

TENANT CONNECT

AUTUMN 2021

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- David Burton

Welcome to our first Tenant Connect for 2021!

I hope the year, to date, has brought good things for you, your family and friends.

Our Waves of Sound event was a fantastic way to kick off the year. It was great to meet some of you there and the feedback was very encouraging. Harnessing your ideas, we'll be working with other groups and organisations over coming months to bring about more initiatives relevant to you and your neighbourhood.

We are looking forward to hosting more Pop Up events again in 2021. Dates will soon be shared by SMS and on our Facebook page as arrangements are confirmed.

These gatherings are a great opportunity to come together over a cuppa or barbecue, meet new people or catch up with familiar faces. If you would like to see one of these events in your neighbourhood, get in touch with our Placemaking team.

“THE ONE UNCHANGEABLE CERTAINTY IS THAT NOTHING IS UNCHANGEABLE OR CERTAIN.”

- JOHN F. KENNEDY

Our staff facilitate the Pop Ups and are on hand to answer any questions you have about your tenancy as well.

In this edition, we're thrilled to introduce you to John and Ria. The couple sailed into 2021 surrounded by model ships. Read more about how an activity they shared with their grandchildren has turned into a grand hobby.

While world travel is still off the agenda, we're taking a trip around the globe – at least on paper. With Harmony Week beginning March 15, we explore the melting pot of culture that is our Junction community.

We also have the privilege of introducing you to Leagh, one of our new tenants. What an inspiration! Thank you Leagh – and to everyone of you – who allow us to share your stories and experiences through this magazine and other communications. It is greatly appreciated.

Best wishes,

- *David Burton*

General Manager Housing Services



Waves of Sound Event

Junction acknowledges we are living on traditional Aboriginal Lands and we offer our continued respect to Aboriginal people past and present.

Get in Touch

General Enquiries: 8275 8700

Maintenance: 8210 7010

Payment Enquiries: 8275 8709

Please quote your Unique Payment Reference number when paying via EFT, Westpac deposit and cheque or money order.

Bank: Westpac
BSB: 035 053
Account: 298 277



Join us on social media



junctionaustralia.org.au

Junction's registered community housing provider is Junction and Women's Housing Ltd.

WAVES OF Sound

“IT WAS THE BEST” - RYLEY, 8

It was a cool way to beat the heat for 250 people who attended our youth event, Waves of Sound.

Following promotion throughout our neighbourhoods and communities, the free gathering at the Marion Outdoor Pool, included rides, a DJ and games.

With temperatures soaring into the mid 30s, young people danced, swam and chatted their way through two hours of pool-side fun.

Mum, Emily, who attended the event with her children said it was the best two hours of her holidays. “It was magical,” she said.

Her son, Ryley, 8, agreed. “It went really fast and I played with some new friends. It was the best.”

Waves of Sound was held on January 21, the last Thursday of the summer school holidays. Our partners for the event included: Uniting Communities; Family by Family; Whitelion; Marion Life Community Services, the City of Marion and Caravan Sounds.

Junction tenants
Pedit and Vivianne



BRAND NEW *Beginning*

Christmas came two days early for Pedit when she moved into her new home.

It was a big step for the Junction tenant who had lived in the same property at Plympton Park for 30 years before shifting to the new Melrose Park Apartments on December 23rd.

“Cassa (Junction Housing Manager) came to do a housing inspection during the year and we got talking,” Pedit explains. “My sister was there at the time and I was saying that physically, I hadn’t been able to do what I used to. The house had three bedrooms and a big backyard. It was perfect when my son was little but that was a long time ago now!”

The Melrose Park project, which comprises an architecturally designed apartment complex, has been undertaken in partnership with leading SA development business, Qattro. The site also includes 21 townhouses which have been sold to homebuyers.

“When Cassa first mentioned it I was a bit apprehensive but it just made more and more sense,” Pedit said. “I’m on the ground floor which is perfect for me.

“I’m not one for clutter. I like to keep things tidy. Now I have one bedroom but with very generous living space. All the rooms and areas come off that big space so it’s lovely and open.”

