



*PLH Staff visiting
completed units
at Glendale*

Summer 2020

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From the CEO's desk

2020 is well underway and it has been quite a turbulent year. Just as the country overcomes some very wild weather, we now face the potential spread of the coronavirus. As with the bushfires, it is important that we all remain calm and understand that there may be some minor disruptions to business as usual. Please see the section in this newsletter for further information.

We were pleased to see the completion of the Glendale development in January. "Pacific Gateway" provides 21 new units for a range of tenancy types. It is part of the NSW Government's program to redevelop social housing properties so that they provide more units of accommodation at a much higher quality.



Our social enterprise real estate agency Key2 Realty will soon reach its first anniversary which is an exciting milestone. Their team attended the latest Scholarship Presentation and look forward to contributing to the expansion of PLH's tenant programs this year.

Ian Lynch, CEO

Glendale now complete!

We are happy to announce that 21 newly built units at Glendale are now complete and fully tenanted! PLH is so proud of this development, known as Pacific Gateway, and our staff worked incredibly hard to bring it all together.

Minister Pavey visited Pacific Gateway in February and described it as “the most exciting development I’ve seen since I’ve been housing minister”. We also invited Lake Macquarie and Cessnock Council representatives in the hope of working with them in the future on similar projects

Tenants are loving it too! Angelo said that “it is a great place to live and is an ideal apartment for wheelchair access”.



Visit from Housing Minister
Melinda Pavey MP



New tenants moving into
Pacific Gateway at Glendale

Free training courses with the Central Coast Community College



Learning barista skills as part of the Industry Essentials course

PLH is so excited to work with the Central Coast Community College again this year to offer our tenants free training. We are currently running three workshops at North Gosford:

- **Industry Essentials:** Skills to help gain employment in hospitality.
- **Introduction to Horticulture:** Basic horticulture skills.
- **Inside & Out Health:** Health, beauty and wellbeing skills.

It's a great way to expand your knowledge and learn new skills. We hope to offer more courses in different locations next semester! Visit www.pacificlink.org.au/courses and watch out for tenant emails for more information. Also, let us know if you are interested in any other courses at events@pacificlink.org.au.

Meet Tina - One of Pacific Link's Tenancy Officers

My name is Tina, I started working at PLH in January 2019. I grew up in Sydney and moved to the Central Coast in 1998 when I was pregnant with my daughter.

After a relationship breakdown with my daughter's father, I was living with my daughter in a bedroom at my sister's home and in 2002 became a tenant with PLH. In having the opportunity to become a tenant through PLH, it helped me to provide a stable home for myself and my daughter, so I was able to gain skills through TAFE courses and find part time work.

Once I was in part time work, I was

able to move into the private rental market closer to my family in a nearby suburb so my daughter could go to school with her cousins and we could embrace our new start on the Coast.

I believe that without the opportunity to be placed in stable housing with PLH, I would not have been able to achieve personal goals that would eventually put me in a position to purchase my own home down the track.

When the opportunity came up to work for Pacific Link, I was excited about being able to give back to the company that had previously helped me and



provide the same great experience I received as a tenant. The staff at PLH genuinely care and go that extra mile for a common goal to assist those in greatest need and I am grateful to be a part of that.



Michelle (Coast Shelter) and Kochie (PLH) helping with Engagement Week

Homeless Engagement Week

PLH staff assisted with Central Coast Homeless Engagement Week organised by the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) – Hunter Central Coast District.

This important community initiative involved many local services combining their efforts to better understand the vulnerabilities and support needs for people who are sleeping rough. Thanks so much to everyone involved.

PowerHousing Awards

PLH was very pleased to be recognised at the National PowerHousing Awards. Through our joint working relationship with Central Coast Community College, we received a High Commendation for Excellence in Tenant Engagement and Social Inclusion.

We would also like to make special mention of MG who was recognised in the Rising Star Award category. This award recognised her as an up and coming staff member, both at PLH and through the broader Community Housing Sector.

