Inc. (APCO) and founding chair of the Auburn Small Community Organisation Network Inc. (ASCON).

NSW Premier Mike Baird MP and Minister for Western Sydney and Minister for Community and Citizenship Victor Dominello MP awarded Ruben the very prestigious medal before the some 1400 dinner guests that included other government Officials, Ministers, and Members of Parliament, Foreign Consular Officers, Business, Education and Community Leaders.

**Photo and article snippets, courtesy of Munting Nayon News Magazine.*

APCO Inc President Ruben Amores accepting the Medal from the Minister Citizenship and Communities Victor Dominello.

Paul Simes Interviews Ruben Amores

I asked Ruben which projects of the many he had worked on over more than 20 years of volunteering were particularly dear to his heart.

He immediately named Kapit-bayahan Co-operative Ltd of which he is founding President. Since receiving the Premier's award Ruben had been elected as Chair of the Auburn Small Community Organisation Network Inc (ASCON).

Ruben explained that ASCON is advocating for the small and emerging community organisations, which are run by volunteer in the Auburn area. Auburn is among the most multicultural in population but also among the most disadvantaged area because of its high concentration of refugees and newly-arrived migrants ASCON aims to build community capacity by providing training to community leaders and service facilities for individuals and organisations to grow and develop and advocating and supporting many multicultural community issues.

ASCON is famous for initiating many multicultural initiatives like the Regent's Park Community Hub where small-unfunded organisations can have free access of a meeting space room, various office equipment's and communication facilities. The annual Flavours of Auburn is a multicultural festival of traditional food and cultures had grown to include guided food tours and healthy food books.

Ruben also spoke of his work as President of the Alliance of Philippine Community Organisations Inc. (APCO) and how they are currently working to establish a Credit Union to provide low interest loans for members who are facing financial emergencies like travelling home immediately,

People Power At Common Equity

giving assistance to victims of calamities or bereavement expenses. APCO being a statewide aggrupation of Filipino-Australian groups was at the forefront of giving massive emergency assistance to the victims of super-typhoon Haiyan last year.

APCO is currently managing a "Fill in the Gap" programme which aims to remove barriers to employment experienced by refugees and migrants by providing free job skills training. He noted how important this program is as the Federal government did not provide funding for newly arrived-migrants and refugees who had been granted work visas.

This year we welcomed three **new Member Directors to the Common Equity Board.** The generosity of time given to the Board of Common Equity by all our Board Members is greatly appreciated. We hope the new Board Members find the role of director invigorating and rewarding.

Peter Page
Member Director

Having always had a deep interest in sports Peter would often enjoy playing cricket, tennis and golf. Still a keen sportsman Peter now enjoys cycling and beach swimming.

Peter's background is in economics after graduating from the university of New England. Formerly a primary school teacher, Peter later went on to teach at a local high school.

Having a passion for traveling he has traveled extensively especially through Asia and the Pacific. This love of travel and teaching brought Peter to Bangkok where he had the experience of working as a supervisor at the English Language Programme at the Royal School in Bangkok.

His experience as a teacher and opportunities to immerse himself into various cultures has provided him with a broad and deep interest and outlook on life. These experiences has enabled Peter to better relate to people from different backgrounds, a skill that he feels is something most valuable and unique that he can bring to the Board.

When I asked Peter what was his motivation to become a Board Member for CENSW he told me that he wanted to learn more about co-operative living played in public housing in Australia. Whilst living overseas Peter had his own experiences of what it is like living in a small community bound by a common language and interest. "*There were many similarities with co-operative living and my foreign experiences have helped me greatly in this regard*".

Peter believes that those who have the opportunity to become engaged in co-operative living have an important and unique opportunity to contribute to a style of living not easily found in the wider community. "*It is essential that members be willing to become engaged and make a contribution to the best of their abilities".*

For Peter, one of the most important jobs for CENSW and it's Co-operatives is to bring our story to people on all levels of administration throughout Australia, to showcase to all levels of government that the future of public housing should be steered towards Community Housing and a style of living that is already demonstrating how well people can run the sector when given the chance and the responsibility.

People Power At Common Equity

Holly Zwalf
Member Director & Secretary

Holly has a long history of activism, spanning from issues such as Indigenous rights to anti-nuclear movement. Six years ago Holly moved from Queensland to Sydney whilst writing her PhD in creative writing and gender & sexuality studies. During her final year of her thesis Holly was living at Planet X Housing Co-operative where she still lives to this day. Holly credits the affordable housing and the support that she received from her housing co-operative with helping her to finish her thesis.

