

Southern Cross Housing Tenant Newsletter

Spring 2023



YOUR HOME, OUR PLACE – TENANT STORIES

Welcome to our Spring Newsletter!

Achieving 99 years of life is no small feat. As we age, we might carry the accumulation of years on our bodies, but we can stay young at heart and have the determination to not let the years weigh on our spirit. Recently, our oldest resident Harry turned 99 years old and, in our opinion, Harry looks like he could go on for another 99 years!

Harry has been living in Nowra all his life. Harry said, “My wife and I have been in this very house for almost 33 years, previously we were living in Callala Bay, and I don’t plan on leaving here any time soon.” With his faithful companion cattle dog by his side, Harry expressed his love for his community and is very thankful to his neighbours and friends in the area that assist him when he needs it the most. Harry said “My neighbours and friends come and check in on me every now and then, offer to take me anywhere I need to go. Nigel, who lives two doors down, has been extremely kind to me for nearly 25 years now. He’s a great bloke.”

Getting older is inevitable, and while we can’t control our age, we can certainly control how fast or slow our body ages. Harry has most certainly put this into practice, and even though 15 years ago he was told that he had a terminal illness, Harry is still going strong and answered the age-old question of, ‘How do you age gracefully?’ by saying, “Looking after my body of course! I do the same exercise routine every day, I get up in the morning and I do knee bends, squats and stretches so I’m still able to get around and move.” Harry wanted to also express the importance of receiving help from his My Aged Care package. Harry said, “My Aged Care support provider has been extremely helpful, I’ve been supported by the same care worker now for more than 12 months and I couldn’t be happier with the services they are providing me.” Harry mentioned that when he was first assessed for My Aged Care, he was given a Level 1 package, however because his needs changed, he applied for a re-assessment, and he was given a Level 3 package.

Happy Birthday Harry! We hope you enjoyed your special day with your family, and we wish you good health for the future. If you or anyone you know is over the age of 65 and needs help to apply for a My Aged Care package, you can call My Aged Care directly on 1800 200 422. If you would like support to call My Aged Care, call your Housing Officer today on 1300 757 885.



Harry - Pictured with his award

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TALK TO US

Southern Cross Housing strives to continuously improve the services that we provide, and we appreciate any feedback that you have for us. If you have feedback (good or bad), please head to our website where you will find an online form that you can use to share your thoughts. www.scch.org.au/compliments-complaints-appeals/

If you would prefer to speak directly to us, please call 1300 757 885. You can also reach us by email at info@scch.org.au.

CEO MESSAGE

Welcome to the Spring Edition of our Newsletter for 2023.

I hope you are enjoying all the stories, articles, and helpful information that is provided. You'll get to read about what Southern Cross Housing has been working on recently, as well as upcoming events and initiatives. We've also featured some of our wonderful residents and how they are making a difference to their homes and communities. You can read an interesting profile on the most recent property care competition winner, Gilbert Zangger, and how he created his own garden. Don't forget to check out the selection of family-friendly events from the Shoalhaven and Southern areas to get you outdoors again and exploring the local area this Spring.

Southern Cross Housing was proud to launch our 2023-2024 Reconciliation Action Plan, or RAP, in July; this plan provides the organisation with a strategic framework of actions to support the reconciliation movement. These actions are divided into four areas: Relationships, Respect, Opportunities and Governance. We will report more news on the implementation of the RAP in future newsletters.

Southern Cross Housing is committed to working collaboratively with all our tenants and community partners. We especially appreciate the contribution of tenant members of our Tenant Advisory Committees. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to hear directly from you and discuss what is working well and, at times, what isn't. We are seeking more people who are keen to take up this opportunity to have an influential role and work with us as tenant representatives. If this interests you, please contact the Communities Assist team by email at communities@scch.org.au.

Kind regards,
Alex Pontello
 Chief Executive Officer




Building Community Futures



Do We Have Your Email?

Southern Cross Housing would like to communicate faster and more efficiently with you, and we want to ensure that we have your current email address. Updating your email address is easy, just phone the office on 1300 757 885, speak to your Housing Officer or send an email to info@scch.org.au.

IN THE NEWS

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY

Southern Cross Housing acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land in which we operate, including the Yuin Country, Dharawal Country and Ngarigo Country, and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respect to them, their culture and to Elders past, present and emerging in the spirit of reconciliation.

CONNECTING OVER A HAIRCUT & COFFEE

The SCH Communities Assist Team along with Kiama & Shoalhaven Community College recently worked together to provide SCH tenants with an opportunity to have a free haircut and to enjoy coffee and a chat with each other. The haircuts were completed by students who are undertaking their training at the college and provided hands on experience for these students.