For Pedit, it’s what’s outside her new home – a fig tree estimated to be around 100 years old - that was the “clincher”.

“I have a courtyard where I can see it through the glass doors and it is just beautiful. The birds come in early in the morning and again at night. I have a little gate at the back.

“It was a big move for me and a bit daunting but honestly, it was so worth it. I feel so lucky.”



The Melrose Park Apartments

Packed WITH LOVE

It started with two families wanting to do something to help children in foster care. A decade later, Backpacks 4 SA Kids has supported around 45,000 South Australian children and young people.

The backpacks - containing essential and comforting items - help relieve stress and anxiety for children when they are facing uncertain and traumatic situations. The packs comprise items such as pillows, teddy bears and blankets which children can call their own.

Sonia Sheppard, Junction's Senior Manager Tenancy Services, said Backpacks 4 Kids SA had supported many clients and tenants over recent years.

"There's been some situations where we've been working with parents and children - as well as teenagers - and we've been able to give them one of these packs," Sonia said.

"It is something really practical that can be tailored for different ages, and you can see, straight away, how appreciated the gesture is."

Junction has a limited number of backpacks available that have been donated by Backpacks 4 SA Kids. If you are interested in these Backpacks or you know of a family or young person in need please reach out to us at placemaking@junctionaustralia.org.au

All the hard work arranging these backpacks is undertaken in a warehouse by volunteers who sort, store and pack donated goods into the backpacks.

If you are interested in being part of the packing team, or you'd like to donate items to the cause you can email or visit the website for more information:

EMAIL: hello@backpacks4sakids.org

WEBSITE: www.backpacks4sakids.org



Junction staff Luke and Kirsty with donated backpacks

MELTING POT *Of Culture*

**FROM ENGLAND TO EL SALVADOR. IRELAND TO IRAN.
RUSSIA TO RWANDA. WITH MORE THAN 4000 TENANTS
ACROSS THE STATE, WE ARE PROUD TO HAVE A MELTING POT
OF CULTURE TO RELISH WITHIN OUR COMMUNITIES.**

Harmony Week (15 – 21 March) recognises Australia’s cultural diversity, the significant contribution and positive impact those from other countries have had on our lives and society.