Holly is currently the Chair of the Board of Governance for SWOP NSW (Sex Workers Outreach Project), in between that, being a Member Director on the Board of CENSW Holly somehow also manages to find time to volunteer at the Sydney Story Factory, which is an organisation that runs creative writing workshops for children from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Holly feels that it is essential to have some co-operative members on the Board to help ensure that the needs of the co-operative members are being met and to help steer the organisation in a way that will best benefit the co-operative sector. Holly does not see CENSW as just a business and acknowledges that whilst it is important that business-minded people help run the organisation, it is integral that the co-operative voice is present in all discussions. "*We best know what our needs are, and how they can be met".*

Holly's motivation for becoming a Board member at CENSW is to passionately advocate for the growth of the sector.

Holly does not see CENSW as just providing people with affordable housing, but rather providing an opportunity for people to create intentional communities that are self-governed and provide housing stability.

Jimmy Lopez
Member Director

In the late eighties Jimmy was studying his Doctor of Philosophy in Education and Master of Arts in Teaching in the Philippines. Jimmy is now a certified and practicing accountant as well as being the President of Sedgwick Housing Co-Operative.

Jimmy has a lot of expertise that he hopes to bring to the Board at CENSW.

Jimmy has been an integral part of the formation of our most recent co-operative, Sedgwick.

He has seen the co-operative form and blossom and is the proud host of community and celebratory events at the co-operative. Jimmy has often been seen performing traditional dance in traditional costume at events.

People Power At Common Equity

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be a property officer at Common Equity for the day? Alan Meek, our property officers gives us a little insight into his day.

The interesting part of a Property Officer's role is that every day brings new and different challenges. Although there are the regular maintenance issues to attend to such as broken lights and leaking taps, it also involves assisting co-operatives in solving other property matters which arise in their properties.

Alan Meek joined Common Equity NSW as a Property Officer in April 2014

This could include providing advice on procedures with councils and neighbors with trees and adjoining fences to reviewing and sourcing quotes on their behalf. Other property issues include providing advice on easements and rights of way, and arranging termite inspections.

Ensuring that properties are safe for residents is always a primary concern for a Property Officer.

Repairs form a major part of the daily role including faulty hot water systems, leaking rooves, electrical faults, blocked sewer lines and broken hinges.

Should there be a major maintenance issue outside of business hours, CENSW are able to assist by calling or texting: 0432 664 486.