Kiama & Shoalhaven Community College, Community Engagement Officer, Sarah Cimino said, "Our Hair and Beauty School provides students with the largest and best equipped training facilities locally, and offers nationally recognised, hands-on training to small groups in a supportive environment. Our classrooms are set up as working salons and give students the opportunity to interact with real customers, take bookings and practice their skills in a real-world setting. Students are always looking forward to 'salon days' and love being able to make people feel refreshed and pampered."

The day was a great success with all participants getting a fresh & free haircut and providing wonderful, positive feedback. If you are interested in having your hair cut at the college, please call the Shoalhaven Community College on 0493664225. Haircuts are performed for the low price of a gold coin donation.



SCH resident receiving a haircut from an SCC Student

WHAT A TYPICAL SCH SMS LOOKS LIKE

Southern Cross Housing (SCH) communicates with you in different ways, in person, via letters that are sent in the post, phone calls, emails and by SMS messages. The majority of SMS's that you receive from SCH will be about upcoming inspections, maintenance jobs or a message to remind you about an SCH event that is happening near you. You are unable to reply to these SMS's, but if you have any questions regarding the message that you received, please call the SCH office on 1300 757 885. We greatly appreciate the time that you take to read our communications with you.



ACCESS YOUR POTENTIAL – LITERACY AND TECH SAVVY COURSE

Keen to learn to do more with technology? Or simply want to carry out your everyday online activities more easily, confidently and safely?

SCH is partnering with Kiama and Shoalhaven Community Colleges to provide a special course that aims to improve resident's reading, writing and digital literacy skills. The tailor-made course has been designed for individuals to connect with others and learn how to safely access online documents, use smart phone apps and increase reading and writing skills.

The course will run in October for a period of 6 weeks. Sessions will be run on a Tuesday from 9.30am to 2.30pm in Nowra. Places are limited so get in quick and give the Communities Assist Team a call on 1300 757 885 to register your interest.



IN THE NEWS

SPRING CLEAN YOUR HOUSE

Spring is the perfect time to refresh and rejuvenate your living space. By embarking on a thorough spring-cleaning journey, you can welcome the new season with a clean, organised, and refreshed home. Here are some practical tips and creative ideas to help you tackle your spring cleaning with ease:

Create a Plan: Before diving into spring cleaning, it's a good idea to create a plan of action. Make a checklist of all the tasks you want to accomplish and prioritise them. Breaking down the cleaning process into manageable chunks will help you stay motivated and focused.

Declutter and Organise: Start by decluttering your home. Go through each room and identify items you no longer need or use. You can donate or sell them to clear up space and create a more organised environment. You can purchase small storage solutions like bins, baskets, and shelves to keep things tidy and easily accessible.

Clean Room by Room: Now it's time to deep clean each room in your home. Begin with the most challenging areas, such as the kitchen and bathrooms, and work your way through the rest of the house. Dust surfaces, clean windows and mirrors.

Remember, spring cleaning is not just about tidying up. It's an opportunity to breathe new life into your surroundings, bringing a sense of renewal and positivity into your everyday life. A clean and organised home can have a profound impact on your mental well-being, promoting a sense of calm and clarity.

There is support for you if you feel that you are unable to cope with a cluttered environment. If you need support, please speak to your Housing Officer by calling 1300 757 885.



SCH JUNE STEVENS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM OPEN FOR APPLICATIONS 2ND OCTOBER 2023

The June Stevens Scholarship Program provides financial support for our tenants by assisting with the cost of education, sports activities or special interests like cultural learning and arts that help them to achieve their full potential. To register your interest, to receive an application form when the program opens please call the CA Team on 1300 757 885 or email communities@scch.org.au



SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY TO ACCESS PRIVATE RENTALS – SCH KEYS2RENTING COURSE

SCH's Keys2Renting program is a 2-hour online short course that is designed to help community members navigate the private rental market, especially for those who have just left home and are now searching for their own property!

Daniel Pearson, Community Development Officer with SCH said "Our recent course was delivered online through Microsoft Teams and featured a host of guest speakers including Sureway, Integrity Real Estate, Service NSW and specialist staff from SCH's Tenancy, Assets and Access and Demand Teams."

At the end of the course, all participants received a Certificate of Completion that can be used as a reference and proof that they understand what it takes to maintain a private rental when applying for a property. Some participants of the program have gone on to obtain a rental after attending the course, which is awesome!!

The next Keys2Renting course will be run on the 28th September 2023. To register, please call the Communities Assist Team on 1300 757 885 or email us at communities@scch.org.au.

IN THE NEWS

SCH & NSW POLICE WHITE RIBBON CUP

SCH has a long history of providing support and accommodation to people who are experiencing domestic and family violence. SCH provides many properties that are allocated as priority housing for the exclusive use of around ten not-for-profit organisations based in the Shoalhaven.