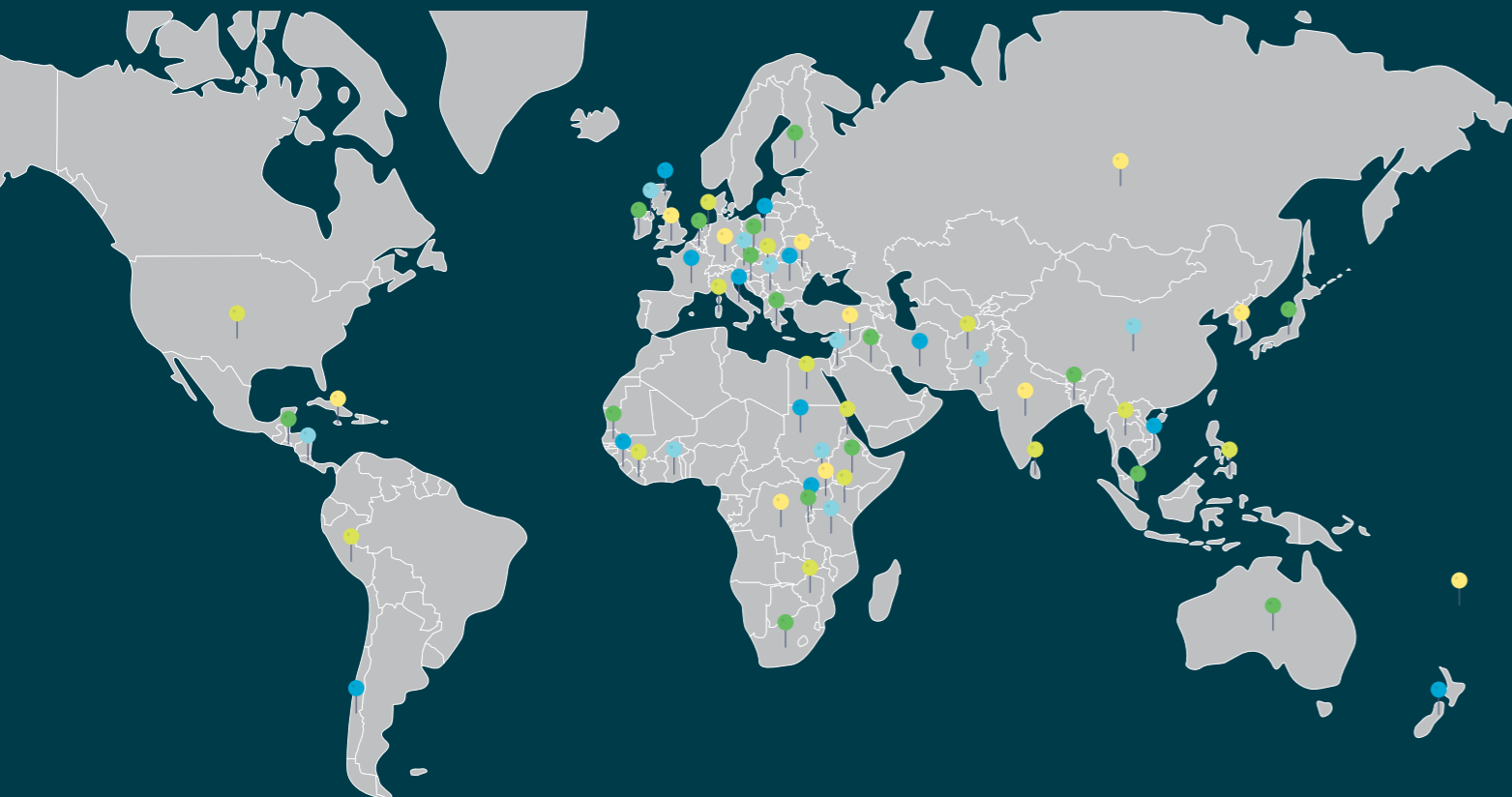
First celebrated in Australia in 1999, Harmony Day encourages people to participate in their community, respect different cultures and religions. It fosters a sense of belonging for everyone.

Migrants have helped shape our country and our lives – from our neighbourhoods to our workplaces, shops and of course, our restaurants and kitchens.

Can you imagine a life without spaghetti, curry or churros? What about spring rolls or sushi?

As a result of the hard work, commitment and resilience of people who were born both here and far away, Australia is one of the most prosperous and peaceful places to live.

Here are some personal stories from a few of our tenants who now call Australia home.



George and wife

GEORGE – SCOTLAND

After living in Australia for 55 years, George still describes it as ‘God’s Country’. Moving from Scotland at the age of 21, George and his wife enjoy sharing elements of their culture with all of the new friends they have made since moving to Australia.

“Sometimes at Christmas and on birthdays we still miss our family and wish we could spend some more time with them,” George said. “We have visited back home once since living in Australia, and they have been to visit us once too.

“We love living here and are always grateful that we took on this new adventure.”

SHAMSI & MOHADESEH – IRAN

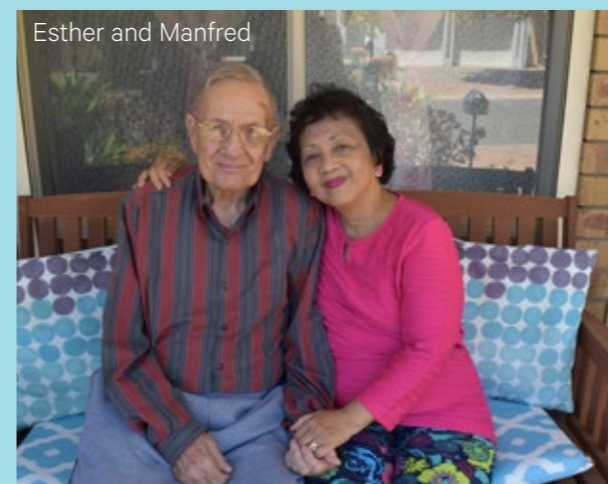
Shamsi and daughter, Mohadeseh, have lived in Australia for three and a half years. Mohadeseh said the greatest hurdles of moving countries included learning a new language and becoming a part of a new community.

