

The

ARGYLER

Client Newsletter | Summer 2023

*Created by Clients,
for Clients*

AH Argyle Housing

Acknowledgement of country

Argyle Housing acknowledges the Traditional Owners of country throughout Australia and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

Environment

Argyle Housing cares about the environment and is committed to a sustainable environment and follows a comprehensive environmental protocol. The Argyle is printed on FSR® certified paper traceable to certified sources. We use a new varnish coating process that is environmentally-friendly. We use soy-based inks with low VOC and recycle all unused ink. We recycle all scrap paper.



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Printed in Australia

ABN 88 002 761 855 / ACN 002 761 855

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The Argyle is a newsletter created by Clients, for Clients.

We welcome and encourage contributions and feedback from all – to get in touch simply email: editor@argylehousing.com.au

Connect with us



CEO Welcome

Hard to believe that we are nearing the end of 2023. It has been a very busy, positive, and productive year at Argyle Housing.

Whilst the year seems to have just evaporated, 2023 has been filled with so many wonderful achievements including the fantastic result from our Client Survey, the launch of our Reconciliation Action Plan, the very advanced construction of our 20 unit townhouse development in Griffith, the planning and commencement of our construction in Wakaden St Griffith, the Community Hub, the renewal of Dave Taylor Park, stock transfer in Southwest Sydney, and the progress on the Tolland Renewal Project to name a few. We have also bought on a Community Engagement Officer to drive our client engagement work and develop our Community Engagement Strategy.

Since our last edition we have held our Annual Stakeholder Meetings, this year in Bowral and Campbelltown, during which we had the opportunity to award many of our clients awards for their contribution to their community, their neighbourhood and their fellow clients. I am always so humbled by the incredible stories of how our clients add such value to their communities usually in the quietest of ways, it is nice to be able to publicly recognise the impact they are having on others.

At this time of year there is a strong focus on coming together with family and friends, but it can also be a lonely time for many. Please take the time where you can reach out to a neighbour or a community member to share a smile, a moment, or some Christmas Cheer. Also remember for yourself or for others in the community that there are several services offering assistance with food and bills, there are some highlighted in this edition. If you are uncertain about where to go or need other support or assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out to your local Argyle Housing officer for help.

We would love for you to share your stories or photos from this holiday season in our next edition of The Argyle so please send them in.

I am truly looking forward to all the wonderful opportunities that 2024 will bring. In the meantime, have a safe and happy and peaceful Summer.

Stay well,
Carolyn Doherty, CEO



Carolyn Doherty
CEO - Argyle Housing

“

I am always so humbled by the incredible stories of how our clients add such value to their communities.

”

Editorial

Dear Clients,

In this edition of The Argyle, we shine a light on the heart of our community by celebrating those who uplift us and the resources around us that bring comfort and nourishment.

During the holiday season, no one should feel left out. If you or someone you know is looking for community food or a place to share a Christmas meal, numerous options are available. Organisations across our regions are opening their hearts and pantries to ensure everyone can enjoy a festive, communal meal. Keep your eyes peeled for listings on our website and social media feeds.

We are incredibly proud to announce this year's Client Awards. Each recipient has shown tremendous resilience and determination - they serve as inspiring reminders of the power of community and the human spirit.

We'd like to extend a hearty thank you to Market Street Lodge for their wonderful breakfast initiative. Their commitment to providing hot, nutritious breakfasts for those in need is nothing short of inspiring.

In our community highlight section, we feature the story of Jenny Chapman. A current staff member of Argyle Housing, Jenny is a shining example of giving back to the community. Her efforts and dedication to volunteering have touched many lives and we are fortunate to count her among our staff.

Last but not least, we bring you a heart-warming tale of transition and transformation. Pamela, one of our clients, recently moved into her new home. Her journey, filled with hope and perseverance, is a beautiful testament to the lasting impact of having a place to call home. We wish Pamela all the best in her new chapter.

Merry Christmas and all the best for the New Year.

Scott Dunstan

Editor and Marketing, Communications Manager

“
Pamela, one of our clients, recently moved into her new home. Her journey, filled with hope and perseverance, is a beautiful testament to the lasting impact of having a place to call home.
”

Christmas Community Food, Gift and Meal Assistance



Do you need some assistance during the festive season?