MG joined PLH in 2009 when she was 17 years old on an administration traineeship. Ten years on and she was appointed to lead a tenancy team managing over 170 properties. Congratulations for this achievement MG!



Community Garden Workshops

Brenden from the Sydney Botanic Gardens has been running workshops for tenants at the North Gosford Community Garden and helping us establish a new garden at the Copnor Ave Complex.

We've been very busy building amazing gardens (Lynn even used a drill!), making our own herb planter boxes and creating some amazing artwork from native seeds. I don't know who has more fun on these days, but the kids love it and we were all inspired by their enthusiasm.

Join us as the next workshop, enjoy a coffee, snack and most of all, have fun and meet your neighbours!

KRAFTY KIDS FUN DAY

We will be holding a Krafty Kids Fun Day at North Gosford in the school holidays.

When: 10.30am - 12.30pm on Wed 22nd April

Where: Kendall Village Community Centre
11 Dunbar Way, North Gosford

What: Fun crafts and a BBQ lunch

RSVP: If you are interested in coming along, RSVP to events@pacificlink.org.au as numbers are limited



Sheila Astolfi Education Scholarship Presentation



We were proud to award 18 students with Education Scholarships in February! This round's recipients included nine school students and also tenants undertaking tertiary education in a range of fields including psychology, graphic design and marine biology. We are so honoured to be able to help you excel in your studies and can't wait to hear about your progress.

The next round of Scholarships will close at the end of June. More details will be in the Autumn newsletter.

Coronavirus - Facts provided by the Australian Government

What is coronavirus (COVID-19)

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that can make humans and animals sick. They cause illnesses that can range from the common cold to more severe diseases.

Symptoms

Symptoms can range from mild illness to pneumonia. Some people will recover easily, and others may get very sick very quickly. People with coronavirus may experience:

- fever
- flu-like symptoms such as coughing, sore throat and fatigue
- shortness of breath

How it is spread

The virus is most likely spread through contact with an infectious person or with droplets from their cough/sneeze, either directly or from surfaces such as doorknobs or tables.

Prevention

Everyone should practise good hygiene to protect against infection including:

- washing your hands often with soap and water
- using a tissue and cover your mouth when you cough or sneeze
- avoiding close contact with others
- avoiding touching your face after being in contact with surfaces



Wash your hands often with soap



Cover your cough or sneeze



Avoid contact with others



Avoid touching your face

If you are feeling unwell

Contact your doctor if you think you have symptoms of coronavirus and follow their instructions. If you have serious symptoms such as difficulty breathing, call 000 for urgent medical help.

Please let PLH staff know if you are unwell before any scheduled visit by staff or tradespeople. Please also advise us if you have been instructed to self-isolate.

Keep up to date with information from credible sources such as www.health.gov.au or www.health.nsw.gov.au

The National Coronavirus Health Information Line is 1800 020 080 if you have serious concerns.

Garden Competition Winners

Thank you to all of our tenants for entering the 2019 garden competition. Once again, we received some fantastic entries and it is wonderful to see the progress each year.

The lucky winners below have all received Bunnings gift cards:

- Adam H - Green Point
- Sarah H - Cessnock
- Gail T - The Entrance
- Belinda E - North Gosford
- Chanelle O - Thornton
- Debbie G - East Gosford



Christmas Celebrations at the Reptile Park

Thanks to all the tenants who braved the smoke from the bushfires and came along to our end of year celebration.

We were treated to an amazing buffet lunch cooked by volunteers from the Reptile Park. A delicious variety of meats and salads... the potato salad was the favourite!

Santa made a special appearance and brought along some early Christmas gifts. Everyone had such a great day. There's always something to do at the Reptile Park.

The feedback from everyone was unanimous, "let's do this again next year!" You never know...watch this space.

We are planning more social activities for 2020! To keep up to date with what is happening, follow us on Facebook. Also if you aren't receiving tenant emails, let us know at events@pacificlinc.org.au so we can add you to the mailing list.

