



CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY

NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2021

Meet our uni placement students!

At the end of July, Cornerstone welcomed six placement students from UniSA: Wendy, Bianca, Tai, Samantha, Tia and Ngan.

As part of their social work university course, the students have to complete 500 placement hours. They will be with Cornerstone for about four to five months to work on various projects relating to community development.

You may have already seen their fresh, enthusiastic faces over the last month as they have attended house inspections, sign-ins, community engagement activities and tenant chaplaincy visits.

One of the major projects they'll be working on involves contacting you regarding your current wellbeing. This is a follow up to the wellbeing calls that took place last year at the beginning of the COVID pandemic.

You can expect to hear from the students within the next couple of months.

Pictured above: The students enjoyed a CIBO coffee with Cornerstone CEO Graham and uni supervisor Cathryn.

Pictured right at the top: The students visited Cornerstone's local support group, ONE Life Church in Parafield Gardens. Students connected with Pastor Jeff and other volunteers and discussed how ONE Life provides support to Cornerstone tenants and the wider community. Students had the opportunity to serve the community in the free food giveaway and were treated to lunch and coffee in the ONE Life Community Café!

Pictured right at the bottom: Students from left to right - Samantha, Wendy, Tia, Bianca, Ngan and Tai.



You can expect to hear from the students through a wellbeing phone call within the next couple of months.

Your feedback on maintenance

In our tenant survey last year, many of you provided comments about our repairs and maintenance service. Your feedback is important to us, and we thank you for responding.

Some of the new processes that have now been implemented include:

- an upgrade to our computer system to better track allocated jobs
- improved training of staff members to receive calls and create tickets for maintenance issues to ensure correct information is collected, speeding

up the process of allocating jobs to the relevant trade

- review of incomplete jobs report ensuring that all requests have been attended to in a timely manner
- increased communication with tenants on job requests
- spot audits of trade processes.

We hope that some of the changes will make your experience of reporting and having maintenance attended to an easier process, and we look forward to your further feedback in the future.



Fire prevention – after a very wet winter, and as we start spring, we just would like to remind you of how important it is to keep vegetation cleaned up in your yard. This will assist in fire prevention and minimise areas for vermin to breed and cause issues over the summertime.

Gutters – just a reminder that gutters on single-storey properties are your responsibility to keep clean. This will help minimise property damage from water ingress by overflowing gutters and potential flooding.

Bees – now that plants are flowering, bees will be highly active from now on throughout spring. Remember that bees will often hive in a tree or area as they pass through and may move on in a day or so.

We will respond to bees that have made a permanent home in areas like the wall/wall vents or inside the roof cavity. We always attempt to use an apiarist first to remove the bees instead of spraying them wherever possible, as bees are needed to keep our environment healthy.

Please refer to your Tenant Handbook for all information, which is available at <https://cornerstonehousing.com.au/tenant-handbook>

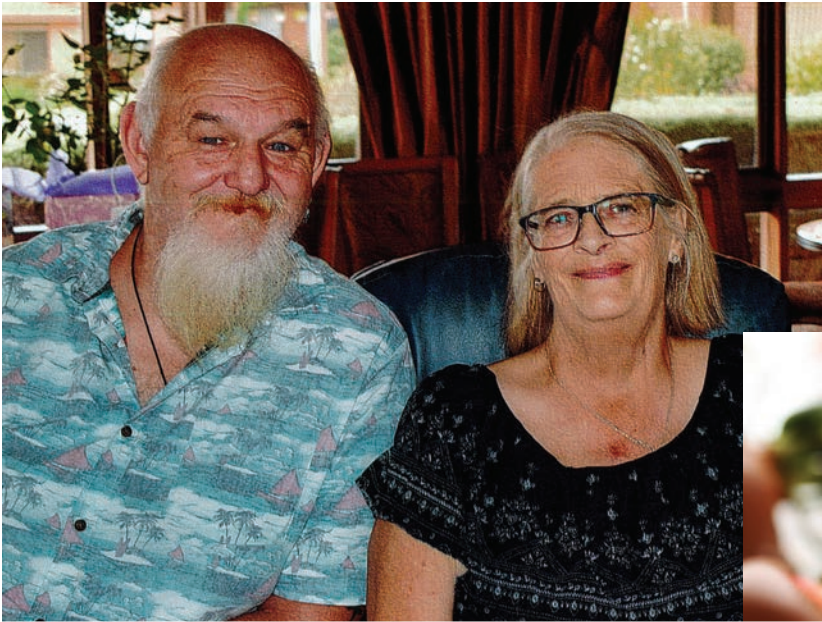
Six new homes!

We are delighted to announce our Flinders Park development, which will provide six new community housing homes for people in need.

The homes will have two bedrooms and one bathroom, and they are designed to meet the silver level Livable Housing Australia design standard.

We look forward to completing the build and welcoming several people into affordable homes.





Left: Cornerstone tenant Eric with his late wife Helen. They first moved into their Cornerstone home 22 years ago.

Eric says, 'While life isn't always strawberries and chocolate dipping sauce, our Cornerstone home has really been our safe haven. In our neighbourhood, we feel that we are less alone.'