It is no surprise then that SCH supported the inaugural U/16 White Ribbon Cup that was staged at the Bomaderry Sporting Fields. The aim of the day was to bring awareness to – and take a stand against – domestic and family violence. The event was organised by the South Coast Police District, in conjunction with the NRL and a range of Shoalhaven-based not-for-profit organisations. Students from Nowra, Vincentia, Shoalhaven and Bomaderry High Schools attended the event to participate in the knock-out footy competition.



SCH Staff Daniel Pearson and Kirsty Austin with participants Luke Butler and Wyl Brandon from Shoalhaven High School

SCH's deep commitment to supporting victims of domestic and family violence extends beyond the provision of priority housing allocations for NGO's that deliver DV related services. SCH also administers the NSW State Government's "Rent Choice Start Safely Program" in the Shoalhaven.

Under the Rent Choice Start Safely program, SCH assists clients with accessing wrap-around case management support and rent assistance under a Private Rental subsidy. This subsidy supports people escaping domestic and family violence with short to medium-term (up to three years) financial assistance to find affordable housing in the private rental market. Start Safely provides time-limited financial relief while the participant's situation is stabilised. The subsidy is linked to an integrated support program and other existing private rent assistance products.

For more information about access to any of the above programs, please call the SCH Access and Demand Team on 1300 757 885. If you or someone you know needs help, there are various national numbers that can provide help. As always, if you are in immediate danger, call 000.

SCH NEW BRANDING AND NEW UNIFORMS

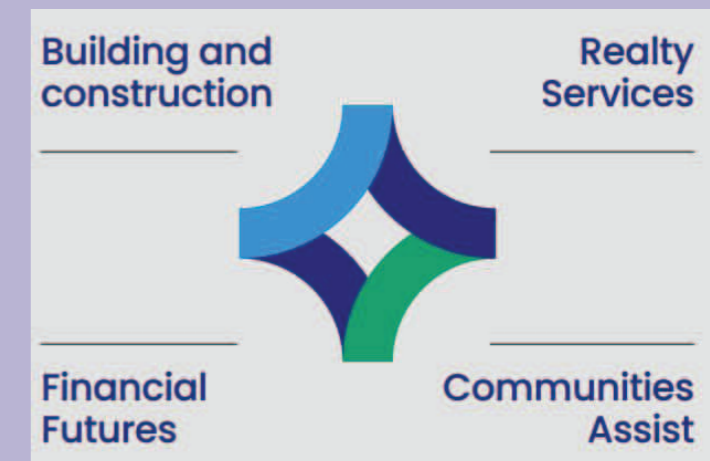
We are proud to announce that SCH has a new logo. The new logo was developed in recognition of how SCH has grown and evolved over the years. The new logo is a strong and unified icon that represents the four pillars of the organisation - Building and Construction, Property Management, Housing Solutions and Communities Assist. We are proud of the logo and think it's a modern, digital interpretation of SCH that captures our mission to deliver excellent quality, performance and service support.

Alongside the launch of our new logo, SCH have developed a new website which allows residents and other members of the public to quickly and easily access information, make requests and provide feedback.

Chief Executive Officer Alex Pontello said, "The new website, which has the same web address as the previous one, is far more sophisticated and easier to use than the last one. We are aiming for an AA rating on accessibility for people with vision impairment and the site can be translated into a range of languages at the click of a button".

Luke Gilligan, Manager for IT and Compliance said, "We will be updating the website on a continuous basis, and we will be using customer feedback and experiences to do this. So, if you have a suggestion, please let us know by submitting your feedback via the website."

The five main options on the website were chosen based on the most common pages people visited. The menu was structured in a similar way, with priority given to how users will typically navigate the site.



IN THE NEWS

PROPERTY CARE AWARDS

One of this year's recipients of the SCH Property Recognition Award, Gilbert Zangger, who is a resident of Bega, shared his story recently of creating a garden at his home. Gilbert has been a tenant with SCH for 13 years and loves the peaceful life the Bega Valley provides.

When asked about how he takes care of his lawn, Gilbert said, "What I love is that it's just an hour of my time and it's satisfying to see how good it looks." Gilbert has a keen interest in growing veggies and fresh herbs including Thai basil because he and his partner love Vietnamese dishes, "I just grow the veggies that I like, and it's good to have it fresh." Gilbert reflected he was not very organised when creating his garden over a 6-year period, he just enjoyed doing things on the spur of the moment, "It's so nice to have a garden, you know," he said, smiling.

As well as gardening, Gilbert enjoys making cards from his own photography, which he sells at cafes around his area. It took him a while to summon up the courage until a local kiosk owner encouraged him, "They thought they were good because they were truly local souvenirs."

Gilbert expressed how important it was for him to have stable housing, especially these days while the housing market is so volatile. Having a home has been a great part of his family's life. Gilbert still remembered how extremely grateful he was to move in 13 years ago, "I was house-sitting for 2 years before I came here. I stopped worrying about where I was going to be tomorrow; and it was great for my kids as I had a place for them." They are now adults, and Gilbert now has a 1-year-old grandchild, but he said, "It's still important, it's just nice for them to come back to somewhere they've known as a family home."

