



Better Homes, Better Futures



As the Christmas decorations take over the shops, school winds down for another year and the man in the red suit appears for photos, it is time to reflect on the year and plan for the festive season. Since our last newsletter we have held our Annual General Meeting (AGM) for the company and this year we were fortunate to have two tenants, Dorisse and Ricky speak at our meeting. Guests commented that this was our best AGM due to the presentations given by our tenants. Thanks to Dorisse and Ricky. Following our AGM we have some new board members, we welcome Laurie Lindner and Nathan Williams to our board and Mark Stallman has been appointed as Chairman and Leah Cameron as Deputy Chair. Michael Delaney continues as our Treasurer. We also thank and farewell Tony McDonagh and Michael Healy from our board. We are very fortunate to have such hard working volunteers as members of our board. We would also like to

congratulate Michael Healy on being elected as the Member for Cairns.

I would like to commend the Cairns Post on their inaugural Adopt a Family Christmas Appeal and for inviting us to be part of this program of support. Thanks also to Cairns Regional Council and the Salvation Army for their annual appeals that will also benefit our tenants. These are great initiatives and will help families at a time when money is tight and expectations are high. This is the true spirit of Christmas. I would like to suggest that there are some great events happening over the festive season, some we have highlighted in this newsletter, and hopefully some may be of interest to you and your family. Our annual hampers will go out to some lucky tenants in early December and we will capture some photos to include them in our first newsletter in 2018.

The emergency out of hours number is in this newsletter and pre-Christmas is a good time to prepare for the cyclone season by cleaning up yards and picking up items from around your property. This time of year is also a challenge financially so well done to those tenants who are up to date with their rent. If you are planning to be away it is good to let your Tenancy Officer know of your absence.

Wishing you and your families a safe, happy and blessed Christmas and thank you all for your support during 2017.

Cheers *Donna-Maree*





International Volunteer Day

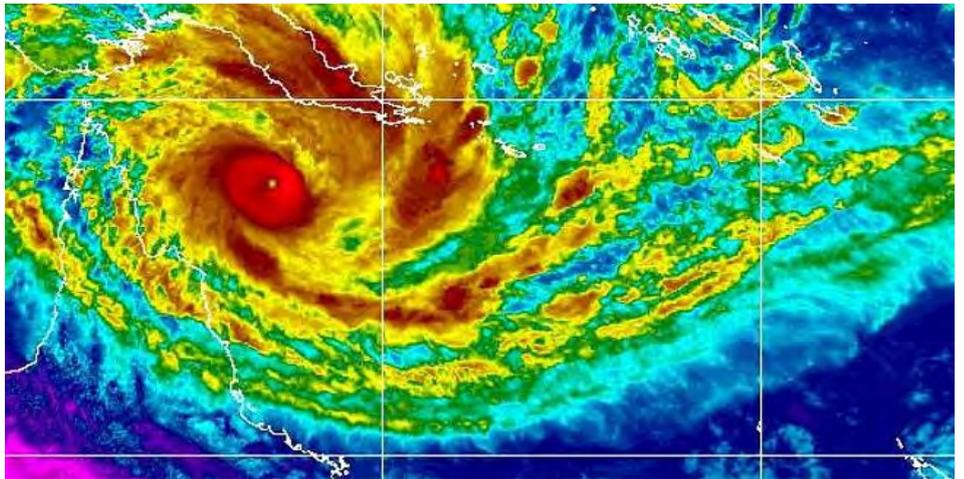
International Volunteer Day (IVD) is celebrated each year on 5 December and was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1985. IVD provides volunteer organisations and individual volunteers with the opportunity to raise public awareness of their contributions to economic and social development at local, national and international levels.

IVD is celebrated worldwide with thousands of volunteers involved in a range of events as diverse as the volunteers themselves. Events include clean-up campaigns, conferences, exhibitions, morning teas and many other activities all aimed at highlighting the role of volunteers in their communities. Volunteering Australia supports IVD and thanks the over six million Australians who volunteer their time. We encourage the broader community and all volunteer based organisations to get involved with the celebrations in your area. <https://volunteeringqld.org.au/>



World AIDS Day  1 December 2017

WORLD AIDS AWARENESS DAY
Observed on 1st December each year. Red ribbon sales, commemorative gathering with speakers and entertainment.
Website: www.qldworldaidsday.org.au



Cyclone information

The Cairns region is a beautiful, tropical area that is vulnerable to natural disasters. We are cyclone and flood prone. We live very close to the sea and extensive areas of bush. There is one main road in and out. Please ensure you are prepared in case of any natural disaster. Please visit the www.cairns.qld.gov.au for further information.

Assistance with evacuation

Cairns Regional Council assist people to evacuate if they are on their Evacuation and Recovery register. This register is for residents within the Cairns region who:

- are frail, aged and/or have a disability; and
- live alone and have no friends or relatives in the Cairns area that could help them in an emergency situation or evacuation; and
- have no transport; and
- are able to administer their own medication (if required); and
- are not receiving significant assistance or support from a funded service provider.