'LIFE ISN'T ALWAYS strawberries & chocolate dipping sauce'

Twenty-two years ago, Eric and his late wife Helen were homeless. But they were blessed to secure housing through Cornerstone. Fast forward to today, Eric and his granddaughter AJ are planning to move on to Queensland later this year.

Eric and his late wife Helen moved into their Cornerstone home 22 years ago. At the time, they were homeless. They were staying at a friend's holiday house from church and travelling to Adelaide for work. 'The week Helen and I got the house, our second eldest granddaughter Jayde was born. At the time, we were applying for homes through real estate agents; however, we were blessed to secure our Cornerstone home through a member of the church we were going to at the time', Eric says.

Sadly, Eric was recently widowed. In the last three to four years, 'the pendulum of life swung back, and I had the privilege of spending time caring for Helen while she was unwell. Although Helen did not want to be fussed over at all, it was my time to nurse Helen until she passed away', he says.

Eric feels he was given a second chance at life with Helen and the kids. Whenever he went through difficult times, she was always there to support him. Having Helen and the kids in his life has given him a second chance to be a husband and a father.

'Helen was the most thoughtful person I have ever met. Her door was always open to anyone!'

Eric is the full-time carer of his granddaughter AJ. 'The size of the backyard is great, and there are no snakes! Another great thing about the house is that it is close to a park and nature', AJ says. She is currently completing high school as part of the WAVE program and is a fan of anime and art. When school is finished, AJ would love to become a mechanic.

'We feel safe in our home, and we have gotten to know a couple of others in our street over the years. While life is not always strawberries and chocolate dipping sauce, our Cornerstone home has really been our safe haven. In our neighbourhood, we feel that we are less alone', Eric says.

As a child in the 60s, Eric and his sister were in a children's home when they were younger because their dad was in a car accident and was subsequently unable to care for the kids adequately.

'While life is not always strawberries and chocolate dipping sauce, our Cornerstone home has really been our safe haven.'

Eric was a victim of childhood institutional abuse, and because of this, many years ago, Eric suffered from drug and alcohol dependency. Eric recently completed a Certificate in Community Services, and with his qualifications and experience, he plans to find work helping other survivors of abuse.

Eric and AJ have been working hard organising things around their house as they are planning a big move out from their Cornerstone home up to Queensland to be closer to their family later in the year.

Through Helen, the kids and God, Eric feels they really are the only reason he is alive today. 'God is a God who gives second chances. It is up to us to carry them through and do the best we can.'



LIBRARIES AREN'T JUST FOR BOOKS. CHECK OUT THE FOLLOWING SERVICES TO FIND WHERE YOU CAN BORROW TOYS, SPORTS EQUIPMENT OR TOOLS! MANY ARE AVAILABLE FOR FREE OR FOR A SMALL MEMBERSHIP COST.

Toy libraries

Adelaide – North

Gawler & Districts Elsie Ey Toy Library | 22b Cowan St, Gawler

Para Hills Community Hub | Wilkinson Rd, Para Hills

Prospect Library | 128 Prospect Rd, Prospect

Adelaide – East

Burnside Library | 401 Greenhill Rd, Tasmore

Adelaide – North East

Campbelltown Library | 171 Montacute Rd, Campbelltown

Tea Tree Gully Toy Library | 571 Montague Rd, Modbury | reopening in mid-October

Adelaide – South

Blackwood Community Centre | 4 Young St, Blackwood

Cove Civic Centre Library | 1 Ragamuffin Dr, Hallett Cove

Goodwood Library | 101 Goodwood Rd, Goodwood

Hub Library | Hub Dr, Aberfoyle Park

Mitcham Memorial Library | 154 Belair Rd, Hawthorn

Park Holme Library | 1 Duncan Ave, Park Holme

Seaford Library | Grand Blvd, Seaford

Unley Library | 181 Unley Rd, Unley

Woodcroft Library | 175 Bains Rd, Morphett Vale

Adelaide – West

Hamra Centre Library | 1 Brooker Tce, Hilton

The Parks Library | 46–48 Trafford St, Angle Park

Regional SA

Horizon Christian School | 21 Gwy Tce, Balaklava

Mount Barker Community Library | 5 Dumas St, Mount Barker

Murray Bridge Library | 51 South Tce, Murray Bridge

Whyalla Public Library | 7–9 Ekblom St, Whyalla Norrie

Sports libraries

Adelaide – North

Mawson Lakes Library | Mawson Lakes Blvd, Mawson Lakes

Adelaide – South

Aldinga Library | 11 Central Way, Aldinga Beach

Hub Library | Hub Dr, Aberfoyle Park

Seaford Library | Grand Blvd, Seaford

Woodcroft Library | 175 Bains Rd, Morphett Vale

Adelaide – West

Hamra Centre Library | 1 Brooker Tce, Hilton

Tool libraries

Adelaide – North

The Precinct Lutheran Care | 112 Coventry Rd, Smithfield Plains

Adelaide – South

MarionLIFE | 887 Marion Rd, Mitchell Park

Adelaide – West

The Parks Library Makerspace | 46–48 Trafford St, Angle Park

Please contact each service for more information on borrowing requirements and membership fees.



Contact us

8165 5300

73 Nelson Street
Stepney SA 5069

PO Box 100
Marden SA 5070

cornerstonehousing.com.au