Gilbert also remembered what the garden was like at first, "A whole lot of high grass, I have created this whole garden as it is. By the time I moved in they had cut the grass and I started thinking about what I wanted to do with it." The garden came 2 or 3 years later, "I just asked if I could do stuff to the garden, and they (SCH) said yes."

When asked how it felt to receive the Recognition Award for his property, Gilbert was touched to be recognised. In his quiet, unassuming way, he said it would be nice if his award could have an influence on other people; "thinking they might be able to do something as well, who knows?"



Gilbert Zangger - Property Care Winner

NAIDOC WEEK 2023 COLOURING-IN COMPETITION

This year, Southern Cross Housing partnered with several schools in our local area to celebrate emerging Elders in honour of NAIDOC Week's theme, "For Our Elders". We ran a colouring-in competition and received many fantastic entries from all the kids across the different schools. We also had a colouring-in station at the Shoalhaven NAIDOC Family Fun Day where we received even more great entries.

The competition was fierce, with many budding artists submitting their work. We selected winners from all schools and attended in-person to hand out a range of art-themed prizes and certificates. A special thank you to Nowra East Public School, Cullunghutti Preschool and The Cullunghutti Early Learning Centre for making the project such a success.



NSW Housing Manager Shane Meijer with Kairi from Cullunghutti

IN THE NEWS

SOUTHERN CROSS HOUSING RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN

Southern Cross Housing (SCH) is proud to announce the release of the organisation's 2023-2024 Reconciliation Action Plan which outlines how SCH will play its part in closing the gap between First Nations people and their fellow Australians. The SCH RAP has been prepared in collaboration with Reconciliation Australia, a federal body that was set up in 2000 to build and promote reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

"This is an important step for us as an organisation to work with and create opportunities for First Nations peoples, promote processes and practices that are culturally safe, and play a part in advancing reconciliation in Australia. The SCH RAP provides SCH with a strategic framework to support the reconciliation movement, with actionable items across four areas: Relationships, Respect, Opportunities, and Governance" said Alex Pontello, Chief Executive Officer of Southern Cross Housing.

Reconciliation Australia CEO, Karen Mundine, said "This Reflect RAP enables Southern Cross Housing to deepen its understanding of its sphere of influence and the unique contribution it can make to lead progress across the five dimensions. Getting these first steps right will ensure the sustainability of future RAP's and reconciliation initiatives and provide meaningful impact toward Australia's reconciliation journey".

SCH's NSW Housing Manager, Shane Meijer said "SCH has set clear timelines, targets, and goals to hold itself accountable for the achievement of the actions under its RAP. It will be actively working with employees and engaging them throughout the journey to ensure that the benefits of this RAP are felt throughout the whole organisation and that all SCH staff are involved in bringing it to life".

The RAP was officially launched in Nowra on Wednesday 5th July, at the Shoalhaven NAIDOC Fun Day 2023 and can be accessed online at [23-24 Reconciliation Action Plan – Southern Cross Housing \(schh.org.au\)](https://www.schh.org.au)



IN THE GARDEN

The beautiful season of Spring brings with it a call for action in the garden. In this edition, a Bega Valley Tenant's Advisory Committee (TAC) member shares her knowledge on how to spring into Spring in the garden. We thank her for passion and contribution to this newsletter.



Flowers to plant now	Vegetables and Herbs to plant now	
Snow drop	Spinach	Basil
Dwarf iris	Lettuce	Chamomile
Camellia	Radish	Dill
Poppy	Kale	Chives
	Peas	Coriander
	Onions	
	Carrots	
Jobs to do now	Jobs to do now	
Tidy your garden borders by weeding them with a hoe.	Start to sow hardy annuals outdoors as well as half-hardy annuals in a propagator, either in a greenhouse or on your windowsill.	
You can add mulch with your compost or manure to give your beds a great start.		

IN THE Kitchen

COMMUNITY PANTRIES

Have you ever been in a situation where you have run out of food and don't have anything to eat? In the last year, more than one in five Australians have been in a similar situation. Running out of food can be a scary thought but hunger is more common than people think. At least once a week, around half of people who are affected skip a meal or cut down on the size of their meals to make their food go further. Food insecurity can have a snowball effect if someone is experiencing hardship and can increase levels of stress and anxiety. Unexpected bills or housing payments are often the immediate reason someone goes hungry. It can have lasting emotional, financial and physical effects making it difficult for someone to get back on track, stay focused and concentrate on building a better financial position for themselves.

The good news is, there are several support services out there to help if you are struggling to pay for groceries and additional strategies are available to use so that you don't have to panic not knowing where your next meal is coming from.