Something Fun

COUNTRIES OF EUROPE

M S T A F A A W M Y N E S E A

D E L Q I N I U X E G C U N L

J E F O D R I R T W K N R G B

D W N O V G T H A X C A A L A

O N R M L A E S L G I R L A N

C R A E A R K A U N L F E N I

A Z B L L R G I A A B U B D A

N H E A N U K M A Y U Y B I D

O A N C T I O L G R P N C C N

M D G R H R F U C Q E A Y E A

S E O H U N G A R Y R M P L L

Y P S C O T L A N D G R R A E

D N A L R E Z T I W S E U N R

M A L T A I N E M R A G S D I

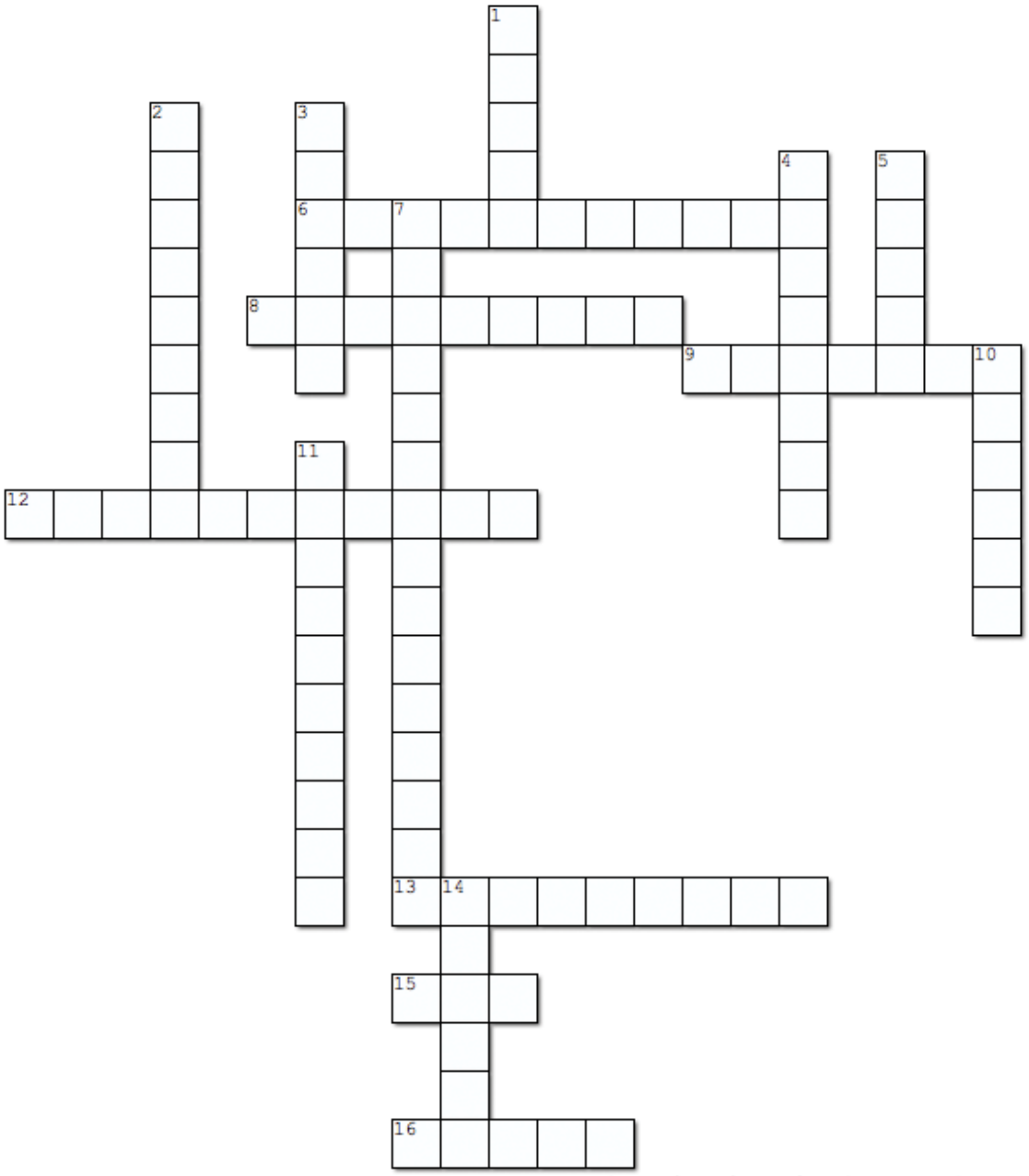
C R O A T I A I N O T S E P H

ALBANIA
AUSTRIA
BULGARIA
CZECH
ESTONIA
GERMANY
IRELAND
NETHERLANDS
ROMANIA
SWITZERLAND

ANDORRA
BELARUS
CROATIA
DENMARK
FINLAND
HUNGARY
MALTA
PORTUGAL
SCOTLAND

ARMENIA
BELGIUM
CYPRUS
ENGLAND
FRANCE
ICELAND
MONACO
REPUBLIC
SLOVAKIA

Something Fun



Across

6. American river
8. London born supermodel
9. Waterfall located in Canada
12. One of the lead singer in the Beatles
13 2014 thriller staring Ben Affleck
15. A famous Kardashian
16. Capital of France

Down

1. A spicy pepper
2. German composer and pianist born in 1770
3. City in India
4. 1961 move 'Breakfast at ...'
5. Marsupial native to Australia
7. 2015 movie The Theory of Everything was based on this British Physicist
10. Worlds second largest continent
11. Capital of New Zealand
14. .... Newton John

Chicken With Potatoes, Prunes And Pomegranate Molasses

Here's a one-pot dish that requires nothing more than throwing everything in and waiting. Yes, really.

For the amount of work involved, the depth of flavor is remarkable; plus, there's the bonus of w the washing up. It's a dish to keep up your sleeve for the cold weekends to come. Serves six and keeps well in the fridge for reheating.

Ingredients

- 2kg Chicken portions without the skin
- 16 Medium potatoes (any waxy type that holds it shape well when cooked)
- 3 Large onions peeled and quartered
- 120g Pitted prunes
- 30g Grated fresh ginger
- 100ml soy sauce
- 90ml Pomegranate molasses (available in all Harris Farm Markets or specialty food stores)
- 1 tbsp Maple syrup
- 120g Sweet mango chutney
- 1/2 tsp Whole black peppercorns (or more if you love pepper!)
- 20g Oregano sprigs (plus some to garnish)

You don't need to bother so much about measuring ingredients with a recipe like this

To make this dish vegetarian, simply swap chicken for a firm root vegetable such as carrots or parsnips.