Christmas lunch is back on offer throughout the regions with most service providers open this year. The following list shows what's on offer throughout the areas in which we serve:

Bowral

C3 Destiny Church Santa's Grotto is a Free Community Event running from the 16 to 24 December 2023 Corbett Gardens, Bowral. c3destinychurch.com/santas-grotto-2

Queanbeyan and ACT

Vinnies Stores Open Mon – Fri 9am – 5pm. Hampers, food and gift assistance, enquire in store call **6282 2722** or **13 18 12** from the 1 November 2023

Wagga Wagga

Anglicare / Ashmont Community Centre – Toy Drive and Christmas hampers from the 1 November 2023. 42 Tobruk Street, Ashmont. Contact: **6931 3456** or email jasmine.woodland@anglicare.com.au Food Relief. Mon to Fri, 9am – 1pm

Albury

Uniting Victoria Tasmania
Cnr Nilmar Ave and Beechworth Rd, Wodonga. Emergency food parcels are available Monday to Friday 9.30am-12.30pm Phone **(02) 6048 6900**

Goulburn

Christmas Hampers – Goulburn Salvos. Apply by booking an appointment or phoning **0448 022 526**. Mon – Fri between 9am and 12pm. 6 Hovel Street, Goulburn. Last day to apply is Friday 10 Dec 2022

Southwest Sydney

Community Christmas Meal – Liverpool
12:00pm 20 December 2023

Free Christmas Lunch (Take away) for all community members. 51-55 Memorial Avenue, Liverpool NSW 2170

Griffith

Hampers of Hope - **02 6962 9997** Yambil Hub, 16 Yambil St, Griffith Nsw 2680

ACT

Australian Red Cross - Canberra Roadhouse
20 Genge Street, Canberra ACT 2601
Open 6 days in a week. No service on Friday
Monday and Wednesday - 3.00-5.45pm
Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday,
and Sunday - 4.30pm-5.45pm
St John's Hall - 45 Constitution Av,
Reid ACT Christmas Day Lunch.



See our website for more information: argylehousing.com.au/2023_christmas_assistance

Join The Argyler Editorial Team



Client Editorial Team

We need your ideas and stories to keep The Argyler relevant to you.

- Do you want to contribute to The Argyler?
- Do you have a great news story that you would like to share?
- Would you like your ideas published to our community?

If so, we would like to hear from you.

For more information, contact Scott Dunstan at:
editor@argylehousing.com.au



Argyle Housing Office Closures



All Argyle Housing offices will close from 3pm on 22nd December 2023 and reopen on 9:00am Tuesday 2nd January 2024.

Office Trading Hours

Monday 25 December 2023	Closed
Tuesday 26 December 2023	Closed
Wednesday 27 December 2023	Closed
Thursday 28 December 2023	Closed
Friday 29 December 2023	Closed
Monday 1 January 2024	Closed
Tuesday 2 January 2024	Open



We hope you have a wonderful break with your families.



Repairs and Maintenance

If you have an emergency and need to report repairs and maintenance, please refer to the emergency numbers within your lease agreement.

Christmas Giving Tree: Spreading Holiday Joy



This holiday season, Argyle Housing is embracing the spirit of giving. Instead of exchanging traditional presents amongst ourselves, our staff has come together to support local families in need through the Christmas Giving Tree initiative.

Here's how it works: our team selects a tag from the tree, each representing a gift for a girl, boy, mother, or father. These presents are thoughtfully wrapped and donated to local support services, ensuring they reach those who need them most.

Due to the overwhelming success of last year's program, we are expanding our efforts in 2023. In addition to our gift drive, we will also be organising a food drive, collaborating with local service providers to distribute much-needed meals to those in need.

By participating in the Christmas Giving Tree, you are making a meaningful impact in your community. The joyous smiles on children's faces and the relief felt by their parents are the true rewards of this heart-warming initiative.

If you'd like to join in spreading holiday cheer, simply select a gift tag from the tree. The tags indicate the age and gender of the recipient, allowing you to choose a gift that will truly make a difference. Remember, all gifts should be donated unwrapped.

Let's come together and make this Christmas season a time of generosity and compassion. Join us in making a small gesture that will go a long way. The Christmas Spirit is alive and well at Argyle Housing, and we invite you to be part of this wonderful tradition.