Nowra - Community Food Store:

10/158 Princes Hwy, South Nowra, 02 4402 9126

Ulladulla – Resource centre:

Unit 1/78 St Vincent St, Ulladulla NSW 2539, 02 4454 0477

Batemans Bay – South Care Community Aid:

2837 Princes Highway, Moruya NSW, 02 4474 0984

Bega – Sapphire Community Pantry:

2 Peden Street, Bega NSW 2550, 0490 843 518

Cooma Life Gate Community Foodcare:

5 Yulin Ave., Cooma NSW, 02 6452 5229



Policy News

RENT REDUCTION POLICY

This edition's spotlight explains SCH's policy requirements when applying for a rent reduction.

Circumstances where a tenant/household member may apply to pay the minimum amount of rent of five dollars (\$5.00) per week, can only occur where a tenant or household member:

- Enters a Rehabilitation Centre for Alcohol & Other Related Drugs.
- Is not eligible for Centrelink benefits because they are in custody.
- Enters a Nursing Home /Respite Care/Refuge (or other safe place) and they are required to pay for that accommodation.

In order to be eligible for a rent reduction, a tenant must substantiate all claims by providing the following information:

- A letter head from the Rehabilitation Centre/Centre of Care outlining the reason for entering the Rehabilitation Centre and/or Centre of Care.
- The commencement date and end date of Rehabilitation/ Care.
- The request for minimum rent.

The maximum period a tenant is entitled to be paying "minimum rent" is three months (12 weeks). Generally, if the period is in excess of three months, the tenant will be requested to surrender their tenancy. However, in circumstances where the tenant is participating in a rehabilitation program or is in hospital, they can apply to retain their tenancy for up to six months. The request for an extension must occur after the initial 3 months. Approval will be granted at the discretion of the Chief Operating Officer.

Should a request for a rent reduction be rejected, a tenant can appeal the decision. This can be done by either contacting your local SCH office or by completing the on-line Feedback Form or by emailing feedback@scch.org.au

For more details, please refer to the T8 Rent Social Housing policy & T2 Absence from Property policy available on SCH Website Southern Cross Housing – Building community futures (scch.org.au)



Bushfire Preparedness

SPRING IS A PERFECT TIME FOR BUSHFIRE PREPAREDNESS

Bushfires are a common hazard of Australian summers and spring is the perfect time to get prepared around the home for the season ahead. You and your family can also work on having a bushfire-prepared mindset, so you feel ready and will know what to do in the event of a bushfire in your area.

Here are some tips to help you prepare for bushfire season:

- Prepare a Bushfire Survival Plan. The Plan should outline the steps you and your family need to take to ensure your safety. Remember, bushfire conditions change rapidly so don't just have a Plan A; also consider Plans B, C and D.
- Understand bushfire danger ratings. Make sure you are familiar with different Bushfire Alert levels and Fire Danger Ratings. This will help you know when to trigger your Bushfire Survival Plan.
- Identify neighbourhood safer places (NSPs) close to your property and note their location in the Bushfire Survival Plan. NSPs are refuges of last resort in the event the Bushfire Survival Plan cannot be implemented. Consult the local fire authority for a list of NSPs in the area.
- Clean up outside. Remove outdoor combustibles, such as wood piles and doormats, where possible. Ensure dry foliage such as fallen leaves are cleared away, particularly from roofs and gutters. Mowing lawns helps prevent fires from spreading. Trees overhanging any buildings should be cut back where permitted.

- Consider how long it will take you and your family to leave if a bushfire arises, especially if you or family members have mobility issues. Prepare a checklist of your Emergency Kit so you can grab essentials easily if the time comes - essential toiletries, medications and prescriptions, wool blankets, IDs and other important documents.
- Stay alert and informed when temperatures heat up. Keep your local ABC radio station on for emergency broadcasts. You can also download the Fires Near Me App or the Hazards Near me NSW App onto your phone which shows if there are any local bushfires. The NSW Rural Fire Service's Bushfire information hotline number is 1800 679 737.
- The safest option in a bushfire is to leave early. You should especially plan to leave early if you are not bushfire prepared, your property is not constructed for a bushfire, such as having ember-resistant mesh on windows and vents. Residents are strongly encouraged to identify friends and relatives that they they can stay with in the event of an emergency. If a Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating is issued, all residents in fire prone areas are advised to leave and be prepared to remain away for up to 24 hours.

Community Outreach

EVER WANTED TO ASK A QUESTION ABOUT SOUTHERN CROSS HOUSING?