They agreed that they have been able to learn from these experiences and now love living in this country. Shamsi said that her favourite way to share her culture with other people is through cooking and hosting guests. She loves to create traditional dishes that she used to make back home to bring family and friends together.

Shamsi volunteers her time at community centre kitchens to share her recipes and love for food and culture.



Mohadeseh at home in the garden



Esther and Manfred

ESTHER – PHILIPPINES

With Esther originally from the Philippines and Manfred from Germany the couple have called Australia home for many years now. They were introduced by mutual friends and from there their love grew.

Esther tells us that the Philippines is a beautiful country and that the weather is lovely. “You can get any cuisine, there is freedom, multiculturalism, and it is a safe place.”

Much like Esther, Manfred shared that he knew Australia was for him. “When I arrived in Australia as a little boy it felt like coming home”. The couple agreed that Harmony Week is a great way to share and learn about cultures and one of the best ways to do that is through food and Tinkling (dancing).



SAY HI TO Julie

MEET JULIE, OUR TEAM LEADER, ALLOCATIONS

How long have you worked at Junction?

I've been with Junction eight years now including five years as Team Leader, Allocations.

What does your work entail?

My key focus is on supporting and leading the allocations officers in their role assessing potential tenants for our vacant properties across all our housing programs.

The customer service officers are also a part of our team, so I am also involved in working collaboratively across the organisation including producing and submitting compliance.

What do you like most about your role?

Being able to make an offer of housing to someone. This is often the catalyst for other positive changes in people's lives.

What do you find most challenging?

At times it is challenging knowing there are so many people out there facing homelessness and there aren't enough homes to assist everyone.

What have you learned about people in the course of your role?

In relation to the clients and tenants we work with I have learnt that those who have very little themselves are most often the most generous. Still to this day, I am amazed at how resilient our clients and tenants can be. The people who choose to work within our Sector are dedicated, tireless and passionate.

What do you like to do in your free time?

I love spending time in the garden, I grow my own veggies, next are the chickens.



Kurna man Karl Telfer prepares a smoking ceremony at a Junction community event

MORE THAN A WORD Reconciliation Takes Action 2021

National Reconciliation Week runs from 27 May until 3 June 2021.

National Reconciliation Week is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia.

Reconciliation Australia's theme for 2021, *More Than a Word*. Reconciliation takes action, encourages braver and more impactful action within the movement.

To learn more visit: www.reconciliation.org.au



With FEATHERED FRIENDS

No matter the season – or reason - there are always some hungry birds to be found. Inviting birds into your yard can have many benefits. They can help keep pests away, some pollinate flowers giving an added colour boost from extra blooms as well helping control weeds.

Bird feeders are among the ways you can attract birds to your garden or yard. The feeders are easy to make and are bound to bring a smile to your face when you see them being enjoyed.

YOU'LL NEED:

- Bird Seed (available in the pet section of most supermarkets)
- Gelatine
- Boiling Water
- Straws cut into 2 inch pieces
- Some string
- Cookie cutters
- Baking paper & tray

HERE'S HOW:

1. Empty two packets of plain gelatine into a very large mixing bowl.
2. Pour in a little bit of boiling water (100ml).
3. Stir the mixture very gently until all of the gelatine has dissolved.
4. Measure out 5 cups of bird seed.
5. Tip the bird seed into the gelatine/water mixture.
6. Stir it up and make sure all of the seeds are evenly coated and there is no longer excess water at the bottom of the bowl.
7. Cover a tray in baking paper and lay out the cookie cutters.
8. Using a teaspoon, fill out each cookie cutter with seed.
9. Make sure they're a bit overfull so be generous with the seed.
10. Lay down another sheet of baking paper over the top of the cookie cutters and press the seeds into the moulds.
11. Stick the straws carefully into the top of the cookie cutter mould making sure not to place them too close to the edges and press the seed down around them.
12. Leave your bird seed sets for 12 hours.
13. Pop them out of the mould and remove the straw.
14. The last step, feed the string through the hole created by the straw and hang them up by tying them into the trees and areas you want to attract the birds.