For further information contact the Council's Disaster Management Unit on 4044 3044 or email disasterunit@cairns.qld.gov.au



15 December, Uniting Care community Gambling Help and Financial Wellbeing

is visiting shopping centres once a month. Financial Wellbeing will be having a 'bring your bills' booth, encouraging people to bring in bills they are having trouble paying or need help understanding. Stall open from 8.30am – 4.30pm, Bring Your Bills booth open from 12noon – 2pm, today's shopping centre: Smithfield



1 - 16 Dec 2017 Beauty and the Beast

A pantomime, written and directed by Cath Willacy, the traditional story of Beauty and the Beast, but as it's a pantomime, you can expect some twists and turns along the way. For kids from 2 – 102. Rondo Theatre, Greenslopes Street, Edge Hill, more info & bookings call 1300 855 835



IYMP

INDIGENOUS YOUTH MOBILITY PATHWAYS PROJECT



Over the past couple of months we have been involved with IYMP (Indigenous Youth Mobility Pathways) which is part of the Australian Government's Indigenous Advancement Strategy (IAS) taking on placement students. IYMP wanted to say thank you with a presentation of flowers, chocolates and a certificate of appreciation to Nicole.

If you would like to find out more about IYMP please go to the website: <http://iymp.com.au/cairns/>



Access Community Housing Office closing and opening dates

We will be open all day on Wednesday 20 December and will be **CLOSED from 1 pm on Friday 22 December**. We will **REOPEN on Tuesday 2 January 2018**. We are closed on Australia Day, Friday 26 January 2018.

Emergency Repairs

If you have any emergency repairs from 23 December to 02 January contact the following number:

Phone: 1300 782 586



Then press: **1** for an electrician **2** for a plumber

Please call this number only if you have a problem that is dangerous, a threat to your health or may cause major property damage. Remember that if it is not an emergency you may be charged for the call. **Please ensure you give correct details (eg; mobile, phone number and address) when leaving a message and that you are at home for the contractor to attend to the problem.**

Going away over Christmas?

Don't make it too obvious - keep your yard tidy, have your mail collected.



Rent payments

Christmas time can mean extra expenses for people. It is important to maintain your rental payments so you don't fall behind. Please contact your Tenancy Officer if you need to discuss your rent payments.



Find this Years School Uniforms and Supplies at...

school savvy
by centacare cairns

Open NOW!

44 APLIN STREET
JANUARY 3RD-27TH
(OR UNTIL STOCK IS SOLD OUT)

MONDAY - FRIDAY
10AM - 3PM

SUPPORTED BY:

I'm starting school
Don't forget to order my birth certificate
www.qld.gov.au/birthcertificate

Must haves

- Uniform
- Backpack
- Shoes
- Birth certificate

Garden Competition

Best Overall Garden 2017 – Dorrie



Best Creative Garden 2017 – Michael



Free Mulch Giveaway



8 - 11 December

Take advantage of Council's free shredded green waste offer.

Locations:

- Portsmith & Gordonvale Transfer Station: 7 days, 8.30am -5.15pm
- Smithfield Transfer Station: Mon-Sat 7am to 5.15pm/Sun 9am to 5.15pm
- Babinda Transfer Station: Friday, Sunday, Monday 8.30am to 4.45pm

Manoora community garden turns one
Costa Comes Calling!



Pizza, photos, pot paints & puppies
 How to plant a perfect tree by Costa
December 3rd, 3 - 6pm
 8 Rollina Close Manoora Ph:0438182800
 hello@manooracommunity.org



Upcoming Festive Events

Christmas Tree light switch-on

Date: Fri 1 Dec 5:30 pm
 Location: Esplanade Plaza (near Lagoon), Cairns Esplanade giant Christmas Tree.

Holloways Beach Carols by Candlelight

Date: Sat 16 Dec 5:30 pm
 Location: Holloways Beach Sporting Complex
 Christmas carols concert for families with Santa arriving on motorbike.

Gordonvale Carols in the Park

Date: Fri 8 Dec 5:00 pm
 Location: Norman Park, Gordonvale
 A free community evening of carols and entertainment with a few market and food stalls.

Edmonton Carols by Candlelight

Date: Wed 7 Dec. 6.30pm
 Location: Ravizza Park Edmonton
 Available for sale: LED candles and light snacks

Redlynch Christmas Festival

Date: Sat 9 Dec 4:00 pm
 Location: Xavier Herbert Park Redlynch Valley
 Amusements, kids' activities, carols, Santa, bar and food trucks, parade.

Palm Cove New Years Eve Fireworks

Date: Sun 31 Dec 9:00 pm
 Location: Palm Cove foreshore
 Come and watch the Palm Cove foreshore come alive on New Year's

Carols by Candlelight

Date: Sun 10 Dec 5:30 pm
 Location: Fogarty Park, Cairns Esplanade
 Bring your rug, chair and your best singing voice.

For more information on any of the above events please visit the Cairns Regional Council Website:
<http://www.cairns.qld.gov.au/whats-on/upcoming-events>



Christmas Hampers to be won!

Tenants who are up to date with their rent, will go in the draw to win a Christmas hamper. Winners will be notified by the 15th December for collection the following week.
Good luck everyone.