



Better Homes, Better Futures

The Spirit of Christmas at Access Housing

December was a special month at Access Housing with the distribution of 48 hampers, ensuring a better Christmas for many of our tenants. Thanks goes to all the organisations, individuals and families who donated items and hampers. Your generosity reflects the true meaning of Christmas.

A big Thank You to all



Enid and her granddaughters celebrate their table of hampers.



Kylie presenting hamper to her tenant David



Kylie presenting hamper to her tenant Eunsu



Benjamin and Errin celebrate Christmas and the pending baby.

From the CEO's desk

A belated welcome to 2018 and I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and that the year has started well for you. I must start by saying that the pre-Christmas period was truly amazing here at Access Housing and we all got to experience the true meaning of Christmas. We were fortunate enough to be part of the Cairns Post's Adopt a Family initiative and all of the 9 families were adopted within 10 days of the program being launched. A huge thank you to our generous community for contributing hampers that made Christmas special for some of our families. We distributed 48 hampers in total, including hampers from the Cairns Regional Council, the Salvation Army, Access Housing and friends of the company. To all who donated it was a special feeling when these hampers were received and you should feel

proud that you helped make someone's Christmas a whole lot better. This page contains some of the photos of the recipients of those hampers.

The wet weather has finally arrived and it is a good time to check if water is lying around your property. Mosquitoes carrying dengue fever live around and inside homes. They can breed in the smallest amounts of water – such as in a palm frond or a pot plant base. Tip out any water that gathers around your home, and wear insect repellent during the day. We are still in the cyclone season so it is also important to clean up yards and remove any items that could be dangerous in high winds.

We welcome some new staff to our Property team, Rowena and Alicia who come to us with great experience

and energy to help you sustain your tenancies. I am sure you will meet them over the coming months as they conduct inspections and are visiting properties. The start of the year has been very busy and we look forward to a year that will see a growth in housing stock across the region as the waiting list for social housing continues to be high.

If you are one of the tenants that have received a rent review letter recently, please complete the paperwork and return to the office. Wishing you all a happy, healthy year ahead.

Cheers,
Donna-Maree



Poppy Flower Workshops



In November 2018, we commemorate the centenary of the Armistice that ended the First World War (1914-18). A creative public program at the Australian War Memorial (AWM) will combine public activities and displays with the centrepiece being the installation of 62,000 knitted red poppy flowers on the Memorial's grounds. Each poppy represents an Australian life lost in the First World War, who are individually listed on the Memorial's Roll of Honour.

Cairns Regional Council's Manunda Library will be holding the first of five Poppy Flower Workshops on **Friday 16 February 2018** from 10:00am. We encourage you to participate in the workshop by helping to knit/crochet Poppy Flowers as part of the installation in Canberra. If you would like to participate please contact the Manunda Library and speak with Ros Ingham on **4044 3779**. 

Recycle batteries at libraries



Not sure what to do with household batteries once they've done their job? Drop them off at any Cairns Libraries branch for recycling! Nearly a tonne of batteries have been recycled since the drop-off points were installed in February, 2017. Small household batteries up to and including laptop and power tool battery packs can be accepted. Larger batteries such as car and motorbike batteries can be dropped off for free at waste transfer stations.

Bins and Rubbish



Last year in Australia we disposed of 21 million tonnes of waste so any recycling you can do will help the environment. Remember to put your council rubbish bin out the night before collection if you have a morning collection. It is your responsibility to make sure you have the correct rubbish in the correct bin. The Yellow lid bin is for glass, tin, cardboard and plastic containers. No plastic bags should go in the yellow bin. We also would like you to bring in your bin once it is emptied so that it doesn't entice others to use your bin. LET'S HELP KEEP OUR PROPERTIES TIDY.



AccorHotels Indigenous Employment Program

Since 2001 Accor Hotels have created success through training and career opportunities for First Nations peoples. The Indigenous Employment Program recruitment session is 19 February, 2018 with employment program dates 19 – 23 February, 2018.

For more information or to apply, contact Indigenous Program team on email indigenousemployment@accor.com or go to the website at www.jobsataccor.com.au/indigenousprograms.

The National Disability Insurance Scheme is coming!



Community Information Session

The NDIS will become available in the Cairns Region from 1 July 2018. Please join experienced staff from the National Disability Insurance Agency to learn more about accessing the scheme and the types of support that will be available for people living with a disability, their families and carers.