If Clients would like to participate, gift tags on the tree indicate gender/age:

Girl/Boy aged 0-3 | Girl/Boy aged 4-7

Girl/Boy aged 8-12 | Girl/Boy aged 13-15

Or give a gift for a Father/Mother

***We ask all gifts are donated unwrapped.**

Argyle Housing Digital Annual Report 2023



We are thrilled to share with you our accomplishments over the past year and our plans for future success. Our dedicated team has worked tirelessly to foster client engagement and meet the ever-growing demand for affordable housing.

We recognise the importance of investing in our staff to ensure they have the necessary resources and support to provide exceptional service to our clients. Furthermore, we remain committed to promoting inclusivity and diversity throughout our organisation. We believe in creating welcoming communities that are accessible to everyone.

Thank you for your continued support as we strive to impact the lives of those we serve positively.



<https://argylehousing.com.au/annualreport2023/>

Financial Stress



Is it weighing you down this Christmas

If you're struggling with debt or worried about how you'll be able to pay your rent and bills, then financial counselling could be exactly what you need.

The free and confidential service is provided by qualified and caring professionals. Depending on your individual circumstances, your financial counsellor might:

- help you assess your financial situation
- teach you information about common credit and debt issues
- help you design a personal money management plan
- act as your advocate and negotiate with your credit providers, government agencies and businesses on your behalf (if appropriate)
- give you important information on credit laws, debt recovery processes, and bankruptcy
- refer you to other specialist financial services.

Anglicare's Financial Counsellors work out of its Parramatta, Liverpool, Bankstown, Campbelltown, Wollongong and Nowra Call 1300 111 278 for your local Financial Assistance offices.

info@argylehousing.com.au or 1300 274 953

Client Awards



At the recently held Stakeholder meetings across our Wingecarribee and Southwest Sydney offices, we had the pleasure of recognising Clients who had shown exceptional dedication. Annually, we seize this opportunity to appreciate and celebrate the remarkable efforts put forth by many of our Clients. The individuals mentioned in the accompanying chart have received nominations from our Clients themselves, acknowledging their significant contributions both within Argyle Housing and the broader community. This year, we were delighted to present awards in categories such as Community Spirit, Responsibility, Volunteering, and the Good Neighbour Award. We look forward to distributing additional awards at our various offices during upcoming Client Forums scheduled for November and December.



Real Estate - SWS

Name	Business
Kate McClelland	KLM Property Group
Tyler Hardy	Prudential Real Estate
Alyssa Houston	Gerald Smith First National
Manwell Hawli	Carbone Realty

Real Estate - Bowral

Name	Business
Katie Sutherland	Drysdale
Natalie Rice	Drysdale
Eloise Wilkinson	Jackson Wall Real-estate
Lee Astill	Carlton Real-estate

Support Worker - SWS

Name	Business
Suzy Pace	St Vincent de Paul
Samantha Sanchez	NEAMI
Kath Flack-Crane	NEAMI
Ashleigh Lynch	St Saviours
Elizabeth Saliba	Uniting
Nerida Harris	Macarthur Family & Youth Services (WISH)

Support Worker - Bowral

Name	Business
Natalie Appino (nee Campion)	Community Links
Sandra McCue	Anglicare
Jake & Erin Horton	Salvation Army



Clients

Name	Award
Lorraine	Community Spirit Award
Thomas	Good Neighbour Award
James	Responsible Client Award
Catherine	Responsible Client Award
Deanne	Good Neighbour Award
Bev	Good Neighbour Award
Alexia	Good Neighbour Award
Dave	Volunteer Award
Kevin	Good Neighbour Award
Naomi	Volunteer Award
Bernadette	Good Neighbour Award
Stephen	Good Neighbour Award
Gerd	Good Neighbour Award
Kay	Good Neighbour Award
Colin	Responsible Client Award
Thomas	Community Spirit Award
Patricia	Volunteer Award
Helen	Good Neighbour Award
Cassandra	Responsible Client Award
Joan	Volunteer Award
Eddie	Community Spirit Award
Patricia	Good Neighbour Award
Rajendra	Responsible Client Award
Rosalie	Community Spirit Award
Silvia	Community Spirit Award
Lucille	Responsible Client Award
Giordano	Community Spirit Award



Road Trip



Looking for things to do that don't cost too much? Despite the cost of petrol, taking a day trip in the car can still be a low-cost day.

