

Hello, and welcome to the Winter edition of Housing Talks.

We hope that you are all safe, happy, and thriving. Although the skies may still be clear, the cold nights, chilly winds and much needed rain marks the belated arrival of Winter. The frosty temperatures invite us all to head inside and consider home bound activities as well as enjoy the indoor offerings our local communities provide.

Get Energy Savvy this Winter



Winter can be a time when we see our energy bills increase, but there are some easy steps and simple changes we can all adopt, to reduce these costs and still be comfortable during these colder months.

1. Compare electricity and gas providers to find the cheapest offer for you

Check out the [Victorian Energy Compare](#) website to see if you're on the best plan.

2. Get energy savvy around the house

Change the light bulbs on any lamps you own to LED bulbs (which use 75% less energy!). Use draught stoppers (draught snakes) around the base of windows and doors.

3. Save energy while you sleep

Switch your appliances off at the wall when you're not using them, and when you go to sleep, to save.

4. Be energy efficient with your heating and cooling

Aim for an internal temperature during Winter between 18-20°C for a balance of comfort and efficiency.

5. Wash and dry efficiently

Washing your clothes in cold water, selecting the shortest cycle on your machine and washing only full loads can save you money. Also, dry clothes on the clothesline instead of in an electric clothes dryer—it's cost free.

6. Heat only the room you're in

Focus heating on the room you're using and close doors to other rooms.

7. Layer up

Wear warm clothing, like jumpers and socks, to reduce the need for high heat settings in your home.

8. Choose energy-efficient appliances.

Look for the Energy Rating label on new appliances to determine how energy efficient it is—the more stars the more energy and money you can save.



Help Paying Your Energy Bills Check If You're Eligible for a Discount!

If someone in your house is a Health Care Card holder, you may be eligible for a discount on your annual bills. There are other concessions that you might be eligible for too.

You can [check them out here](#), as well as learn how to understand your energy bill and know how to work with your energy provider if you need support with your bills.

Emergency & Urgent Maintenance Guide

If you need a repair on your home, and you're not sure if it's urgent, use this guide and call us right away!

Urgent repairs include:

- Burst water pipe
- Gas leak or electrical fault
- Blocked or broken toilet
- Serious roof or storm / fire damage
- No hot water
- No heating
- No electricity nor water supply
- Unsafe or insecure property
- Faulty smoke alarms
- Major water wastage from a tap or pipes



If you encounter any of these issues, call us straight away:

If any of these events occur **during business hours** (Mon–Fri, 9am–5pm):

Call **03 9847 5916**

Email: housing@each.com.au

Contact your Housing Coordinator:

- **Jessica – 0428 472 810**
- **Fiona – 0436 321 855**

If the event occurs **after hours**, on the weekend or a public holiday.

Call **03 9847 5916** and **Press 2** for urgent maintenance.

The search for Victoria's
best pets living with renters in
public and community housing



Does Your Pet Have STAR Potential?

Nominations are now open for the Homes Victoria 'Pets at Our Place' 2026 calendar competition, a way to celebrate the role pets play in the lives of public and community housing residents.

Twelve residents and their pet will be chosen to be in the 'Pets at Our Place' 2026 Calendar. You must be a public or community housing resident in Victoria to enter. The twelve residents (and their pet) will be selected based on written entries.

Winners will be photographed for the 'Pets at Our Place' 2026 calendar and will also receive:

- a professional photo of their pet
- a gift voucher
- a copy of the calendar

Check out the [website for competition details, conditions and entry forms.](#)

If you need assistance with your entry submission or further information; either email: petsplace@dffh.vic.gov.au or telephone: 03 8633 4362 or 03 9830 9651.

**PETS
AT OUR
PLACE**



Entries now open
03 8633 4362 or 03 9830 9651
petsplace@dffh.vic.gov.au
housing.vic.gov.au/pets-at-our-place-calendar



Nominate your pet today!



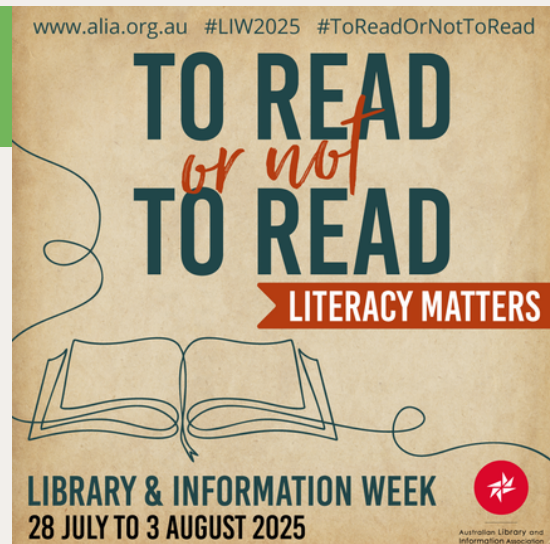
Library & Information Week 2025 (28 July – 03 August 2025)

The theme of the 2025 Library and Information week is 'To Read or Not To Read: Literacy Matters.' We know that reading is a much-loved activity for many Australians, but for some reading is an uphill battle.

[Library and Information Week](#) will shine a light on how libraries actively work to dismantle these barriers and support communities in the areas of adult literacy, media literacy, multicultural engagement, digital inclusion, disability access and more.

Libraries are vibrant spaces with amazing collections that have something for everyone and offer so much more than books, with collections that include digital services such as music, movies, audiobooks, e-books and magazines, as well as facilities and services that serve the needs and interests of our communities **FOR FREE**.

To find your local library check out the [public libraries register](#) and keep an eye out for upcoming events and activities.



I need support – where can I go?