Join us in Nowra, Ulladulla & Bega for an opportunity to have a real say in the way we provide services, meet other tenants and have your questions answered on the spot. We want to hear from our wonderful tenants about what's working well, what can be improved, and how we can enhance our services to better meet your needs. The dates and times are:

Merimbula - 27th September, Kowara Cres

Eden - 27th September, Wykes Lane

Nowra East - 4th October 2023, Parramatta Park

Central Nowra - 16th October 2023, Schregel Place

Sanctuary Point - 31st October 2023, Macleans Point Road

Ulladulla - 7th November 2023, South Street

Shoalhaven Heads - 8th November, Scott Street

9 For more information, please call 1300 757 885. To register your attendance, please scan the QR code.

Location	Date	Time
MERRIMBULA	27TH SEPTEMBER	10AM - 11AM
EDEN	27TH SEPTEMBER	12PM - 1PM
NOWRA EAST	4TH OCTOBER	10AM - 11AM
NOWRA CBD	16TH OCTOBER	10AM - 11AM
SANCTUARY POINT	31ST OCTOBER	10AM - 11AM
ULLADULLA	7TH NOVEMBER	10AM - 11AM
SHOALHAVEN HEADS	8TH NOVEMBER	10AM - 11AM

For more information, please call 1300 757 885. To register your attendance, please scan the QR code.

WHAT'S ON Shoalhaven

2023 CARER WORKSHOPS

Free Carer education workshops – information to help people providing support to a family member or friend because of illness, disability, mental health issues or who is frail/ and or aged.

Morning tea and lunch are included, Sessions run from 9.30am -2.30pm one day per week over three weeks.

Where: Bomaderry Bowling Club
When: 5th, 12th and 19th September

THE SHARK CAGE GROUP PROGRAM

In August, Anglicare will be running a supportive group for women who have experienced domestic violence or sexual abuse in their lives. Throughout the eight weeks, participants will learn about the nature of domestic violence, how to identify the characteristics of a healthy relationship, how to manage strong emotions and how to build their sense of empowerment! The program will run every Tuesday from 1st August – 19 September from 10am-12pm at Anglicare Nowra. For more information, please email crsintake@anglicare.com.au or call 0422 928 921.

DOGS IN THE PARK

Get ready for a day filled with excitement and fun for dogs and their human companions at Dogs in the Park! Join a jam-packed event featuring a variety of drawcard attractions and activities that everyone can participate in. There will be plenty of activities for your doggos with a mini pool-“pawty”, doggy competitions, cutest puppy, cutest dog, fancy dress, lick mats and more on the day.

Date: 15 October 2023
Time: 10am-3pm
Address: 719 Greenwell Point Rd.

For more info, please call 0431 167 327.

SHOALHAVEN RIVER FESTIVAL

The Shoalhaven River Festival is a two-day community event on the October Long weekend celebrating the beautiful Shoalhaven. A free event with a wide variety of free activities and some user-pay attractions. The Shoalhaven River Festival unites the wonderful community and visitors to the region for two days of action-packed family friendly activities.

The Festival will be held on the northern banks of the beautiful Shoalhaven River on Grey's Beach Reserve. There will be live entertainment, market and food stalls, water activities, art and craft activities a well-ness zone and a marine expo.

When: 30 September
Time: 12pm-9:30pm
For more information please call 02 4429 5757.

THRIVE POP UP ULLADULLA

Off the back of the recent success from the Thrive Together Fair in Bomaderry, Thrive Together is coming to Ulladulla! The Fair is an opportunity for people doing it tough to connect with financial, housing, legal, government, physical and mental health and wellbeing support under one roof.

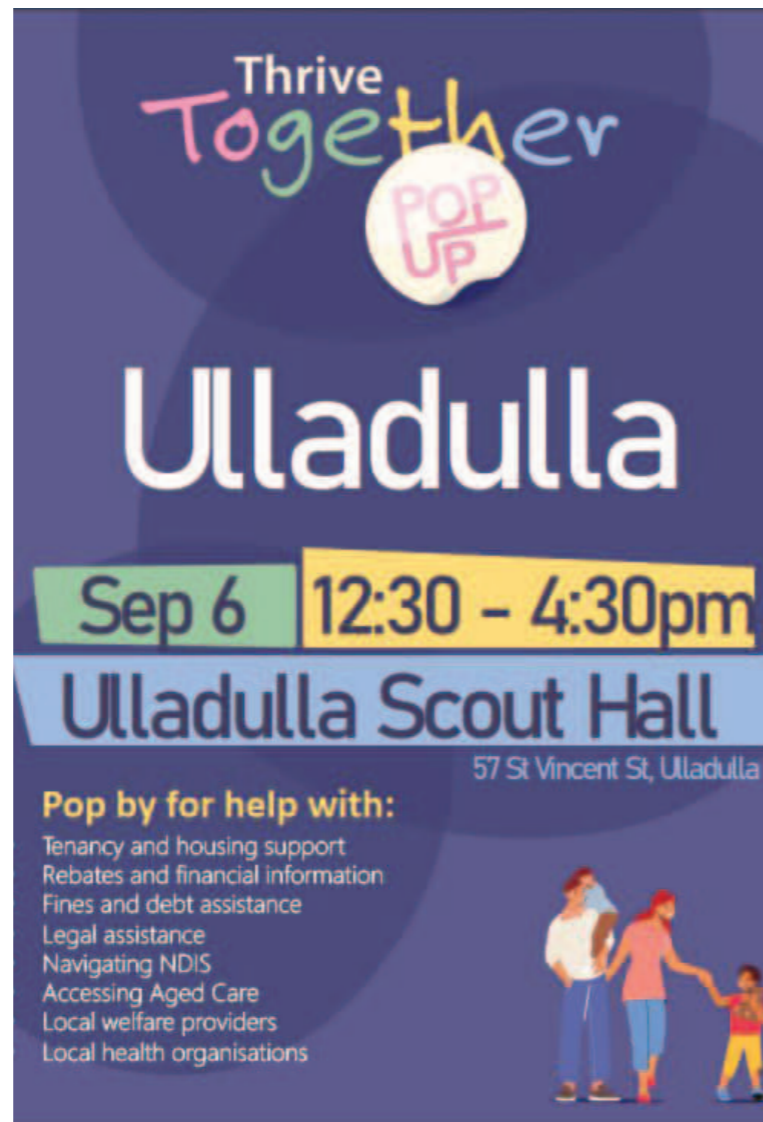
Whether you're facing financial problems, housing hardships, at risk of/or experiencing homelessness, or have been affected by the recent natural disasters and pandemic, everyone is welcome to come along and enjoy the day.

