Happy New Year to you all and I hope you got to have a great festive season. 2019 is shaping up to be another big year for Access Community Housing with one of our goals being to increase the amount of social housing stock in the Cairns region. We acknowledge the pressure for affordable and available housing in the region and we are committed to working with others to find a solution to the housing shortage.

Christmas was a massive time here with the packing and distribution of 57 hampers. Thanks must go to the Cairns Post for again sponsoring the Adopt a Family Christmas Appeal. This was extremely successful and the families who donated hampers, gifts and toys deserve a huge thank you for their generosity and Christmas spirit. Thanks also to the staff and board members of Access Housing for their efforts, contributions and kindness. For those who distributed the hampers there was a feeling that is summed up in a quote by Eleanor Roosevelt, “since you get more joy out of giving joy to others, you should put a good deal of thought into the happiness that you are able to give.” The photos certainly show the gift of giving.

Since our last newsletter we have welcomed a new staff member Roxanne Creed and welcomed back Ben Whittle. We are thrilled to have their expertise and commitment, to add to our hardworking and dedicated team.

As families start to prepare for the school year I want to wish all the boys’ and girls’ best wishes for a successful, enriching year. Education is one of the most valuable gifts we can provide our young people and I hope that 2019 is a fulfilling, inspirational year for our young students.

Donna-Maree
**Sensory Movie Day**

Event Cinemas are proud to bring sensory friendly films to families living with autism and other sensory needs. The cinema lights are dimmed and the movie volume lowered.

Where: Cairns Central
When: Sunday 3rd February
Time: 10.30am
All tickets $6.00 only

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**Poppers & Popstars**

Free 6 week children’s group program for 7-9 years (Poppers) & 10-13 years old (Popstars) children experiencing parental separation. We aim to support young people in their experience of parental separation, conflict and change in their family situation. Activities include arts and crafts, games, reading books, sharing ideas and afternoon tea and just . . .

When: 3.30pm – 5.00pm
Where: Relationships Australia – 125 Grafton Street, Cairns
Register: Please phone 4041 6063 or 1300 364 277 and ask to be put through to Relationships Aust FNQ Venue

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**Cyclone Season is still upon us**

Don’t forget that officially the cyclone season does not finish until 30th April 2019.

Potentially there could be a chance we could see some more activity. Please ensure that you keep your garden tidy. Any items not fixed in your yard are potential missiles. If advised a cyclone will affect the region you will need to disassemble non fixed items or have them fixed so they will not blow away.

If you require help or need any advice you can contact Cairns Regional Council Disaster Management on: Phone 4044 3377 or email disaster@cairns.qld.gov.au.

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**ANNUAL RENT REVIEWS**

**IMPORTANT**

Some of our tenants will have recently received rent review paperwork. It is important that you complete, sign and return ALL the forms by the 4th February. If you need assistance completing the forms, please contact your **Tenancy Officer on 4031 6702**

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**RTAG Meetings Start**

**Date:** Friday 1 February 2019
**When:** 10.30am to 12.30pm
**Where:** 31-33 Grove Street, Cairns

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**Rent Stress?????**

Please urgently contact your tenancy officer to discuss on 4031 6702. 
*Don’t leave it too late.*
Come along to find out how to reduce your electricity bills through the Energy Savvy Families program. It’s free, it’s fun and you’ll be in the running to win rewards, such as one of 10 x $1,500 energy efficient appliance vouchers.

- Energy saving tips and advice
- Ergon Energy Retail support
- Energy concessions and rebates
- Payment plans and hardship programs
- Online education tools, Reduce Your Juice app and HomeSmart
- Home Energy Emergency Assistance Scheme (HEEAS)

You’ll be able to talk to your local Energy Savvy Champion to find out if you can take part in the Energy Savvy Families program.

AUSTRALIA’S GOT TALENT will be coming to Cairns to do preliminary auditions on 7th March and would love to receive applications from anyone who may be interested!

With the new re-launch of the show, they are going all out to break barriers with their acts. Dream big!

For more information or apply please visit the website: https://australiasgottalent.com.au

Repairs & Maintenance on your Property

Please ensure if you have any repairs or maintenance that require attention, no matter how small, please ring the property team on 4031 6702 straight away.

Repairs can become more expensive if not attended to straight away.
Staff joining the team in 2019

Ben
Director of Maintenance
Ben is back from a year away. He will be stepping back into the role as a Property Officer. It’s great to have you back on board Ben.

Roxanne
Home Skills Coach
Roxanne is our new Home Skills Coach. Roxanne will be working closely with some of our CRS tenants so please make her welcome.

Basketball Program at 118 Murray St
Basketball for kids 5-15 yrs.
Look out for flyers in your letter box if you live in the Manunda, Mooroobool & Manoora suburbs (3M suburbs).
Bounces off on February 6th from 5.00 pm-6pm.

Dates to remember

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Information</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 5th February 2019</td>
<td>Chinese New Year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 9th February 2019</td>
<td>National Pet Adoption Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 13th February 2019</td>
<td>Apology Anniversary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week of 2-10th March 2019</td>
<td>International Women’s Week</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 8th March 2019</td>
<td>International Women’s Day</td>
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<td>Thursday 21st March 2019</td>
<td>Harmony Day</td>
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<td>Friday 5th April 2019</td>
<td>School Term Ends</td>
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Are you looking for a new start in 2019

envision has limited places open in the QLD Government funded pathways for the Future employment program.

There are various programs as follows;
- Certificate 3 in Community Services
- Digital literacy to meet industry needs
- Industry placements, and
- Intensive mentoring during the program and for up to 6 months in employment.

To qualify people must be unemployed or underemployed (less than 25 hours a week).

If you are interested please call 07 4031 2177 for more information.