At EACH Housing, our primary role is as a Registered Rental Housing Provider; to manage your tenancy, including collecting rent and addressing property maintenance related to the physical structure of your home. While we are not a support service provider, there are numerous organisations that can assist with social and emotional challenges. Below are some referral pathways that may be helpful for self-referral:

Each Services:

Each provides altogether better care with a network of health and social support services that wraps around you.

The integrated range of health and wellness services include:

- Child / Youth / Family Services
- Disability / NDIS, support for older adults
- Counselling
- Community mental health services

Visit [Each's website](#) to find the right services for you.

Free call: 1300 003 224 | Email: info@each.com.au

Or contact your EACH Housing Co-Ordinator for assistance.





Cardinia Shire Council Pride Formal (30 August 2025)

Cardinia Youth Services proudly presents the [2025 Pride Formal](#) (Cardinia Cultural Centre, 40 Lakeside Blvd Pakenham. 6.00 – 9.00pm).

This FREE event is a safe environment for young people aged 14-24 (as well as their friends, families and allies) to celebrate and express who they are.

The event will include prizes, DJ, Lip Sync Battles and much more! Check out the website for details ([reservations required](#)).

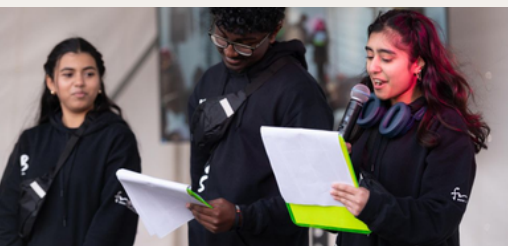
City of Casey Sleep and Settling Information Sessions

Do you have a newborn baby, infant or toddler with challenging sleep patterns or behaviours? The City of Casey offers free 'face-to-face' (or online) sleep and settling information sessions every Wednesday at the Littlecroft Family and Community Centre (51 The Strand, Narre Warren South).

Facilitated by Sleep Consultants and Maternal Health Nurses, all sessions provide information about:

- Typical sleep patterns and behaviours
- Preventing sleep concerns
- Solutions and strategies for sleep issues
- The importance of self-care for parents, families and caregivers

For further information and bookings please review the [website](#) and for further information or enquiries, please email mchsleesettling@casey.vic.gov.au



City of Greater Dandenong FReeZA Youth Committee

Do you know someone aged between 12-25, eager to develop skills in event management? The City of Great Dandenong is hosting the FReeZA Youth Committee, a FREE program that empowers young people to:

- Plan and volunteer at community events and festivals
- Learn about event management
- Gain experience in technical production (DJing, sound, lighting)
- Develop stage and performer management skills.

The Term 3 series runs from July – September 2025, located at the Youth and Family Services Office (39 Clow Street, Dandenong)

Check out the [website](#) or email youthservices@cgd.vic.gov.au (registrations required).

City of Knox – Winter Warmer Movie Screening 'Penguin Bloom'

Thursday 31 July 1.00 – 3.00pm

The Knox Community Arts Centre (cnr Mountain Hwy and Scoresby Rd, Bayswater) is hosting a FREE movie Penguin Bloom. An Australian film, based on the true story of Sam Bloom, who finds hope after an accident through an injured magpie named Penguin. The film celebrates resilience, family, and unexpected friendships.

There is no pre-allocated seating, but bookings are required for this free event. The movie will have English captions, and the venue is fully accessible.

Tickets are limited and event details and booking are available through the [Knox website](#).



Maroondah City Council Croydon Talking Café

Talking cafes are weekly drop-in sessions, held in local cafes where participants can come together to socialise, make friends, engage in interesting conversations and learn about what's happening in their community. Each week a Talking Café host will be in attendance to welcome participants and introduce any guest speakers. Participants pay for their own coffee (if they wish to have one) and sessions runs for just one hour (newcomers are always welcome).

There is no need to book in, just come along if and when you can. Check out the [website](#) for dates, locations and times or contact the 'Living Our Best Life Project' on mobile: 0457 646 384 or email: adminLOBL@chaosnetwork.org.au

City of Monash Repair Café

The 'Repair Café' is a place for local residents to have their valued items assessed and repaired by skilled community volunteers, while also learning how to repair items themselves, to extend their overall use and life. This initiative aims to give valued items a new lease on life, as well as diverting waste from landfill.

The Repair Café is held monthly, bookings are essential, and conditions apply. Check out the [website](#) for details (dates, locations and times) or contact the Circular Economy Team on mobile: 0457 888 156 for more information.





Whitehorse City Council The Biscuit Tin Project

In celebration of positive ageing and in acknowledgment of the contribution made by older women, the City of Whitehorse has championed the '[Biscuit Tin Project](#),' generating the cookbook 'Recipes for Respect' recognising older women, their stories, contributions to the community as well as their favourite recipes.

Biscuit tins are an iconic, cross-cultural symbol of the caring and nurturing roles of older women. Read all about the project and stories of these amazing women, as well as download the FREE recipe book, [Recipes for Respect - Celebrating older women in Whitehorse](#).

Yarra Ranges Shire Council A Sense of Touch

The Arts Centre Warburton (3409 Warburton Highway, Warburton) is hosting the FREE art display and interactive sensory adventure 'A Sense of Touch,' from 19 June – 31 Aug 2025.

Visitors are invited to enjoy this colourful and engaging exhibition and explore (with their eyes as well as hands) the vibrant creatures and captivating textiles.

Checking out the [website](#) for event details, and additional interactive events with the artistic creators.



EACH Housing - Movie Day

A big thank you to everyone who came along to Hoyts Eastland (Ringwood) on 10 June and enjoyed the popcorn, snacks and FREE movie screening of KARATE KID: LEGENDS.



What sort of future events would you like to see EACH Housing host?

Send your ideas to housing@each.com.au