Source: www.mamapapabubba.com/2012/11/14/cookie-cutter-bird-seed-feeders-a-toddler-friendly-method/



Termite TROUBLE

You may be surprised to learn that, in Australia, termites cause more damage to our homes than all natural disasters combined.

However, these pests can be difficult to detect. Some tell-tale signs include small pinprick holes in timber, crumbling or damaged wood, or small tunnels that termites use to cross large areas. These might look like tubes on ceilings, wood and floorboards. If you suspect, for any reason, you have termites, please contact our Maintenance Team **8210 7010**.

HELPFUL HINTS

Meantime, here are some tips to stop termites in their tracks:

REDUCE - areas of increased moisture around the home (termites love moisture!)

MAKE - sure the perimeter, sub-floor and roof void of the home are clear of obstacles so any termite 'break-ins' can be seen.

DON'T - have a watering system or regularly water plants adjacent to the house. This really means you need to avoid substantial garden beds directly adjacent to the house.

REDUCE - termite food (wood and paper) around the home.

DON'T - use wood mulch immediately adjacent to the house. If you must use wood mulch, make sure it has been treated with an appropriate insecticide or it is classed as termite resistant timber. Keep in mind, termite resistant does not mean termite proof!

ENSURE - firewood is stored off the ground away from the building. Firewood needs to be stored off the ground (on a metal framework)

ENSURE - waste timber or cardboard boxes (also great termite food) are thrown out or stored above ground level, ideally away from the building.

THE BREATH *Of Life*

“AFTER MOVING IN, IT FELT LIKE I COULD FINALLY EXHALE.”

For Leigh, finding stable housing has felt like breathing again after years.

With degenerative health issues affecting her mobility, Leigh previously struggled to balance her rehabilitation and the financial stress of treatment.

“I was in a bad way. Due to a neurological injury, I couldn’t work during my rehabilitation. So for the past 12 years, I couldn’t really afford housing,” she explained. “All of my disability pension was going towards very expensive treatment – some of it experimental.”

Her circumstances took a turn for the worst when she became homeless.

“In 2019, I lost my home. I was suffering from limited mobility to the point where I needed a cane to walk, and on top of that I was sleeping in my car.”

However, her lack of housing meant more than just rough sleeping.

“I couldn’t get the hip surgery I needed without somewhere stable to rehabilitate. I couldn’t maintain friendships as I had no money to go out and socialise,” she said. “I couldn’t even afford the petrol for my car sometimes.”

Yet, despite the situation, Leigh found a way to remain optimistic.

“I was in an extremely disadvantaged situation, no question. But I clung to a small flame of hope that things would get better eventually.”

It was a referral to a Junction social worker which helped turn her luck around.

“She really became my champion,” Leigh said. “She listened to my story and fought hard for my case. She said she would get me housing and for the first time in my life, I actually believed it.”

“She must have worked her magic, because very soon afterwards I was offered a property and it couldn’t have been more perfect.”

Having stable, affordable housing with Junction meant a new start in her physical recovery. However, it also renewed her outlook on life.

“My rehabilitation has gotten so much better, and now I can finally have my hip surgery with a safe place to rehabilitate afterwards,” she said. “I’ve also enjoyed getting social. Over these past 6 months with restrictions lifting, I’ve been out and about more than ever!”

“I also did my first dance performance for the first time in years recently and being able to afford going back to dance...it’s done wonders for both my mental and physical health. It was so triumphant.”

Leigh now looks toward the future, planning a return to university for the first time in 20 years to pursue a Bachelor of Health Sciences. She also hopes to travel once all the dust settles.

“Right now, it feels like the world is at my feet,” she said. “Having a place that’s affordable, close to the hospitals where I receive treatment, close to amenities and the beach...I wake up every day feeling like I’ve won the lottery.”