When: September 6th

Time: 12:30pm - 4:30pm

Where: Ulladulla Scout Hall. 57 St Vincent St, Ulladulla

For more information please contact the Community Capacity Building Team at Shoalhaven City Council on 1300 293 111.



Thrive Together POP UP Ulladulla

Sep 6 12:30 - 4:30pm

Ulladulla Scout Hall
57 St Vincent St, Ulladulla

Pop by for help with:

- Tenancy and housing support
- Rebates and financial information
- Fines and debt assistance
- Legal assistance
- Navigating NDIS
- Accessing Aged Care
- Local welfare providers
- Local health organisations

WHAT'S ON Eurobodalla, Bega & Snowy

THE WANDERER FESTIVAL

The Wanderer Festival returns to Pambula Beach from 29 September to 1st October.

The festival brings all generations together and is a celebration of music and arts, with 70 plus acts announced for this year's line-up. Admission prices begin at one day passes for Adults - \$130, Children - \$50. A bus shuttle service will operate from Pambula.

The festival will be a great way to get involved in your community. For more information, Home - Wanderer Festival or to sign up as a volunteer, <https://wanderer.com.au/apply/>



WANDERER FESTIVAL
PAMBULA BEACH, NSW
29 SEP - 1 OCT 2023

WANDERER FESTIVAL
PAMBULA BEACH • 29 SEP - 1 OCT 2023

MUSIC PROGRAM

OCEAN ALLEY • DJANGO DJANGO (UK)
THE JUNGLE GIANTS • THELMA PLUM
SPIDERBAIT • SAMPAL THE GREAT (ZM)

KEVIN MORBY (USA) • SON LITTLE (USA) • LONNIE HOLLEY (USA)
ADAM PAGE • ALICE SKYE • ANNIE HAMILTON • ART VS SCIENCE • BABE RAINBOW
BATTS • BEGA SOUND COLLECTIVE • BEN LEE • BEN OTTEWELL & IAN BALL (USA) / (UK)
C.W. STONEKING • CASH SAVAGE & THE LAST DRINKS • DICE • DJ DADBOD
DJINAMA YILAGA • EMPRESS • FLAVUH • FREYA JOSEPHINE HOLLICK
GOLDIE • HAIKU HANDS • HOLD/FIRE • JACK BILMANN & THE BLACK TIDE
JACOTÉNE • KIM CHURCHILL • LISA MITCHELL • LITTLE QUIRKS
MELBOURNE SKA ORCHESTRA • MONTAIGNE • MOURNING (A) BLKSTAR (USA)
NORTHEAST PARTY HOUSE • PRODIKAL-1 • RIVERBEND CHOIR
ROBYN MARTIN • RUM JUNGLE • STEPH STRINGS • STONEMAN TAIKO
TEEN JESUS & THE JEAN TEASERS • THE THIN WHITE UKES
THIS WAY NORTH • TIJUANA CARTEL • URTHBOY • WHISKEY DRAM • WILSON

ARTS PROGRAM

FLYING FRUIT FLY CIRCUS • THE SUPER AMAZING DOLPHIN SHOW
WELCOME TO COUNTRY • BIOLUMINESCENCE PROJECT • BRONWYN KUSS
CLAIRE HOOPER • DUURUNU MIRU DANCERS • FEETBUS • FLING PHYSICAL THEATRE
FRANKENTOYS • GULAGA DANCERS • I WEAR WANDERER WORKSHOP
LA PETITE GRANDE • LIAM POWER • POLITE MAMMALS
THE BIG LOST BAND • TOM BALLARD • WE SHAPED UP LIKE THIS • YOGA

TICKETS ON SALE // WANDERER.COM.AU

MERIMBULA ROTARY CLUB SUNDAY SEASIDE MARKETS

Throughout the year, locals and visitors enjoy this special market setting at Ford Park in Merimbula's tourist area between Fishpen and Main Beach. A wealth of treasures, jewellery, fashion, produce, food, plants, books, crafts and curiosities await. A market with children's playground, ocean viewing platforms, BBQ / picnic area, car parking and toilets in the park on a surfing beach.