Cairns City Library

151 Abbott St, Cairns
Tuesday, 20 Feb 2018, 9.30am

To Register



Please register online at <https://ndisaccesscairns2.eventbrite.com.au>



or phone (07) 4412 3033 for assistance completing the online registration process.

Please let us know of any accessibility requirements. Children under adult supervision are welcome. Places are limited.

NDIS.com.au



ANNUAL RENT REVIEWS - Important

If you have recently received your rent review paperwork it is important that you complete, sign and return ALL the forms by the 6th March 2018.

Free Drain Stencilling - Mooroolbool

Date: Wed 07 Feb 04:00 pm

Location: Meet at Summer Hill Park on Summer Hill Drive, Mooroolbool

Contact: Aisha 0408 853 512

Date: Sun 11 Feb 10:00 am

Location: Meet at Shang Park on Long Street, Mooroolbool

Contact: Aisha 0408 853 512

Become involved in a fun, free, family friendly event

Yarning Circle - White Rock



Date: Wed 7 Feb

Time: 5:30pm - 7:00pm

Location: Hambledon House Community Centre, 177 Bruce Highway, Edmonton

Contact: Nathan Williams 4044 3551

Talking about a new multi-purpose community facility at Tiffany Street, White Rock

Tenant Incentive Program (February)

Congratulations to the two winners of the TIP awards this month, **Rory and Brendan**.

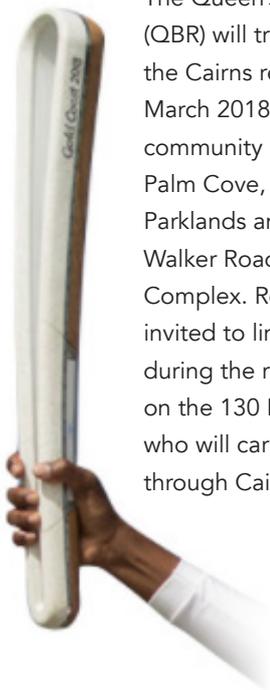
For more information about the program please contact your Property or Tenancy Officer.



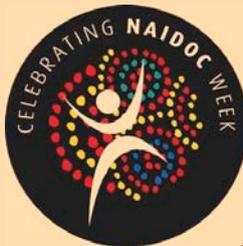
Wuchopperen's Home Interaction Program for Parents & Youngsters (HIPYP) is a free, family friendly, two year program to help children achieve at school. Find out more at the Information Stall, at Raintrees Shopping Centre on **22nd February 2018**.



Queen's Baton Relay route



The Queen's Baton Relay (QBR) will travel through the Cairns region on 16-17 March 2018. There will be community celebrations at Palm Cove, Munro Martin Parklands and Edmonton's Walker Road Sporting Complex. Residents are invited to line the streets during the relay to cheer on the 130 Baton bearers who will carry the Baton through Cairns.



BECAUSE OF HER, WE CAN!

8-15 JULY 2018



NAIDOC Week 2018 will celebrate the invaluable contributions that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women have made – and continue to make - to our communities, our families, our rich history and to our nation



SATURDAY 03 MARCH 2018

Time: 12:00pm - 9:00pm

Location: Barlow Park, Scott Street and Severin Street, Parramatta Park

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/Cairnskiwis/>

Email: joates@aapt.net.au

Category: Community event; Markets

A fun packed day filled with Rugby games, free Children's rides and activities, live entertainment, Cultural performances, markets and food stalls.

All Tenants are invited to attend the FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND REGIONAL TENANTS ADVISORY GROUP INC.

Meetings are every second month on the first Friday of the month.

The meetings provide an opportunity to discuss tenancy issues and hear updates on social housing matters.

Next meeting: Friday the 6th April 2018

Time: 10.30 am to 12.30 pm.

Venue: Build and Asset Services Training Room

Where: 31-33 Grove Street Cairns



Out of Hours Emergencies

For plumbing and electrical emergencies where there is a health risk, a risk of injury or a risk of serious damage to the property

1300 782 586

This service is for emergencies only
You may be charged if you call out a tradesman for a non-emergency repair

Diary Dates 2018



13 Feb Anniversary of the National Apology



25 Feb - 3 March Hearing Awareness Week



8 March International Women's Day



21 March Harmony Day



29 March Last Day of School Term

30 March - 2 April Easter long weekend