Bring the food with you as eating out is definitely one way of over-spending when you go anywhere. Enough drinks for everyone is also a big money saver, whether the drinks are from the supermarket or simply water from your tap (ideally frozen prior to the day of your outing). But it is nice to be able to buy the children an icecream at the end of the day, if you can.

Throw in the swimmers and towels too. Most of our area is within 100 kilometres of the beach, and there are also safe rivers as well as town swimming pools and water parks, some of which are free. Spare clothes for any disasters can be useful to have, and if you are travelling by car, it is not a problem to carry a bit extra.

Discourage the bringing of electronic devices. We aren't looking at a swift run along the Expressway with the calls of "Are we there yet?" plaintively coming from the back seat. You are going to stop, frequently, and walk and see so many fun and interesting places. Stop and let the children out to play when you see some play equipment. Stop and look at that roadside monument. Obviously, if the dog has come too, stopping is necessary.

Take the backroads and explore. You really can't get lost, and if you are in doubt about where you are, or the way home, you probably have Google maps in your phone. But let the children watch out for the road signs that show how far you are from the nearest town, and notice the names of roads and creeks as you travel by. Turn off, and find your way to a forgotten village, and just wander around. Check out the antique shop for lost treasures or see if the bakery really has the "world's best pies".

You will find a lot of lovely and interesting places if you notice the Brown Visitor Attraction Signposting which are signs which have a brown background with white wording. These signs are often seen on the NSW road network in NSW and inform visitors of attractions and services available at a destination as well as indicating natural or physical attractions, or places that are considered major visitor centres. Most lookouts, National Parks, waterfalls, historical places and many other interesting spots are indicated with these signs.

Places indicated are usually free to enter and have picnic places, toilets and something to do such as a bushwalk to a spot where there are things to see and think about like waterbirds, a historic relic, or a big dam.

Be prepared to help your children "see" the country they are travelling through. Simple games such as "I Spy" can be played by everyone. But also talk about what you see: point out the train line running along the road side, the wind turbines in the distance and the derelict shearing shed – and talk about what these features mean. You are developing vocabulary, broadening young minds and teaching Geography as you go. Watch for the property names and other signs too. Many properties have curious names, and interesting gateways and letter boxes with RMB written on them – what does that mean? Even the ordinary road signs tell quite a story as they indicate a narrow bridge ahead or that there is wildlife about.

Remember to amble. Stop when convenient. Check out that little lane way leading off the main road and stop to look at the view at the lookout. You are out for a pleasurable day exploring. You don't have to get anywhere at a particular time. The funny thing is, you may not actually drive very far from home at all to enjoy a very good day out.

Written by Argyle Housing client, Lyndal



Meet Tony

a proud client of Argyle Housing



Tony has a message for everyone who thinks that Men's Sheds are just for the retired, the old tradies, or the ones nearing the end of their lives. He wants you to know that you don't have to fit into any of these categories to join a Men's Shed. In Tony's hometown, the Wollondilly Community (WOLCOMS), there are six distinct Men's Sheds spread across various towns and villages.

Each Men's Shed in WOLCOMS operates independently, offering a unique character and charm. They are welcoming spaces, run by blokes for blokes, where judgement is left at the door. No matter your skills or hobbies, there's a place for you. You can learn something new, hone an old craft, or simply drop by for a cuppa and a chat.

Here's how you can get involved. In Appin, there's a Men's Shed at 40 Sportsground Parade, open on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 8.00 am to 1.30 pm. You can reach out to Jim Stubbs at manyrod@bigpond.net.au. Bargo has a Men's Shed at 237 Great Southern Road, open on Tuesdays from 9.30 am to 1 pm. Dave Clayton is the contact person there, and you can email him at daveclayton1964@outlook.com.

Elsewhere, there's the Menangle Men's Shed at Stevens Road, open on Mondays from 8.30 am to 12.30 pm. Get in touch with Allan Webb at ajw17@hotmail.com. Oakdale has a Men's Shed at 1605 Burragorang Rd. For information on days and hours, email Phillip Hughes at Phillip.laurettehughes@gmail.com.

For those near Tahmoor, there's the Tahmoor Uniting Men's Shed at 110 Thirlmere Way, open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 am to 12.30 pm. Alan Wearn is the contact person there, and you can reach him at anhwarn@bigpond.com.