Heat the oven to 200C. Mix all the ingredients in a bowl, and then tip into a large casserole dish.

Cover with a lid (or use thick foil or doubled over sheets of foil crimped together to seal in the heat), and bake for 10 minutes.

Lower the heat to 180C, and cook for two hours longer, stirring every now and then.

Only do this once or twice, you don't want to let the steam out or tear the foil.

When the time is up, remove the dish from the oven and serve.

Serve with a green salad and some good bread to mop up the lovely juices.

Hot Apple Crunch

As the nights get colder keep yourself warm with this delicious hot apple crunch, a sure favorite with the whole family.

INGREDIENTS

- 2 x 400g cans of pie apples
- 1 tsp of ground cinnamon
- 2 tablespoons of mixed berry jam
- 1 cup of toasted muesli

If desired you can also add 1 tsp of finely grated lemon rind.

HOW TO MAKE

Combine apple, cinnamon and lemon rind in a bowl. Divide jam between 4 (1 1/4 cup-capacity) heatproof, microwave-safe dishes. Top with apple mixture. Cover with plastic wrap. Microwave on HIGH (100%) for 2-3 minutes or until heated through.

Sprinkle muesli on top of apple mixture. Microwave on MEDIUM (50%), uncovered, for 15 to 20 seconds or until muesli is just warm. Serve hot with double cream, pouring cream or ice-cream.

USEFUL LINKS AND CONTACTS

AFTER HOURS TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION LINE

PHONE **1800 152 152**
MON - FRI 4:30PM - 10PM; Saturday, Sunday and Public Holidays 10am - 10pm)

Takes telephone referrals evenings and weekends from agencies that assist people seeking shelter for the night. Accommodation is booked until the next working day.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LINE

PHONE **1800 656 463** (7days, 24 hours)

It provides telephone counseling, information and referrals for people who are experiencing or have experienced domestic violence. It makes referrals to women's refuges and family support services, counseling, police and courts, lawyers and hospitals. It helps with transport, emergency accommodation and other relevant support.

EMERGENCY, FIRE, AMBULANCE Phone **000**

HOUSING NSW

PHONE **1300 468 746**
www.housing.nsw.gov.au

Delivers 24/7 a wide range of services

REGISTRAR OF COMMUNITY HOUSING

Phone **1800 330 940**
Fax **02 8741 2522**
E registrar@housing.nsw.gov.au
www.rch.nsw.gov.au

Responsible for regulating community housing providers in NSW under the National Regulation System for Community Housing.

TENANTS UNION NSW

www.tenants.org.au

YOUR RIGHTS AS A TENANT IN NSW

Monday - Friday 8:30am-5pm
Call **133 220**

AFTER HOURS EMERGENCY

Should there be a major maintenance issue outside of business hours, CENSW are able to assist by calling or texting: **0432 664 486**

HOMELESS PERSONS INFORMATION CENTER

PHONE **1800 234 566**
Direct Call **9265 9081**
7 Days, 9am - 1pm, 2pm - 10pm)

Information and referral service for people who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness. It provides professional assessments and referrals for clients seeking accommodation and support services.

LEGAL AID NSW

PHONE **1300 888 529**
www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au

Provides services to disadvantaged people

LAW ACCESS NSW

Phone **1300 888 529**
Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm

COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE OF NSW (NCOSS)

Phone **02 9211 2599**
Fax **02 9281 1968**
E info@ncoss.org.au
www.ncoss.org.au

The peak body for the social and community services sector in NSW

HOUSING APPEALS COMMITTEE (HAC)

Free Call 1800 629 794
Phone 02 8741 2555
Fax 02 8741 2566
E hac@dhs.nsw.gov.au
www.hac.nsw.gov.au

An independent avenue of appeal for social housing clients in NSW

NSW FEDERATION OF HOUSING ASSOCIATION

Phone: 02 9281 7144 Fax: 02 9281 7603
E: nswfha@communityhousing.org.au
www.communityhousing.org.au

NSW CIVIL AND ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL (NCAT)

Phone: 1300 135 399 Fax: 1300 135 247
www.ncat.nsw.gov.au

Former Consumer Trade & Tenancy Tribunal (CTTT)