Sundays - August 20, September 17, October 15, 2023

AUSSIE BIRD COUNT

Help BirdLife Australia in their bird conservation efforts and have some fun at the same time. The Aussie Bird Count is open to everyone. The idea is to spend 20 minutes in your local outdoor area and look for birds during that period in October. Then you can submit your results on your smartphone using the free Aussie Bird Count app available via Google Play or iTunes. If you're not already a bird nerd, the app has a built-in "bird finder" tool to help you identify birds by size, colour and features. To download the app head to <https://apps.apple.com/au/app/aussie-bird-count/>

WHALE FESTIVAL IN EDEN

Held annually to celebrate the southern migration at one of Australia's best whale-watching destinations – Eden! There's a spectacular street parade, vibrant markets, great local food and wine, educational marine displays and presentations, quality children's entertainment, live music and – of course – the best whale watching experience!

When: 5th, 12th and 19th September
For more information please contact the Eden Visitor Information Centre on 02 6496 1953.

HEADLAND WRITERS FESTIVAL 2023 IN TATHRA

An opportunity to volunteer at this iconic Festival. The organisers are looking for people aged over 18 who can provide 4 hours to assist with audience services, front of house and set up/pack down. Volunteers will receive a day pass for the day they work and a tote bag. If you're interested in volunteering check it out here: headlandfestival.com.au or contact the South East Art via email to seainfo@southeastarts.org.au or call 02 6492 3386.



HEADLAND WRITERS FESTIVAL 2023

Closing the Gap

In 2021, the National Agreement on Closing the Gap was updated to include “Housing” among its 16 key national socio-economic targets to improve life outcomes for First Nations Peoples. The housing target is based on the outcome that, “First Nations Peoples can secure appropriate, affordable housing that is aligned with their priorities and need” and states that by 2031, 88% of First Nations Peoples will be living in appropriately sized (not overcrowded) housing.

As one of the largest community housing providers to First Nations Peoples in NSW, Southern Cross Housing (SCH) is committed to working with our tenant community and the NSW State Government to address the housing disparities faced by First Nations Peoples. This year, we are contributing to the Closing the Gap initiative by developing a comprehensive research report that explores additional occupancy within First Nations SCH tenancies. This report will be provided to the Department of Communities and Justice.

Broadly, Southern Cross Housing is seeking to identify the causes, examine the protective and risk factors associated with additional occupancy and find ways to improve housing outcomes for all our First Nations tenants.

SCH recognises that First Nations Peoples are the experts of their own experience and for us to share in and learn from that knowledge, we are extending an invitation to participate in our study to our whole First Nations tenant community.

Are you of First Nations descent and living in a Southern Cross Housing property?

Do you have an experience of additional occupants in your home or just want to share your thoughts with us?

If you answered yes to these questions, then we want to hear from you!

Key Things to know about our study:

- We’re doing a mixture of surveys & interviews. Each session should go for between 30min – 1hour.
- Everything you tell us will be kept completely confidential.
- We’re providing complete confidentiality to all tenants for anything you tell us as a part of this study. That means you won’t get in trouble for anything you tell us about additional occupants in your home.
- We appreciate your time and input and to show it, we’ll be paying \$20 for every person who completes our surveys and interviews.
- Follow-up support will be available for any person who needs it. This can be a sensitive topic and we want to ensure our tenants are looked after.

If you’d like to take part in this important project that will contribute to Closing the Gap on Housing for all First Nations Peoples, please contact Mitch from the Communities Assist Team on 1300 757 885 or mitchellh@scch.org.au

SCHNEWS



Southern Cross Housing

Nowra

Street Address: 69 Kinghorne St
Nowra NSW 2541

Ulladulla

Street Address: Shop 2, 118-120
Princes Highway, Ulladulla NSW

Telephone: 1300 757 885

Website: www.scch.org.au

Email: info@scch.org.au

Bomaderry

Street Address: Shop 1, 54 Bolong Road,
Bomaderry NSW 2541

Batemans Bay

Street Address: Shop 4/13 Clyde Street,
Batemans Bay NSW 2536

Bega Valley

Street Address: Shop 9, 81-83 Auckland
Street, Bega NSW 2550

Cooma

Street Address: 57-59 Massie Street,
Cooma NSW 2630