Finally, at 10 Eighteenth Street, Warragamba, there's the Warradale Men's Shed, open on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9 am to 2 pm. You can get in touch with Les Rhodes at warradalemensshed4@gmail.com.



Tony

WOLCOMS and its Men's Sheds are supported by the Wollondilly Shire Council. For more information, feel free to contact the Community Projects Team at **02 46779550**. Be sure to follow WOLCOMS on Facebook.

Tony encourages you to reach out to your local shed and see how you can become a part of this wonderful community.

“You're always welcome at a Men's Shed”

he says.

“Don't hesitate to join us today!”

Opportunity Knocks

*Steve's Story



Introducing Steve.

Steve, a long-term resident of our Market Street Lodge and his story is about overcoming adversity.

His journey through life was one of tough times and extreme hardship from a young age.

At just 14 years old, Steve became addicted to heroin.

His daily routine rapidly became one of drugs and crime. It wasn't long before Steve ended up in prison.

"I served my time. Once released I thought about where I should go.

Rather than go back to Western Sydney where all the trouble was, I decided a new start would be better. So, I moved to Queanbeyan."

Living in Queanbeyan meant that Steve could be closer to his family, but unfortunately trouble was brewing again, and he landed back in jail, this time in Goulburn.

Once parole was granted Steve was able to finish his sentence within the community and it was at that point; Steve became a resident of our Market Street Lodge.

"The first six months at the Lodge was hard.

I was devastated and disappointed in myself. I felt depressed and angry that I couldn't go back to Canberra to see my family.

I remember when I went back to see my parole officer to have my ankle bracelet removed, I found myself thinking I have two options – suicide or change my ways. I chose to change my ways."

Steve's focus turned to finding purpose in his life.

"The Lodge has given me a place to call my own.

I can make it what I want.

Every morning I get up and I make sure to clean my room, make my bed.

Doing this helps me set the pace for the day.

My mindset has changed.

In the last two months I've felt really settled here.

I am not in any hurry to go anywhere.

I have a roof over my head, a heater and fan in my room, a fridge, food, tv and

I am slowly rebuilding my relationship with my family.

The ladies in the Office have been amazing too!

This place does massive things for people.

You just got to look for the positives."

Steve is now 12 years clean and looking forward to contributing back to the community via volunteering opportunities.

“
This place does massive things for people
”

Interview date: 22nd September 2023

Location: Market Street Lodge.

*Client's name has been changed to protect their privacy.

Karen Zelinsky

Market Street Lodge Breakfast



Karen joined the Argyle Housing team back in July 2023 as our Client Support Specialist, at our Market St Lodge, in Goulburn.

Since starting at Argyle Housing, Karen has implemented several regular initiatives to improve the quality and comfort of our residents.

The Regular Breakfast program gives residents the opportunity to assist in preparing breakfast for the Lodge. This has been an increasingly popular program – especially when pancakes are on the menu.

Residents Meetings are now in place and held the first Friday of each month. These meetings empower residents and enhances their sense of ownership and belonging within their home community. It also fosters a collaborative spirit, leading to decisions that cater to the collective needs and desires of the group, ultimately fostering a more harmonious and enjoyable living environment.

And regular Crafting Activities provide a sense of accomplishment for residents and a boost of confidence with learning a new skill.

Karen also regularly collects donated food products from Coles Secondbite and C3 Care Southern Highlands & Tablelands such as bread, tinned foods,

snacks, and other delicious treats to share with the residents at Market Street.

Along with this, Karen prepares bulk toasted sandwiches for residents to re-heat when they need something quick to eat. She also fills the freezer up with nutritious wholesome pre-made meals and at least once a fortnight hosts a free communal lunch where residents can come together and talk.

“We are always busy, but my heart is for people, and I hope that these gestures can go some way to improve the lives of the residents.”

But it doesn't end there. Karen has created welcome kits for new occupants. These kits contain essential items like toothbrushes, deodorant, and personal hygiene products.

During the colder months, she also acquired coats and warm clothing which she shared with the residents. Through her connection with Usshers Lane Community Pantry, she secured clean blankets, bed linen, pillows and towels for the Market Street rooms.

Giving back to community and volunteering has always been in Karen's nature.

Outside of Argyle Housing, Karen is an appointed Official Community Visitor for the Minister of Families, Communities and Disability

Services, and an Official Visitor for the Minister of Mental Health.