Junction tenant Leigh



SMOOTH *Sailing*

John found himself with a bit of extra time on his hands when inspiration hit.

It all started a few years ago," John explains. "I was mucking around in the shed with some time and material to spare and I decided to make a little model ship for the grandkids, they absolutely loved it and then they all wanted their own model sailing ship."

John worked for years as a Maintenance Fitter and he says that his fine motor skills and his steady hand learnt in the trade certainly help with his ability to sculpt these detailed boats. Now 87 years old, he has slowed down on the craft but still tackles the odd project when he feels up to it.

So, how does he do it?

John started sourcing simple planks of wood and carving them into the sailing masterpieces - base, rods, sails and all. They are incredibly detailed and John tells us he uses whatever colours and shapes inspire him at the time.

He uses little bits of material as the sails, cutting them to shape and painting flags from around the world on them before mounting them on the top of the ships to represent the wide range of cultures and diversity surrounding us.

"I have made hundreds of them now!" John said

John and his wife, Ria take great delight in walking visitors through their lovely home and showing all the different styles and colours of model boats that John has made over the last three years which sit proudly on display in every corner.

"Guests aren't to leave without taking a 'gift ship' with them!" Ria tells us.

This gift brings a smile to the face of everyone who visits and represents the shared joy of gifting, especially handmade items crafted with such passion and care.

Sure enough after visiting John to have a chat and take the photos, we left with our own beautiful model ships too!



IN GOOD *Taste*

Do you have a favourite recipe or a meal you make with special meaning?
Maybe a dish that has been passed down to you through generations?

With your help, we'd love to compile a community cookbook comprising your own recipe along with the stories behind them.

Please share your recipes, along with a photo of yourself in the kitchen, someone enjoying the dish or the finished product, the Placemaking Team via email placemaking@junctionaustralia.org.au or mail to **PO Box 493, Park Holme.**

ZUCCHINI SLICE

Huge thanks to tenant Carol from Elizabeth North who has shared the recipe for one of her favourite dishes for us. Sourced from Coles, this healthy dish is perfect for autumn for lunch, dinner or snacks.

INGREDIENTS

- Butter, to grease
- Olive oil, to drizzle
- 1 brown onion, thinly sliced
- 1 garlic clove, finely chopped
- 150g bacon rashers, coarsely chopped
- 1 tbs fennel seeds
- 1 cup (150g) self-raising flour
- 5 eggs
- 550g coarsely grated zucchini
- 1 cup (80g) grated parmesan

Salsa

- 4 tomatoes, coarsely chopped
- 150g button mushrooms, thinly sliced
- Olive oil, to drizzle
- 6 basil leaves, coarsely chopped

METHOD

STEP 1

Preheat oven to 180°C. Grease a 20cm x 30 cm baking dish or lamington pan with butter and lightly drizzle with oil.

STEP 2

Heat a splash of oil in a medium frying pan over medium-high heat. Add the onion, garlic and bacon and cook for 2-3 mins or until the onion softens. Remove from heat. Add the fennel seeds and stir to combine.

STEP 3

Whisk the flour and eggs in a large bowl until smooth. Combine the zucchini and parmesan in a separate bowl. Season with salt and pepper. Add the onion mixture to the zucchini mixture and stir to combine.

STEP 4

Spoon the zucchini mixture into the prepared dish. Pour over the egg mixture and stir to combine. Cook for 15 mins or until the slice is golden and firm to the touch. Cool slightly.

STEP 5

Meanwhile, to make the salsa, combine the tomato and mushroom in a bowl. Season with salt and drizzle with oil. Add the basil and toss to combine.

STEP 6

Divide the salsa among serving plates and top with a piece of slice to serve.

Home Word Search

R D R Y E R D E S K M Y E B
M E N J U W U T I T P E P S
W E S S W P E G L A S S E S
A P P I M K U L B A T H J D
R C E A N O I S I V E L E T
D B L A A K P P J C O U C H
R Q L U O H E U N A W E X N
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M A O E P R E V T V S I E M

COUCH

BATH

PILLOW

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OVEN

PLANTS

BENCH

GLASSES



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