



CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY

NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2020

Our soon-to-be new office

We are excited to announce that we have found a new office building for Cornerstone Housing to move into, just around the corner in Stepney.

We have long outgrown our office on Portrush Road, Maylands, sharing with other organisations, Help at Home and Teen Challenge SA, and so this move will be an exciting step for Cornerstone Housing.

In June, our staff visited the new premises and spent the morning exploring, playing games and catching up for the first time since COVID-19 restrictions began.

We don't yet know when we will move, as we need to fit out the new premises with offices, but we will inform you as soon as we know the date.



Quick money-saving tip: ask your energy provider for a better deal

Contacting your energy provider and asking for a better deal could help you save hundreds of dollars. Do some research using comparison sites on the best deals and discounts other companies are offering. Then, armed with this information, call your provider and ask if they can match it. Most providers will offer a better energy plan to keep you as a customer if they think you are planning to leave.

More information www.canstarblue.com.au/electricity/getting-the-most-from-your-energy-provider/

What are your maintenance obligations?

As your property manager, we pride ourselves on the condition of your property and our maintenance responsiveness.

That is why Cornerstone Housing goes over and above the legal requirements outlined in the *Residential Tenancies Act*; however, we are unable to take on all the responsibilities for the upkeep of your property.

The following items are your responsibility to clean and maintain:

- gutters (unless two-storey)
- antennas
- blinds and curtains
- air conditioners
- lawns and gardens.

We are happy to provide names of trustworthy contractors for you to contact.

As we come into spring and summer, your lawns and gardens areas must be well maintained.

You will also need to promptly report and attend to any damage caused by you or anyone invited into your property.

If the items listed are not maintained or acted upon accordingly, Cornerstone may authorise the maintenance at your cost.

Tenant Handbook online

We have recently put the Tenant Handbook on the Cornerstone website, which contains more

information about what is your responsibility regarding maintenance. Download or read online at

<https://cornerstonehousing.com.au/tenant-handbook>



In-home COVID-19 testing

Do you need a pathology test, but can't get out of the house and are now unsure what to do?

Clinpath Pathology can come to you. It is not only for select patients – soon-to-be mums, the elderly, and those in the high-risk health categories are just some of the people who have called for Clinpath's services to be delivered at home. Or, it may be simply that you have anxiety in relation to the pandemic and need to continue to maintain your health checks.

Clinpath mobile pathology collectors can perform all routine blood tests or can swab for COVID-19. Clinpath also offers an Auslan service.

There is no charge for COVID-19 testing if you have a symptom written on a referral form.

Ring Clinpath's COVID-19 Hotline on 1800 870 778 or the Client Services Team on (08) 8366 2000.





When Theresa looks back at the circumstances that brought her to her Cornerstone home in Morphettville, she still has to pinch herself. Her story shows that there is no stereotypical person who experiences homelessness. She feels that miracles can happen, and she would like to share her gratitude.

Homelessness knows no boundaries; it can happen to anyone from all walks of life. Throughout my life, I have had long periods of productivity and stability and achieved many great successes in my chosen fields, these being photography and academia, including undergraduate and postgraduate awards and prizes. I have worked as a teacher and lecturer at several universities and extensively in a variety of photography roles.

In the mid-2000s I was living in Brisbane. I became mentally imbalanced, and I sought help, but unfortunately to no avail. Eventually, I started drinking heavily, and I was diagnosed with Bipolar II disorder. What followed were years of medication mayhem, two destructive marriages, several mental breakdowns, numerous hospitalisations and drug addiction.

Somehow, and I really don't know how, I stopped taking drugs and clawed my way back from the brink, eventually ending up back in Adelaide. This is when I entered the Catherine House emergency program for homeless women and subsequently their recovery program.

By this stage, I, like many women who reach homelessness, was utterly dysfunctional. In Catherine House, a caseworker was assigned to me to help me slowly piece my life back together, which gave me space

to breathe and focus on my mental health. Catherine House helps women obtain permanent housing, and fortunately for me, this is when Cornerstone came into the picture. From the onset, they were kind, helpful and not at all judgemental.

In February of last year, I moved into my own Cornerstone home. Although I was ready for this transition, I still felt overwhelmed and afraid, but Cornerstone made the process completely manageable.

There is a saying, grief breeds compassion, and for me, never has a truer word been spoken. My experience has profoundly changed the way I look at humanity and what my priorities are. The fact that so many people were there to help me every step still overwhelms me. I now feel peace and security in my own home, and I have the confidence to tackle new horizons. I am enrolled part-time in a postgraduate degree in film and documentary making, and I intend to spend the next part of my life sharing stories and raising awareness for those in need.

At last, I feel I have a life in front of me. The peace and serenity that comes with having a place to retreat to and a safe and secure place to work from is something I will always be grateful Cornerstone for, and I would like to thank you all, from the bottom of my heart, for making this possible.

7-40-7

by Phil Adcock



After seven years of working with us, our maintenance manager Phil is retiring!

7-40-7 sounds like a great name for a plane, but, no, it is the brief description of my working career.

'7'

I left school at age 15 to work with my dad in the family building business, which was started by my grandfather in 1945.

Carpentry was our trade, but back then, you had to be able to do anything – from hand digging house foundations and mixing the concrete to fixing the roof sheeting and everything in between – so 7+ years in that classroom was a great start for things to come. Towards the end of that time, my introduction to commercial work had begun with carpentry works on the new Kmart's being built in Adelaide.

'40'

This next journey was a roller-coaster ride, starting in 1973 as a supervisor/coordinator with a medium-sized commercial building construction company.

I progressed over the 40 years to senior project manager and second-in-charge to the owner/manager of the business. This period did not end as I planned, but God had things in place – he opens doors that we can't even imagine.

'7'

I started working at Cornerstone Housing in August 2013 as a maintenance officer to assist the asset and maintenance manager. The initial interview was for a part-time fill-in position, but I was offered full-time. Shown through the office where I would be working, I noticed that many workstations had two screens. I thought to myself, how will I ever be able to manage this high-tech stuff?

Getting used to working with new people and the database was a lot easier than I expected. Cornerstone Housing, as a Christian-based company, was a whole new experience for me, as my previous position was not with a company with Christian values.

After a hundred or so questions a day on where to find stuff or why does this happen, I mostly got a handle on it – as good as anyone ever does anyway!

I have loved working in this environment, knowing that our efforts help people in need. Sometimes it is difficult, but this is life, and we hope that in the end, the love of God shines into their lives through the work we do.

I was blessed to have the role of Housing Services manager for a period, and even more so now as the maintenance manager. I was surrounded by a fantastic team of people who made up our combined group of Housing Services and Asset Management.

Now as I move on into the next season, I'm confident in leaving the department in the capable hands of Travis, Matt and my original upline Adam, with the full knowledge of the support they will get from Housing Services, Finance and Administration.



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