Karen and her husband also lend a helping hand at C3 Cares – Southern Highlands Christian Community Centre, where they have built volunteering connections across the Southern Highlands and Tableland regions.

My husband and I prepare meals which are given out free to anyone in need. We cook an average of 150 meals per week. We also provide meals and other goods to help them to get food out to their connections.

said Karen.

Karen embodies our ethos around building better communities. Her positivity and energy have given residents at the lodge a sense of connection, community, and joy, turning Market Street from a lodge and into a place they can call home.

Jenny Chapman

Jenny Chapman's heart beats for the community



An Argyle Housing employee, Jenny has turned her volunteer hours into a mission of hope, creating nutritious and heart-warming meals for the vulnerable with Meals on Wheels Griffith. Her dedication is remarkable, with 350 meals made so far and a goal of reaching 700. This initiative isn't just about numbers, it's about the lives she's touching, the smiles she's bringing, and the difference she's making.

The journey began with a single meal. Today, Jenny provides assistance to two Argyle Housing Clients directly. This includes an elderly gentleman on the waitlist, who due to steep private rent rates, was unable to afford food. A hamper filled with nutritious meals now reaches him once a week, a gesture of kindness that speaks volumes about Jenny's dedication.

With her goal of preparing 700 meals, Jenny is not just limiting her initiative to Hampers of Hope. She aims to extend support to the Salvation Army's Men's refuge, broadening the horizon of her mission. The goal is to ensure no one in the community goes hungry, and everyone is cared for.

Jenny's commitment is reflected in her meticulous planning. She has set up a large freezer at home, enabling her to cook during the week, relieving the pressure of weekend cooking. Additionally, she aspires to set up a freezer in the Griffith office, ensuring the meals are accessible for Clients when needed.

Every week, Jenny prepares one or two dishes every night, a mix of savoury and sweet meals. These are then carefully packaged, frozen, and delivered to Hampers of Hope and Meals on Wheels the following week. The process isn't without its fun elements, with a recent late-night kitchen trial leading to a hilarious session of toffee apple making.

Her dishes are diverse, catering to various tastes and preferences. From Spaghetti Bolognese, Savoury Mince, Beef Casserole with Dumplings, Tuna Bake, Potato Bake, Broccoli and Cauliflower Bake among others, to sweet surprises like Chocolate Crackles, Honey Joys, Mars Bar Slice, and Caramel Fudge, each meal is prepared with love and passion.

Jenny's efforts have been generously supported by Axichem, who have donated containers, and Broome's, who have contributed vegetables. These donations have further propelled her mission, enabling her to create an array of delicious dishes.



As she explored various recipes, Jenny faced the challenge of creating budget-friendly meals without repeating dishes. She wants to offer dishes that Clients may not be able to afford, making each meal a special experience. As luck would have it, she came across a 1923 Radiation Cookbook, a valuable heirloom from her great grandmother. The book, published for use with the New World Gas cooker, offers a variety of vintage recipes, adding an old-world touch to Jenny's modern-day mission.

Jenny's volunteer work provides a shining example of community service. Her dedication, passion, and commitment to serving others exemplify the spirit of Meals on Wheels – a mission fuelled by love, hope, and the shared belief that no one should go hungry.

Giving back to the Community



On a quaint street named Railway Avenue, Bundanoon the Australian DIY Families Institute OP-SHOP stands proudly with the number 29 gleaming on its front door. This year, it wears an extra sparkle as this beloved community beacon celebrates its first birthday. This milestone isn't just about the shop; it's about the 40+ local families who have found a lifeline in its services. A lifeline that has seen 30 tonnes of food reach those who need it most.

For these families, Fridays hold a special significance. It's the day when SecondBite and Foodbank Australia, in partnership with the OP-SHOP, deliver free fruit and veg hampers. But beyond the nutrition these hampers provide, they represent a community standing together, refusing to let any of its members go hungry.

This is where you, the reader, come in. How can you help, you ask? By simply shopping at the OP-SHOP. Each purchase from the cornucopia of goods ranging from plants, books, puzzles, and clothes, to bric-a-brac, helps support this endeavour.

The Australian DIY Families Institute OP-SHOP are also seeking enthusiastic volunteers who can help with the nursery. Whether you have green fingers and can assist with plant cuttings, or you have a vehicle and some free time to

help with the food deliveries, your aid is invaluable.

Inside their nursery, you'll find a vibrant palette of mixed herbs and many other plants. If you're looking for something specific that's not currently in stock, their friendly team will go the extra mile to help source it for you.

The Australian DIY Families Institute OP-SHOP doors are open from Wednesday to Sunday, 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. Why not come on down this weekend, find yourself a bargain, and at the same time, make a difference in our southern villages? Be a part of the change. Help us write the next chapter in the story of the Australian DIY Families Institute OP-SHOP.

Get in touch with them at **0428 455 302** or drop them an email at **admin@diyfamilies.org.au**. Join us in celebrating not just their first birthday, but the spirit of community that makes it possible.

Behind the thriving Australian DIY Families Institute OP-SHOP on Railway Avenue, Bundanoon, stands a team with a vision - James Fitzgibbons and Isabella Lambert-Kenney. Together



James and Isabella not only envisioned a place where families could access essential goods and services but also a hub that unites the community. The OP-SHOP's success story isn't merely about its growth over the past year; it's a testament to James and Isabella's dedication and unwavering belief in the power of community. From orchestrating partnerships with SecondBite and Foodbank Australia to ensure the delivery of free fruit and veg hampers every Friday, to the vibrant plant nursery run with the help of enthusiastic volunteers, the team's touch is evident in every corner of the shop. Their efforts have seen 30 tonnes of food reach families in need, underlining the OP-SHOP's critical role as a lifeline for over 40 local families. As we celebrate the OP-SHOP's first birthday, we celebrate James and Isabella, the people whose vision brought it into being.



Pamela's Journey



Pamela's journey from the cold, unfeeling streets to the warmth of a secure home is a testament to the power of relentless hope and the transformative potential of community assistance. Her life, like a ship battered by a merciless storm, was adrift in the vast sea of homelessness. Unseen and unheard, Pamela carried a desolate heart within her, feeling as though she didn't matter, fettered by the cruel chains of loneliness.

One day, however, a beacon of hope emerged on the horizon. Argyle Housing opened its doors to her, to find a place she could finally call home in Northcott. The sheer joy of having a safe haven overpowered her, rendering her eyes glistening with tears of gratitude. Her new abode was not just a shelter, it was the embodiment of her newfound dignity, the symbol of her resilience and her triumph over adversity.

The community didn't stop at just providing a roof over her head. Assistance came in the form of food hampers, a fridge, a lounge, and a brand new bed, each item a tangible reassurance that she was no longer alone. The people around her worked tirelessly, channelling their commitment and empathy into creating a liveable space for Pamela.

Pamela's words of gratitude echoed through the rooms of her new home, penning a beautiful ending to her long struggle. She expressed her appreciation for the ceaseless efforts of those who had helped make her dream a reality. The Walls of her new



home reverberated with her love for her new surroundings and the community she now proudly called her own.

But above all, her heart radiated love for Argyle Housing and its staff. Argyle Housing, had not only just given her a place to reside, but had breathed life into

her existence, validating her worth and helping her regain her long-lost sense of self. Pamela's story serves as a beacon of hope for those still adrift in the sea of loneliness, proving that with the right support and undying resilience, it is possible to find your way back home.

Moving home?

MyConnect can arrange all your essential utility connections in just one phone call.



Our service is **FREE** and takes under **10 minutes**. **Simply:**

- 1 Complete our online form at myconnect.com.au or fill out the application form.
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We partner with the best providers, so we can find a plan that works best for your lifestyle.

Our expert customer service team connect thousands of people every month and will be more than happy to assist you.



Trusted by Aussie movers

- **No hidden fees.** MyConnect gets paid by the provider for connecting your utilities on their behalf so the service is completely complimentary for you.
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Scholarships are part of an annual education program for Clients, providing up to **\$1,500** for college, university or TAFE students. The scholarship money can be used to pay for any educational costs, such as course fees, text books, specific clothing, computers or anything which helps you to complete your education.

Applying for a Wendy Middleton Scholarship is easy: simply fill in a short application form, which takes around five minutes. More than one member of your family can apply. Scholarships are open to any household member enrolled in full-time or part-time tertiary education during 2023.

argylehousing.com.au/about-us/scholarships/

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